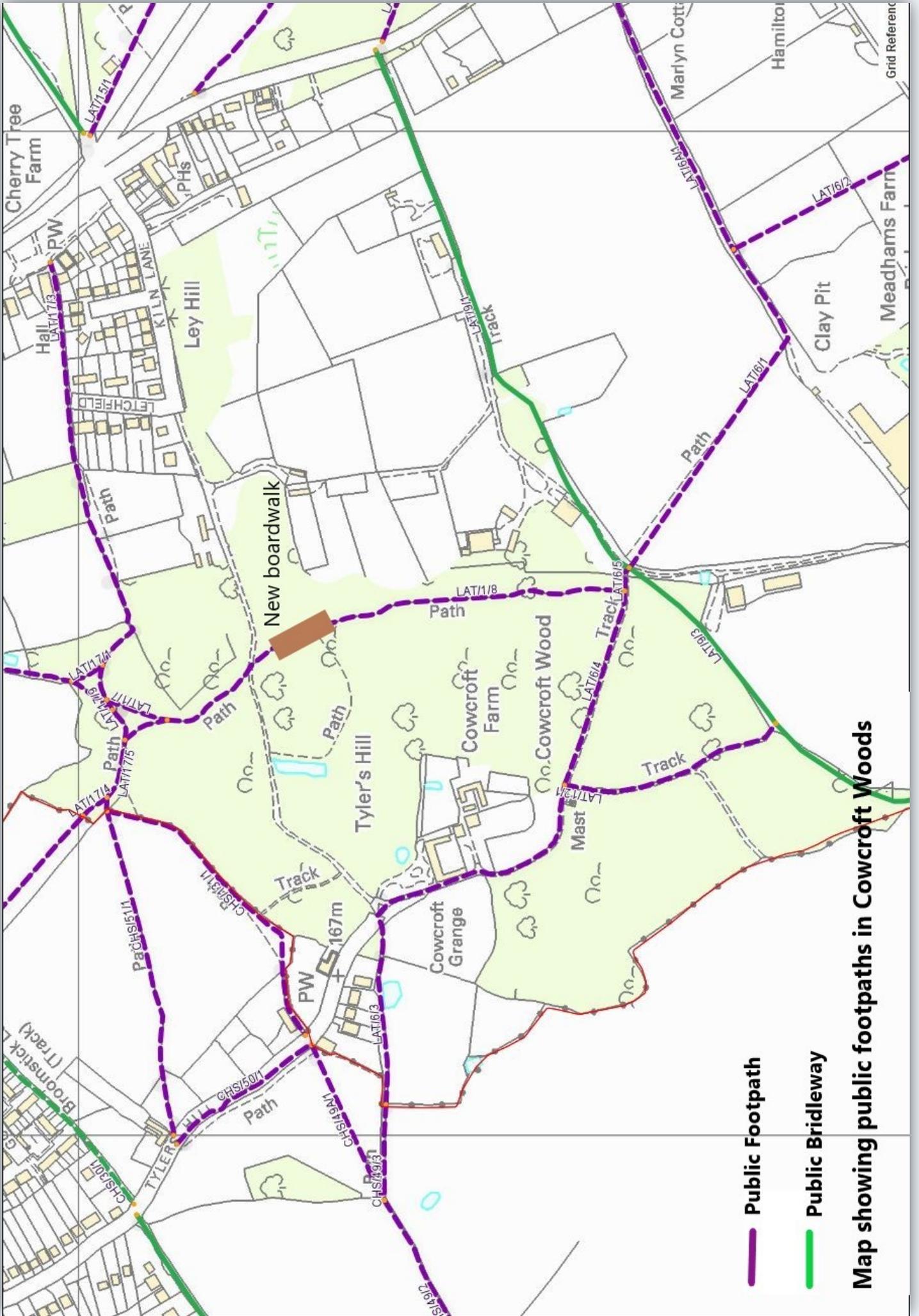


LEY HILL & BOTLEY

NEWS & VIEWS

SUMMER 2021





Map showing public footpaths in Cowcroft Woods

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader

It's July already! Where did the time go? Are we beginning to think that the outlook is more positive? Covid restrictions are coming to an end with the prospect of holidays abroad for those who feel safe enough. But there are so many interesting and lovely parts of this country to visit. We have chosen to spend some time revisiting Northumberland, (this time without a class of 30 children from Ley Hill School) a beautiful and very much underrated part of the country! However, we are praying for good weather!

After one of the wettest Junes on record we're looking forward to the outlook of some much warmer weather. Hopefully, this will arrive in time for the school holidays so parents and children can get out and about. If you do have children, have a look at the suggestions on page 13 for some outdoor activities or whilst wandering through the Dilly Dell Trail, try the Detective sheet on page 8. I hope those of you who ignored the forecast on the day of the Village Picnic, enjoyed the afternoon. It was lovely to see the children playing in the trail and Emily's dancers on the golf tee. I was pleased to meet Ruth and Matt, at the picnic with their children, Findlay and Chloe, who have recently moved to Lilac Cottage, next to the Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you at more community events in the future.

As I finish writing this piece. The anticipation of England winning the European Cup is mounting! We've put our flags up, decorated a cake with the flag of St George and trying to keep the nerves at bay

All that remains to be said is - have a lovely summer and Come on England!

Anne— Editor



COFFEE AND CHAT WITH YOU

COFFEE AND CHAT IS BACK!

IN THE MEORIAL HALL

FROM 11AM

EVERY FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

STARTING ON

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 4th

THEN SEPTEMBER 1ST

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Any queries ring Anne 773050 or Sarah 776086



Copy date for the Winter edition is Friday November 19th

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Well hopefully we are on the way back to the way things once were. Notwithstanding the disappointment of the government deciding not to remove on 21 June all remaining Covid restrictions, we have our fingers crossed that on the new date of 19 July, we might at last be able to hire out the hall again without having to worry about Covid's implications. We shall see in due course if this really is the case and we can once more throw open the doors of the hall with gay abandon to one and all for almost any purpose. I am not holding my breath that this will be the case, but let's be positive.

Meanwhile the gradual lifting of some restrictions through the spring has at least allowed many of our regular hirers to resume their activities, albeit with limited numbers due to social distancing requirements etc but we are moving in the right direction.

A small group of Trustees and members of the Hall's Management Committee have met via Zoom a few times to discuss and plan how we might recognise our Centenary this year and I am delighted to say that we are reasonably well advanced with plans for an appropriate commemorative event on Wednesday 10 November to remember why the Hall was built in the first place. Neil Lamond has written a separate article on this in this edition to explain the outline arrangements for that day.

We also have pencilled in Friday 1 October for a suitably themed Quiz Night to celebrate the Hall's 100th birthday so look out for details of that in due course.

In addition, a special 100 year birthday edition of News & Views is being published and we would love to have contributions from some of our residents about what the Hall has meant to them. It would be great to publish some memories of parties, balls, sporting events or shows held in the hall for example over the years and any anecdotes would be most welcome. Please email any contributions to me at ianwalter@btinternet.com. We have a deadline for contributions of 15 September for this edition. We would also love to hear from some of our regular hirers about what the Hall means to them and any amusing or unusual experiences they might have encountered in the Hall.

I can recall numerous occasions when the Hall has been completely transformed for Ley Hill Luvvies productions, Charity Balls, Birthday parties, Anniversaries, Weddings etc. It has proved to be amazingly adaptable and I've found myself thinking 'am I really in the village hall? It's unrecognisable'.

In recent months we have improved the hall with a couple of significant projects. We have installed new double doors on the kitchen side to replace the original wooden frame that was rotting and many of you will no doubt be pleased to know that the Hall now has Wi-Fi. So we are moving with the times! Thanks must go to the Management Committee for overseeing this project and also to Chris Harris who first had to ascertain what the Hall's postcode was because no postcode = no Wi-Fi apparently!

Please don't forget to send your memories of the Hall to me for our special centenary edition of News & Views.

Ian Walter (ianwalter@btinternet.com)

FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

THE HALL COMMITTEE

IN THE CHAIR	Sarah Peterson	776086
TREASURER	Pete Churchill	776157
SECRETARY	Chris Lewis	786958

BOOKING SECRETARY Claire Randall ring 07716343867 or email cerandall44@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mike Appleby	785075	Holly Byfield	07879442118	David Darvell	786995
Gina Daw	771494	Andrew Garth	785482	Angela Gregory	773659
Tamie Hutchins	775406	Joe Walsh	786638	Sue Woodstock	771840
Catherine Haridi	07870638148	Bobbi Roberts	776751		
Karen Perkins	07785367499	Margaret Faulkner	783048		

CLASSIC CARS ON THE COMMON



Ley Hill Village – Classics on The Common returns for 2021

Sun 8th August 2021 12:00 – 4:00pm

GET YOUR CLASSIC CAR TO LEY HILL COMMON FOR A GREAT SHOW
HOPE WE SEE YOU THERE AGAIN THIS SUMMER!

Neil Lamond 01494 774996, Sarah Peterson 01494 776086

THE LUVVIES ARE BACK!

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG'

To be performed by The Luvvies 17 – 20 November 2021



THE LUVVIES ARE BACK! (Well, hopefully – Covid rules permitting!) We are staging the brilliant Sondheim musical comedy, 'Merrily we Roll Along', in the Memorial Hall from Wednesday, 17 to Saturday, 20 November 2021. This should be a welcome return to the local community stage for all performers and audience alike!

As in all previous years all profits go to local charities – we have donated in excess of £25,000 over the last 10 years. If you're interested in helping with the production or require information about tickets please call Paul on 01494 771840 or email TheLuvvies@hotmail.com

Paul Woodstock

LEY HILL MEMORIAL HALL CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY

A date for your diary—Wednesday 10th November 2021

Following the horrific events of The Great War, local people across the country built memorials to the fallen and those who had served the cause. Our small hamlet was no exception and a group of influential villagers formed a committee to raise funds to build a community hall to benefit everyone. Lord Chesham donated a plot of land and so it came to be that in 1921 the original wooden Ley Hill Memorial Institute was erected on the present site. As a second war ended in 1945 our Hall was additionally dedicated to their suffering. The original hall lasted until 1998.

Now in 2021 the Hall Trustees believe we should commemorate the events of 100 years ago and recognise once again those that gave so much to our village. To this end we are going to have a very special dedication to the fallen in both world wars. Towards the end of October, we will lay out our hand knitted poppies and erect the soldier silhouettes as we have done for the last three years. Plus this year, we will have a waterfall of poppies cascading down from the beacon basket. This flood of red will be tremendously eye-catching as anyone drives toward it. Although there is no real significance in the date of the tenth as regards the finishing of the original hall it has been chosen as we are inviting a special guest to unveil a plaque in the present Memorial Hall. Her Majesty the Queen's appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire the Countess Lady Howe has agreed to visit us and perform the honour.

Local school children have recently been busy painting stones with the names of all the villagers who served or fell in the conflicts and they will carry these stones to the beacon and lay them in a heart shape on the day. Prayers will be said and then the assembled people will return to the village hall for the plaque unveiling. It is hoped the Countess will have time to meet some of the children as well.

DATE: Wednesday 10th November 2021 (These are proposed timings)

1:00 pm Countess Howe arrives at Ley Hill Memorial Hall and is greeted by a small number of us who will show her the Hall, the history table and introduce her to key village members, followed by a buffet style lunch.

1:50 pm The Lunch party moves to the foot of the beacon; 100 yards walk from hall entrance.

2:00 pm School children start a parade of stones down to the beacon and once there, they lay the stones in a pre-arranged heart shape in front of the beacon. Prayers will be said by the local Church Minister. Once they have laid their stones, the children make their way back to the Hall where they will be given a drink and have a chance to see the history table.

Circa 2:20 pm Countess Howe and the invited lunch party will make their way to the Hall for the plaque unveiling. There follows an opening address by our Hall President. The plaque is unveiled followed by a blessing by a local church Minister. Once completed Countess Howe has time to engage with the children.

3:00 pm The children will depart Hall into care of arriving parents.

If you wish to see this event, then the Trustees suggest you line both sides of the street running down from the Hall to the beacon at 1:45 pm on the day. As the last of the school children parade past then you can drop in behind them and assemble at the beacon area. Entry to the Hall following the stone laying may be governed by numbers and Covid rules in place at the time. Guidance on that will be given by a marshal on the door.

All the plans we have for this event will be published in greater detail in a special booklet set to drop through your doors in mid-October.

Neil Lamond, Memorial Hall Trustee

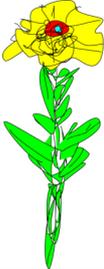
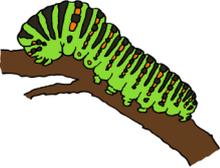
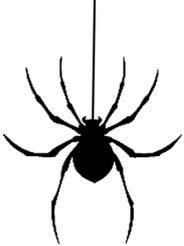
VILLAGE CLUBS AND GROUPS

This list gives details of village clubs and groups as they ran before lockdown.
Please be aware that there may be changes once lockdown restrictions have eased

Badminton	Tuesday PM Memorial Hall Wednesday PM	Amita Carr Janet Davie	778782 758501
Ley Hill Cricket Club	Chairman Juniors Manager	Nick Lee Chris Morris	782813 07896480445
Chesham & Ley Hill Golf Club	Ley Hill Common 8am—Dusk	Brian Haworth	784541
Toddler Group	Under 3 years & mums Weds in term time Chapel	Sam Guerin	Samantha.guerin@gmail.com
Beavers 1 st Tyler's Hill	6 -8 years Tues 5—6pm Memorial Hall	Sheila Nardone	sheilanardone@hotmail.co.uk
Emily's Dance School	2 -18 years Memorial Hall	Emily Harris	07423053556
Scouts 1 st Tyler's Hill	10-15 years Thurs 7 – 9pm Ley Hill School	Joanna Jennings	772688
Cubs 1st Tyler's Hill	8-10 years Memorial Hall Tuesday 6.15-7.45pm	Sheila Nardone	sheilanardone@hotmail.co.uk
Brownies 1 st Tyler's Hill	7 – 10 years Bangay Rooms Friday 6.30pm – 8pm	Zoe Digby	fluffyowl.tylershill@gmail.com
Guides 1 st Tyler's Hill	10 – 14 years Bangay Rooms Monday 7.30pm – 9pm	Gayle Romney	784305
Coffee and Chat	First Wednesday in every month 11am –12.30pm	Anne Birkett	773050
Dog Training Club	Thursday 6.15 -10.15pm Memorial Hall	Carol Spencer	01296 662399
Well Seasoned Club	Every other Tuesday 2.30pm Methodist Chapel	Lindsay Faulkner	783048
Women's Fellowship	1st Thursday of each month 2 - 4pm Bangay Rooms	Sheila Hart	785003

ARE YOU A DILLY DELL DETECTIVE?

Tick off each item as you find it. Can you find 5 in a row?

<p>butterfly</p> 	<p>Yellow flower</p> 	<p>flint</p> 	<p>owl box</p> 	<p>worm</p> 
<p>caterpillar</p> 	<p>rough bark</p> 	<p>feather</p> 	<p>nettle</p> 	<p>white flower</p> 
<p>shiny leaf</p> 	<p>nest</p> 	<p>ant</p> 	<p>squirrel</p> 	<p>ladybird</p> 
<p>bird box</p> 	<p>spider</p> 	<p>berries</p> 	<p>brambles</p> 	<p>moss</p> 
<p>web</p> 	<p>Y shaped stick</p> 	<p>bird</p> 	<p>pile of logs</p> 	<p>holly leaf</p> 

COWCROFT WOOD

History Tylers Hill derives its name from the ancient local tile and brick making industry. The clay pits can be dated back to Tudor times and evidence of Mesolithic (10000 -4001 BC) flint scatter including axe heads and flint flakes have been found on the edge of the wood. Cowcroft Woods is part of the larger Tylers Hill woodlands, and its topography has been dramatically changed by the excavation of clays and flints creating a deep network of gulleys and channels. Tracks that were once part of a network of routes linking villages and the larger town of Chesham are still in use to some extent.

Woodland Description and Management Cowcroft Wood is a 7.5Ha site which was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1987 and forms part of a complex of woodland known as Tylers Hill, with privately owned woodland to the north. The underlying soils are described as slightly acid, loamy and clayey with impeded drainage. Important seasonal ponds are evident in the hollows and nearby field edges.

The site sits within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is classified as ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) and is also designated as a County Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve. The wood is diverse in species and in structure, with the main tree species being oak and beech with ash, hornbeam, silver birch and cherry. It has numerous specialist woodland plants associated with its classifications as ASNW including bluebell, wood sorrel, yellow pimpernel, primrose, enchanter's nightshade and dog's mercury. The birch and cherry dominated stands in the wood are starting to senesce and collapse with beech, silver birch and rowan regenerating below. There are areas of hornbeam dominated woodland especially to the south, containing large hornbeam standards. On the southwestern boundary is a wide wood bank and on this there are very old and impressive beech and hornbeam coppice stools. In lighter parts of the wood, bramble and bracken thickets tend to dominate. Other plants include honeysuckle, wild currant and ferns. Some of the mature trees are in stages of decline and collapse and could be called veteran in characteristic. The decline of mature trees opens up gaps in the canopy which are being colonised by natural regeneration. Holly and hazel form an occasional shrub understory. Levels of natural regeneration have been recorded as good and are not overly suppressed by the presence of deer, rabbit and grey squirrel who can greatly impact natural processes.

The Future. The long term intentions for Cowcroft Wood are focused on retaining and where possible improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples understanding and enjoyment of woodland. It is classified by the Woodland Trust as a minimal intervention wood where restoration is not required and instead woodland condition monitoring as part of our 5 year management plan process is undertaken. It is likely that natural processes will continue to shape the woodland, ensuring a range of different species and ages of trees. Naturally regenerating species such as beech, silver birch, rowan, holly and hazel will fill any gaps in the canopy as older trees die or are damaged by winds. As the woodland matures, trees will decline naturally, contributing to important deadwood habitat both standing and fallen, particularly for invertebrate and fungal communities and nesting opportunities for birds. Where dead trees pose a significant tree safety risk such as next to paths and tracks, we look to manage these in a sensitive way retaining as much of the wildlife important habitat as possible. The likely colonisation by ash dieback will affect the species composition of the wood over time, and so beech is likely to be the dominant tree species in the woodland as it grows and develops. The Woodland Trust monitors the impacts of ash dieback in all its woods as part of its broader tree safety surveys.



James Stevenson of the Woodland Trust who manage the western section of Cowcroft Woods.

LEY HILL SCHOOL

It's been another busy and fun start to the remainder of the Summer term for all students and staff at Ley Hill School; despite the impact of Covid.

All the children are looking forward to some upcoming sports events, including 'bubble-safe' sports days for all the years to enjoy the traditional sports day events!

Our supportive Friends of Ley Hill are organising a sponsored school walk to raise funds for the enhancing of the school curriculum - another innovative idea by the PTA who are dedicated to keeping up the momentum in raising funds during COVID restrictions. If you would like to sponsor the walk please visit the Friends of Ley Hill School Facebook page for details.

This term we have held a Science enrichment week where all the children took part in creating investigations and scientific enquiry on the topic of Flight. The children enjoyed making and testing rockets, carrying out fair tests and drawing conclusions.

Our Maths enrichment week embedded mathematical learning in number and shape. The children had great fun sorting shapes, making calculations and sharing their learning with each other.

Whilst the summer term sees us completing our topics and additional catch - up learning, it is also a time of great excitement for all the children as they transition to the next year group. Our Year 6 children are ready and well prepared for the next stage of their education as we see them move to their chosen secondary schools in September. They will have fond memories of Ley Hill School and will use their growth mindset skills to deepen their knowledge further. We hope they come back and tell us all about their successes. We wish them all the best of luck in Year 7.

We are very excited to undergo some building transformation over the summer holidays with a new Early Years Outdoor area including an extension of the space, new climbing frame, trim trail and a track for the ride-on toys. There will be access from both the Reception and Nursery rooms bringing both classrooms together as an Early Years unit. Hopefully we will be able to hold face to face tours of the school again in the Autumn so please contact the school office in September if you would like a guided tour.

As a final community plea we are looking to add to our library so the children at Ley Hill have access to a wide and interesting selection of books to choose from. If you have any books suitable for children aged 5- 11yrs then please feel free to drop them into the school.

Alternatively you can nominate our school to win £5000 of book vouchers from the national book token company.

Please use the link below and enter our school name in the form at the bottom of the page.
<https://nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank all the staff, parents and wider community for their ongoing support and resilience in these uncertain times.

Happy Summer Holidays!

Charley Edwards on behalf of Ley Hill School



LEY HILL SCHOOL

Looking to recruit new governors

We have two vacancies on our governing board to start in September and would love to welcome anyone from our community to join us in supporting our wonderful school.

We are looking for people who are:

- looking to make a difference and want to improve opportunities for children and young people in a voluntary capacity.
- willing to work as part of a team to support strategic function and key decision making in our local school.
- committed to working with school senior leaders to ensure pupils of our school are provided with an inclusive education of the highest standard.
- able to commit time to attend full governing body / committee meetings and carry out school visits.
- dedicated and value continuous improvement, want to grow leadership skills and are willing to attend training which is currently online from home.

If you have experience that you feel would benefit the governing body, please consider joining us in such a rewarding role. We would value anyone with some financial background, but absolutely not essential as there are many differing roles. If you feel you can contribute in any way to our school, we would love to hear from you!

We are committed to fairness and equal opportunities throughout our community and welcome applications from suitably skilled candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, religion or age.

If you would like to apply or would just like to know more about the role, please contact me and I will be happy to help.

Sandy Mullins—Development Governor, Ley Hill School sandy@wendoveremail.co.uk 07790517860

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

WHELPLEY HILL WI and CORONATION HALL



WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



On Friday 24th September 2021

10.30—12.30pm

Hope you can come along for a coffee, cake, natter and to support this great cause.

For further details please contact: Pauline Naman 01494 785132 or Janice Rooney 01494 786499

1st TYLERS HILL BROWNIES

1st Tyler's Hill Brownies are back meeting outdoors at St George's church this term, with just a couple of meetings on Zoom due to wet weather. We've welcomed several new Brownies this term, and it's fantastic to see our numbers growing again.

We have enjoyed a nature walk in the woods looking at spring flowers, made dragon masks for St George's Day, practiced lighting fires with fire steels, toasted marshmallows, played parachute games and constructed obstacle courses.

The girls recently decided that they would like neckerchiefs to wear to Brownies, so we tie-dyed the fabric over a couple of weeks, the leaders sewed them all up over half term, then we all made square-knotted paracord woggles to wear with them.

Brownies always enjoy eating, and we had fun making colourful fruit kebabs with added cut-out pancake shapes. We also baked microwave mug cookies in one of our zoom meetings, which were delicious – especially with a little ice cream.



During the second half of term each six is planning an activity for everyone to do – for the first of these the Badgers challenged us to make a 'lander' to protect an egg when it was dropped from a height. The Brownies had great fun making these from recycled materials, and challenged their communication skills since social distancing rules meant only one person could work on the lander at a time. I'm please to say two out of three eggs survived their fall ! We're really looking forward to seeing what the other sixes come up with for us to do over the next couple of weeks.

Thanks as always to Scops and Snowy for their help planning and leading activities, and to the girls and their parents for continuing to adapt all the changes we've had to make.

Fluffy Owl (Zoe Digby) Leader, 1st Tyler's Hill Brownies fluffyyowl.tylershill@gmail.com



1st TYLERS HILL GIRL GUIDES

After Easter we re-started outdoor meetings in the car park and woodland area at St George's. Unfortunately the weather hasn't been kind to us and we've only had four outdoor meetings, reverting to Zoom on very wet Mondays! The girls, although depleted in numbers, have really enjoyed being back together.

Organising activities continue to be a challenge due to social distancing and not sharing equipment but where there's a will there's a way! Outdoor cooking was achieved by the girls bringing everything they needed and cooking individually – smores are still a favourite! We've also done scavenger hunts, made 'natural' pictures and made tin candle holders. Zoom planned for outdoor meetings, had a play dough challenge and did quizzes.

Now that we are starting meeting again we would like to welcome new members. Any interested parents of 10-14 year old girls should visit the Girlguiding website www.girlguiding.org.uk to express their daughter's interest and I will contact them.

Thanks to the Rosemary and Zoë for all their support in helping to devise and adapt activities and to all the parents who continue to support their daughter's Guiding in these challenging times.

Gayle Romney Guide Leader gayle.romney@ntlworld.com



21 FUN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR 2021

1. Build a den in your garden or outdoor space.
2. Build an obstacle course.
3. Invent a new ball game.
4. Fill a plastic container with petals, then top up with water. Put it in the freezer to make some ice art.
5. Find a variety of balls and test them to see which one bounces the highest.
6. Find a spider's web and look at it through a magnifying glass. Draw what you see.
7. Make an outdoor stage
8. Draw a maze using chalk for a friend to follow.
9. Make a nature video. You can pretend to be a TV presenter.
10. Make a musical instrument using things found outside like sticks, stones plant pots.
11. Hide some treasure in your garden. Make a map for someone else to find it.
12. Lie on you back and watch the clouds. What shapes can you see? Can you see any animals?
13. Build a nature rainbow using leaves and petals of different colours.
14. Make a trail of sticks and stones for a friend to follow.
15. Make a wind chime using sticks, wool and old cutlery.
16. Make a simple rain gauge to see how much rain falls in a week.
17. Go on a night time walk with an adult.
18. Paint a mud picture.
19. Make a nature sculpture.
20. Go on a minibeast hunt.
21. Observe the weather and keep a weather diary for a week.



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LOCAL SERVICES

To advertise your service if you live in Ley Hill or Botley
email Anne mrsapb53@hotmail.com

DRAWING CLASSES

Ley Hill Memorial Hall 9:30-12:30 Thursday mornings
Suitable for all abilities. Tuition given. £150 per ten week term.
Contact: Hilary Sussum BA MA on 01494 771708

MORNING EXERCISE BOOT CAMP

Ley Hill Common - for any level of fitness; (just outside the cricket club)
Every Saturday 9.30am—10.30am
Call 07471940250 for more information
Just £5 a session; FIRST SESSION IS FREE

JANET WHEELER-SMITH

Handmade curtains and alterations. No job too small.
Zips, buttons, re-hem trousers and curtains
based in Botley 01494 773021

MIXED ABILITY PILATES

INTERMEDIATE PILATES: Mondays at 9.15am & Wednesdays at 11am
BEGINNERS & MIXED ABILITY PILATES: Mondays at 6pm, Tuesdays at 10am & 11am,
Wednesdays at 10am, Thursdays at 12pm and 6pm
SAGALATES (Chair-based Pilates/Stretch): Wednesdays at 2.15pm
KEEP FIT+ Saturdays at 9.30am
HIGHFIELDS STUDIO, 169 BOTLEY ROAD, LEY HILL, HP5 1XR
Call or e-mail Trish Baptist for information or to reserve your place
[01494 771055](tel:01494771055)/tbaptist@btinternet.com/[07758 382528](tel:07758382528)/TrishBaptistPilates.co.uk

DOG WALKERS FOR LEY HILL & SURROUNDING AREAS

Also able to dog sit if required.
For more details contact Paul or Lorraine Pearce on 775071 or 017597573398

LATIMER & LEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MEADHAM'S FARM BRICKWORKS

I am sure most of you are aware that there has been activity at Meadham's Farm, the former brickworks owned by Dunton's Brothers, for the last few months. Last week the Parish Council was invited to visit the site to learn about what is happening there, their future plans and to discuss any concerns we have. You will be pleased to hear that the owners are 99% sure that the cells will no longer be filled with asbestos but with chemically inert waste. The filling of the cells is planned to start early in September. We were keen to remind the team of their responsibility to maintain a secure fence around the whole site, which they agreed to do.

We expressed concern about the plastic sheeting around the site, erected a few years ago to prevent great crested newts from entering the cells. We were advised that it needs to remain in place until all the cells are filled in order to prevent the newts from entering the water.

We also made the team aware that the track leading up to the site is also a footpath, so the health and safety of pedestrians has to be a major consideration.

The Parish Council's primary concern is the impact of the 25 lorries, which will be delivering their loads between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday. We expressed our concerns of HGVs travelling past the school, especially at the start and end of the school day. We recommended that HGVs should use Bovingdon Road as it is a safety route that has less impact on the Ley Hill community.

We have been in close contact with the Bucks Planning Officer, Mitchel Pugh, who is overseeing the project and we are now confident that the site and activities are being carefully monitored.

We were satisfied with the transparency shown by the team working at the site and we will remain in close contact with Cameron, the Operations Manager, who will be our first point of contact and who is happy to address any concerns parishioners may have.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Claire, the Parish Clerk who will ensure they are addressed as soon as possible. parish.clerk@latimerleyhillparishcouncil.co.uk

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive village news as it happens, why not subscribe to our email newsletter? Just contact parish.clerk@latimerleyhillparishcouncil.co.uk.

AUTUMN LITTER BLITZ

We have scheduled our Autumn Litter Blitz a little earlier than in previous years. It is now planned for Saturday September 18th . Please come to the Memorial Hall from 9.30—10.30am to collect Hi-Viz, pickers and bags. Help to keep our village clean!

POPPIES

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to make poppies for the poppy waterfall which will decorate the Beacon as part of the Centenary of the Memorial Hall celebrations. I would be very grateful if you could let me have any completed poppies by the end of August so I can work out how many more are needed. Please drop off to 8, Kiln Lane or ring me on 773050 for collection.

DEFIBRILLATOR

Just a reminder that the code for the defibrillator box for to access the defibrillator is **C0147X**

Anne Birkett—Chairman

LATIMER & LEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE PICNIC AND OPENING OF THE DILLY DELL TRAIL

Although the forecast for Sunday June 27th showed the risk of heavy showers, around 100 villagers braved the English weather to enjoy a Village Picnic on Ley Hill Common. Dancers from Emily's Dance School (admin@emilysschoolofdance.com) kicked the afternoon off with a wonderful preview of their forthcoming show, on the second tee, which was definitely a first for the village! This was followed by the Grand Opening of the Dilly Dell Trail, an activity trail for children, recently installed by Latimer and Ley Hill Parish Council, in woodland alongside the second fairway of Chesham and Ley Hill Golf Club. The cutting of the ribbon was performed by Rachael Sanders, a former Parish Councillor and the inspiration behind the project. Seven generations of the Sanders family have lived in the village for many years; an information board inside the trail displays information written by Norman Sanders, the great-grandson of John Sanders, the local blacksmith who first identified the site of the well for Lord Chesham in the mid-1800s. Fortunately, the rain stayed away long enough to allow everyone to enjoy their picnic, an ice cream from Noviello's van and a drink or two from the Crown or the Ley Hill Cricket Club. Many of the children enjoyed being Dilly Dell Detectives, spotting the local, flora, fauna and minibeasts in the trail in a bid for a well-earned sticker.



Hopefully, the Village Picnic will become an annual event, with plans already underway for a much bigger Picnic next year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We would like to thank Ley Hill Cricket Club, Chesham and Ley Hill Golf Club, 1st Tyler's Hill Scouts and of course Emily's School of Dance for their contribution to the afternoon. The photos of the event were kindly taken by Graham Watkins.

SILVER SUNDAY

Silver Sunday is a national day when we can celebrate the older among us. You may remember the tea dance in 2019? We are planning this year's event for **Sunday October 10th**. More details to follow.

LITTLE PEOPLE

Have you noticed that 2 of the little people the Parish Council bought two years ago to try and address the parking problem outside school are now missing? Well they have been stolen! Can you believe that?

COWCROFT WOOD

Those of you who regularly walk in Cowcroft Woods will have noticed that the owners of the southern section of the wood have recently installed a slatted crossing point to give walkers the option of avoiding the boggy patch. With the increase of footfall over Lockdown they noticed that walkers were wandering off the official footpaths and dogs were chasing after wildlife. Their aim is now to increase the wildification and the bio-diversity of the more boggy section of the woods and keep their section of Cowcroft Wood as much of a sanctuary for wildlife as possible. Consequently they are trying to clarify the actual routes of the footpaths and urge any of you walking through the woods to keep to the footpaths and always remember the Countryside Code.

See the map on page 2 for the footpaths and bridleways in Cowcroft Wood.

COMMON LAND

We continue to request that Bucks Council prune and clear the vegetation on the common land between school and the bottom of Kiln Lane. We would urge residents not to dispose of garden waste on this land.

1st TYLER'S HILL SCOUTS



Scouts

1st Tylers Hill



THE SWAN UPDATE



You may remember that when the third change of use application was refused in March, the Save Our Swan group (Ley Hill Community Pub Ltd) were hoping to begin negotiations with the owners of the Swan to purchase the pub. Since then we have been working hard behind the scenes to progress the situation.

At the end of April Mr and Mrs Byatt contacted SOS indicating that they were prepared to sell to the community, and they activated the ACV (Asset of Community Value) process which allows the community 6 months to raise funds and make an offer on the property. This is a major step forwards towards securing the pub for the local community. As we go to print, we are continuing negotiations with the owners to achieve an acceptable purchase price for both parties.

Currently 168 people have already pledged funds to buy shares in the freehold of The Swan so that a community-minded tenant can run the pub. In March, the Government promised a Grant to help communities save local facilities such as The Swan; the details of which have not yet been published. If our offer for the pub is accepted, we currently have a shortfall between the pledged total and the purchase price, which could be filled with either the grant (dependant on when the Government issue the offer) or a loan. Now that we are close to agreeing a purchase price and to minimise the shortfall, SOS would like to ask supporters if they are able, to pledge funds or increase an existing pledge to help fill this gap.

We anticipate that SOS will be in a position to purchase The Swan in the near future. If you would like to help save The Swan and join the other members, please head to the website <https://www.leyhillcommunitypub.co.uk/> where you can find all the details.

The minimum pledge is only £100!

This is exciting! We are now beginning to see the fruits of our labours so stick with us and look forward to a pint in our pub!

SOS team (Ley Hill Community Pub Limited)



CHESHAM & LEY HILL GOLF CLUB

International Women in Golf Day inspires the Ley Hill Ladies!

The Ley Hill golf club ladies section put a lot of effort into encouraging local ladies to visit the club on 1st June to mark International Women in golf day. Existing members helped to organise putting , pitching and short game sample sessions, and Club pro Dave Marsden helped them get to grips with 7 and 8 irons.

The turnout on the day was excellent with 34 ladies either trying golf for the first time or 'coming back ' to golf after some time away: Lady Captain Irene Crook enthused, "We put a lot of work into the day and were very pleased with the turn out. Everyone was impressed not only with the golf but with the welcoming atmosphere at the club and I am certain that we will get a number of new members as a result of the day."

The clubhouse catering takes off!

The golf club is also delighted to welcome Alex Lloyd as Hospitality Manager for the clubhouse. Alex has considerable experience in the hospitality sector and will be rolling out light lunches and sandwiches for members and visitors to the club house from the beginning of July.

A reminder of the regulations for Sunday Golf

The golf course is always open to members and visitors on Sundays until 'dusk'. But the Club is very aware that many people enjoy gathering near the 2nd Tee (outside the Crown and Swan) on Sunday afternoons. Accordingly the Club has informed all members that anyone playing the course after 2pm on Sundays must now use the new ' After 2 Sunday tee' which is located half way up the 2nd Fairway, on the left. There will be clear signage to remind players that this is their new 'After 2 Sunday Tee' and that no play will be permitted from the main 2nd teeing ground.

Chris Harris Trustee Chesham & Ley Hill Golf Club

LEY HILL METHODIST CHURCH

SUMMER SERVICES: 18th July 11.15 a.m. Rev. Andrew Brazier

 1st August 11.15 a.m. Mr. David Williamson

 15th August 11.15 a.m. Rev. Andrew Brazier

See Notice Board for further dates.

If restrictions are lifted from September, services will be weekly at 11a.m.



WELL SEASONED CLUB

Another newsletter, but nothing exciting to report as yet, except our wish to commence again in September, enjoying our "promised" freedom.

It is very hard after a long lockdown to imagine carrying on where we left off, but please be assured that when we have made a programme, we shall contact everyone.

We wish you all a warm summer after the abundant rain.

Rita, Lindsay and Margaret

NATURE NOTES

THE DRAGONFLY

The summer months are when, if we are lucky, we will see these large, prehistoric insects darting about over ponds and boggy ground around the village. Generally grouped as hawkers, chasers and darters, their names suggest sudden, even aggressive, movements. Hawkers have the longest, thinnest bodies of the three and green or blue varieties can be seen around the village. Broad-bodied Chasers (pictured) can also be seen locally – their shorter, fatter bodies have a wonderful, iridescent quality.

One common confusion is the mis-identification of damselflies as dragonflies (though the former is a sub-species of the latter). Damselflies are only a couple of inches long, with wings that can be folded back along the body when at rest – dragonflies can be twice as long as that and have fixed wings that cannot be folded (hence the way in which dragonflies appear to crash through foliage, which they are simply unable to avoid with their long, fixed wings).

Dragonflies have excellent eyesight – they do have antennae, but these are very short affairs, set between the eyes. Their compound eyes each have thousands of tiny, simple lenses. Aggregated, these lenses produce images at a higher resolution than many other insects, making them excellent hunters.

Dragonfly eggs can be laid in or near water, but once hatched the larvae are aquatic - and predatory! This underwater stage can last up to five years, depending on the species, during which time they will happily eat tadpoles and other insect larvae. They can also be tempted by richer meat. Try dipping bacon rind or even your fingertip into the water near a dragonfly nymph – their lower jaws are extendable by a good margin and lightning fast when striking at food. They remain in this larval state for most of their lives, leaving the water only when ready to mate.

The final “moult” of a growing dragonfly larva takes place out of the water. They emerge, now with wings, from their former skins in a process that can take a couple of hours or more, depending on how quickly the sun dries them out and allows new wings and bodies to harden. After a week or so, the adult dragonfly will have eaten (midges, mosquitoes and other flying insects) and rested sufficiently to recover from their metamorphosis. From this point on, they will race to the end of their now short lives - over just a few weeks, mating (in the case of the males, as often as possible) and laying their eggs to begin the next generation.

Andrew Garth



SUE SANDERS



Sue Sanders 1949-2021

I expect many in the village knew Sue, especially from the many years she and Richard lived at their dream family home of "Heathercote", facing the common. Sue was born in Chesham and lived on the same street as Paul Woodstock who conducted a wonderfully fitting funeral service for her at Amersham Crematorium on 30th June. Paul recounted jolly times when he played in the street with Sue and her sister Trish. Sue's daughter Rachael, gave a very moving tribute to her mum as did Aimee and Daniel for their "Nana". Following Richard's untimely death just a few short years ago, Sue moved to a smaller bungalow close to the old Botley Stores, where she was so happy.

Despite Covid restrictions, the service was well attended and a fitting finale came when Paul gave the chief mourners a flower each. Then, one by one each person stepped forward and placed them on Sue's coffin. The village bids farewell to a lovely person with a great sense of humour.

Should you wish to remember Sue with a donation to "The South Bucks Lymphoedema Hospice Clinic" then it would be so gratefully received c/o Wright Funeral Services, 106 High Street, Great Missenden, HP16 0BE. Please mention a willingness to Gift Aid any donation made.

Neil Lamond, 1st July 2021

LEY HILL AND BOTLEY CARERS

Ley Hill and Botley Carers are volunteers who are organised to help their neighbours in the local community to cope with emergencies not normally handled by statutory or other voluntary services.

We can help in the following ways:-

- Visiting** - if you are ill
- Transport** - to doctor, hospital, health centre
- Help at home** - shopping, prescription collection, gardening.



If you need assistance phone 01494 785935

We still have a band of willing volunteers, so if you ever need help with shopping, collecting medication, posting mail or even just a friendly chat or phone call,

Ring Anne on 01494 773050 or Sarah on 01494 776086

Latimer & Ley Hill Parish Council and Ley Hill Memorial Hall



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

SOME VILLAGE ANNIVERSARIES

We are all privileged to live in Botley and Ley Hill with so much history around us.

There are many anniversaries this year and next year.

War memorials

After the Great War there were campaigns to build lasting memorials. This year is the centenary of the village hall which was built as Ley Hill War Memorial Institute in 1921. It was replaced by the new one in 1999. In Chesham it was also 100 years ago in July 1921 that Chesham War Memorial was erected.

Churches

The first Methodist meeting was registered in 1841 so this year is the 180th anniversary of a Methodist congregation in the village, although the chapel was not built until 1887. At one time there was also a Baptist chapel on the corner of Kiln Lane which was built in 1833 and pulled down 100 years ago in 1921. St George's at Tylers Hill was built 150 years ago in 1871. (A nice book about St George's history was published for its 140th anniversary in 2011, and there are some copies still available from St George's.)

Sport

The field on the Common where cricket is played, was given over to the village for sport by Lord Chesham just over 140 years ago in 1880. Originally it was used for cricket in the summer and football in the winter. Starting in 1880 Ley Hill cricket team used to have an annual cricket match against Latimer. Bucks and Berks Football Association was formed in 1878, and Ley Hill Football Club was playing local teams by 1882. Ley Hill FC seems to have existed up to 1927, and since then the field has only been used for cricket. (A nice book about the history of the cricket club has been written by Eleanor Phillips and is available from the cricket pavilion.)

School

The old flint and brick school behind the Common was built for Lady Chesham in 1847. The school was also used for village meetings before the village hall was built in 1921. The school became a residence after the new school was built in 1927, when the children carried their own chairs across the common to the new school. 2022 will be the 175th anniversary of a school at Ley Hill.

The Common

On 20th December 2001, Ley Hill got into the Guinness Book of Records with the world's largest Christmas cracker, made by parents and children of Ley Hill School. The record still stands and will be 20 years old this December.

A fairly new village landmark is the beacon on Ley Hill Common which was erected to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Next year will be her Platinum Jubilee, with another occasion to light it, and the 20th anniversary of the beacon itself.

If you have any old photos or stories, or ideas for articles, we are always pleased to hear about them. They can be included in future editions of News and Views and on the village website, and in my fortnightly Nostalgia page in the Chesham & Amersham edition of Bucks Free Press

Neil Rees, Botley nwrees@gmail.com or 01494 258328

BOVINGDON RADOME



Have you ever wondered what that giant golf ball in the direction of Bovington is ?

It is particularly visible when walking along the many footpaths around Ley Hill or when driving along Codmore Wood Road towards Latimer. I was recently asked this question but didn't know the answer so below is the result of my research.

This enormous white ball in the sky is actually a National Air Traffic Radar Dome.

The National Air Traffic Service which provides communications for air traffic control, built a 126.8ft high mast, topped off with a dome measuring about 50ft in diameter, in Long Lane, Bovington in 2010. The structure, which gives off radio waves, is part of a network of masts and is used for air traffic control.

BUCKS COUNCIL

Gareth Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, Bucks Council

I was honoured to be asked to be Deputy Leader in the new Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet just formed. After an incredible year working in Communities and Public Health where I got to witness some of the best in people who really rallied round to help the most vulnerable through Covid, I am now taking on the rather more thorny portfolio of Planning and Regeneration.

I am pleased to say that Chesham is now going to be on the priority list for regeneration focus. Working with the Chesham Masterplan group and Chesham Town Council, we are hoping to encourage and develop our local High Street.



With my fellow Chess Valley Councillors, Emily Culverhouse and Joseph Baum, we are continuing to follow up on residents concerns from flooding to school places, fly tipping, potholes and grass verges. Do drop me an email on Gareth.williams@buckinghamshire.gov.uk if we can be of assistance.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH



The past several months have been challenging for everyone and keeping in touch and supporting those not able to master Zoom and email, especially so. Our little church in the woods is too small to cater for social distancing except in very small numbers, so we have not been able to open the building for worship for some time. The (hopefully final) lifting of restrictions comes just too late for our 150th anniversary celebration. So, this will be in our woodland beside the church and Bishop Stephen will celebrate for us. We will have a service of celebration on 18th July at 11:15am followed by a BYO picnic.

Assuming that restrictions are lifted the following day, we will be able to open the church again for services from 25th July onwards. Our services run 11:15-12:15 and everyone is welcome. The pattern of service is holy communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month and family services on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays. Please join us at any time.

We will have an exhibition celebrating St George's 150 years on **17-18th September**.

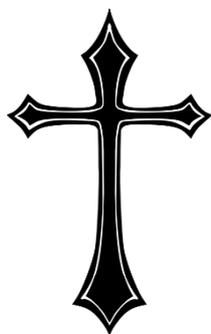
The exhibition will be in the church and rooms.

Please put this date in your diary and come to support your local church.

Some other dates for your diary are **Harvest Festival service on 10th October** and **Christingle on 12th December**. You are welcome!

From 19th July, the Bangay Rooms will be available again for hire. These rooms, adjacent to the church have a large meeting room that can be divided into 2 smaller rooms, a kitchen & toilets. The rooms are ideal for group meetings (up to about 30). If you would like to hire the rooms, please contact Julie Rennard julierennard6@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you soon! Keep up to date with news from St George's on www.stgeorgesandchrist.church

*Hazel Rymer, Gill Glenister & Jenny Allison – St. George's District Wardens
St George's Church, Tyler's Hill Road.*



A date for your diary

St George's Church, Tylers Hill

Celebrates its **150th ANNIVERSARY**

On Sunday 18th July 2021

With a service led by the BISHOP at **11.15am**

Followed by a **Bring-Your-Own-Picnic**

150th EXHIBITION to follow in **September**

(all subject to Government Health & Safety guidelines)



MY FAVOURITE RECIPE

SPICED GINGER CAKE/TRAYBAKE

This is a fabulous cake for a summer picnic or just add lashings of custard for that winter evening treat.

INGREDIENTS

225g margarine (softened)	1 teaspoon mixed spice
175g light muscovado sugar	1 teaspoon allspice
200g black treacle	4 eggs
300g self-raising flour	4 tablespoons milk
2 teaspoons baking powder	3 bulbs stem ginger from jar, finely chopped

METHOD

1. Line a traybake or roasting tin, 30 x 23 x 4cm (12 x 9x 1.1/2 inches)
2. Pre heat the oven to 180C/160fan/350Gas
3. Put all the ingredients into a large mixing bowl and beat with an electric mixer for approx. 2 minutes.
4. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and level the top gently with a spatula.
5. Bake for 35-40 minutes, until the cake springs back when pressed lightly with a finger in the centre and it is beginning to shrink away from the sides of the tin.
6. Allow to cool a little then remove the cake from the tin.
7. Place on a cooling rack, remove the greaseproof paper and leave to cool completely.
8. Once cooled, slice the cake into 15 to 20 small squares.

Enjoy!

Chris Lewis





OPENING OF THE DILLY DELL TRAIL

