

Ellesborough

magazine

September 2023 | Issue 182

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in Ellesborough**
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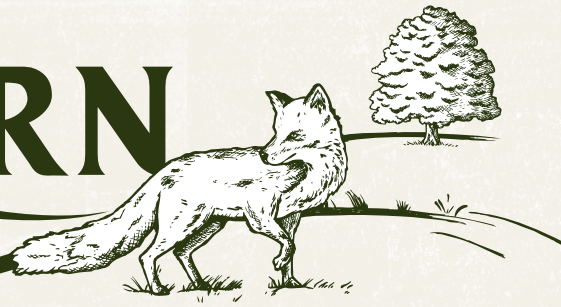
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Published by Ellesborough Magazine Committee

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ELLESBOROUGH VILLAGE & LOCAL EVENTS

Pilates

Mondays
9.15am

Ellesborough
Village Hall



Hearing Dogs for Deaf People – *Late Summer Show*

10 September
11am – 4pm



MacMillan Coffee morning

29 September
10.30am – 11.30am
Bonnybrook, Little Kimble



Parish Council Meetings

Village Hall
18 September
20 November
7.30pm



Forever Cycling Classes

Village Hall
Every other Thursday
1.15pm – 2.15pm



Ellesborough Church Teas

Sunday &
Bank Holidays
2pm – 5pm



K & E Horticultural Society

Autumn Show
3 September 2pm – 3pm
Monthly meetings
First Tuesday of the month



Village Cake & Coffee mornings

Village Hall
5th September
20th October
17th November
15th December
19th January



Chiltern Ladies Stewart Hall

Wed 6th Sept
Wed 4th October
Wed 1st November
Wed 6th December



I grew up in the 80's Exhibition

Discover Bucks
Museum
21 October – 16 March



Wendover Art Club

2nd and 4th
Thursdays of every
month
7.30pm & 9.30pm



Village Litter Pick

Village Hall
7th October
11.00am



Childrens Society Christmas Event

Friday 10 November
11am – 6pm
Saturday 11 November
10am – 1pm
Farthings, 25 Chalkshire Road



Coombe Hill 50 Year Celebrations

29 September
10.00am – 1.00pm



New Year's Party The Russell Arms

31 December



Acting Editor's Letter



Dear Readers,

Summer 2023 has certainly proved to be unusual with all kinds of records broken. After a long, dry spell in the Spring, we had very high temperatures in June with wonderful blue skies and dry weather. A dramatic change followed in July and into August with continually wet days and unusually low temperatures. This proved to be very challenging for farmers especially and of course for all of us planning family outings, weddings, celebrations, BBQs as well as attempting to keep our gardens in

good order. Some meteorologists, at the time of writing this, are promising warmer weather in September and in the Autumn- let's hope so!

The 50th anniversary of the opening of The Ridgeway path is being celebrated on September 29th on Coombe Hill (see article page 22 & 23) – do please try to join the celebrations.

We are also planning to feature articles about how local farming has changed over the last 45 years. Where once there were many farms in our community there are now only 3 or 4. We feature the first article on this topic (see page 21), kindly submitted by Geoff Brunt. There will be news about this change, and views about why this has happened, in the December magazine.

I would like to thank all of the contributors who have sent in articles

for this edition of the Ellesborough Magazine. Congratulations to Callum, aged 14, for completing his bicycle ride to Paris (see page 26 & 27) and for raising almost £20,000 for charity.

Do please keep sending articles in- they are most welcome and always are enjoyed by our readers.

Finally, I would like to welcome Chris Gloster to the editorial team. Chris lives in Ellesborough and kindly has agreed to help the editors with the quarterly production of the magazine. Chris has considerable experience using Adobe InDesign, and in publishing generally, so is a great asset to have in the team. Thank you, Chris.

Allan Westray
Acting Editor

August 2023

Ellesborough magazine

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Please send copy for the next issue to:

Allan Westray, edellesboroughmgz@gmail.com
by 12th November 2023.

For articles, please could you keep words to between 500 and 750. Photos most welcome.

All enquiries regarding advertising to:

Annabelle, Advertising Manager
ellesboroughmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

Subscription / distribution enquiries

Janette West subsemgz@gmail.com

Magazine donations

Tony Young young.ellesborough@gmail.com

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Judith Harper
Secretary

Annabelle Hunting
Advertising

Richard Jennings
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Janette West
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Acting editor

Letters

Worlds biggest coffee morning event

I will be hosting my annual fundraising coffee morning on Friday 29th September from 10.30 to 12.30 at Bonnybrook, Little Kimble.

There will be some new stallholders, plenty of delicious homemade cakes, jams and chutney's and of course, the Raffle!

Please do come along for a fun mornings fundraising in the sunshine!

Julie Needle



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Your Local Councillor

Dear Residents

I would like to update you on various issues.

One of my priorities is to give residents a say on issues in our community so after many residents contacted me about the Affordable housing application in Chalkshire Road, Butlers Cross, I called the application to the Planning committee so those views could be put which is very important.

The Bucks Council have appointed new contractors for highways so hopefully the backlog of works will be completed, it has been a very frustrating time for our community.

Can I please ask residents to report any issues regarding the highway or paths on the fix my street council website so it's then noted and highlighted for future reference.

Can I thank residents who contact me regularly on various issues and every one who supports our community in so many ways.

Regards David Carroll.

200 Club

The 200 Club Winners for June onwards will be announced in the next addition of the Parish Magazine due the summer break for the Ellesborough Parish Hall Committee.

Prizes have been delivered each month as per the lottery rules but have not been collated for publication.

Gill White

Anna Taylor Pilates

**Body Control Pilates
Certified Teacher**

Classes for beginners/improvers at 9:15am every Monday in Ellesborough Village Hall

For more information please contact me on 07901 916264 or anntaylorpilates@gmail.com

The editors would like to apologise to Ellesborough Golf Club, and to the Club Captain, for any offence caused by comments in the 3rd article on the history of the Club in our last edition. This was certainly not intended.

Letters

Meet up & tidy up



Please come and help clean up our village with a litter pick.

Date: Saturday 7th October

Time: 11:00

Location: Ellesborough Parish Hall

Take pride in your community and come along to help with our bi-annual litter pick. We are looking for around 40 residents to spare a few hours. Please ensure you wear

suitable clothes and footwear and bring gloves. You may like to wear a hi viz jacket/vest if you have one. Litter pickers and bags will be provided. For any further information, please contact Judith Harper on 01296 622033 or Janette West on 01296 696688.

This event is supported by Ellesborough Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council.

A change is as good as a holiday

Letter from Revd. Janet Wales

Interim Minister at St. Peter & St. Paul Ellesborough

St. Nick's Kids is an initiative for all young families (and any others interested) in the Kimbles and Ellesborough Parishes. It is held on the Third Sunday of each month at St. Nicholas Great Kimble except in August.

On 16 July we met at Buckmorend Farm for a change as it was so close to the school holiday. Many thanks to Daniel and Steph Hares and their children for hosting the event. Games and crafts were offered in the Hay Barn and games such as practising soccer skills were held outside. We then had a lovely service with people sitting around on small Hay bales. Everything was farm themed; even the iced biscuits were animal shaped. We had a song about all the farm animals with everyone joining in with appropriate noises.

The Bible Story was about the parable Jesus told about the shepherd rejoicing when he found his Lost Sheep and Shaun the Sheep

made an appearance and got a bit lost before he was found. Afterwards people enjoyed purchasing up produce at the Farm Shop or enjoying a bite to eat from the Farm Stall. It was all thoroughly enjoyable and good to do something different and refreshing. St. Nick's kids meets again on 17th September at St. Nicholas Great Kimble at the slightly later time of 10:15 to celebrate Harvest Festival.

The plan is to have a picnic after the usual games, activities, and worship service. See www.achurchnearyou for details. I would like to encourage more Ellesborough families to join St. Nick's kids.

I hope that whatever you have been doing in the holiday period that you have been able to do some things which refresh and energise you.

May God bless you all as we move into the autumn.

Janet Wales

Ellesborough Church Services

At St Peter & St Paul, Ellesborough 2023



St. Nick's Kids services which are held at St. Nicholas Great Kimble for children from The Kimbles and Ellesborough are listed in brackets.

September

3 September 10:45

Songs of Praise

10 September 10:45

Parish Communion

17 September 10:45

BCP Matins

(St. Nick's Kids 'Harvest' 10:15 a.m. at St. Nicholas Great Kimble)

24 September 10:45

Parish Communion

October

1 October 10:45

Harvest Songs of Praise

8 October 10:45

Parish Communion

15 October 10:45

BCP Matins

(St. Nick's Kids 9:15 a.m. at St. Nicholas Great Kimble)

22 October 10:45

Parish Communion

29 October

No Service at St. Peter & St. Paul

A Benefice Common Worship

Communion Service will be held at 9:30 a.m. at All Saints Little Kimble.

November

5 November 10:45

Songs of Praise

12 November 10.00

Remembrance Service in Church

12 November 10:55

Ceremony at Butlers Cross Memorial

19 November 10:45

BCP Matins

(St. Nick's Kids 9:15 a.m. at St. Nicholas Great Kimble)

26 November 10:45

Parish Communion

NOTE ABOUT St. Nick's kids. This service starts with play stations for children and croissants and coffee for adults. This is followed by a period of worship for all age groups and then there are activities in specific age groups so that all have a thoroughly good time. Several Ellesborough families have already joined and a member of the St. Peter & Paul congregation is on the planning Committee. It is on the Third Sunday of the month. Doors open 9:15 and it ends at 10:30.

For information about all Church Services and events please see www.achurchnearyou.com

The Children's Society Christmas Event

Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea with Gifts to buy.

All very welcome

Fri 10th Nov 11am-6pm

Sat. 11th Nov. 10am-1pm

at

Farthings, 25 Chalkshire Road,
Butlers Cross. HP17 0TS

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With Liz Alexander: 01296 622888 / 07971523904

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Kimble and Ellesborough Horticultural Society



Our monthly meetings are held at Stewart Hall.

If you are not a member but would be interested in coming to any meetings please contact Brian Butler (Chairman) at butler@care4free.net or call him on 01844 342220 before attending. Please see our website for any updates.

September

AUTUMN SHOW at Stewart Hall:

Sunday 3rd – 2.00 to 4.30 pm

Come and see some beautiful displays including chrysanthemums, dahlias and vegetables and enjoy delicious home-made cakes.

Bulbs for the Year and How They Get to your Garden

Tuesday 5th

John Amand is a bulb specialist and Chelsea gold medal winner from Jacques Amand International Ltd. He will talk to us about common and more specialist bulbs and give us an insight into how the bulb industry produces, farms, harvests, packs and distributes them.

October

Climbers and Wall Shrubs for Vertical Gardening

Tuesday 3rd

Tom Cole, lecturer and broadcaster, was Head of Horticulture at Capel Manor College and then Head of Faculty at Writtle University. He also runs a soft landscaping and maintenance business.

November

Roses

Tuesday 7th

We welcome back Andrew Mikolajski, a horticultural consultant and writer, who will be looking at roses, their place in history and which are the best varieties for the garden today.

December

The Changing Wildlife of the Chilterns

Tuesday 5th

John Tyler, a local naturalist, returns for our Christmas meeting. From warm seas, through Ice Ages, tundra and forests, to the farmland and beechwoods of today, we travel through a hundred million years to follow the story of the Chiltern landscape and its wildlife.

Meetings are held at 8.00 pm every 1st Tuesday of the month (except January and August) at Stewart Hall, Little Kimble.

Although we pride ourselves on our expert speakers, all talks are very informal and are followed by refreshments and a raffle.

Visitors are always welcome. If you decide you would like to join please make yourself known to any Committee member or contact Charlie Taylor, Membership Secretary, at kehs.bucks@outlook.com.

Please see our website for more information about our events and membership.

www.e-voice.org.uk/kehs/

Wendover Art Club

Wendover Art Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month between 7:30 & 9:30pm and welcomes artists of all abilities, experience and in any drawing or painting medium.

Our venue is St Anne's Hall, Wendover Christian Centre, Aylesbury Road, Wendover, the Hall is at the rear of the Centre. Please note there is a charge of £10 to non-members for admittance to demonstrations and of £2 for Creative Evenings.

For news and membership details see our website at; <https://wendoverartclub.co.uk/>



September

28 September

Cathy Read is a Contemporary Architecture Artist, who some of you will remember from 'Landscape Artist of the Year'.

Cathy will be with us to demonstrate her techniques with mixed media for townscapes. Her paintings are very colourful conveying the grandeur of the buildings and places that she paints.



Cathy Read appearing in Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year in 2016

October

12 October

Creative Evening – Townscape à la Cathy Read.

With Cathy's demonstration still in our minds it's the best time to have a go at creating a townscape in her lively and colourful style. Bring your own townscape, possibly already drawn out, and your most colourful collection of paints, and we'll have a go.

14 October

Saturday workshop

Katrina Scott will be leading us through a workshop on trees. Her approach is to encourage experimentation by the use of strong vibrant colours. Trees as we all know can make or break a landscape so this is a must for the landscape artists amongst us.

26 October

Jan Gaska.

Landscapes in gouache.

Not a subject we've had previously but having seen his paintings on his website not one to miss. Very atmospheric and colourful.

November

9 November

A Creative Evening – TBA

23 November

Gary Spencer – Vale of Aylesbury in acrylics.

Gary is back with us by popular demand, and will be demonstrating his techniques for producing the acrylic painting of the 'Vale of Aylesbury' that was featured in the Artist and Illustrator.



Gary Spencer – Vale 6 2023

New Year's Eve Party



New Year's Eve Party invitation - at The Russell Arms - all welcome

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Late Summer Show



This year's Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Late Summer Show promises to be a fun-filled day out for the whole family.

Held in the field behind the charity's head office - a beautiful location, nestled among the idyllic Chiltern hills - it's the perfect way to end the summer! And this year, there really is something for everyone, including:

A treasure trove of craft stalls, from handmade items to jewellery and accessories.

- Doggy demos – see our clever hearing dogs in action as they show off their sound and support skills. Or why not enter your own dog into our fun dog show, with a prize for, among other things, the waggiest tail!
- Younger visitors can enjoy traditional children's games and rides, such as hook a duck and a coconut shy, Chairplane and swing boats, a soft play area. They can also be transformed into their favourite animal or superhero with our creative face painters.
- After all those activities, you'll probably have worked up an appetite, so why not indulge your taste buds with the mouth-watering treats on offer, from pizzas to fish and chips and much more. And don't worry if you're vegan or vegetarian, you'll be spoilt for choice too.

- And while you're enjoying your refreshments, why not get into your groove with live music from local bands.

The Show will be held on 10th September between 11am and 4pm in the grounds of Hearing Dogs' head office, The Grange, Haw Lane, Saunderton, near Princes Risborough HP27 9NS. A family ticket costs £15, it's £5 for adults and £3 for concessions and children. Under 5's go free.

We'd love you to bring your dogs along, but please keep them on a lead and clear up after them.

This promises to be a popular event, so it's worth buying your tickets in advance to be sure of being able to come along. Please visit the Summer Show page of the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People website. You can also buy tickets on the day.

100% of the funds raised will go towards transforming the lives of deaf people by helping them to leave deafness behind and reconnect with life.



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

THE LATE SUMMER SHOW

The Grange,
Saunderton, HP27 9NS
11am - 4pm

Fun Rides
Hearing Dogs Demos
Tea & Cake Tent
Soft Play
& Much More...

10 SEPTEMBER 2023

hearingdogs.org.uk/summershow

Family Ticket £15.00 / Adult £5.00
Concession £3.00 / Child £3.00
Under 5s free





The Ridgeway

A route used since prehistoric times by travellers, herdsman
and soldiers through ancient landscapes

National Trail 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Coombe Hill

Friday 29th September 10am - 1pm
(by foot only - no car parking available)

Beekeeping on Coombe Hill

Keeping honey bees this year has been harder than one might expect.



Ellesborough Road Apiary

The beekeeping year starts in the Autumn when the colonies are prepared for winter by the beekeeper. In an ideal world the colony should strong, healthy, with a young queen and approximately 20kg of stores to see them through the winter.

During the summer months a honey bee will live for approximately 9 weeks, dying of exhaustion having flown over 800km foraging for nectar to turn into honey. Winter honey bees on the other hand live for up to 6 months, they are not as active, spending most of their time in the hive eating stores and keeping warm. In the Spring it is the winter bees that look after the newly hatched young and tend the queen, encouraging her to lay more eggs.

Last Autumn, following the long hot summer the colonies did not produce enough winter bees which resulted in colony losses this Spring. This occurred across the country in significant numbers and the hives on Coombe Hill were no exception.

In a year when the weather seems to have bounced from cold and wet to hot and dry in a blink of an eye, it has been hard to build up the colonies to produce a reasonable honey harvest. Early in the season bees forage on tree blossom for nectar and pollen. Nectar is their source of carbohydrate and pollen their protein. Coombe Hill has an abundance of trees for the bees to feast on, particularly hazel, willow, sycamore, prunus and hawthorne.



Knapweed meadow on Coombe Hill

Most of the early forage is employed immediately by the bees to build up their colonies and it is only in exceptional years that they produce a Spring crop. The main honey crop in our area is produced in July and August from plants that many of us might consider to be weeds; bramble, rose bay willow herb, wild marjoram and knapweed. If at the end of July you walk down from the monument on Coombe Hill towards the Ellesborough golf course the buzzing of bees can be heard on all sides.

It is not just the bees that are foraging in the coombes, there are over 20 species of butterfly to be found feeding on the same plants. In recent years the golf club has encouraged wild flowers on parts of the course and this has not only resulted in a beautiful vista of colour but provided a home and nourishment for many native insects.

The last forage of the year is ivy. It has a distinctive odour and presents a simple flower that provides ample nectar and pollen for all the Autumn insects. Again, on golf course the ivy solitary bees will emerge from their nests in the bunkers just for the ivy in the surrounding area.

The honey harvested in the summer produces a medium-coloured liquid honey with hints of the flavours of Coombe Hill. The ivy produces a set honey that has a stronger flavour and makes a good spread for toast or in porridge on those cold winter mornings. Both honeys are available from Buckmoorend farm shop year-round.

Sean Stephenson

Ellesborough Road Apiary

The Once Upon a Time Orchard

“At one time it used to be an orchard”. This was the statement made by our informant regarding the plot of land adjacent to our garden.

The plot is roughly twice the size of our own and is bounded by a field boundary, the trackway to the Recreation Ground, Chalkshire Road and our own garden.

The only access was through our garden or via two massive padlocked gates. When we arrived at Plough Barn, we peered through the high, ramshackle dividing fence to the massive swathe of nettles, brambles and ivy. The only visible signs of a former orchard were two wild cherry trees, probably planted by birds. Plough Barn is over 200 years old, so any original orchard would have lost its trees many years ago. Our predecessors had made some effort to clear space to grow a few vegetables. They had also erected a garden shed which had been demolished by a fallen tree. Sadly, the plot had been used as an unofficial dumping ground. We found old bikes, chunks of metal, concrete, pots of paint, a number of canvas tents, rolls of roofing felt

and even a massive galvanised water tank. If this complete long barrow of discarded rubbish had been allowed to remain for the next century it would have provided a fascinating archaeological excavation – a midden revealing some of the habits of those who had once lived here.

What was to be done? We could have just left it, but we were concerned that the land might become a general dumping ground for all and sundry. Even a simple tidy up looked like pretty hard work and the land didn't even belong to us. However, there were intriguing questions to be answered – what had been here originally and what might it become. The final factor which stirred us into action was the connecting fence. The original six-foot fence progressively disintegrated and had to be replaced. Its replacement – a more aesthetically pleasing three-foot picket fence exposed the jungle beyond to permanent view.

The first task was to get permission. We negotiated a simple lease with the non-resident owner of the land. This lease allows us to use the land as we wish, provided we do not build on it. We began by removing all the human rubbish with numerous trips to the Council Dump. Then we reduced the jungle of six-foot high nettles, thistles and brambles.

Then the ivy – one by one, every tree was released from its encasement of ivy using billhook, axe and saw. Two men and an excavator then levelled out what remained of the long-barrow, flattened the whole central area and created a miniature woodland walkway. At last, we were able to reach to the furthest reaches of the land to discover what was there.

There were apple trees – five of them in fact. One was leaning at forty-five degrees. Another was completely horizontal yet still alive its fractured trunk intriguingly sculptured. We christened this tree The Dinosaur Tree.

The remaining three trees were vertical, massive in size and in much need of pruning. There were mature horse chestnut, maple and ash trees along with many saplings of beech, ash and holly. A tree surgeon was needed to remove a good dozen other trees that were dead but still standing. Our de-wilding project had by now produced considerable wooden by products. Some are stacked for our woodburning stove, others have gone to form a dead-hedge. Larger logs were laid at the



The challenge

base, topped by thinner branches which were woven into the uprights of living trees. The end result is a rather splendid bug hotel. The last resort was to have a few bonfires, only burning what we could not otherwise dispose of.

Now it was time to get creative. The only fruit trees planted were a plum and a pear tree – we have no need of further apple trees. With our ride-on mower we cut out grass paths, creating a peripheral walk-way. Between the pathways we planted four areas of wild-flower meadow with mixed success. Beneath the wild cherry trees we have planted cyclamen, snowdrops and daffodils. Foxgloves, bluebells and primroses have been transplanted from the garden. A variety of ferns have been introduced, along with three silver birch trees and a hawthorn. Cow parsley has been left to do its own thing. The whole area remains a wildlife haven – we have resident moles and visiting pheasants, squirrels, foxes and muntjac deer and who knows how many little creatures have checked in to the bug hotel facilities provided by the dead hedge.

The project has also proved to be a life-saver for us. During lockdown the project kept us going with exercise and diversions. We found that a walk around the garden and orchard five times measured a mile – giving us our own personal and permitted exercise space. Our most recent addition to the plot is a stumpery. It is a wonderful way to



Wild-flower meadow



An ancient survivor



The Stumpery

use up our endless supply of logs and tree stumps and a good excuse to indulge our enjoyment of ferns and heathers.

The photographs do not really do justice to the challenge nor the outcome of our discoveries. Any readers who would like to pay a visit will be welcome to our wild-

life haven, wild-flower meadow, and woodland playground for grandchildren and adults alike. Whatever it was once, for us it will always be known as The Orchard.

Anthony and Val Knight

Plough Barn

Round the Island



You may wonder how someone who lives as far away from the sea as is possible in the UK, whose sole experience of sailing was a school-trip to France on a cross-Channel ferry some forty years ago, ended up competing in a yachting race around the Isle of Wight?

It all began with a mystery call which turned out to be Mark, an old school-friend, asking if I would like to sail on his yacht? Yes, I replied, thinking a gentle bob along the south coast might make a grand day out.

The response caught me somewhat off-guard: how do you fancy doing the Round the Island race? Yeah, sure, I replied, trying desperately to think which island he meant but figuring sailing in a circle couldn't be much different from sailing up and down.

Two months later I was lost: the river Hamble was easy enough to find but it took the help of a local to find the "marina" Mark had moored the

boat in. Alarm bells should have rung when he burst out laughing before giving me directions: I needed a Land Rover rather than a Jaguar to reach the mosquito infested swamp where the yacht was moored. Still, as Bob Hope would have said: better to be staying where we were looking at the multi-million pound marina across the river than across the river looking at the place where we were staying. Mr Fiddler of Carry On Camping fame would have been proud.

Mark resembles Garth out of Wayne's World doing his Foxy Lady routine; Dave was in every way like Tinfoil Kevin from The Tick TV series. Dave L. had apparently been in the Royal Navy Reserves, although

it was never made clear in what capacity and it possibly involved HMS Troutbridge. The Bee's Wing II turned out to be a thirty-three foot (ten metres in new money) fibreglass yacht built in the 1980s, not so much The Black Pearl as The Faded Bean. I'd been expecting a hammock but instead a five inch ledge sporting a cushion was my "bunk". The toilet was a tiny porcelain dish wedged between a cupboard and a wall, with a pipe to let in sea-water and a second pipe to discharge it back whence it came, together with a lever which with frenetic cranking would eventually achieve the desired result. This was more wild-camping than aquatic caravanning.

"Foxy" informed us he'd booked a table in a curry house in order to meet with the rest of the crew who were currently staying in a somewhat more salubrious marina downriver. "Tinfoil Kevin" and myself exchanged a glance, took a long, hard stare at the facilities and decided the plumbing situation was dire enough as it was without adding a flaming hot vindaloo into the mix. Instead, we gave our apologies and set off to find the nearest pub.

Two hours later we returned and after some frantic cranking I tried to wedge myself into my bunk. At well over six-foot I had no chance of fitting in the bunk so I had to balance on one shoulder with my buttocks pressed up against the planking and my knees hanging off, with all the grace of an elephant trying to balance on a twig. It was a difficult night: Foxy's bladder required cranking every hour and the mosquitoes were merciless.

At five-thirty we were rudely awoken by a klaxon like call from Foxy's mobile phone. I set off on foot in search of civilisation, or at least a secluded spot with some broad-leaved plants. Two hours later Foxy finally returned to find Tinfoil Kevin and myself with the engine running and nervously glancing at our watches as we estimated we were two hours away from the start-line with two missing crew and our starting slot was at 09:20.

Foxy took the helm and throttled us out into the current, whereupon the engine instantly died and left us drifting aimlessly with no steering towards the multi-million pound yachts on the far bank. Foxy desperately tried to restart the engine; with seconds to spare he succeeded and disaster was averted,

although it was clear the engine was not happy.

Thirty minutes later we picked up the last two members of our crew from a sleek, beauty of a yacht in an altogether more distinguished marina. Dave S., the older of the two, was an old, salty-sea-dog, an ancient marina reminding me of a cross between Captain Barbossa from *Pirates Of The Caribbean* and Captain "Redbeard" Rum as played by Tom Baker in *Blackadder II*; Ian reminded me of Brains from *Thunderbirds*. "Salty-sea-dog" (SSD) licked a limpet, forecast a moderate to fresh breeze with a chance of rain and announced we were missing the tide and needed to get a shake on. "Brains" leapt aboard and immediately recognising a poorly engine, scuttled below-deck to fiddle with it. A few seconds later the engine picked up and we headed towards the mouth of the river Hamble, myself wearing flip-flops and budgie smugglers and all the others in full offshore sailing trousers and associated garb.

"Foxy took the helm and throttled us out into the current, whereupon the engine instantly died and left us drifting aimlessly with no steering towards the multi-million pound yachts on the far bank."

Article continues overleaf →



Round the Island

continued

Clearing the mouth of the river, we hoisted the sails and headed for the starting line. Finding the start-line turned out to be more difficult than I thought: you can hardly paint a line on the water so it was delineated by two lights near a grey building on the island and a yellow buoy in the Solent, except the shoreline was covered by grey buildings and the Solent was littered with yellow buoys that all looked alike. With just under a minute to go we spotted the buoy and we managed to cross the start-line seconds after the horn sounded the start of our race.

I watched and learnt that a sailing boat is essentially a floating collection of maiming equipment: place a finger in the wrong place and the force of the sail will slice it off; get your head in the wrong place and the swinging boom will knock it off; stand in the wrong place and you get either knocked or rocked off. There's very little to hold onto and most things you can grab are dangerous to do so. As the time passed ten o'clock, I decided to make myself useful and cook some sausages. The seas had become ever more rough as we approached the open sea and below decks I was being tossed about like a rag in a washing machine. After some time I managed to open the oven door a crack; at that moment the boat pitched, the tray of sausages shot forward, launched itself off the ski-ramp of the oven door and disappeared over my shoulder, spilling sausages and sausage fat all over the varnished wooden floor which promptly



became slipperier than an oil-covered ice-rink. Slipping, sliding and rolling in sausage fat I desperately tried to herd the sausages back into the tray and then shoved them back into the oven. The movement of the boat changed as we rounded the west point of the island and with a following wind made our way goose-winged down the Channel side of the island, nibbling snacks while the radio chattered as various disasters unfolded around us. Around four o'clock we turned the East end of the island and so began the last and hardest leg of our journey: fighting the wind and tide, tacking from side to side in the narrow channel of the Solent while trying to avoid deadly sand-banks and hundreds of boats trying to do the same. I worried the large shipping traffic wouldn't even see a boat as small and insignificant as ours but Brains assured me their radar was so sophisticated it could tell the difference between a seal with

its eyes open or shut. Progress was painfully slow and the toil seemed endless. At seven-thirty we had spotted the finish-line, delineated by a grey boat and another of the seemingly endless similar buoys (or fibreglass magnets as SSD referred to them on account of their apparent propensity to attract yachts) and at approximately twenty-to-eight we finally crossed the line and relaxed. I later discovered we had finished approximately a third of the way down the list of competitors, not a bad result for a first attempt.

My overall assessment at the end of the day? It is no laughing matter: two hours of misery; two hours of hard graft and ten hours of pure pleasure. An experience not to be missed and an adventure I will always remember - I'd recommend it to anyone.

Julian Hamer

Changing land use in Ellesborough

The biggest manufacturing industry in the UK is not steel, cars or chemicals – it is food and drink. Farming is only one part of that but quite an important part.

Ellesborough may be considered a relatively rural area but few of its population are directly involved in farming.

Of the total UK land area, approximately 70% is farmed in one way or another and 65% of that is grass or forage crops. People do not eat grass but herbivorous animals do and we eat them. But we also keep them for their by-products including milk, wool, skin and although hens do not eat a lot of grass, many of them range on it. Before and after WWII almost every farm in Ellesborough was a dairy farm. Now there are none, so what has happened?

The answer is technological innovation. Land which even 50 years ago was considered only suitable for growing grass is now very largely growing arable crops in general and cereals in particular. The parish of Ellesborough is bisected by the Chiltern Escarpment. The lighter, alkaline land to the south (including the clay caps and steep slopes) is nutritionally poorer, was difficult to plough with a horse, and is sheltered by woods and subject to pests (deer, rabbits). The heavier clay-based land to the north was just that – heavy. The spring line where the pervious Chilterns meet the impervious Vale meant irritating wet spots with ditches, streams and brooks punctuating the landscape. Wet in winter and dried out like concrete in summer, it was difficult to work with a horse. Even the Icknield land between the two grew largely grass – permanent or as an arable break crop.

Everybody needed milk – it couldn't be stored for long and so had to be produced every day of the year, near to where it was consumed. Then, as now, there was quite a large local population/market in the form of local people, nearby towns and, by rail, London.

Land which even 50 years ago was considered only suitable for growing grass is now very largely growing arable crops in general and cereals in particular.

But then the 20th century happened – not all at once but by stages. Refrigeration allowed longer term storage; road transport allowed quicker movement; specialisation allowed farm businesses to concentrate on fewer products but larger scale. This was largely made possible by machinery and electricity and tractors changed the face of farming.

A horse, by definition, produces one horsepower (hp). Early tractors produced 20 or 30; since WWII 50 or 60 was common. By the end of the 20th century bigger farmers and contractors commonly used 100 – 150 hp. Now 200-300hp is available and more power is quite possible, especially in combines. Straightforward power is not everything as it has to be applied to the ground but four wheel drive, hydraulics, differential locks and electronics have all made their contribution. Prior to 1970, not many tractors had cabs. Now, lighting, climate control, electronics and GPS make 24 hour working quite feasible (subject to weather) and the net result is much quicker work with bigger equipment, carried out by fewer people. Wet land can be drained. Heavy, stoney and steep land can be worked and 10% of farmland previously needed to feed the horses can now be cultivated and cropped as well.

About the author:

Geoff Brunt was born at Grove Farm, Terrick and still lives there now. He farmed a beef, sheep and arable enterprise and operated his popular Terrick Beef farm shop until his retirement in 2018.

Coombe Hill – *A Place In History*

The monument was erected in memory of all the men from Buckinghamshire who had lost their lives.



1. Crowds at the inauguration of Coombe Hill Monument¹



2. Coombe House (now secluded by trees)¹

The striking monument on Coombe Hill was erected as the Victorian era drew to a close.

The Boer War had been a bitter conflict, and while conscription was not in effect, the British Army had to call upon its county volunteer Yeomanry Regiments to fill its ranks in an unexpectedly protracted campaign. The original Yeomanry Regiments were often composed of ambitious country men who were skilled in riding and shooting, making them ideal mounted infantry for the conditions in South Africa. However,

their numbers were relatively small, and to recruit more volunteers, attractive pay was offered. This led to the enlistment of folk who did not have the necessary experience. As a non-regular force, they were severely undertrained and poorly led in the field, resulting in over 30 percent casualties. The experience was searing for all and well reported in the press by journalists like the young Winston Churchill.

After the war, there were recriminations and much soul-searching to understand what

had gone so wrong, both for the regular army but in particular the inexperienced volunteers in taking on a capable and experienced foe. (My grandfather was an NCO in the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry in the next generation, and their stories were passed down).

The monument was erected in memory of all the men from Buckinghamshire who had lost their lives. With no large industrial conurbations in the county most of the fallen had connections to country life. The poignant location, overlooking the farmland of The Vale of Aylesbury, cannot be missed. [Magazine Cover Photograph].

The picture of the 1904 inauguration highlights the large respectful crowd on a bare hill, no trees, no fences. [Picture 1].

As England transitioned into a new century, it was a time of struggle for social reform and increased enfranchisement for women and the working classes. The development of railways had opened up the home counties for expansion outside of London, leading to conflicts over access to open spaces and development.

At this time a senior member of the Liberal government purchased a plot of land at the base of Coombe Hill and built a grand residence, Hill End House later named Coombe House [Picture 2]. Sir John Lawson Walton [Picture 3] had recently been appointed Attorney General and introduced a highly controversial Trades Disputes Bill in conflict with the trade unions.

As Sir John [Picture 3] established his new property he installed fences and gates "for his privacy," restricting access to the surrounding area, including the new war monument.



3. Sir John Walton , By Unknown ²

Tensions reached a climax on Summer solstice day in 1906. The significance was notable enough that a picture with the caption "MAKING HISTORY - The Rights Of Way Dispute on Wendover Hills - The Stiles and Those Who Removed Them" was printed as a campaign postcard [Picture 4] and made the papers.

Ellesborough wasn't the only place where demonstrations occurred; there were similar protests throughout England, such as Leckhampton Hill in Cheltenham, and closer to home at Berkhamsted Common. The demonstrators were not only locals but also political activists from London, well-organized and able to travel by train using the nearby stations.

Because Sir John Lawson Walton was a Buckinghamshire Justice of the Peace and The Government Attorney General, the disturbances garnered widespread national attention. Locally, there were heated Parish Council Meetings to discuss what should be done, and an excerpt from the report in the Bucks Herald on July 7th, 1906, reads: "Mr. Chapman reported that a gate



4. Making history¹

at the bottom of the hill had been smashed, they put up another, and that was put down and thrown away. I said something to some rough fellow, and he told me what they would do for me (Laughter)."

Sir John was increasingly frail and attending parliament less and less. As a liberal and in poor health, a mutual compromise was eventually reached, allowing locals to access the hill while ensuring some privacy for the estate. He passed away shortly after in January 1908 and was buried in Ellesborough Church, marked by the prominent stone cross at the entrance gate. After his death, his lands on Coombe Hill were acquired by Lord Lee, who bequeathed them to the newly founded National Trust.

During this time, the Irish Home Rule deliberations, the Suffragette Movement, and Trade Union legitimization all brought the rights of citizens and access to "their" land to the forefront as significant political issues. It was at Coombe Hill that this coalesced with the left-wing political agenda, ultimately leading to Clement Attlee's The National Parks and Access to The Countryside



5. Coombe Hill - Opening The Ridgeway 1973¹

Act 1949, which officially established "Public Footpaths and Bridleways" that we now take for granted.

The 50 Year Anniversary of the establishment of The Ridgeway [Picture 5] will be celebrated as a national event on September 29th, 2023, on Coombe Hill. Further details will follow.

Richard Jennings

(With thanks to Andrew Wallace for additional material on Coombe House).

¹ Photo from the Buckinghamshire archives

² Photographer not specifically credited by the Illustrated London News

The Church of the Resurrection, Dunsmore

We had a very successful cream tea season this year and broke all our previous records.

It made a pleasant change that, in a summer with very mixed weather, our chosen dates all turned out dry!

A tremendous thank you to all the people who supplied cakes, as usual you produced a super selection and it is good to see a number of cakes catering for people with food allergies or intolerances. Thank you to all who came to consume the cakes, it was lovely to see so many people. Also thanks to those who helped serve and tidy away afterwards. We are indebted to Jacqui for organizing all three teas and to Lorraine who coordinated the cakes.

Our Harvest Festival Service is on Sunday, 24th September at 5.00pm in the church.

We will be collecting dried and tinned goods to give to the Wendover food bank. As you are probably aware the food banks are having to supply an increasing number of individuals and families with emergency food at a time when the number of donations that are received has dropped. Even if you can't come to the service please consider donating some food for this very good cause, details of a drop off point and items that are particularly wanted will be on the village noticeboard and emailed to you nearer the time.



ELLESBOROUGH PARISH HALL

With the improvements to the village hall, have you considered?.....

A large family party or gathering (secure playground for children opposite)

A new music, exercise or art group

A work hub if you are fed up of working from home – maybe a group of you could have a change of scenery

Playgroups

Table top sales

Charity events

Please make any enquiries to Elizabeth Hine on 01296 625912 or lizziehine@talktalk.net Rates are £15 for the first hour then £12 for every subsequent hour for weekly bookings or £15 per hour for one off events

Summer on the farm!



On Sunday 11th June we opened our farm for the national Open Farm Sunday event, the first time since pre-pandemic 2019!



Despite the heatwave (hard to imagine now!) we had a fantastic turnout and are hugely grateful to everyone who came to support us to learn more about farming and what goes on behind the scenes here at Buckmoorend.

We had our lambs, piglets & calves out to see and were able to welcome a couple of our local resident Chalkshire Alpacas and Pathway Ponies. Our farm vets and members of the rural crime policing team were also on hand to engage with people throughout the day. In our haybarn, families enjoyed our farm-themed arts & crafts, facepainting and haybale maze leading into our farmyard where Farmer Dan Hares and Farmer Antony Pearce were the double act, with a backdrop of farm machinery, for some engaging talks on the arable side of farming. Outside our farm shop & kitchen some of our wonderful local producers hosted stalls to showcase their delicious produce all crafted within a few miles. The day was a great success and we can't wait to host again on Sunday 9th June 2024. Hope to see you there!

Kimble School Choir was heart warming to hear as it spread out across the farm. We hope to support this again in future.

We also have some exciting news to announce for our farm shop...

After 7 years of using a fabulous off-site butcher to cut our home reared pork, lamb & beef we have secured our own butchers who will work behind the farm shop & kitchen in our new Buckmoorend Butchery Box! We are super excited to bring this craftsmanship on-site which will allow greater flexibility for our customers and help to close the circle from our farm to your fork. Come and visit!

Here on the farm, we are holding out for this rain to stop so we can crack on with harvesting. Hopefully as you read this the sun will be shining bright and the combine will be merrily harvesting its way through the crops. This year's weather has meant for a frustrating time in the mind of the arable farmer. Any sun dances appreciated!



Later in July we had a wonderful morning hosting Great Kimble St. Nicholas' Kids Church Service in our haybarn. The church community effort to put this together was fabulous and the song of Great

Butlers Cross to Paris Charity Ride

In 2019 I decided that I wanted to cycle to Paris. My Granny had been unwell with a rare cancer of the eye, so I wanted to raise some money for the charity that had helped her, OcuMel.

I planned to do it in two stages, from Butlers Cross to my Granny's house in Angmering, West Sussex, and from there to Paris a few months later.

I did the first section, which was 87 miles, in April 2019 when I was 10 and managed to raise nearly £20,000. Then Covid hit.

So in May 1/2 this year, at the age 14, I decided to cycle the 2nd stage with my dad.



Day 1 (54 miles)

We set off early from Dieppe on our long route via the Avenue Verte. This is a cycle route all the way to Paris which stays off main roads.

The first 25 miles was on a disused railway, a bit like The Phoenix Trail, but there was a gradual incline and no time to free wheel, so that was quite tiring. Near midday the temperature hit 30c which was incredibly hot when you're cycling and I disliked every single hill for the remaining 30 miles! When I saw our hotel in Gournay-en-Bray it was such a relief to just relax and lie down.

Day 2 (37 miles)

The next day was a more relaxing ride of 37 miles. It consisted of undulating hills with some enjoyable flat sections but by this point I did have a saddle sore bum!

On the way to Agnetz we went through Beauvais and there was a big cycling event happening – it reminded me of the Tour de France which I really wanted to go to. Cool drinks and ice creams got me to the end that day.

Day 3 (48 miles)

Today was the hardest...within 5 minutes of leaving I had a crash. I smashed into my Dad's rear wheel and went over the handlebars which hurt but I was ok, just a bit shaken. We re-joined the Avenue Verte and went up and down some steep hills. Then came the hard ride. We had an 'off-road' section and as I was cycling on a road bike it was bumpy, gravelly and woody and I was nervous I didn't want a puncture - thankfully I didn't get one. When we emerged from the woods the temperature was 34c and we were sweltering. If you have seen some films that are based in France or followed the Tour De France, then think about the typical long straight roads with dehydrated crops. That's what it was like. There was no shade for miles and I nearly gave up. However, the best ending of the day was the amazing airport hotel by Charles De Gaulle which had a swimming pool, phew!

"When we eventually arrived into Paris and I spied the Eiffel Tower for the first time I almost cried, it was such a relief and I was so proud of myself."

Day 4 (32 miles)

Today my hopes were high and it felt like a gentle trundle into Paris - I think I was high on adrenaline. It still took us a while but for most of the time we were adjacent to a canal that took us all the way to the centre.

When we eventually arrived into Paris and I spied the Eiffel Tower for the first time I almost cried, it was such a relief and I was so proud of myself. Having never visited Paris before and then being able to stand beside the Eiffel Tower having arrived on a bike was incredible.

I would love to do another cycling adventure again and am already thinking of a future trip to Berlin!

It has been a busy year of cycling for me as at the start of the summer holidays myself, my Dad and youngest brother went to see 3 stages of the Tour de France – such a brilliant trip. We saw a sprint finish, start of a stage and even camped on the Grand Colombier to watch the mountain stage – I cycled to the top of the Colombier, got a wink from Egan Bernal and picked up a water bottle from one of the Bora-Hansgrohe riders!

But my best bit of my summer of cycling was bumping into Mark Cavendish back in the UK who told me to keep up my cycling and aim high – what a finish!

Callum Smith



The Chiltern Ladies

"We learnt of the process 'from bush to cup' and were able to taste some Darjeeling First Flush tea, the champagne of teas from the foothills of the Himalayas."

June

At the June meeting we were updated on our two day trips to the beautiful Cotswolds. To Kelmscott Manor, the home of William Morris, with lunch and a free afternoon in Burford, and also to Moreton in Marsh, on market day. A two day outing to Thursford to enjoy the famous Christmas Spectacular is arranged, and we have an autumn holiday in Scotland to look forward to.

A group of members had been to Waterperry gardens. After a tour of the beautiful early summer gardens in glorious sunshine, and a excellent lunch, the group went to see the stunning frescos in Waterperry House. Seven artists went to India to study the traditional techniques of fresco painting. The wonderful, contemporary frescos cover three floors of the inner hallway in the Georgian part of the house, and took a team of 40 architects and artists 12 years to complete. The wall paintings are a complete joy, each picture telling a philosophical story. They are very much artworks of today, and suitable for adults and children to enjoy.



The speakers were Mark and Giles, AKA 'Two Spoons'. Very entertaining tea tasters with over 50 year experience between them. They taste up to 100 different teas per day and taste them blindfolded so there are no outside influences. We learnt of the process 'from bush to cup' and were able to taste some Darjeeling First Flush tea, the champagne of teas from the foothills of the Himalayas.

Mark and Giles donate their speakers' fees to Lindengate, the local Health and Wellbeing charity, so the President and Treasurer of The Chiltern Ladies agreed to double their donation.

July

At the July meeting we heard details of two new craft workshops. The first scented candle workshop had been really successful, so another has been arranged for the 8th November. We will make candles with Christmas fragrances and present them in gift boxes. There will also be a Christmas wreath workshop on 13th December. The Theatre Group went to see Strictly Ballroom at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury, and a small group went to see Matthew Bourne's new ballet, Romeo and Juliet, at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe.

The speaker was Jo Laurie, and her talk entitled 'From Charing Cross to China'.

Jo's mother, Ida Aldridge, born in 1908, had spent 6 months in an isolation hospital with Diphtheria, aged 10, and decided that she wanted to be a nurse when she grew up. She started work in the Charing Cross Hospital in 1928 and then volunteered to go on a three year contract to China. She was in Shanghai when Japan invaded China, her hospital was bombed and she helped to evacuate the patients and set up a hospital in Shanghai's municipal prison.

August

The August meeting of The Chiltern Ladies was held, courtesy of John and Susan Stewart, in their lovely garden at The Plough, in Terrick. The torrential rain did not dampen the spirits of the members, husbands and guests who came well equipped with umbrellas and rain coats. Sue had prepared a fabulous cream tea for us all, served in their marquee. It was great fun and the tea pot never ran dry. The committee had arranged several stalls of gifts, home made jams and preserves, crafts and plants. We were there to raise money for our charity of the year - 'Women and Girls' which provide washable, reusable sanitary protection for women and girls in rural India, offering them comfort, dignity and freedom to go to work and to school.

Our member Liz Potts was presented with a beautiful, hand tied bouquet of flowers, celebrating her 97th birthday.

Elizabeth Hine

Chequers Garden Tour July 2023



Gone with the Wind (and Rain) in Dunsmore

So, it's farewell to 'Summer' and hello to what we hope will be a lovely, warm, drier Autumn in Dunsmore.



The weather hasn't curtailed our social activities, though, and we have seen a great deal of one another over the past few months. More is to come in the next weeks, too!

First Friday Pub Nights have been a terrific success, with new features being added to keep everyone on their toes. We played Kubb (thanks to Heidi and Andrew Swift for their tutelage), boules (supplied by the Havards), and croquet (supplied by David McDonagh). What next? With the weather taking a more 'indoor' turn, different activities will, no doubt, be on offer.

On July 2nd, dozens of villagers gathered on the Common, picnics in hand, for a Summer Party on the Green. The highlight was the Dog Show – and Dunsmore is nothing if not a village for dog lovers! Accredited Crufts judge Anita Roberts did the honours for several categories of canine exhibition. Although

competition was fierce (not physically, of course), there were outstanding winners in each category. Thanks to everyone who brought their wonderful pets along for a memorable display.

There were events for all, including a sack race! James Stillwell further complicated his entry by carrying his daughter on his shoulders. No injuries occurred, we are pleased to report, bar the inevitable injured pride. Special thanks to the organisers – and the weather – for an afternoon full of fun for all.

Successful Cream Teas at the Church were a highlight, too, for both the Church of the Resurrection and the Dunsmore Village Hall Association. We look forward to having nice weather next year, too, as that makes such a difference in turnout. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.



Coming Up

Autumn events run by the DVHA start off with the Annual General Meeting, combined with First Friday Pub Night, on October 6th in the Village Hall. Please attend and keep up with the status of the DVHA and bring along ideas for future events – and of course your 'I'm a Volunteer' hat. The village can only remain as warm and active as it is now if everyone contributes to it.

The always-popular Quiz and Chips takes place on Saturday November 18th, in the VH. Start time is 7.00 p.m. sharp. Chris Royal is Quizmaster this year, ably assisted by Margaret, who will certainly be keeping the peace between warring teams! Participants are free to form their own teams of 4, 5 or 6 people. Or teams will be assigned at the door for freelancers. More information to come, so watch for specifics in emails.

In December there are two special events planned. The first, on December 2nd, is Theatre Night at the Mill at Sonning. The featured musical is High Society, and as previously, it will be a sellout. If you have not already booked tickets, contact DVHA Chair Tod Weller to see whether additional tickets may be available.

And to wrap up the year, the annual Winter Warmer will be held in the Village Hall. Final details will be circulated nearer the time and in the December issue of the Ellesborough Magazine.

Village residents would like to thank the family of Alan Smith for the lovely wooden bench they have placed by White Pond in memory of Alan. It is a welcome addition to the village and a constant reminder of the kind and friendly resident we lost last year. He is missed.

WINTER RAGOUT

Liz Hine has kindly shared one her favourite winter dishes which makes a wonderful warming meal during the cooler, Autumn months.

This rich ragout is also a delicious alternative to the Christmas turkey. A combination of pork with dried and fresh fruits which can be served with potatoes or crusty bread. Bon Appetit!



For 4 – 6 people. [Rather a lot of ingredients - but most are store cupboard.]

Ingredients

1kg/2lbs lean pork. Large dice.
75g/3oz dried apricots
50g/2oz raisins
75g/3oz dried prunes
[The French use a lot of prunes in cooking]
2 thickly sliced apples
50ml/2fl oz brandy - mix together with
150ml/6fl oz red wine.
3 large shallots
oil for frying

Combine the following together to make the flour & spice mix:

half teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cumin
half teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
25g/1oz plain flour
handful of fresh herbs or a large pinch of dried

1 bay leaf
1 pint chicken stock
juice of a lemon.

Method

1. Soak the fruit in the brandy and wine for 2 hours.
2. Fry the onions in the oil. [Crushed garlic optional]
3. Toss the meat in the flour and spice mix and fry off.
4. Transfer meat to a casserole with the onion add the fruit and the bay leaf.
5. Bring the fruit and marinade, and the stock to the pan and bring to a gentle boil -
6. add to the casserole. Cook for 2 hours @ 170c/Gas 3.
7. Stir halfway through the cooking time.
8. Add the lemon juice at the end.
9. Serve with potatoes, mashed potatoes are best to soak up the delicious spicy sauce, and a large helping of green vegetables.

If you have a favourite seasonal recipe and would like to share it through the magazine:
Judith Harper: jd25.harper@gmail.com

Gardening in Ellesborough

Back in May I wondered what had happened to Spring, now in mid-August it just looks as though we may be getting some decent summer weather at last and hopefully by September it will have really arrived.

Though we crave some decent spells of sustained sunshine, so far, thankfully, we have escaped the raging heat and destruction that has ravaged southern Europe. It must be a real challenge for those tending the gardens we have visited around Rome, Florence, Venice and in Umbria. Is this what we have to come?

In our garden we have spent time catching up with delayed seasonal jobs. Some effort has been taken up with clearing out shrubs and plants devastated by the heatwave and prolonged drought last year which was followed by harsh winter frosts. We are in something of a frost pocket and with poor pollination of fruit bushes this year, there are very small crops, except an early gorgeous glut of blackberries. Our Olive Tree having reached some fifteen feet has just about survived with many dead lower branches now being cut away; a cautionary example of risking Mediterranean loving plants in our location.

Apart from hailstones, from which there is no practical protection in the open garden, the worst that our fickle weather can inflict on the Head Gardener (HG) is high winds and this year we have had several bouts, staking and tying-in has been crucial. Despite the gloomy weather and the disruption of routine tasks, in the early summer the borders put on a glorious show. Roses that seemed to have suffered from exhaustion after producing an absolutely magnificent display in June are now beginning to recover with a second flush.

Despite the set-backs the HG has cleared space in the borders and planted out the annuals for late season succession. Now among the plants taking centre stage are the Agapanthus, both blue and white, with flower heads like aerial firework displays, Gladiolus, the tropical Ricinus with its striking foliage, and the dazzling colours of the Dahlias. A continuous process of dead-heading helps to prolong flowering, although this year the Delphiniums having been 'Chelsea Chopped' have for the first time been savaged by slugs and snails.

At least this year we have been spared a hosepipe ban and the lawns have finally recovered and unlike most recent summers are growing furiously. They are being cut at different lengths to accentuate the garden shape

and create more interest. The idea of over-seeding with clover in areas is quite appealing as a defence against prolonged dry weather and to introduce some colour as a relief from solid green. It also cuts down the need and cost for fertiliser, and is good environmentally. There are pros and cons but I am giving this some thought; I have experimented with one small area which has never been treated with weed killer or fertiliser and it has outperformed the main lawns during drought conditions.

The shrubs and plants we have planted to replace some of the losses from last year have benefitted from the wet weather in July and through to August, which were ideal growing conditions and thanks to rain in July cutting down the amount of time needed to water them until they are established. We have planted Ceanothus Southmead, Cistus Alan Fradd, Syringa (lilac) vulgaris and Hydrangea panicula Sunday Fraisea. Having tried to establish a wisteria on two occasions over the years, both of which failed, this year inspired by a visit to Greys Court with their famous wisterias in flower, we have tried again. We have chosen the best possible position we have available and planted a Wisteria Brachy Okayama and, so far so good, it is putting on vigorous growth against a south facing gazebo.

It has been a sensational year for wild flowers. The little meadow, seeded with perennials some 20 years ago, continuous to evolve with colonies of naturally seeded specimens adding to the show: with orchids, wild marjoram, intense blue chicory and field scabious now bringing late season colour. This will be cut and cleared in September. The grass down the lane is being managed to encourage self-seeded wild flowers to flourish and gets cut in early August and is getting better every year; the only addition was to overseed with yellow rattle to restrict the vigorous grasses. Apart from the beauty and the many environmental benefits of creating wild flower havens saves a lot of grass mowing.

Amidst the gloom of poor summer weather and the equally less than cheerful economic and world-wide outlook, it is good to get out in the garden and to enjoy nature. Here is to a glorious autumn!

Tony Young

August 2023

Discover Bucks Museum

Wonderful crafts and 80s nostalgia this autumn at Discover Bucks Museum

Crafted opens on 16 September and showcases the wonderful, high- quality work created by members of the Buckinghamshire Craft Guild, including jewellery, ceramics, furniture, prints, textiles and glass. Work is for sale and the Guild is planning to have one of their members in the exhibition each day from 11am to 2pm demonstrating a craft and on Saturday 23 September there will be a Meet the Makers Day from 10am to 3pm. The exhibition runs until 7 October.



In October we're getting ready for a nostalgic trip back to the 80s. I Grew Up 80s is a fascinating time capsule of over 200 objects, where visitors will experience the youthful exuberance of this iconic decade through the popular culture of the time. Discover toys, technology, fashion, music, food and even a vintage TV set showing archival footage of popular shows. From Betamax to BMX, Dirty Dancing to Donkey Kong, the Thompson Twins to Transformers, there's plenty for all generations to see, enjoy, share and remember the last decade before the digital revolution. I Grew Up 80s opens on 21 October and runs until 16 March 2024.



For further information about the exhibitions and events please visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP

CRAFTED

an exhibition of unique contemporary crafts
made by the Buckinghamshire Craft Guild



The Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury is delighted to collaborate with The Buckinghamshire Craft Guild to present **CRAFTED**; an exciting opportunity to reach and engage with a much wider audience in the Guild's first ever showcase exhibition.

The museum art gallery is a glorious airy space, providing the perfect backdrop for each maker to display the best of their work and, for some makers, much larger pieces, or collections.

Established in 2017, The Buckinghamshire Craft Guild promotes the best in designer and applied contemporary crafts in Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas. Currently with 35 artists working across a variety of disciplines and employing a vast

array of materials and techniques including: ceramics, glass, furniture, printmaking, jewellery and enamelling, lettering, textiles, and paper art, as well as leather, metal and wood. Over time, each artist has developed their own unique style and every piece is carefully crafted, whether it be intricately designed jewellery or a stunning piece of furniture.

CRAFTED will run from 16 September to 7 October (Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm) at The Discover Bucks Museum. **Daily demonstrations** will run each day between 11am and 2pm. And on Saturday 23 September there will be an opportunity to **Meet the Makers** and take part in some Family Craft activities between 10am and 3pm. An ideal opportunity to treat yourself or pick up a gift while supporting local makers.

Kate Wilkinson, a Buckinghamshire Craft Guild member says:

'We're delighted that Discover Bucks Museum has given the Guild this wonderful opportunity to showcase all of our different types of work. We look forward to welcoming people from all over the county and further afield to view, inspire and purchase from the exhibition, and we can't wait to meet families at our Meet the Makers day on Saturday 23 September.'

As well as this exciting showcase event at The Discover Bucks Museum, the Guild has a permanent presence at their beautiful new gallery in Stoke Mandeville. It provides an all-year-round showcase with the opportunity for visitors to meet the makers, see demonstrations and learn about the processes involved and creative journeys taken in the development of the artworks. Commissions are welcome and the online shop has a selection of work by most artists.

CRAFTED

16th September to 7th October at the Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury, Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm

Daily demonstrations each day between 11am and 2pm

Meet the Makers & Family Crafts on Saturday 23rd September 10am to 3pm

For opening times, charges and to book visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP

The Buckinghamshire Craft Guild gallery is at Layby Farm, Old Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5XJ (site of Bucks Goats Centre). buckinghamshirecraftguild.co.uk

Planning applications

Prior approval application (Part 6, Class A) for re-laying the concrete to allow machinery and stock to travel around the site and retain the correct separation between the clean and dirty water systems.

Apsley Manor Farm North Lee Lane Terrick
Buckinghamshire HP22 5YA

Ref. No: 23/06600/PNP6A | Received: Wed 21 Jun 2023 |
Validated: Wed 21 Jun 2023 | Status: Unknown

Insertion of 3 x rooflights and conversion of roof space to provide accommodation

Ellesborough Guide Centre Missenden Road Butlers
Cross Buckinghamshire HP17 0UP

Ref. No: 23/06443/FUL | Received: Thu 01 Jun 2023 |
Validated: Thu 01 Jun 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

Householder application for erection of new detached garage / car port following demolition of existing detached garage

75 Chalkshire Road Butlers Cross Buckinghamshire
HP17 0TJ

Ref. No: 23/06212/FUL | Received: Thu 11 May 2023 |
Validated: Thu 08 Jun 2023 | Status: Unknown

Reference	23/06781/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12313909
Application Received	Fri 14 Jul 2023
Application Validated	Fri 14 Jul 2023
Address	94 Chalkshire Road Butlers Cross Buckinghamshir HP17 0TJ
Proposal	Householder application for works of demolition, the erection of a two-storey side extension, alterations to fenestration and existing porch and the provision of a detached outbuilding
Status	Awaiting decision
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available

Certificate of lawfulness for proposed mobile home
Craycraf Nash Lee Road Terrick Buckinghamshire HP17
0TQ

Ref. No: 23/06974/CLP | Received: Mon 07 Aug 2023 |
Validated: Mon 07 Aug 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

Certificate of lawfulness for existing tennis court and surrounding fence in residential curtilage

Molloway House Dunsmore Wendover Buckinghamshire
HP22 6QJ

Ref. No: 23/06963/CLE | Received: Thu 03 Aug 2023 |
Validated: Thu 03 Aug 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

Local charity launches FlorenceFest



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has officially launched their first-ever music festival, FlorenceFest, which will be held at Roman Park Hall, Aylesbury on Saturday 16th September.



FlorenceFest aims to provide people with an end-of-summer music event that all of the family can enjoy as well as its other purpose to raise crucial funds for local hospice care.

The event will run from 12pm-12am with live music, a DJ, street food vans, fully stocked bars and family-friendly activities to keep the kids entertained.

"We're really looking forward to hosting a fantastic music event, which is the first of its kind for the charity," shared Steve Butcher, creator of Chilfest and is the lead of this event on behalf of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. "We've got a very talented line up of tribute bands which will come together to create a great overall show for the community. We hope people come out and show support for the charity and, just as importantly, have a great time celebrating good music, the end of summer and time with family and friends."

All profits from this event will go directly to the charity, which is dedicated to delivering the best hospice care for individuals and their families across Buckinghamshire and its borders, wherever and whenever they need it.

"It's something quite different for us to be running and all of the team are enjoying putting the event together," said Lee Lloyd, Head of Fundraising at Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity. "We take great pride in providing high-standard events across Buckinghamshire and we actively look to positively contribute to the numerous communities across the region. FlorenceFest is our latest event which will do both this as well as

hopefully raise money for the Hospice. We hope it's a great day for everyone."

At the event will be:

DJ Dan Blaze: An award-winning adult DJ and kids entertainer who will bring the family fun and games throughout the day and plenty of your summertime favourites during the night.

Rob B Williams: A nationally recognised Robbie Williams tribute act that brings all the energy and charisma of the real thing. Expect to hear favourites like 'Let Me Entertain You', 'Rock DJ', 'Angels' and many more!

The Smiths Utd: A Smiths and Morrissey tribute band which has included our festival as part of their national tour, expect many 'Charming' renditions when they hit our stage.

Forever Elton: A brilliant solo act who performs a stunning tribute to one of the best songwriters of all time, Sir Elton John. 'Saturday Night's Alright For' a party when some of the most well-known songs in the world are being played!

Tickets will be sold online until the 15th August and you can buy them on the door on the day of the event. It is cheaper to buy them online beforehand. The online prices are; adults £15, u16's £8 and u4's free.

For information and to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://www.fnhospice.org.uk/florencefesttickets>

Wendover Community Library Transformation Fund



Ambitious plans are in motion to transform Wendover Community Library into a vibrant community hub, for residents in the town and surrounding villages to enjoy.

Plans for the new library have been informed by feedback and suggestions shared by residents, schools, community organisations, staff and volunteers through 21 engagement sessions and surveys.

The plans now include a new outdoor seating area at the front of the building, additional flexible spaces and a tourist and information area to promote the library as the gateway to the Chilterns.

To find out more about the plans for the new library visit Wendover Community Library improvement project | Buckinghamshire Council

We have secured £473,000 funding from Buckinghamshire Council Capital programme, the Arts Council Library Improvement Fund, and smaller grants from Wendover Parish Council and Wendover Community Library Trust but the impact of inflation means that this will no longer cover all the planned improvements.

A new Library Transformation Fund has been set up and we are inviting

those who are willing and able to contribute, to consider making a donation to support the library.

Anyone interested in contributing to the cause can do so in a variety of ways:

- Make a donation online or in person at the library
- Buy a mug or tea towel from the library, with the profits going to the fund.
- Order a commemorative plaque to be displayed in the community garden.
- Order a limited edition, metal Legacy Leaf which will be engraved and form part of a striking piece of artwork at the new library entrance.

To find out more and donate visit: Wendover Community Library Transformation Fund | Buckinghamshire Council

The new library is set to open in early 2024, with plans for an interim library service onsite for continued access to services for the community.

The new Wendover Community Library will be a valuable community hub, providing local information and services. Books and reading will still be central, but the hub will also offer a broad range of social, cultural, and educational activities with a particular focus on health and wellbeing.

It's an exciting time ahead. If you have any thoughts, queries or suggestions please get in touch with me at thewendoverlibrary@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or pop into the library.



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Tims Dairy, based in Chalfont St Peter in the heart of the Chiltern Hills, is your local yogurt producer.

We are a family-owned company run by four second generation brothers with a strong Greek heritage, specialising in making authentic and great tasting yogurts including Greek style.

New St Clement's is our 3rd limited edition bio-live Greek style yogurt made with fresh zingy oranges and lemons. You'll find it on the shelves in local stockists across the Chilterns.

Julian
Tim's Dairy



Risborough Area Community Bus

Our bus provides daily scheduled Hail and Ride services up to 6 days a week to:

- **Monks Risborough ▪ Trees and Fields ▪ Longwick ▪ Speen**
- **The Bledlows ▪ The Kimbles and Ellesborough**

All journeys start and finish at the George and Dragon, High St, Princes Risborough.

Anyone can use our bus, young and old alike. The fare for most journeys is only £2.00 and most concessionary cards are accepted. Children aged 16 and under travel free.



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- 12.00 pm The Weekday Lunchbox** Music, features and chat with Sally Poulson
- 2.00 pm The Afternoon Show** Fine music plus features and chat with Maggie G
- 4.00 Drivetime** Music and local travel news with Mike Oxlade or Paul Higgs
- 6.00 The Gold Kite** Back-to-back classic hits
- 7.00 Monday The Seventies Rewind** with Simon Jobling
- Tuesday The Nineties Rewind** Classic 90s hits
- Wednesday The Eighties Rewind** with Howard Bond
- Thursday The Sixties Rewind** with Cherry Waller
- Friday The Weekend Warm-Up** 90s and 00s dance tracks with Karl Braisher
- 9.00 Monday The Musicals Hour** with James Kershaw
- Tuesday, Thursday Motown Magic** Classic Tamla Motown hits
- Wednesday Red Kite Country** Country hits old and new
- 10.00 The Weekday Wind-Down** Chill at the end of the day with Donald McFarlane
- 11.00 Through the Night** Non-stop hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s

Saturday

- 7.00 am Saturday Breakfast** Your weekend starts here! With Andrew Duthie
- 10.00 The Noughties 'Til Now Show** 20-plus years of hits with Hannah Austin
- 12.00 pm The Saturday Lunchbox** Music across the generations with Heather Jan Brunt
- 1.00 Saturday PM** Back-to-back classic hits and recent releases
- 5.00 The Funk, Soul & Dance Show** Smooth, cool sounds with Deep Kundhi
- 7.00 Red Kite Party Night** Four hours of classic party hits, with Daryl Ridgley
- 11.00 Through the Night** Non-stop hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s

Sunday

- 7.00 am Sunday Breakfast**
- 10.00 Sunday Brunch** Classic hits and chat with John Reid-Hansen, including the **Wychert Vale Church Service** at 12.00
- 1.00 pm The Sunday Afternoon Session** with Andy Mitchell, including **The Acoustic Hour** at 3.00
- 4.00 Musicals Hour** with James Kershaw
- 5.00 The Noughties 'Til Now Show** 20-plus years of hits with Hannah Austin
- 7.00 Sunday Rocks!** Classic rock tracks
- 10.00 The Breakaway Blues Show** Blues and blues-influenced tracks with Graham Andrews
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Chiltern Brewery news

Our new brew barn has increased our brewing capacity and enabled us to brew new beers alongside our existing ranges.

Launched this summer in response to requests, we have a brand-new, low-strength beer – Barely There, 1.8%, in a can. It is a full-bodied, properly-brewed beer, but with a fraction of the alcohol.

As the younger brother of our Bodger's Barley Wine, it is brewed the long-hand way, and makes use of the residual wort that isn't quite strong enough for Bodger's. Because of its strength, Bodger's requires a double portion of malt. This means there is still plenty of flavour and goodness left in that residual wort, even though it isn't quite strong enough for the Barley Wine.

After all, there's nothing wrong with that residual wort, and it just seemed too good to waste. It was this thought, during one quiet moment on a Bodger's brew day, that led to this new beer. We used the remaining wort, ran into the copper in our pilot kit, added hops and fermented it. This is that beer – a beer that didn't go to waste! Full of everything a proper beer should be – and which you would expect a beer from us to be – except the alcohol, which is Barely There!

We haven't cut any corners, or used energy intensive methods to remove the alcohol. Instead, this is the first in a new range of lower alcohol beers we are brewing. Our aim is to create more real beers with low strengths, so we will keep refining the process and see how low we can go!

Lastly, almost every beer we brew, is now brewed with malt that is Bucks grown, just down the road from the brewery, on the Waddesdon Estate (LLP). Working in partnership with the estate farm, we are proud to have established a relationship where we can (almost!) see the barley we brew with, from the brewery! As far as we know, we are the only brewery in Bucks and the Chilterns, that can say this.



The King's Head news

We are very happy to be able to open a little longer again. We are now open:

Wednesday & Thursday 12 'til 11pm – Friday & Saturday 11am 'til 11pm – Sunday 12 'til 8pm.

Food is available:

Wednesday to Saturday 12 'til 3pm and 6 'til 8:30pm – Sunday 12 'til 3pm

We are also very excited to report that work is on track for Great Hall reopening! Many readers may recall this room from many years ago. It will, again, be a superb place to enjoy beer and a chat.

More news will follow as we draw closer to opening!

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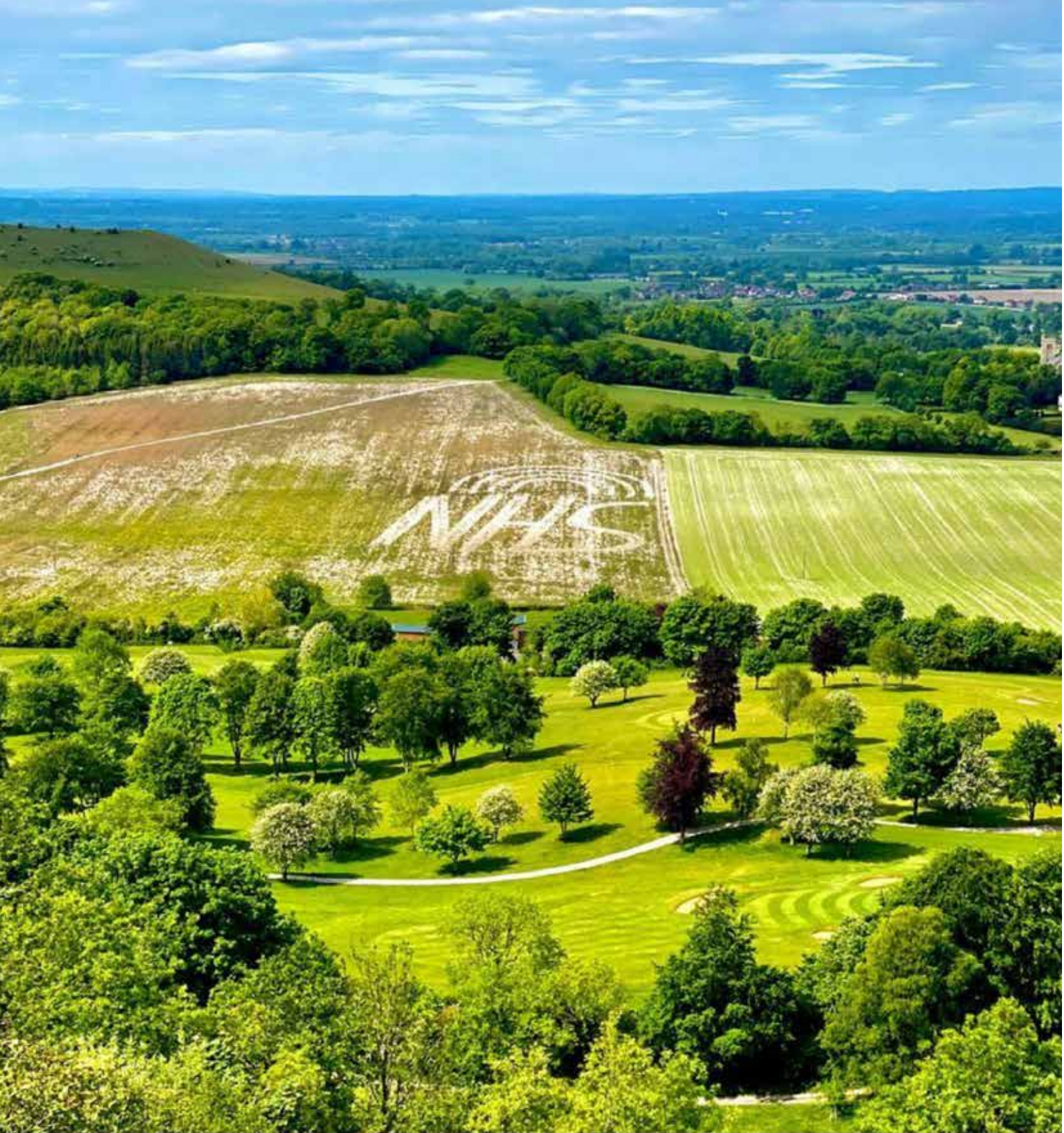
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Parish Clerk, Mr John McKeown 07880 732574
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Ellesborough Magazine

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Editor
edellesboroughmgz@gmail.com

Treasurer, Mr Tony Young
01296 622306

Distribution, Mrs Janette West
01296 696688

Secretary, Judith Harper
01296 622033

Advertising, Annabelle
ellesboroughmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

Ellesborough Magazine online

www.ellesborough-pc.gov.uk

Dunsmore Village Hall website

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Ellesborough Silver Band

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Great Kimble Church of England First School

Headteacher
01844 346189

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Membership Secretary, Charlie Taylor
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lizziehine@talktalk.net

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07903 162378

Tower Captain, Mr Les Floyd
01844 345575

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Jacqui Lipton-Rose
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