

JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

At the Coleshill School Fete last month we were all expected to dress up as Victorian village people to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the village school being opened.

Folk arrived in all kinds of gear, from serving wench to yeoman and yokel, even the village bobby turned up. Wanting to make an effort I looked up the parish records, and saw that 150 years ago the Rector was John Tyrwhitt-Drake. In those days the local squires, the Drake family, as was the custom sent their second son to Oxford, so that he would in time be presented to the family living of Amersham with Coleshill. The Rector would live in that wonderful early Georgian Rectory on the hill above Old Amersham, and every morning wave to mum and dad over at Shardeloes House. In about 1847, Rector Drake persuaded Earl Howe to part with some land at the centre of the village. He collected subscriptions from the local gentry and charitable societies to erect the school building.

I tried to get hold of a top hat and frock coat as worn in Victorian times, but for some reason had difficulty in getting one the right size.

Never mind, even though I looked a twerp at the Victorian fete and resembled a refugee from a third rate production of Oliver; because I wore a dog collar with top hat and morning tail coat, everyone recognised me as the Rector.

St Peter and his friends had spent some time with Jesus. They knew he was a great man, did the most extraordinary miracles, but was he anything more than that?

By the seaside one day, Jesus took Peter aside in private. "Who do people say that I am?" he asked.

All the silly answers came out one by one, John the Baptist reincarnated, Elijah come back to earth or another of the prophets. "But what about you?" said Jesus. "Peter, who do you say that I am?"

Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Peter was the first to recognise Jesus as who he really is, Son of God, and King of the Universe. We are all just the same. We hear about this bloke Jesus Christ, sounds a good sort, went around doing miracles, came out with some good teachings, all that business of the Sermon on the Mount. Some say he rose from the dead too after being crucified, don't know about that bit, seems a bit far fetched. We put it all on the back burner and get on with daily life.

But sooner or later we begin to think again, maybe at Christmas or Easter. We roll up to Church not knowing really why we are going, the Rector drones on about this and that, the choir sing, we go home again, still unenlightened. And yet, all the time the Holy Spirit is quietly working away inside. I believe he is at work all the time inside every man and woman, gently pointing them to Jesus.

There comes a point in our lives when a decision is called for. Is Jesus son of God or isn't he? Is he the one to follow? Perhaps this religious stuff is all bosh anyway. It goes on the back burner and we get on with daily life, maybe for many years.

But sooner or later the nagging starts again, the Holy Spirit doesn't give up. We buy a book like C S Lewis' "Surprised by Joy". Maybe we dig the Bible out and read through the Gospels. Even start going to Church for heaven's sake.

Suddenly, and without warning it all becomes clear, or perhaps the waters gradually un muddy as we read. We can hear Jesus' voice saying to us "Who do you say that I am?"

We can make no reply, or say with Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Peter's life was totally changed by that declaration of submission to Christ. As a student of 21 back in 1975, I heard that same voice saying to me "Tim Harper, who do you say that I am?" Look what happened to me!

Recognising Jesus as the Son of God. If you saw me in top hat and morning coat at the village school fete I looked such a twerp you would have had no difficulty in recognising me as the eccentric Rector of Amersham with Coleshill. But recognising Jesus as Son of God takes time.

If you are just beginning, take that time. Read a Gospel like St John slowly and carefully, make your own mind up about what he says. It may all suddenly click into place, or it may take quite a while.

But I tell you this, if with St Peter you make that same declaration to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God", it may not initially seem to make much difference. But as time goes on you will find the Holy Spirit making God ever more and more real to you, a guide and friend through the worst that this life has to throw us. Not just for this life either, the benefits of the Christian faith are out of this world.

Forget the Rector in his ridiculous fancy dress, look at Jesus Christ in all his majesty. To all of us he says "Who do you say that I am?"

Revd. Tim Harper

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS

HARVEST CHARITY 1997 - Thursday 30th October at 8.00pm, St Mary's.

John Suchet has kindly agreed to come and talk to us about the life and works of Beethoven, about whom he has already written one book. He will be launching the second volume at the time of our event. There will be also be a short musical recital and refreshments will be served after the talk when John will be available for book signing. Tickets will be £8.00 and will be available shortly from Patsy Wright-Warren [433356] and other sources. Please look out for the publicity.

HARVEST CHARITY 1998

Nominations for the second charity for 1998 should be given in writing to me by 1st November. Please remember that in making a nomination, you will be expected to partake in the fund-raising if the charity is picked.

GRAVEYARD

Please respect the graveyard and remember it is a place of peace and tranquility. It would be appreciated by all if those children using it as a cycle track could kindly stop.

Amanda McCallum

COLESHILL VILLAGE SCHOOL

On 1st May the children had a Victorian day at the Chiltern Open Air Museum. The school paid for this from some of the recycling prize money.

We have had visits from P.C. Hamm, Margie Barbour, a storyteller, Lt. Col. Gibbons of the Salvation Army, the Traidcraft lady and Patsy Wright-Warren and Geeta Arora to talk about India.

As part of the school's 150th birthday celebrations we buried a time capsule on 17th June. Our fete, opened by Countess Howe, raised over £1,900. Thank you for your support.

On 1st July we had a special Thanksgiving Service, which was attended by many people, at which Earl Howe talked about the history of the school. This was followed by an Open Day on 3rd July when more than 50 people visited the school, including Cheryl Gillan, Peter Lawrence, the Mayor of Amersham Town and the Director of Education for Bucks, besides prospective parents and past pupils.

On Friday 11th July we had 200 past pupils for a Reunion.

The Scripture Prize was won by Niki Stevic and the Pat Panton Trophy by Charlotte Stainer, with Amy Pinsent as runner-up. Seven children leave us for middle school.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our gate appeal. It is hoped that the extra entrance will be made during the holiday.

We are about to chose our items for the Sainsbury vouchers and Tesco tokens. Thank you for these and also for the paper, for which we always have a need. The support of this village is greatly appreciated.

L.S.

COLESHILL W.I.

March began with an interesting talk by the curator of the Parker Knoll museum showing the history of chairs with close-up slides of the intricate design work and the specially commissioned furniture for the early Cunard liners.

Then followed the Chesswoods Group Meeting, hosted by The Lee W.I., and a completely different lecture about Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with wonderful photographs of their wildlife including iguanas and large spiders!

Later in the month eight brave "volunteers" represented Colesill W.I. at a Bucks Quiz Evening at Winslow. The team came a creditable 5th from 15 contestants and everyone agreed it was most enjoyable but that we need to brush up on one or two subjects before another event.

Our other recent meetings have included thought-provoking discussions on the NHS and the national resolutions which this year concerned the environment and the use of Lindane.

Outings during the past three months have been made to Denman College, "An Evening with David Shepherd" and a London tour which included a visit to the new Globe Theatre.

As it is a special year for the village school, the W.I. did their bit by taking a stall at their Table Top Sale and donated the proceeds to the school raffle prize.

In June we held our special fund-raising lunch with an excellent speaker who kept everyone amused with anecdotes concerning famous actors with whom he had worked. With delicious food prepared by the hard-working committee the whole event proved to be very successful and enjoyed by all.

As usual, we have no meeting in August but we shall be entertaining St Saviours Club for the Deaf on their annual visit to Coleshill.

Our membership is increasing but of course we always have room for more.

J.P.

VILLAGE FÊTE

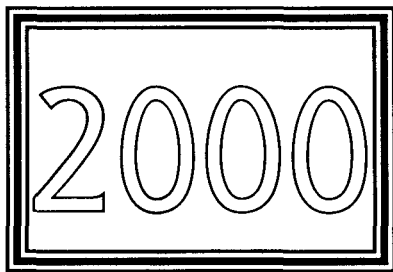
The weather on 14 June remained thankfully dry and judging by the crowds who came along and joined in the fun, the fete continues to be a popular event in the Village calendar. Over £2,800 was raised although expenses, including the marquee at £950, reduced the net proceeds to All Saints' Church to some £1,700.

This year we were able to offer teas in the tennis pavilion and we were very grateful to the Tennis Club for the use of this facility.

The fete has been organised and most of the stalls run for many years by the same group of stalwarts and some of us feel it is time to give others the opportunity of greater involvement and perhaps come up with some new ideas. The fete has been a feature of the community life here in Coleshill for a very long time and it would be a great shame if this tradition either in its present or some different format were not to continue.

I would be happy to lend support and help to any new group prepared to have a go so if anyone would like to discuss this do give me, Nick Sadler a ring on 726277.

N.J.S.



The millennium - only 28 months to go!

TWO POEMS
by
ANN CHENIVIX TRENCH

John has kindly given his permission for us to publish the following poems in memory of his beloved Ann. Neither poem has been published before and the second is the last poem she wrote. We all miss her dearly.

DEATH
A sonnet

*How could I fear the door that leads to You?
Although I fear the pathway to that door,
Narrow and rough, steep yet without a view,
Lonelier than any path I trod before.*

*O not for me the martyr's hard-won crown,
No brave adventure or triumphant end.
I think old age will slowly wear me down,
Until I stumble to Your feet, my Friend.*

*Death as the final mercy then will take me -
Death the great door, death the angel's wing.
In terrible swirling light You will remake me
Perfect in will, perfect in everything.*

*Death and eternity will be fused in one
A closing chord, an overture begun.*

ONA VOIDING OLD AGE

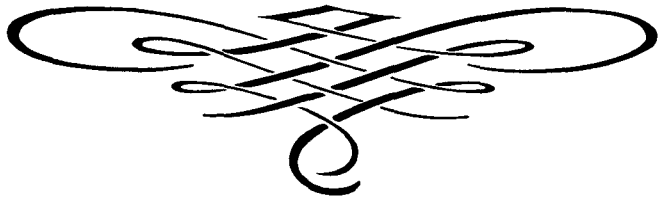
There is so much that I may never know
 Of withering decline into the dark;
 Offailing light that dims the brilliant day
 Of frequencies that keep dawn-chorus dumb
 And early cuckoo listened for in vain.

I shall not know
 The turned-in selfishness of hard old age
 Bounded by mumbled food, by bed and chair,
 The world reduced to what is mine and me
 My spirit paralysed and wits awry.

But I shall see
 With painter's eyes the seasons' colour change
 With poet's eyes the meaning of the dawn.
 My garden will be brighter under rain
 My skies more glowing in the winter sun
 My flowers and fruit more fragrant in the dusk
 My senses more alive to loveliness.

And if deceitful pain should make me doubt
 The glory and the goodness of the world,

Tel at my back
 Will be that blackened, age-old piece of wood
 Whose arms can keep me when I fail or fall,
 And I shall see One who was there before
 And knew it all.



COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

There has been only one meeting of the Parish Council since the last Village Newsletter but that doesn't mean there hasn't been plenty of activity.

PLAY AREA

This is a fairly large area behind Hill Meadow which is not much used at present. Most of it is open with a tree in the middle and there is also a see-saw and two swings. This equipment has recently been upgraded and the surface improved. The legal formalities of taking over ownership are nearly complete and it is hoped that children, with or without their parents, will now find it a pleasant place to spend some time.

COMMON

In spite of the recent rain which has produced some muddy patches, many people have commented favourably on the improvement in the footpaths across the Common since the bark chippings were put down. An equal number of people have commented very unfavourably about the amount of dog fouling on those paths. Most dogs in this village are accompanied by their owners. Surely it is not too much to ask that, for the sake of others coming after, they should ensure that the messes are removed to the undergrowth.

SCHOOL PARKING

The response to the Easter Appeal towards extra gates into the school playground so that children can be dropped off and picked up away from the road, has been very successful. The Parish Council agreed to add to the generosity of the villagers, by donating £300 to the fund.

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Over the past few weeks, members of the Chiltern Society have been very busy working on our footpaths. They have done a lot of clearance, put extra steps on the styles and improved the waymarking to help us, and especially walkers from elsewhere to find the way. We are very grateful to them and to the County Council who bear the cost of this work.

FLY-TIPPING

Apparently fly-tipping is on the increase and, provided that sufficient evidence is available, those responsible can now be prosecuted. If you see any evidence of this you can phone the Environment Agency on 01494 431331 or fax them on 01494 434175, giving as much information as possible.

ACCOMMODATION

Chiltern District Council has just produced a useful booklet giving details of the hotels, inns, bed and breakfast and self-catering facilities, hostels, caravan and camping sites, conference centres and attractions in the District. Anyone wishing to see it should apply to the Clerk.

Patsy W-W, Clerk

THE RED LION

A reminder for villagers - if you are short of eggs, milk, cheese, butter, bread, etc. we can help at any time (except 3.00pm-5.30pm). Also if you find delivery charges too high, newspapers can be ordered and collected from 7.30am.

Autumn is fast approaching, and our thoughts turn to winter activities. Our quiz teams, consisting mainly of villagers, finished second and third last year in the local league. Matches, with extra questions for all later, take place on Tuesday evenings (from October). The ladies' darts team play their matches on Tuesday also, and the men on Mondays. On Wednesday evening, it is crib and dominoes, and a group of villagers meet also for a general games evening (Scrabble, Taboo, Balderdash, etc).

All teams are looking for new blood always, so if anybody wants to participate in any team do contact Chris or John on 727020 - or just turn up for the extra quiz questions or games evening at 9.00pm.

J.U.

THANK YOU

Molly Stone would like to thank everyone who helped to make her 90th birthday such a special occasion.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Last year, collecting names and donations proved a little chaotic. This year, names will not automatically appear because they were on last year's list. Please let me know by 1st December if you wish to be included. Either let me know when I see you or just drop a note into my letter box at Copper Cottage. If possible, I would be really grateful if you could avoid telephoning me about this. Our phone rarely stops ringing as it is!

As per last year, the minimum donation for a Christmas Greeting is £1.

Many thanks.

Amanda McCallum

THREE VILLAGES YOUTH CLUB

The junior youth club, meeting in Winchmore Hill, has been so successful since its inception in January that its leader, Mark Richardson, has decided to run an intermediate club too, starting in September.

The junior club will now run from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on Tuesdays, catering for years 5, 6 and 7, and the intermediate club, for years 8 and 9, will run from 8.00pm to 9.30pm, also on Tuesdays.

This means that we have an increased need for volunteer helpers to support Mark and would particularly like to encourage young people to join him. There are training opportunities available and it would look good on your cv! If you would like to know more about it, call Penny on 722486.

P.W.

N.S.P.C.C.

Yet again a big thank you to everyone who supported us for our lunch and demonstration by Edna Johnson. We raised 1,050 which all goes directly to help the NSPCC team in the South and Mid Bucks area.

Our next event is our Christmas coffee morning which this year will be on Thursday 9th October at Red Lion Cottage.

If anyone would like to join our committee please do get in touch.

S.H.

COLESHILL VILLAGE HALL

Following the flood, although the parquet flooring was relaid, it has been necessary to repair it on several occasions. Because of these problems the floor is now to be replaced, so the hall will be out of action for two weeks from 7th July.

A cover has been acquired for the piano. This will keep it at a more even temperature and help to keep out the dust. The piano has also been retimed. Our thanks to Ruth Murphy for organising this.

L.E.

COLESHILL TENNIS CLUB

The beginning of the summer season saw the conclusion of the "Rushmead Tournament". This was a men's doubles handicap competition and was won by Mike Cannon and David Love. We were blessed with a good day and enjoyed a B.B.Q. and a few drinks at the Tennis Club!

The response to membership has been good, Club nights have proved popular but are falling off at the moment, as they did last year at this time.

We do not appear to be doing as well as last year in our summer match fixtures both in the High Wycombe and Aylesbury league, but at least there are more members playing in matches for the Club, however they are both competitive and sociable at the same time.

The annual Coleshill Tournament competing for the McCammon Shield was won this year by Lindsey Eardley and Mike Wellington, in a very hard fought final lasting nearly two hours. They beat Anne and David Love by 2 sets to one.

The 100 Club run by Chris Teale is paying out constantly. There are spaces for a few more but don't be in the Red Lion when they draw as it cost Chris George nearly more than she won in rounds!!

Finally, those of you who won Wimbledon tickets must have seen some amazing tennis this year with the Brits getting to the quarter finals!

D.G.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 9th October

NSPCC Christmas Coffee
Morning, Red Lion Cottage

Thursday 16th October 2.00pm

Bridge Drive & Tea, Village Hall
Friends of Rushymead Hospice

Thursday 30th October 8.00pm

Harvest Charity Event
A talk on the Life of Beethoven
with John Suchet at St Mary's

Thursday 13th November

Gift Fair, Masonic Rooms, Beac.
Friends of Rushymead Hospice

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Revd Tim Harper	Rector	01494 724426
Valerie Royal	Parish Secretary	01494 729380
Nick Sadler	All Saints' Pro-warden	01494 726277
Helen Spencer	All Saints' Pro-warden	01494 725857
Amanda McCallum	Hon Secretary, All Saints'	01494 725 083
	Editor, Village Newsletter	Fax - 01494 431 129
Howard Pool	Hon Treasurer, All Saints'	01494 727687
Ruth Murphy	Organist & Choirmaster, All Saints'	01494 433539
Patsy Wright-Warren	Clerk, Parish Council	01494433356
Ann Lawrence	Village Hall Bookings	01494433421
Rosemary Valentine	Magpie Club	01494 725794
Jane Davies	Brownies	01494 725549
Kaye Smith	Coleshill Guides	01494 433419
Penny Ware	Youth Club	01494 722486
Louise Stallwood	Headmistress, Village School	01494 727206
Jack & Lindsey Haubner	Coordinators, Neighbourhood Watch	01494 722589
Sharon Hall	NSPCC	01494725231
Ewart Smith	Coleshill Horticultural Society	01494 725402
David George	Coleshill Tennis Club	01494722535
John Bullard	Coleshill Drama Group	01494 729266
John Holland	Coleshill Short Mat Bowls	01494 729357
John & Chris Ullman	The Red Lion	01494 727020

SERVICES

St Mary's	8.00am	Holy Communion
All Saints'	9.00am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	10.15am	Holy Communion
St Mary's	11.45am	Matins
All Saints'	6.00pm	Evensong [1 st Sunday of every month]
St Mary's	6.00pm	Evensong [Except 1 st of each month]

FAMILY SERVICES '97/'98

14 th September	[2 nd Sunday]	Village School
12 th October	[2 nd Sunday]	Little Cottage School
23 rd November	[4 th Sunday]	Brownies
14 th December	[2 nd Sunday]	Christingle
25 th January	[4 th Sunday]	Brownies
8 th February	[2 nd Sunday]	Little Cottage School
22 nd March	[4 th Sunday]	Village School - Mothering Sunday
12 th or 26 th April		To be confirmed
10 th May	[2 nd Sunday]	Village School
14 th June	[2 nd Sunday]	Little Cottage School
12 th July	[2 nd Sunday]	Brownies
13 th or 27 th September		To be confirmed