

LEY HILL & BOTLEY NEWS & VIEWS SPRING 2024



**The tulips make me want to paint
Something about the way they drop
Their petals on the tabletop
And do not wilt as much as faint**

Published three times a year by the Ley Hill Memorial Hall Committee

Edited by Anne Birkett

ST GEORGES CHURCH

St George's Spring Fayre

Saturday 20th April 11am to 2.30pm



St George's Church

Tylers Hill

Side Stalls & Raffle

Refreshments including Ploughman's Lunches



All Welcome



Have fun with your dog at



A Fun Dog Show hosted by St George's Church
at The Hen & Chickens Pub Botley Road

(By kind permission of Helen)



Sunday 19th May

Entries at 1pm Judging at 2pm

8 classes (£3 per dog per class) - Dogs on leads at all times

Bring a chair



BBQ available

All Welcome



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear All

Spring is in the air! The daffodils are waking up and is the rain finally going to stop?

I would like to thank all the contributors to the News and Views. Even in this technological age there still appears to be a need for this printed information!

I constantly hear how useful and interesting the little booklet that falls on the doormat several times a year is! So here I must also thank the team of volunteers who deliver the copies whatever the weather. A special thanks this time must go to Angela Reynolds who has delivered copies around Gooseacre for the last three years and has now moved back to Berkhamsted. Pauline Gregory has kindly volunteered to take over this patch

You may remember that the winter edition of News and Views included an article about glis glis in Andrew Garth's Nature notes. Some information in the article has proved to be controversial! A reader commented that

"The article makes them sound like they are furry garden friends and advises they are protected. My understanding and own experience is that they are vermin and the last invader you would want anyone near the house. We have had them get into our loft (to nest and find warmth from the winter cold) and as they are nocturnal they then make a hell of a racket in the early hours as they scurry around, They also need to continually wear down their teeth and are known to chew through electric cabling causing much damage, as well as leave droppings all over. Unlike what the article says about being protected my understanding is the opposite based on what I've read and information from professional pest removers such as Old Bill's Pest Control"

Please read Andrew's Erratum on page 18 of this edition.

Could this be the start of a letters page in the News and Views? I'm very happy to include a letters page so if you want to get anything relating to the village or the News and Views, off your chest, just send your letter into me for publication in the next edition. I am always ready to listen to any recommendations for additions to News and Views so don't hesitate to let me know.

Have you visited the Crown yet since its reopening in September? I wholeheartedly agree with Ian Walter's comment on page 7 when he says that Ley Hill has its heart back. It's wonderful to walk into a pub and receive such a friendly welcome and meet fellow locals you haven't seen for a while. I applaud Sandra and Rob for helping to bring back the community together again. I look forward to seeing you in there soon.

Happy Easter to you all

Anne Birkett (Editor)



If you wish to contact the editor please email mrsapb53@hotmail.com

COPY DATE FOR SUMMER NEWS & VIEWS IS FRIDAY JUNE 28th

VILLAGE CLUBS AND GROUPS

Badminton	Tuesday 1030—1200 pm Memorial Hall	Amita Carr	778782
Ley Hill Cricket Club	Chairman Juniors Manager	Nick Lee Al Rowe	782813 07894 901880
Chesham & Ley Hill Golf Club	Ley Hill Common 8am—Dusk	Alex Lloyd	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	2 -18 years Memorial Hall	Emily Harris	07423053556
Scouts 1 st Tyler's Hill	10-15 years Thurs 7 – 9pm Ley Hill School	Sheila Nardone	sheilanardone@hotmail.co.uk
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 7pm – 8.30pm	Gayle Romney	gayle.romney@ntlworld.com
Coffee and Chat	Second Wednesday in every month 11am –12.30pm	Anne Birkett	773050
Chesvale Dog Training Club	Thursday 6.15 -10.15pm Memorial Hall	Carol Spencer	chesvaledogtrainingclub.org
Well Seasoned Club	Every other Tuesday 2.30pm Methodist Chapel	Margaret Faulkner	783048
Women's Fellowship	1st Thursday of each month 2 - 4pm Bangay Rooms	Sheila Hart	785003
Sunday Club All Children	Sundays 10.30-11am Ley Hill Methodist Chapel	Kirsty Rees	01494 258328
Youth Express 11years +	Sundays from 6-7.30pm Ley Hill Methodist Chapel	Neil Rees	nwrees@gmail.com 258328

FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Sarah Peterson (07799 478825 or 01494 776086)

Deputy Chair: Angela Gregory (01494 773659)		Steve Thorp
Secretary: Liz Thorp	David Darvell	Catherine Haridi
Treasurer: Pete Churchill	Margaret Faulkner	Sally Greenhill
Booking Secretary: Claire Randall - 07716 343867 or bookings leyhill@gmail.com	Joe Walsh	Katie Naylor
	Neil Branscombe	Lesley Tinine
	Chris Lewis	

THE LUVVIES

The Luvvies have been asked by the local charity, Scannappeal - whose support keeps our local hospitals at the forefront of free NHS diagnostic scanning – to produce a fundraising Summer concert. “STARRY STARRY NIGHT” will be on **Thursday, 18 July at St. Mary’s Church, Chesham,**



This musical evening featuring many local stars promises to be a very special sell-out evening. Ticket details from the Scannappeal website.



The Luvvies’ November show this year will be Stephen Sondheim’s “A Little Night Music” which is a sophisticated and witty show and features his first hit “Send in the Clowns”. This very funny show tells about the antics of mis-matched lovers and will be the Luvvies’ 5th and most ambitious Sondheim production to date! Show dates **20 – 23 November 2024** at Ley Hill Memorial Hall.

As usual all proceeds will go to local charities to which we are very proud to have donated over thirty thousand pounds so far.

For information please email theluvvies@hotmail.com or ring 01494 771840.

The Luvvies are an ego-friendly community theatre company based in Ley Hill. If you are interested in getting involved in any way please call Paul on 01494 771840.

Paul Woodstock

CLASSIC CAR SHOW ON THE COMMON



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday August 11th

Neil Lamond & the Classic Cars Team

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

Well believe it or not we have just started the twenty-fifth year since the Memorial Hall was re-built for the Millennium and re-opened in December 1999. I hope you'll agree that, broadly speaking, it looks in as good a shape now as it did then. We keep our fingers crossed that the heating system, boilers, kitchen appliances etc continue to provide us with what we need but when the time inevitably comes to replace something we do our best to ensure that we have funds available to facilitate it. Meanwhile a continuous programme of maintenance and service is in place for critical equipment or as statute requires and we strive to repair and improve the Hall when needs must or opportunities arise to do so or, e.g. technology change comes along.

Many years ago the Trustees decided to invest in the 'new technology' of solar panels at a relatively early stage of their development and we continue to benefit significantly financially from the generous feed in tariffs on offer at the time to incentivise such investment. Our electricity cost is consequently considerably less than would be the case without the panels, and this allows us to offer the Hall for hire at more competitive rates than might otherwise be the case.

At the end of January the registered charity that is Ley Hill War Memorial Institute (aka Ley Hill Memorial Hall) held its 102nd Annual General Meeting. The indenture that is our governing document requires the charity to hold an AGM on the last Monday in January, believe it or not. So if you'd like to come along to the next one, we'll see you at the Hall at 8pm on Monday 27 January 2025!

Probably unsurprisingly, the 2024 AGM was almost entirely attended by members of the Management Committee and Trustees, but this publication at least gives us an opportunity to highlight here some of the matters covered at the AGM and which hopefully will be of interest. I take it that a very modest AGM attendance suggests that the community is happy with how the Hall is operated and has no axe to grind!

Overall, 2023 was a successful year and saw the Hall used more than for some time. Our income increased by about £3,200 to £20,500 in round terms, of which 78% came from hirers of the Hall, the balance coming from committee events, interest and donations/ miscellaneous. Expenditure totalled approximately £17,750 of which £4,850 was spent on repairs and maintenance.

The main projects here were re-flooring the toilet areas, replacing the electric water heater in the kitchen, a deep clean of the kitchen, decorating the hall and toilets, window cleaning and gutter clearance. Other principal costs include all utilities, the expenses associated with putting on committee events (which in 2023 included the King's Coronation celebrations), cleaning, insurance, licences and associated fees and last but not least, the cost of printing this publication which is entirely paid for by the Hall. The net result of all this was a profit for the year of £2,752.

In 2024 we have already replaced the carpet tiles in the areas either side of the stage and in the rear committee room (which some of you possibly doesn't even know exists!) and the Management Committee is reviewing proposals for improving the lighting in the Hall.

NEWS FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank publicly all the members of the Management Committee and the Trustees for their contribution to the running, maintenance and governing of the Hall over the past year. Thankfully, all those in positions requiring a vote at the AGM were happy to stay on for another year and so our Secretary of the Management Committee is Liz Thorp, our Treasurer is Pete Churchill and our Bookings Secretary is Claire Randall.

Looking back over the past few months at what has been going on at the Hall aside from its use by our many regular hirers, I hope that you managed to get to see the production of The Quartet by the Ley Hill Luvvies. It was excellent and the four principal actors involved and their many helpers behind the scenes put on a West End quality production. I had to keep pinching myself that this was taking place in Ley Hill and not Central London. Thank you to Paul Woodstock and all his team for another premium quality production.

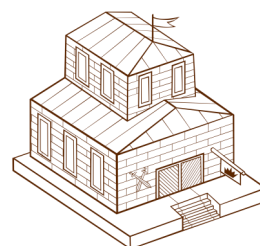
Our annual Carol Singing event outside the Memorial Hall (with mince pies and mulled wine inside) for many marks the start of the Christmas festivities and last year's was no exception. Thank you to David Darvell and Karen Holt in particular for their involvement in that and to those in the kitchen afterwards.

Looking ahead we are planning a Roaming Supper on 8 June so please keep an eye out for further details of that in due course.

Away from the Hall I'd also like to recognise the great work that Sandra, Rob and their team have done and continue to do at The Crown, notwithstanding the wet and windy weather we seem to have had forever. It's great to have a popular and lively pub again. Ley Hill has its heart back.

Don't forget that if you need a venue for a function or are looking for a venue to host an activity on a regular basis please contact our Bookings Secretary, Claire Randall on 07716 343867 or bookings_leyhill@gmail.com

Ian Walter (ianwalter@btinternet.com), Trustee



SHEILA THOMAS

It was with great sadness that we heard the news that Sheila had passed away in early November last year. Sheila and husband Vince came to Ley Hill from Essex in 1985 to take over the running of Botley Stores and the Post Office from her sister Pat Bell, who with husband Bert, had been here since the early 70's.

Vince and Sheila retired in 2003 after 19 years. So many people will have fond memories of those times when a warm welcome and a chat was the "norm" whenever you went into the shop or to use the Post Office, which was run so efficiently by Sheila. She spent the last few years in a nursing home as she had Motor Neurone Disease.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Vince and their daughter Julie who still live in the village, and we look back and remember, with gratitude, the important and happy part of village life, that Sheila contributed to so well.

David Darvell

MY FAVOURITE RECIPE

APRICOT AND HONEY FLAPJACK

Ingredients to make 16 squares of flapjack:

180g salted butter (cubed)

120g golden granulated sugar

120g honey

325g rolled oats

125g dried apricots

(I also add a couple of drops of vanilla extract)



Method:

Preheat oven to 160 degrees (fan).

Grease and line a 20cm sq baking tin with baking parchment.

Combine the butter, sugar and honey in a saucepan and heat gently, stir until the sugar has dissolved and butter melted.

Add the vanilla extract then stir in the oats and chopped apricots and stir well until combined.

Pack the mixture into the lined baking tin and press down with the back of a spoon.

Bake in the oven for 25 mins until golden.

While the flapjack is still warm cut into pieces, leaving them in the tin until cool.

To add decoration, mix some icing sugar with water and drizzle over the top.

Enjoy! *Jayne Dobbie*

BANGAY ROOMS FOR HIRE

Family events, or small parties, meetings, Training sessions, Keep Fit/Yoga Classes

St George's Church, Tylers Hill Rad, Chesham, Bucks

£9 per hour or less for regular block bookings. Available 8am —10pm

Car Park—10 cars

Tel: Julie Rennard 785345 or julierennard6@gmail.com

LEY HILL TODDLER GROUP

Ley Hill Toddler group meets at the Chapel, every Wednesday morning during term time, 10am until 11.30am.

We have a fabulous selection of toys, a craft table, bible story time and singing.

We serve tea, coffee, homemade cake and provide snacks for the children.

You will be made very welcome and it is a great way to meet other parents and carers and also for the children to make friends before going to nursery and school.

Please contact Sam to check availability. Samantha.guerin@gmail.com



WELL SEASONED CLUB

Winter has been kind to us this year so there has been no cancellations due to snow and ice, just delays due to the fact that two leaders have been swanning off to the Canaries!

However we are now on a roll enjoying a varied menu - news from the Mount Prison, a Singing Duet and meals aplenty.

As a leadership team we are now rather frail but intend to carry on, God willing, for the near future.

Best wishes,

Rita, Lindsay and Margaret Tels - 01494 785935, 01494 783048



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



DID YOU KNOW?

Some surviving accounts tell of an Easter visit to **Chenies** made by Edward 1 which show the purchase of 10d worth of barley in return for a camel which had accompanied the royal party. These accounts list the preparation of food for an Easter feast and mention the boiling of 450 eggs for distribution to locals. This is possibly the very first mention of giving eggs as a gift at Easter in this country!



CHESHAM AND LEY HILL GOLF CLUB

The Course

We have a fantastic Greens Team who have been working tirelessly to keep the course open over the past few weeks due to the amount of rain we have had. Both members and visitors are noticing the improvements they have made to the course over the past few months and plans are in place to make further improvements this year.

Ladies Academy

Are you interested in starting golf or returning to golf? On Sunday 7th April at 2pm we are holding a Women in Golf Day where ladies have an opportunity to drive, chip and putt as well as finding out about our Academy. Following the golf there will be tea/coffee and home made cakes for everyone to enjoy. And its free!

Contact Anne Birkett for more information

– annebirkett@cheshamgolf.co.uk



Membership

Our membership grew last year, and we are optimistic this will continue for 2024. If you are interested in joining the club, you can find out more by going to our website www.cheshamgolf.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can email us at membershipadmin@cheshamgolf.co.uk and we will send you a membership pack with the membership fees.

Visitors

Visitors are very welcome to play either 9 or 18 holes, 7 days a week.

Costs vary depending on the day and time you wish to play.

Tee slots are bookable via our website – www.cheshamgolf.co.uk/green-fee-booking

*The Membership and Communications Team
Chesham and Ley Hill Golf Club*



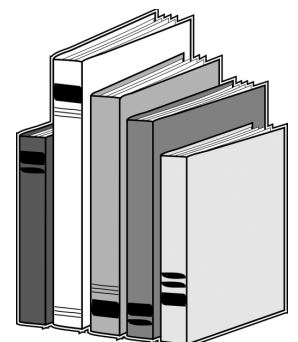
LITTLE LIBRARY

Books needed!

I have run out of paper back books for the Little Library. If you have any you would be willing to donate, please feel free to leave them in the Little Library. If there is no space, please leave them on my doorstep at 9 Holly Tree Close, Ley Hill.

Sadly there is no space for hard back books, so please donate these to charity shops.

The Little Library is for adult and children's books.....be aware children will peek inside, so please ensure anything you leave is appropriate!



Ros Walter

1st TYLERS HILL SCOUTS



Hikes Away

Supported by GO Outdoors

This year, in early March, nine of our Tyler's Hill Scouts and two adult volunteers took part in two teams in this 40-kilometre/25-

mile circular cross-country hike from Misbourne School to Chesham, Ley Hill, Ashley Green, Hawridge, Cholesbury, Lee Common and back to Misbourne School after midnight.

The conditions were very muddy making it extra hard work.

What an incredible achievement for our two Scout teams, aged 12 to 14!



Why not become an adult volunteer in Scouts to help young people step up, speak up, dream big and gain the skills they need for life. Thanks to our volunteers, young people find their place in the world, learn to believe in themselves and make a difference to their communities and society. No matter your background or experience, your time and skills help young people gain skills for life.

If you'd like to help at Tyler's Hill Scouts, please contact:
Group Scout Leader, Sheila Nardone on 07729 336402



LOCAL SERVICES

PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR SERVICE

Your piano technician—Julianna Nigo—Time to Tune Ltd

07462860087 www.timetotune.co.uk

CHEMISTRY TUTOR

A- level and GCSE Chemistry and KS3 sciences.

£40 an hour Or A group of 3 students for £15 each

Experienced Chemistry school teacher, references available.

Contact Natasha for availability 07766282721 Based in Botley, Chesham

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

JANET WHEELER-SMITH

Handmade curtains and alterations. No job too small.

Zips, buttons, re-hem trousers and curtains

based in Botley 01494 773021

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

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

CARDIO/INTERMEDIATE PILATES: Mondays at 9.30am & Wednesdays at 10am

BEGINNERS & MIXED ABILITY PILATES: Mondays at 5.45pm, Tuesdays at 10am,
Wednesdays at 11am, Thursdays at 5.45pm

SAGALATES (Chair-based Pilates/Stretch): Thursdays 12.05pm

HIGHFIELDS STUDIO, 169 BOTLEY ROAD, LEY HILL, HP5 1XR

Call or e-mail Trish Baptist for information or to reserve your place

01494 771055/tbaptist@btinternet.com/07758382528

LOCAL SERVICES

11 + TUITION

Private 1 to 1 or small group 11 + tuition, references available.
Please contact Cathy at
11plustuitionbuckinghamshire@gmail.com or ring 07743990966

WALK BETTER

If you need help with cutting toe nails or general foot care
Contact Ann on 786995 or 07754205469
Home visits available.

SALLY KENDALL

Computer Support & Website Creation
Independent IT Engineer - sally.kendall@11december.co.uk
Based in Orchard Leigh Tel. 01494 776882 or 07841 448045
www.11december.co.uk

CHILTERN EXHIBITIONS

For all your picture framing and display requirements
Dave Bellamy 07765 000915 Chiltern.exhibitions@gmail.com
Chiltern.exhibitions@gmail.com

MATHS TUTOR CHESHAM

Private tuition in A level and GCSE Maths and Physics
From an experienced teacher.
MathsTutorChesham.co.uk MathsTutorChesham@gmail.com

NEED HELP WITH IRONING?

Take a break and call the A'steam for a friendly and personal service at reasonable rates!
Collection and delivery available
Call 07714927559

BABYSITTING SERVICES

Evenings and weekends Level 3 qualified. Full enhanced DBS check
Over 10 years previous experience as a Nursery Deputy Manager
Contact Aimee on 07949652741

LATIMER & LEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

LITTER BLITZ

If you receive this copy in time, please come along on the revised date of Saturday March 16th to help clean up the village, which is looking particularly scruffy after the long, wet winter. Equipment, including pickers, hoops, bags, gloves and Hi Viz can be collected from the Memorial Hall from 9.30am.



MEADHAMS FARM

Some of you may have noticed some increased activity at Meadham's Farm. We have been in contact with the new owner of the site who has told us that he intends only to tip inert material (soils, sub soils etc, no asbestos) into the cells. Currently he is only tipping into the smaller cell as the large cell has to be pumped out of water which won't happen until later in the year. He fully intends that all vehicles will enter and leave the village via Bovingdon Road past EH Smiths. We can confirm that over the past few weeks this seems mostly to be the case. The owner proposed a meeting with councillors on site later in the year (when warmer and lighter) as took place with the previous owner, and he is happy to have open dialogue should any issues arise.

BIRD BOXES

Why not have a wander through the activity trail as the weather improves to see the bluebells and listen to the birds? Andrew Garth and his son Austin have kindly cleared out the four tit boxes in time for some new spring residents and the owl box will be looked at in the next few weeks. Please let us know if you spot any activity in the boxes.

STREET LIGHTS

Have you noticed a difference in the light from the street lights over the last week or so? Some of the street lights in Ley Hill are the responsibility of Chesham Town Council and some the responsibility of Latimer and Ley Hill Parish Council. The PC recently decided to replace the remaining sodium bulbs with LEDS since replacement bulbs were increasingly difficult to source.

LONELY RESIDENTS

We are reaching out to our wonderful parishioners with a heartfelt request for volunteers who have some spare time to support those who may be in need of companionship and connection. Loneliness can affect anyone, and even a small gesture can have a big impact on someone's well-being. If you have a few hours to spare each week please contact the parish clerk at parish.clerk@latimerleyhillparishcouncil.co.uk

COFFEE AND CHAT

COFFEE AND CHAT in the Memorial Hall

Every **SECOND** Wednesday of the month at 11am

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

See you on **March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July**



LATIMER & LEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday April 23rd. This year we are trying a different format and different venue. The meeting will take place at 7pm at Chesham and Ley Hill Golf Club on Middle Lane, Ley Hill HP5 1UZ. All parishioners are invited to attend but we will also be inviting representatives from all the parish clubs and organisations. Please come along to see what opportunities the village has to offer as well as finding out what the PC achieved last year and their plans for 2024/25 and enjoy some refreshments. We've just heard that Gareth Williams from Buckingham Council and Joseph Baum from Chesham Town Council will also be attending so come along and have a chat!

PARISH SURVEY 2024

At the Annual Parish Meeting we will be launching our survey for 2024. We are keen to know how you, our parishioners, think we could improve the parish. Unfortunately we have no say whatsoever on the state of the roads and flytipping, although we constantly report such problems to Bucks Council. But hopefully you may have some ideas of improvements that are in our power to initiate. We would really like to hear your thoughts so please contact the Parish clerk on parish. Clerk@latimerleyhillparishcouncil.co.uk or give me Anne Birkett ring on 01494 773050 .

D DAY COMMEMORATION

On Thursday June 6th we will be lighting the beacon at 9.15pm in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy, France on June 6th 1944 as part of a chain of at least 15 more beacons in Buckinghamshire. We will pay tribute to the many thousands that gave so much on the Beaches in Normandy, to help ensure our freedom we share today. Keep an eye out on our noticeboards and email newsletters for further information about the evening's activities.



Anne Birkett anne.birkett@latimerleyhillparishcouncil.co.uk

BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL

This time of the year is always the most difficult for our roads as the weather has really taken its toll but the crews cannot resurface roads until warmer weather. I was pleased to propose an extra £5m for resurfacing this year in the annual budget debate. We did this last year and it enabled terrible roads like Jason's Hill, the bottom of Blackwell Hall Lane, White Hill and Lye Green Road to get a proper resurfacing, done by our new contractors to a very high standard.

Elsewhere I am in touch with the planning department on the Swan pub and have called in the latest application to turn it into a nursery in to Planning Committee.

I will keep working with fellow Save our Swan committee members to try and save the pub for our community.

Gareth Williams Bucks Councillor and Local Resident



LEY HILL SCHOOL

We've had a fantastic start to the Spring term at Ley Hill School and we'd like to start by welcoming our new Headteacher, Ms Lang to the Ley Hill community. In the short time she has been with us, Ms Lang has already met with so many wonderful people from the local community and hopes to be able to continue to work together in coming months and years. We would also like to congratulate our new school councillors following the success of their applications, speeches and democratic vote.

The last eight weeks have certainly been busy. Our 'colourful' Non-Uniform Day in support of the fund-raising initiative for Lowndes Park in Chesham raised nearly £200 towards the building of a new playground area. Our Art Week was also an incredible success. The children took part in a wide range of amazing workshops supported by local artists, including pebble art, a glass workshop, paper making, alpaca textiles, Indian folk art, pop art and mosaics, to name but a few. We can't wait to unveil our new murals after Easter, one in our courtyard and another in our visitors' reception area. Come along and have a look.



In February, Reverend Dalton spoke to the children about what it means to be a leader of a church, the responsibilities he has and support he gives to people within the community. It was lovely to welcome him into the school and his visit supported the work that Year 1 have been doing in their RE lessons.

There have been a number of sporting events already this term. Huge congratulations should go to our Tag Rugby and Football teams for their amazing efforts, teamwork, collaboration and determination. They have certainly demonstrated our school values. We are also very much looking forward to taking part in the cross-country event at Lowndes Park Saturday 2nd March. Please come along and support us.

In February, Year 6 visited RAF Hendon to support their World War II topic work. The children had a great time and were all eager to explain what they had learnt when they returned. We have lots of other exciting experiences planned for our children later this term including a Year 4 trip to the Science Museum, a Year 2 trip to College Lake, a Year 5 trip to British Museum, a Year 1 trip to the Model Village and an Animal Workshop for our children in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 3. We can't wait!



LEY HILL SCHOOL

Finally, you may have seen some of our Year 5 children out and about on their bikes in Ley Hill recently as part of the 'Bikeability' national cycle training programme. The children are to be congratulated on their resilience, as they braved the wet weather to gain practical skills and an understanding of how to cycle safely on our roads. We hope that the programme has given them the confidence to cycle and enjoy this skill for life.



Many thanks to everyone from the local community who continues to support our children in so many ways. We look forward to seeing what the Summer term brings!

Jenni Denial and Alison Rainey - Co-Chairs of the Ley Hill School Governing Body



ST GEORGES CHURCH

Have you ever uncovered an old diary from your childhood or youth? What would be written there? "Today I watched Wrestlemania Seven, and I'm so glad Hulk Hogan defeated Sgt Slaughter." Who is the Undertaker? As you can tell, I was a big fan of the WWF, which is now known as WWE. Things that looked vital at the time are no longer relevant, and what appeared to be exciting is no longer so. I don't know about you, but my diary frequently appears mundane. Resolutions come and go, and pages are filled with mistakes that I continue to make because I have not learned from them. I'm curious what the diaries of some of history's most fascinating personalities, such as Martin Luther King, Mark Hamill, and Henry the Eighth, would look like. As Holy Week approaches and culminates with Easter Sunday, we have the opportunity to read and experience firsthand accounts from individuals who observed Jesus' final week as He began His trip to the crucifixion. We feel part of the grief, torment, humiliation, and betrayal that Jesus endured. We read about Jesus on the cross, saying the critical words "it is finished" as He dies on Good Friday. We then join in on the excitement and delight as over 500 witnesses saw, ate with and touch the risen Christ.

We at St Georges encourage you to join us as we participate in these events and learn about what the Cross means for us and how we might live this new life. So please join us every Sunday at 11:15 a.m., and we will begin the journey on March 24th, when Jesus enters the walls of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Also do please have a look at the new web site stgeorgestylershill.co.uk or email me at vicar.darren@gmail.com Rev. Dalton

NATURE NOTES

THE ROBIN



The robin is one of our best known birds, easily seen in our gardens and woods throughout the year. They are very territorial birds, but it is thanks to this that we can enjoy their singing all year round.

In extreme situations, male robins can injure one another seriously while defending their patch. As male and female robins have identical plumage, over the years the birds have developed a useful way of telling the difference - females spell their names with a "y" instead of an "i". Robins will pair-up around Easter time to build their nests, with a clutch of up to half a dozen eggs being laid thereafter. Overall, three or four clutches might be laid over the spring and early summer. The young robins take around a fortnight to hatch, then another fortnight to fledge. Fortunately, a young robin leaving the nest is spared the anger of his territorial elders, as he is born without a red breast and acquires it only once he has moulted.

Although most robins then do not migrate, some do leave Britain to overwinter in Southern Europe - likewise some Northern European robins overwinter in Britain.

Robins can lose a significant amount of weight during cold weather but provided they can survive their first winter, they are likely to live for several years. They will eat seeds, fruit and small insects and of course worms - they follow the gardener just as they would a pig or other animal disturbing the soil.

Robins also have spiritual significance at this time of year - a robin singing to comfort Christ on the cross was stained with His blood, and all robins since that time have carried the same mark.

ERRATUM: It has been rightly pointed out that my article in the winter edition of News & Views gave the impression that the glis glis is a protected species. It is not! It is however classified as a non-native species and should only be removed from your home by a suitably licenced individual

Wishing all readers of News and Views a Happy Easter!

Andrew Garth

LEY HILL METHODIST CHURCH

Happy Easter!

Easter is an important time for Christians who recall the resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago. His resurrection changed history, and enables us to have a meaningful faith which is a living relationship with God.

Ley Hill Methodist chapel sits to the left of Ley Hill Memorial Hall.

Services are held each Sunday with modern music, and we hear a variety of preachers unpack stories of the Bible as we journey together to learn more about God.

Most Sunday services at Ley Hill Methodist church now start at 10:30 am (instead of 11 am as before).

If you have not been to church for a long time, or usually go to a different church, Easter is a great time to come say hello. Services end in tea or coffee and biscuits and a chat. We welcome some new people who have joined us recently, and we welcome visitors and the curious. You don't have to be a Methodist (in fact not many of us are!)

Events over Easter @ the Chapel

Coffee morning, Saturday 23rd March, 9:30 – 12:30pm with craft stalls and activities for children

Palm Sunday service, 24th March at 10:30 am

Good Friday service, 29th March at 3 pm

Easter Sunday service, 31st March at 10:30 am



Sunday Club is the new name for Sunday School, and is open to village children and happens at the same time as the service.

Toddlers meets on Wednesday mornings at 10 am for pre-school children.

Adults can chat over a cup of tea and children can make friends and play.

Youth Express meets every Sunday evening from 6 to 7:30pm for secondary school children.

Now with table tennis, and a new pool table and pizza every other week. Afterwards we now have Youth Extra from 7:30 to 8pm where we explore faith issues, which is great as school PRE support.

Well Seasoned meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons those of more riper years which meets in the chapel at 2:30pm

Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday evenings when we go deeper and learn more about the Bible. We meet at different homes in Ley Hill, or you can even join by Zoom.

Special events like coffee mornings, walks, barn dances and quizzes are held through the year.

Thank you to everyone who came to our amazing quiz evening when we filled Ley Hill Memorial Hall on Saturday 27th January.

History Book: If you are interested in local history get a copy of "The Chapel on the Green" which tells over 180 years of history of the church from its beginnings in 1840 to present, told through anecdotes, memories and photos. Copies are available for £10 from the church. For more information take a look at www.leyhillchurch.org or email us at leyhillchapel@gmail.com

Happy Easter! *Neil Rees*

1st TYLERS HILL GIRL GUIDES



Last autumn we planted pots of bulbs which we gave to members of the St George's family just before Christmas. The recipients were really pleased with these and thanked us, some sending photos of their tete-a-tete bulbs in flower.

The Guides always enjoy cooking activities so before Christmas they made and decorated gingerbread houses, which was a lot of fun and mess.

We made cone table decorations for the senior citizens Christmas dinner at the town hall, which were admired and appreciated by those who attended.

The Guides have enjoyed doing some of the 'Adventures in the Dark' activities which were put together by some Girlguiding members in Kent. St George's woodland was very soggy underfoot but lots of wildlife was found. Stargazing was curtailed by clouds but great fun was had creating their own constellations using black paper with pin holes held in front of a torch.

Do-It-Yourself skills were developed and practised doing the UMA (Unit Meeting Activity) 'Do it Yourself' making book shelves out of cardboard boxes with nuts and bolts.

At the beginning of February, we had a joint activity day with Tylers Hill Brownies. The girls enjoyed making (and eating) cookies, toasting marshmallows and various crafts including: making soap, bracelets, bead and smoked tile pictures, spiders, keyrings and bookmarks. Thanks to all the leaders from both units and our visiting jewellery maker, Pat, for organising and running this event.

In an effort to increase our numbers we have been holding 'Taster' evenings inviting older Brownies to come and experience some Guide activities. If anyone knows of any girls aged 9½+ who would like to join Guides please contact me to arrange a visit or register their interest on the Girlguiding website www.girlguiding.org.uk and I will contact them.

Thanks, as always, to Rosemary, Zoë and the parents for their support giving the girls the opportunities that Guiding provides.

Gayle Romney - Guide Leader - gayle.romney@ntlworld.com



LOCAL HISTORY

THE SANDERS BLACKSMITHS – Part 1



This has been taken from a book written by my late Grandfather, Norman Sanders, and his son, my late father, Richard Sanders.

The Sanders Blacksmiths was originally in Gt. Milton, Oxfordshire. Nathaniel and Jonathan worked for their father as blacksmiths at Gt. Milton in the forge on the green before 1835. Johnathan left Gt. Milton in 1835 and purchased a business and property in Ley Hill (opposite the common past The Swan) which were a

forge and a pair of cottages, next door to the one he lived himself. There was also an orchard property which had some sheds on it, a pig sty and some hen houses. Below the orchard was another pair of cottages (Sanders Cottages) in which was a sweet and general goods shop. Johnathan bought this property from a Quaker who was emigrating to America. The property was copy hold which meant that the building was his, but the land was rented from the Lord of the Manor, Lord Chesham and made freehold in 1844. This gave the property ALL common rights as per the deeds to the surrounding common land.

He carried on the business of farrier and blacksmith for many years. When going out to shoe a horse or look at other work he would wear a top hat and tails, carrying his cap, apron and tools in a bundle or in a bag. In those days farriers also acted as horse doctors. We still had a few of his tools such as the blood letting kit and a few knives. At this time the blacksmith and farrier was a very important person in the village life, looking after the health and shoeing of the horses, the chief form of transport and power, also the making of ploughs, harrows and much of the other equipment needed in the country life. When the blacksmith fitted tyres to the cart and trolley wheels, getting the tyre hot in the forge, then putting the tyre over the wheel and finally quenching or cooling off the tyre with water, this water had to be drawn up and carried across the common from the well.

The Sanders as a business trade mark had the crossed church warden pipes. This tool was made by John Sanders and stamped on all metal tools and machines made at the forge. When anything was made for the old local workmen they always said, "Put the pipes on her gov will yer please". I have seen this mark on all sorts of tools and types of plough and seed drag harrows.

Originally the old blacksmith shop, was built from wood. A new building was required, so the Sanders decided to build a new brick building around and over the old building, and in line with the original wooden boundary fences. The building was done about the 1880 or thereabouts. This would then be a modern up to date workshop, even so, only the shoeing shop and the floor round the forges were made of good solid floor for working on. The remainder was earth / dust floor, hard on the feet and difficult to keep clean, which made one very dirty and dusty. The front or main shop consisted of two forges side by side, so designed that they could be used singly, two handed, or both forges used together for long or awkward work, like making a plough or some long ironwork. Number 1 forge was the largest one and was used for most work, and at one time was used to heat up the cart tyres to shrink them on cart and trolley wheels.

Part 2 to follow..... *Rachael Bramwell (nee Sanders)*

THE CROWN

It's hard to believe that we opened the pub on Saturday 30th September and we have been here nearly six months! It has been quite a ride but one we have loved.

We have changed our original menu in that time and have decided to do this every three months to keep it fresh. We have also changed our Monday and Tuesday offerings from the platters to a shorter menu and this has proved very popular with bookings steadily increasing.

Wallet Watcher Wednesdays, our two courses for £12.00, is still very popular and alongside this we run our Wednesday to Saturday menu.

Sunday lunches are also very popular and we regrettably do have to turn people away just because we don't have enough space roll on the warmer weather when guests can sit outside. With Mother's Day fast approaching we are now fully booked.

Looking forward to Easter weekend, on Saturday 30th March we have music from The Numbers playing from 8.30pm,

Easter Sunday is starting to book up so if you would like a table please give us a call.

On Easter Monday 1st April we are holding a Charity Dog Show in aid of Stokenchurch Dog Rescue. Chesvale Dog Training Club are very kindly organising this event for us and we look forward to welcoming all your dogs along, further details will be available in the next couple of weeks.

On Saturday 27th April we have a 100,000 point charity darts challenge in aid of the Air Ambulance. This will start at 10am and the aim is to throw solidly for 12 hours. If you are interested in taking part please let us know and we can put you in touch with the organiser, Martin Cartledge.

Please come and support this worthwhile charity as none of us know when we might need them.

Advance dates for your diary, we have a Mini Music and Beer Festival on Saturday 25th May with tribute acts performing; Adele, Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and Elvis are all participating. This will be an outside event so here's hoping the weather is kind to us!

Also the Ley Hill Music and Beer Festival will be back on August Bank Holiday, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout what can be really tough months for pubs, we have been very fortunate and with your help have weathered these two months.

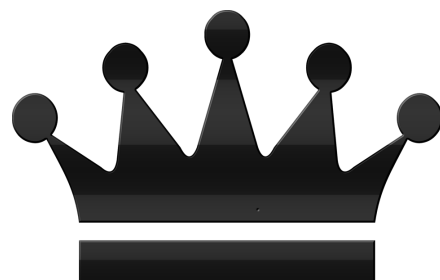
We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sandra and Rob

Phone: 01494 783910

www.thecrownleyhill.co.uk

Email - hello@thecrownleyhill.co.uk



DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS TABLECLOTH?

This beautiful tablecloth has recently been handed over to the Parish Council for safe keeping as there is no longer a Ley Hill Women's Institute running in the village. It has been beautifully embroidered with a border of ivy, a flower for each month of the year and a banner saying that the Ley Hill WI was founded in 1918. Apparently each Women's Institute has their own tablecloth which in the past was displayed on a table at each meeting.

If you can shed any light on it please contact me on anne.birkett@latimerleyhillparishcouncil.co.uk





SPRING



Word Search

Search for the twelve Spring themed words below.

Y	L	E	E	V	K	C	Y	E	I	B	T	M	Y	N	N	U	B
R	R	Q	W	N	Z	W	F	S	I	U	G	J	W	Y	I	U	O
E	C	M	Y	A	K	H	O	Z	M	T	Q	G	J	D	H	U	G
W	J	A	X	U	L	J	B	S	F	T	B	N	X	H	W	S	M
F	H	Y	T	Q	C	F	T	U	G	E	W	I	W	J	F	B	G
X	L	K	I	J	L	U	X	N	K	R	R	O	O	T	W	I	U
M	J	O	H	C	I	U	I	S	E	F	S	D	B	L	D	Q	E
M	D	Q	P	I	R	R	Q	H	Q	L	U	T	N	E	E	M	E
F	R	C	D	Y	P	L	D	I	T	Y	U	Z	I	G	Z	O	O
X	G	A	K	S	A	Q	N	N	I	W	Q	R	A	U	H	M	S
B	H	H	W	U	R	Q	A	E	Y	N	D	R	R	M	O	I	S
H	O	E	U	K	O	P	S	P	D	H	D	X	L	O	S	R	G
H	B	I	U	V	V	K	Y	L	V	E	A	Q	L	O	E	Q	L
H	N	P	X	I	H	Z	M	N	N	I	B	B	T	W	E	P	V
N	W	Z	Q	T	E	K	S	F	N	I	E	Z	O	W	T	P	G
R	S	C	Y	V	E	Q	U	T	R	B	R	L	N	A	X	T	T
F	P	A	G	K	C	R	R	D	X	C	F	R	P	O	J	Y	A
A	X	M	V	U	S	I	S	M	S	R	Z	A	B	F	I	X	N

- | | | |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| APRIL | BUTTERFLY | RAINBOW |
| BIRDS | FLOWERS | SPRING |
| BLOOM | GARDEN | SUNSHINE |
| BUNNY | MAY | WARM |