

# HEDGERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013

Chairman indicated emergency exits

Apologies for absence – Cllr Anita Cranmer (SBDC), Cllr Michael Rice, Cllr Ted Evans

Present – Four Parish Councillors, BCC Councillor and seven members of the public

Chairman welcomed those present and said thank you for coming.

Chairman asked for approval of the Minutes of APM 2012. These were approved as a true record, and signed.

### **LIST OF REPORTS -**

#### **2013 Parish Council Chairman's Report**

The Glebe Field still requires some restoration but it is now well used by members of the public. Currently it is a bit wet underfoot but it is hoped that later in the year people will make even fuller use of the amenity and enjoy the great views over the village.

The Community Orchard was planted in the Glebe Field in the early Spring and despite the cold weather the cherries, apples and pears are showing signs of coming into blossom.

The ten year management plan for the Council's woodlands has progressed with considerable work being done in Kiln Wood despite the wet conditions. The initial phase of holly clearance in Kemsley Wood was completed and work continues in order to allow comfortable walking. Notices have been posted to alert walkers to the changed environment which will require time to settle down.

Financial support from the County has made it possible to relay the pavement in Village Lane outside The Quaker House and to plant a tree to commemorate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The County has also filled in some of the potholes around the village and drains have been cleared. The flooding in Andrew Hill Lane and Kiln Lane has not been resolved but the County engineers are hopeful that remedial action will be taken this year.

Residents' concerns about speeding traffic through the village have resulted in the Council acquiring a mobile speed indicator which will shortly be placed in Parish Lane. The County have also taken note of the serious accidents at the junction between Hedgerley Lane and Village Lane and will be installing some warning bollards.

Since the opening of the MSA an increasing amount of litter has been thrown out of cars along Hedgerley Lane in particular. Notices placed along the roadside and regular

clearance patrols seem to have had no lasting effect. Residents themselves have done some of the picking-up and the HCV will do so again in advance of the Best Kept Village Competition. It is dispiriting how some careless individuals are content to make work for others and have no pride in their environment. For example, cans and crisp packets are dropped in the bus shelter by The Green even though there is a waste bin a few feet away.

There have been few planning issues in the past year.

The Parish Plan steering committee have continued to develop the plan. An open day was held and discussions with community groups are continuing.

Thanks must go to our Clerk for her work over the year and to our Councillors for their valuable contribution to the work of the Council. Thanks also to our contractors, especially Grant Randall and Ben Harris who undertake our grass cutting and most of our woodland work.

Tom Webb, Chairman

## **Bucks County Councillor**

### Education

A new Home to School Transport policy was introduced this year with the objective of keeping the costs of school transport under control. The new policy was adopted after lengthy consultation and has met with general acceptance. The grammar schools in Buckinghamshire have decided to change the format of the 11-plus examination in order to minimise the benefits of coaching. The County Council continues to strongly support the selective system and is working with the academies to protect the high level of attainment achieved in Buckinghamshire schools. The proposal for a free school in Stoke Poges has met with local opposition, and a large petition was presented to County Council last week. I am absolutely in agreement with the protestors that there is no need for an additional secondary school in South Bucks, but it will be the Department of Education which makes the decision.

### Highways

South Bucks District became a Civil Enforcement Area at the end of November and since then the County Council's contractor NSL has been enforcing parking restrictions throughout the District. Previously it had been a police responsibility.

Road resurfacing work has continued during the year and the first tranche of this year's programme has been announced, with the A355 from Farnham Common to Beaconsfield being one of the roads chosen.

The recent long wet and cold winter has taken its toll on the road network and some temporary repair work has had to be undertaken to cope with the high volume of potholes. In such cases a permanent repair is subsequently programmed and takes place within 28 days.

Serious flooding has occurred on a regular basis during the winter in Kiln Lane at great inconvenience to residents. The cause has been traced to a broken pipe, and this will be replaced and further works undertaken in August as part of an expanded capital programme for drainage.

#### High Speed 2

The County Council continues to oppose the building of HS2 through Buckinghamshire countryside and participated in the recent unsuccessful judicial review of the decision. An appeal is being considered, but from a Hedgerley point of view the current route proposal is to be preferred against the Labour Party's proposal to have the line next to the M40.

#### Council tax

The level of the council tax was frozen for the third year running, without compromising services to the most vulnerable. With the increasing elderly population and with the severely disabled living longer there will be continuing pressure on the Council's finances in the coming years. Over half of the Council's budget is spent on social services.

Peter Hardy

## **Annual report from your District Councillor**

### **Financial issues**

We began the process of exploring the possibility of Joint Working with Chiltern District Council last year in order to save money and improve efficiency. The new joint Chief executive is saving us, the taxpayers, £400,000 over 3 years together with the joint business Heads of Services. In 2013 the Licensing and Community Safety Departments have been reviewed for resilience and savings and the conclusion appears to indicate that £80,000 for a full year could be saved by merging the work of the two councils in those areas. Other departments are under review, not all will fall into such a neat pattern, but for the tax payer the exercise is essential.

### **Changes to the benefit System**

This is a complex change, mostly in Central Government hands ,but change will impinge on SBDC in the areas of Council tax rebate, or lack of, bedroom tax and housing benefit. The new policy to ensure that it is never more profitable to be out of work, caps benefit to a couple at £500 per week and limits housing benefit to actual bedrooms required for family use. The Council tax benefit has been similarly cut and it is estimated that about 1000 people in South bucks will feel this change.

### **Changes to the Policing System**

In November 2012 the UK was divided into 42 policing areas and Police Crime Commissioners elected. There was a 17% turnout for this election so many people were clearly unaware of the change. Our area of Thames Valley Police, which is very large, has Anthony Stansfeld in office for 4 years. There is a web site and an email address for all to use since the chief aim, apart from economy is to make the work of the police more transparent and the ability to have complaints and questions from the public answered more efficiently. I sit on the Police Crime Panel which is

scrutinising this new office and has 6 public meetings planned to question the Commissioner on your behalf.

### **Community provision**

The work on the rebuilding of Farnham Park Golf Course (renamed The South Buckinghamshire) has begun with the rebuilding of the Green keepers compound at Farnham Park playing fields and the demolition of the old one to be the site of the new Golf Club house. The completion date for the project is December 2013. There are other changes at the Farnham Park playing fields, which have been historically underused. A new Softball centre set up by Softball UK which will be a national site for games and tournaments and there is consideration of leasing a few portions of land to interested clubs or groups for football or tennis. The security of the area has been much improved after a history of attempted vandalism.

Subscription and Donation grants are awarded twice yearly to those groups who apply for assistance with the running of their community group or project. In March the Policy Advisory group that I lead allocated £20,800 to 15 local groups who met our criteria. We also help to support the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Council offices, The Community Foundation, also at Capswood, and numerous Age Concern, Youth groups, and now Food banks which have been set up to supply urgent needs.

**Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member.**

**Portfolio for Community and Community Safety**

Youth Club – nothing received

## 1st Hedgerley Scout Group Summary Report Spring 2013

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1<sup>st</sup> Hedgerley have 90 young people.  
35 adult volunteer,  
5 Young Leaders

### Scouts

5 camps this year. The main one is in Hay on Wye this Summer  
They have successfully competed in The Quest and the Grimsdyke Hike challenges  
The Senior Citizens Party just before Christmas was a great success providing a 3 course meal and a fantastic afternoon of entertainment

### Cubs

This year they have arranged 2 Camps and a sleepover. A wide variety of activities both in the hut and around our local area have entertained and educated our Cubs

### Beavers

1 camp and two sleepovers.

They raised £70 for the London Air Ambulance and this was presented during a visit to their Denham HQ.

A wide and varied programme has been put in place ensuring that Hedgerley Beavers are as popular as ever. This is shown by a long waiting list and some parents putting their names down on the list at birth!

#### Joint Events

There are 2 group events in the current programme.

Remembrance Sunday. Last November we helped fill St Mary's for this very important service. All sections attended from ages 6 - 13

Group Camp. This coming May all sections are camping at Dorney Wood and a full programme of events has been put together.

We have a large waiting list for Beavers. Cubs is just about full and only a couple of available places at Scouts.

We have a large adult team but are always looking for more in both back room support and working with the young people.

Our finances are quite strong but we are looking at improving the insulation of the hut and if funds allow, re-skinning the outside to reduce vandalism and improve the look to match the youth club

Phil Anstey

## Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 and the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013 twenty conservation events, with an average of five volunteers at each event and over 300 hours voluntary effort. There has been a small, but encouraging, increase in Membership from 46 in 2011/12 to 48 in 2012/13.



Church Meadow East remained our main focus of attention for 2012. Thistles and ragwort clearance were cleared in the summer before Burnham Beeches cut East and West Meadows and cleared the arisings. We then welcomed the return of two British White cattle from Burnham Beeches to graze Church Meadow East and West and hopefully they will return in late summer again this year. My thanks to the team of lookers who keep an eye on their welfare every day.

The invasive scrub was finally eradicated at the end of the year after almost ten years effort. Re-growth will now be monitored and kept under control.

Work commenced in Spring 2012 to replace the chestnut paling fence beside the sump pond at the foot of Hedgerley Hill and this was completed at the beginning of April this year. The Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils announced the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition results in July 2012 and despite a lot of work by HCV members and villagers Hedgerley did not win but achieved an honourable second place in the Morris Cup. The judges' made many complimentary comments including:

*The village green is well looked after, grass is cut, plenty of well used litter bins and no litter lying around.*

*The Memorial Hall looks as new. The stark lines are broken by a lovely display of flowers in troughs. All is neat and tidy and no litter.*

*The area around the few shops has attractive, raised and weed free shrub beds. The White Horse's flower baskets etc, are all lovely.*

*The Parish Council notice board is very good, informative and well looked after. The small board by the Memorial Hall is also helpful.*

*The overall appearance of the village is very good and indicates much care and community commitment*

The only negative comment was: *The telephone kiosk is a bit uncared for and lets the other aspects down.*

Our preparation for the 2013 competition began in early April with two litter blitzes. From the Sump Pond to the One Pin Crossroads three sacks of litter were collected so vigilance will be required before the Judges arrive in June.

I would like to end this report, by expressing my thanks to all the volunteers for their efforts over the past year, and to Hedgerley Parish Council, residents and village organisations for their moral and financial support.

John Lovelock  
Honorary Secretary

Chairman (TW) thanked John Lovelock for all the work the HCV had done throughout the past year.

## *Hedgerley Historical Society*

2012/13 has been a busy programme with an excellent range of talks and our second Study day. The Programme got off to an invigorating start with Julie Summers presenting the story of the fateful ascent of Mount Everest in 1924 by Malory (and her Great Uncle Sandy) Irvine

In the Summer, we were shown some marvellous photographs of the National Parks in the USA by professional photographer and former Hedgerley resident Brian Hatson. This was followed by a very enjoyable evening walk around the Millennium Conservation Area in Gerrards Cross with enthusiastic guide Julian Hunt.

We held our second Study Day in September when Dr Kathryn Ferry presented a fascinating series of lectures on the history of the British Seaside which included Bathing

Huts, Seaside Architecture and Holiday Camps. This event was not as popular as the first Study Day in October 2011 and may have been due to the event being held when many members were on holiday. Therefore the Committee have decided to move future Study Days to the Spring and the next event is being planned for Spring 2014 when our

Chairman Michael Rice and Peter Marsden will present the final report on the Hedgerley Building Survey.

We held our fourth Autumn lunch last October followed by a talk on the History of London Transport by David Wadley which included wonderful photographs of Green Line Buses and Coaches that used to serve South Bucks.

Our Membership, which is drawn from across South Bucks, has fallen slightly from 156 in 2011/12 to the present total of 147. However we have, encouragingly, seen a slight rise in average attendances at meetings from 56 in the 2011/12 season, to 57 in 2012/13. The Committee recently purchased a portable PA system which will provide amplification for more softly spoken speakers.

This Autumn our next research project will commence with a study on Hedgerley during the Great War. In 1914 the combined population of Hedgerley and Hedgerley Dean was 250 and of these 88 able bodied men left South Buckinghamshire to fight for their country. Sadly 10 of these men were killed in action or died later as a result of their injuries.

Our study will look at the lives of all these men and the impact the War had on Hedgerley. We hope that the research will provide us with a greater insight into life in Hedgerley one hundred years ago and may uncover previously unknown photographs and documents from this period in our history.

John Lovelock  
Secretary

### **Footpaths and Bridleways**

This last winter has not been good for walking our footpaths. Some have had mud over boot depth! Others have looked like canals. Fortunately most have now dried somewhat. I have a supply of way marking roundels which I use to replace missing or damaged signs. If anyone feels there is a sign required let us know.

Maurice Ridgley

### **Tracy Trust**

The Tracy Trust has 127 potential beneficiaries. Chiropody, nail cutting, and a fortnightly bus for shopping, alternating between Slough and Uxbridge, and use of the Tracy Centre ( The Scout Hut) are services provided for all beneficiaries.

Financial assistance is given to beneficiaries towards the cost of dentistry, TV licences, Aid Call and spectacles where there is need.

There are three trustees, Chris Woodwark, Jim Cannon and John Lunn. As chairman, I shall be retiring at the end of this year, but will remain a trustee. Chris Woodwark has kindly agreed to succeed as Chairman. In conclusion we are all very appreciative to Brian Fenn, our treasurer and secretary, for all the work he does for the Trust.

John Lunn.

## HEDGERLEY MOTHERS UNION

Our branch of 22 members has had another successful year, 3 members were enrolled during the year. As usual we started the year with tea and chat and used our brains with a few quizzes. Prior to our AGM, we had a talk about 'Repatriating Jews to Israel' which was very thought provoking. The Officers were all re-elected.

In March we welcomed Mrs Sandra Hurst who spoke and showed slides on 'Temples and Relics of India', very interesting to learn about their Gods and customs. 16 Members attended the Deanery Lady Day Service at Hitcham where we were made very welcome and enjoyed our lovely tea. In April we welcomed Kate Saunders from Crossroads who gave an illustrated talk on the work of Crossroads. In May 20 of us visited Bisham Church on a wet and windy day, but were made very welcome and had an interesting talk on the history of Bisham church, this was followed by welcome tea in the garden centre.

Several members attended the Deanery Open Meeting where Bill Birmingham spoke about the Church in China and we all had a chance to chat with friends and purchase goods from the book stall.

In June we had our garden meeting (in the conservatory due to rain). The meeting started with The Wave of Prayer as it coincided with our allotted time for the Deanery. A raffle was held and the proceeds given to the Mothers Union Wheels Appeal.

In July we were again back in the hall and welcomed Gloria Richards who spoke to us about our theme for the year. Our annual lunch was held in August and we welcomed many friends to join us for our annual fund raising event of the year. Again thanks to all those who provided food, help set up, serve the food and clear up.

Our members were also active in the tea tent at the Fun Day, providing hundreds of cups of tea and cake for the many visitors.

After our annual Deanery visit to Romsey Abbey, which 12 members enjoyed, we were back in Church for our annual renewal service, and enrolling of new members. In October we welcomed Maggie McPherson who gave an illustrated talk on her visit delivering shoe boxes, and welcomed several visitors to the meeting. Hedgerley produced 50 boxes in 2012 and 3 members went to help sort them at Maidenhead.

In November The Revd Graham Saunders gave an illustrated talk on the United Benefice Pilgrimage to Israel. We ended the year with a party, members enjoying pass the parcel, quizzes and poems.

We hosted the Deanery Advent Service which was held at St Johns', again very many thanks to all who provided refreshments, welcomed our visitors and helped make the event a success. 12 Members also attended the Deanery Open Meeting when John Chorlton spoke about 'Your Gift, Discover and Celebrate' and gave us all a lot to think about.

We again provided refreshments for the Summer Diocesan Meeting at Gerrards Cross, afterwards listening to the thought provoking discussions and taking part in the service. Three members helped provide refreshments and organise lunch for the Diocesan Synod Meeting in High Wycombe.

Members also attended the Winter Meeting at Missenden Church, where we listened to an interesting talk on being a prison warden. Again it was a very wet day, but we were welcomed with refreshments and enjoyed lunch together in the old church house.

Our projects are still on -going, providing bags of basic toiletries and a soft toy for the Refuge in Slough as well as items for the children's ward at The John Radcliffe Hospital. We thank our members who are running the successful Hedgehog Toddle Group on a Thursday morning and The Revd Helen Chamberlain for providing the singing/dancing the youngsters enjoy. As a result of this successful group, parents and children are attending the Family Praise service once a month in church, and having their children Baptised.

Our forthcoming year promises to be as eventful and enjoyable as previous years and we hope to welcome new members and continue to serve families in our United Benefice whenever we can.

Thank you to all members who help to make our Branch the success it is, and a special thank you to Pam Powell who sends us all birthday cards; Rose Turner who continues to send over 100 cards to all those who have been Baptised in our 3 churches over the past 4 years, these are very much appreciated by those who receive them; also a very big thank you to Vera Hinds for providing the very tasty homemade cakes for our meetings and Alan Bones for all his help with transport and putting chairs and tables out for us.

Mary Lane

### **Hedgehog Toddler Group**

Hedgerley Mothers' Union started this group 6 years ago, when we realised many parents in Hedgerley had nowhere to meet other parents with young children. We meet on Thursday mornings (in term time) from 9.45 until 11.30am in the Scout Hut. We have 6 regular volunteers, plus others who help when required, we have 3 ladies on "duty" each week. The group is financed by St Mary's Church, who also cover our CRB checks and insurance.

The group is open to any adult with a child (children); there is no charge, but a donation box is on the table if anyone wishes to give something towards refreshments, new toys etc. You do not have to attend church to come along, we are open to all. Adults are responsible for their own children, we do not entertain or look after them. We do have a "Charter" which the parent or guardian sign up to when they first join us, we also keep a record of those attending each week.

The Revd Helen Chamberlain attends on a regular basis with her guitar and the children love to sing and dance to her tunes. Helen is then available if any parent/adult wishes to speak to her. Squash and biscuits are provided and birthdays celebrated after our singing.

We have a number of children from Hedgerley (they park their pushchairs in the kitchen), others come from local villages. Adults are welcomed with a drink and we provide toys, playdough, puzzles, books etc for the youngsters to play with. It is lovely to see young babies lying on the floor trying to reach another baby beside them, older children run into the hall and greet their friends and then go off to play with them, adults talk and exchange ideas/problems etc with each other.

Our attendance varies between 10 and 22, depending on what is happening in "big school".

The children love to help "clear up" and are very happy to talk to us. It is a very happy 2 hours in the Scout Hut for adults and children, if you are around at this time, pop in and have a cup of coffee with us, you will be very welcome.

If you would like to know more about us, contact Mary on 01753 646926 or Helen on 01753 644093

Mary Lane

## **FRIENDS OF ST. MARYS**

The Friends of St Mary's Church Hedgerley are most grateful for the generosity of people supporting the fabric of the Church and churchyard.

We paid for the scaffolding to replace the broken Cross above the chancel. The new Cross was gifted by a generous anonymous donor.

We are still placing sponsored bricks in the path: about 14 in the past year. We await a Faculty for completing the path to the West Gate. However we were granted Planning Permission by SBDC. The brick path has suffered from mud and water from Church Wood so we need to do some drainage work to divert it as the mud makes it slippery and our engraved bricks difficult to read.

The boiler failed just before Christmas and we are grateful to RS Boilers of Marlow who "pulled out the stops" and got it going in time. We are logging its performance to try to run it more economically.

Rob Grazebrook

Chairman commented that it was an extraordinary attendance at Church once a month and was good to see.

## **Hedgerley Memorial Hall**

The hall continues to be well maintained thanks to the willing volunteers and the spring and autumn clean ups.

The hall now has its own logo which will be used on all correspondence, advertising etc.

We now have only two full meetings a year, with the Standing Committee meeting regularly to deal with every day running of the hall and any problems that may occur. The Organisation representatives are kept informed of events and can contact any member of the standing committee with requests, suggestions, complaints etc whenever they wish. No major decisions are taken without approval of full committee.

Inside the hall - thanks to Buckinghamshire Community Foundation who gave us a grant, a new kitchen has been fitted, including a dishwasher and fridge/freezer, the latter was paid for by a

generous parishioner. The two small rooms housing the chairs and tables were re -decorated and new flooring laid.

Outside - we have put two "smokers" buckets outside the kitchen and front doors to keep the grounds tidier.

We have had some work done on the trees, and are waiting to receive permission from SBDC to remove the Robinia tree which has rotted in the middle.

We are still having problems with children climbing on the roof and kicking balls against the brickwork and windows.

We are very grateful to Grundon's for providing our skip to take the rubbish away each week, this is a great help to all hall users.

The hall is used on most evenings of the week, and some daytime bookings are also made on a regular basis.

Our fund raising events have included the usual Beetle and Reindeer Drives, Mini Markets, Coffee Morning, Lunches and a Christmas Fayre, as well as Theatre in the Villages. We also benefited from very successful Jingle Tingle performances.

John Saunders has continued to keep the grounds neat and tidy, Alan Pearce has helped John with roof repairs, gutters etc. Unfortunately, John is no longer able to cut the grass, and the Parish Council have kindly agreed to include this in their other grass cutting.

Sue Livingston keeps a very close eye on the hall and grounds, as well as dealing with the bookings. Sue also cleared the snow to enable cars to enter the car park.

Projects for the future - to further improve the facilities, including a portable stage and replacing the railings up the slope to the car park.

We thank everyone who uses the hall, or supports us in any way and hope to see you all at our future events.

Jean Medway -Gash

## **WAPSEY'S WOOD LIAISON**

### **SITE UPDATE**

1.1 Cell 4, which is the area behind the civic amenity centre on the A40, will be covered with top soil and seeded this summer.

1.2 Landfill to Cell 5A is now complete and the cell will be capped and subsoil applied.

1.3 Infill to Cell 5B has commenced with completion due in 2014.

1.4 The site investigation of Cell 6 is now complete. This has identified the dissolution features. A contract has been let to provide treatment with compaction grouting prior to sealing the cell. The grouting will take about 3 months. The clay and lining to the cell will follow and be complete by the end of the year. Infill is planned to commence during spring 2014.

1.5 Infill and restoration to the Hyde Farm site will be complete as planned in 2017.

## 2. ODOUR ISSUES

Over the winter a number of complaints were received with regard to the smell associated with landfill gas escaping from the site. It was explained at the meeting that the cells are designed to be filled and capped within 12 months of starting to landfill. However, planning is initiated some four to five years before commencement of land filling. During this planning, mineral extraction,

investigation and preparation period, the volume of landfill arriving on the site had reduced significantly and it took 2 years to complete the infilling. This resulted in some of the initial landfill starting to decompose before the cell could be capped and sealed.

The cell is now sealed and the drilling of the final gas wells will be complete by the end of April.

To prevent this situation recurring in Cell 6, temporary vertical gas wells will be installed to enable gas to be collected during the infilling period. They should not be required in Cell 5B due to the relatively short infill period.

## 3. LEACHATE TREATMENT PLANT.

Currently the leachate collected on site is transported by tanker for treatment off site. Design is underway and planning will be applied for, for a plant to process leachate on site. The process will involve a sequential batch reactor. Leachate is collected in the reactor vessel and the bugs in the reactor are allowed to go to work (to remove ammonia, dissolved methane and reduce BOD and COD) for a period of 10 to 12 hours. After this period 10% of the liquid is decanted off and the tank allowed to refill before the process repeats. The liquid decanted is pumped into the sewerage system (connection at Pyebush Lane) for further processing at the Little Marlow sewerage treatment plant.

The reactor vessel will be sited just to the north of the M40 (approximately north from Slade Farm) and will be partly below ground level. There will be no odour, minimal noise and no lights. The plan is for the plant to become operational in 2014.

## 4. REVISED PLANNING APPLICATION.

Due to the reduction in waste arising, which is the result of: the recession, Government policy with regard landfill tax (currently £72/tonne) and alternative forms of treatment (incineration and recycling), landfill at the Wapsey's Wood site will not be complete by 2017 in line with the existing planning permission. The result of this will be that restoration is at a significantly lower level in the area which includes the current site offices and mineral processing plant. This will provide the potential for creating amenity areas. Veolia propose to go into consultation with interested parties during the summer 2013 to ascertain what people want and what access will be required. This will include the restoration of footpaths and bridleways.

David Vincent

Hedgerley Magazine – nothing received

Dr John Lunn made the observation that it seemed the magazine content was not down to a committee any more. He wondered what the arrangement was now.

## **Hedgerley Women's Institute**

Hedgerley Women's Institute was founded 92 years ago and has had a very successful year. Three years ago the membership was about 18 and we now have 51 full members.

Our meetings are very lively and enjoyable. We have had many excellent speakers, ranging from a couples' experience providing medical help to Sierra Leone on a Mercy Ship, the history of Pinewood, the Bicentenary of Charles Dickens, to Chinese cookery, David Austen Roses, London Oddities and a Passion for Pearls. The afternoon ends with tea and home-made cakes and gives everyone the opportunity of socialising amongst good friends.

At the BFWI Annual Council Meeting in Aylesbury on 17 April, the guest speaker in the afternoon was Michael Portillo who gave an excellent talk about his life in politics and now as a writer and broadcaster. It was the day of Margaret Thatcher's Memorial Service but he made sure he was at the meeting and the train got him there on time.

We continue to support "Help for Heroes" and our contributions are greatly appreciated by Headley Court.

As well as our monthly meetings, we occasionally go out to lunch and visit gardens. In February we had our third annual Pancake Party which has become such a popular local event that we cooked pancakes for 75 people in the Memorial Hall. At our AGM we had our own "Bake-off" competition when 25 of us baked scones which were then served to everyone as a cream tea. This summer there will be a visit to a garden in Wendover, a lunch at Biggles Restaurant and our summer Garden Party in a member's garden.

Our stall at the Christmas Mini Market in Hedgerley Memorial Hall was a great success. Members made craft items, decorations and delicious food for sale. At the Easter Mini Market, the main attractions were dozens of hand-knitted little chicks covering small Easter eggs and these proved very popular, especially with the children.

At our last Christmas party we devised our own entertainment and were joined by members of the Beeches Group of W.I.s – the Group consists of Stoke Poges & Wexham and Taplow & Hitchen. In October this year we are hosts to the Beeches Group and our speaker will be our local celebrity, Lucinda Lambton.

Jenny Harper-Jones

President

Chairman thanked everyone for coming and asked that they made sure they all signed the attendance sheet. Next Parish Council meeting was Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm