

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HEDGERLEY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017

Chairman indicated emergency exits

In attendance – Cllr Neil Coxhead (Chairman) Hedgerley Parish Council, Penny Harris (Clerk to the Council) and 27 attendees.

Chairman welcomed those present and said thank you for coming.

## **PRESENTATIONS -**

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

The biggest issue our community is facing at the present time is of course the threat of gravel and sand extraction at Slade Farm. There were over 200 objections to the proposed gravel pit. Working with the Hedgerley Village Fighting Fund and planning consultants AECOM, the Council submitted a substantial and robust response to the planning application. I went to speak at the BCC Development Control committee meeting last July, as did Tom Webb from the Hedgerley Village Fighting Fund, to state our opposition. The committee refused planning consent on the grounds that the applicant had failed to justify opening up a green field site in the Green Belt when there more than sufficient gravel reserves, contrary to current policy.

Portman Estate through their agent, DK Symes, has appealed against this decision. There will be a hearing led by the Planning Inspectorate, in June, with Bucks County Council on one side and the applicant on the other. The Parish Council is continuing to work with the HVFF and AECOM to support the county council's decision.

Hedgerley Parish Council, along with many other councils in South Bucks, has decided to create a Neighbourhood Plan – this is a community-led process which enables communities to help shape development in their local area; and to develop plans and policies that will become part of the planning framework for their area. SBDC has approved our application and the parish of Hedgerley has been designated as a Neighbourhood Area. A Steering Group has been formed to take on the bulk of the work in producing the plan – this group is what was the Community Plan group. The goal is to submit the Neighbourhood Plan to South Bucks District Council for approval in June next year.

We were all shocked to hear that an armed robbery in our local shop and Post Office on the afternoon of 7th November last year. Then there were two burglaries on the same day in Hedgerley village on 14th November. This was followed a week later by a break-in on Andrew Hill Lane. I wrote to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, to express our concerns and to request that Thames Valley Police be more proactive in neighbourhood policing in our area and engaging with our community. This was followed by a public meeting in the Youth

Club Hut with the PCSOs which covered a range of issues from cyber crime to littering and fly tipping.

You may have noticed that the Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) is back in service – this is intended as a reminder of the speed limit to motorists and also to gather speed related data to inform the Council when deciding on potential calming measures.

Once again Hedgerley took part in the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition. Judging took place in June and we were pleased to be awarded a certificate of merit in the Morris Cup. As always a big thank you to Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers and to all residents who helped get the village looking best-kept.

The Council installed a bench on the old green by the pond, in memory of the late Cllr Ted Evans. Thank you to Debbie Glover and family and friends for organising a nice little dedication in September led by Rev Graham Saunders.

We wait to what happens with any potential re-organisation of Bucks County Council into one or more Unitary authorities. The Council's view is that a north-south split into two unitary authorities could offer cost efficiencies whilst also keeping administration of services at a not too distant point.

The Council's financial situation continues to be sound, with adequate cash reserves ring-fenced for future projects. The Council has made a number of process changes to improve financial monitoring and reporting.

At present there are six members of the Council: myself, Derek Baker (Vice Chairmann), Maurice Ridgely; Marcus Orchard; Paul Miller and Thomas Broom who was co-opted last year.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Peter Hardy, our County Councillor who is stepping down in May, for his support over the past several years, especially with helping to oppose the Slade Farm development. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the Clerk, for their support throughout the year.

Neil Coxhead  
Chairman

### **Buckinghamshire County Council APM 2017**

With all that has been going on in national politics this past year it is difficult to focus on local issues, but I will try!

In Hedgerley the main event has been the application for gravel works in Slade Farm. This was turned down by the County Planning Committee but is currently subject to appeal. The application was considered in the context of the 2014 Minerals Plan which did not require use of the site. For that reason the application was in my view wholly without merit, and was rightly rejected. Of greater concern, however, is

that the site may be included in the next Minerals Plan currently under development and subject to consultation and then examination in public. I know the parish council will be active in defending the village's interest, and it is extremely important that we all support them in doing so.

Local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire has been in the news again, and two competing proposals for combining the county council and the districts are with the Secretary of State. The General Election will add further delay to the outcome, but I believe finally we will be getting unitary local government in Buckinghamshire. The election on May 4th will, after more than 125 years, therefore be our last county council election.

Financial pressures continue to be the main issue for all councils. Escalating costs for social care continue to squeeze resources for other purposes, in particular road maintenance. We absolutely need a national solution for funding social care, and I hope the new government will address this as a matter of urgency - but I am not optimistic. I am afraid we will have to put up with the potholes for a long time to come.

On a personal note, after 12 years as your county councillor I am stepping down. I have been a pleasure and a privilege to represent you, and I will continue to take a close interest in Hedgerley. I would like to thank Neil and his predecessors as parish council chairman for their support, and in particular the parish clerk Penny for all her help.

Peter Hardy

## **South Bucks District Council**

Working in Partnership with Chiltern District Council

South Bucks District Council continues to work in partnership with Chiltern District Council to promote efficiency and tremendous financial Savings. It also provides a strong collective voice between all public bodies across the Chiltern and South Bucks area. Their JOINT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY has 5 Themes. To provide the following Outcomes

‘Thriving Communities, Sustainable Environments, Safer Communities, Health and Well Being, Cohesive and Strong Communities’ The District Councils work closely with other partners, including the Police, County Council, Primary Care Trust, Fire Services, Chamber of Commerce, and Voluntary and Community Services

South Bucks and Chiltern support for Modernising Local Government

They have submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State for Communities for a 2 Tier Structure:

1 in the North, Aylesbury Vale, alongside the exiting Unitary of Milton Keynes 1 in the South Consisting of Wycombe DC, SBDC, and Chiltern DC, To Replace the Current 2 Tier Systems of County and District Council. The Secretary of State has yet to make a decision on the new proposal, which would provide more Accountability, Encourage more independent Local Decision making, saving Taxpayer's money. Enabling Ward Councillors to retain their Community Leadership Status.

### Government's Proposal to release Green Belt areas

There are uncertainties surrounding the White Paper, for the proposal to release Green Belt areas in exceptional circumstances, for construction of much needed homes. SBDC and Chiltern are exploring the 'No Green Belt Option, in order to protect Green Belt.

### Tackling Homelessness

The Councils are working very hard to find suitable temporary and emergency accommodation to reduce homelessness in the area.

### Council Tax Increases

Adult Social Care precept announced last year was initially capped at 2%. This has now been increased to 3% in any one year, but the total increase cannot exceed 6% over the next 3 years. This allows Councils to address the rising demand sooner and to plan for more sustainable strategies with partners in Health over the coming years. On this basis Council Tax was increased by 1.99% and in addition, the Social Care Precept at a further 3% will be implemented. The adjustments will equate to an overall Council Tax of 4.99%

### Local Issues

Fly Tipping in Andrew Hill continued to be an ongoing problem and 1 successful Prosecution was made in the last year. The local neighbourhood continues to be very vigilant and reports any problems to me immediately. SBDC tries to deal promptly with removal of all illegal waste.

Residents also complained about litter near the Service Station and around the Beaconsfield Roundabout. They also supported the Council by helping to remove the waste themselves, showing tremendous support. Law enforcement officers were also involved in the removal of noxious substances in ditches on Hedgerley Lane. Regular patrols are being carried out by the Police, especially after the armed burglary in the village last year, which caused a great deal of distress to parties affected.

### **Slade Farm**

SBDC remains committed to support the Parish Council and Hedgerley Village as they prepare to fight an appeal against Gravel Extraction

### Road Surfaces

Some work was carried out last year, but there remains a great deal of work to be done. Repairing Pot Holes is simply not the answer, because some of the repair work carried out in 2016 have been degraded by the frost. Capital funding has historically been focused on carriageway repairs, £15 million out of the allocated 20.5million 16/17 has been spent so far. In the last 4 years £120 million has been spent on resurfacing. Over the next 4 years, £60million will be spent on further resurfacing. In addition a further £15 million will be spent on our footways. Let us hope we can see more improvement in our roads in the year17/18

Finally I would like to thank the community for supporting me through the year. Please remain vigilant and continue to report to report any deviant activity in the neighbourhood.

C MARLENE LEWIS, SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

## St Mary's Church 2016

From the Church Warden

On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank our clergy, Graham and John for sustaining our spiritual life and leading our weekly services, and our organists, Rosemary and Tony for accompanying our singing. Thanks also to all the members who give their time and talents to actively support the services and the running of the church by acting as intercessors, readers, sidespeople, flower arrangers, choir, maintainers of the fabric and the grounds, and much much more. Special thanks to Donald and David Vincent for the Christmas tree and the daffodils for Mothering Sunday and to Rita Maycock for the grape hyacinths. Donald has now moved to Somerset with David and Anna and we will greatly miss him. Christmas in St Mary's will not be the same without the magnificent 'Shell House' tree.

During the year we have kept to the Sunday service pattern of a short communion service at 8am followed by a regular 11am service. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month the 11 am service is Family Praise, an informal service designed to appeal to families with young children and we are delighted to welcome both 'regular' and 'occasional' attenders. We try to engage the children through active participation in the service, reading a short passage or a prayer, or joining in a skit to illustrate the theme of the day.

The Remembrance Sunday service was once again really well supported by 1<sup>st</sup> Hedgerley Scouts and it was lovely to see a good number of the congregation parade with them from the Memorial Hall to the Church. We used the Remembrance service this year to dedicate the headstone for Christopher Bowden and were delighted to have a representative from the War Graves Commission attend.

Our patronal service in September was the occasion to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Graham's ordination. Bishop Alan attended and the weather kindly allowed a gathering in the churchyard after the service. A collection across the United Benefice provided funds for Graham and Helen to take a holiday in Israel.

Sincere thanks go to the Friends of St Mary's for their generous help maintaining the fabric of the church and also to the Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers who help look after the churchyard.

Ruth Brogden

**Thames Valley Police**, Lucy Price gave a brief run down on statistics in the TVP area.

### **HCV Committee Report 2016/2017**

Over the last year another 11 conservation working parties have taken place. Membership stands at 59, including 13 active members.

The Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils announced the 2016 Bucks Best Kept Village Competition results in July last year and we were heartened to learn that Hedgerley was awarded a certificate of merit in the Morris Cup, recognising the achievement of a high mark in the competition – 82 out of a possible 100. Comments included:

- 'The immediate impression of Hedgerley was a well maintained community,'
- 'The area around the shops was litter free and the raised flower beds made an attractive display as did the planters hanging on the ends of the bus shelter,'
- 'The fence round the pond had been painted and the pond looked well maintained,'
- 'The flowers on the White Horse pub were a picture ... but the concrete pub sign needs some TLC,'
- 'The notice boards were in good order as was the Best Kept Village sign,'

This was an encouraging result, but there is always room for improvement. There had been considerable effort during the year by volunteers and villagers to keep the village clean and tidy. Two Litter Blitzes were completed in May, with other litter clearing sessions organised by individuals or other residents of the village. The planters in front of the shops and on Hedgerley Hill were again weeded and planted to make a colourful display to greet visitors as they come into the village.

The most notable event during the year, from a visual point of view and the sheer effort involved was the creation of the dew pond at the top of the Holt. HCV and the scouts combined resources on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to prove that many hands can indeed make light work, and the new dew pond was produced, creating the perfect spot for water to gather, which it thankfully has done and has become a picturesque asset for the village.

Ragwort and thistles were then cleared in Church Meadow and once again a wonderful display of wild flowers was observed in high Summer.

In late Summer, Church Meadow was cut and arisings cleared by Burnham Beeches. We then welcomed the return of the British White cattle from Burnham Beeches to graze Church Meadow East and West and they are due to return again this year.

Over the Winter and into early Spring we have been continuing to clear holly in Kemsley Wood where many more bluebells are now reportedly to be seen, and clearing scrub, brambles, etc in Church Meadow, and tidying up part of Kiln Wood at the top of Coppice Way.

One of our members, Sarah Packer, has continued to lead the project to revitalise the planters outside the shops on Hedgerley Hill. This soft landscaping feature is now much improved. The results of this work have been seen and enjoyed by villagers again this Spring with a delightful display of spring bulbs and flowering shrubs.

Sarah also looks after the planter underneath the Hedgerley village sign on Hedgerley Hill and this provides a delightful feature on the approach to the village.

There will be two litter blitzes again this year, in preparation for the Best Kept Village Competition: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 10am and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm; meet by the village shop. All are welcome to join in!

I would like to end this report, by expressing my thanks to all the volunteers for their efforts over the past year, to the scouts for their great efforts in July, and to Hedgerley Parish Council, the Clerk, residents and village organisations for their moral and financial support, it is all much appreciated.

Paul Miller, Honorary Secretary, April 2017

# *Hedgerley Historical Society*

**Hedgerley Historical Society**

**Report to Annual Parish Meeting**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

## **Secretary's Report**

2016/17 has been another busy programme with an excellent range of talks including Tom Harper, Curator of Antiquarian Mapping at the British Library, giving us a sneak preview of the major Autumn 2016 Exhibition on Mapping of the 20thC and then providing a guided tour of the exhibition earlier this year. Commodore Gerry Thwaites gave us an insight on life aboard HMY Britannia

and Oliver Heal gave an account of the life and achievements of his Grandfather Sir Ambrose Heal who was influential in interior design 1897 - 1939.

We celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Landmark Trust with Caroline Stanford and Tony Eaton presented another thought provoking talk on what if Hitler had invaded which has been mirrored in a recent TV series.

Andy Fielder shared his extensive knowledge of Windsor Great Park, which I think for many members was one of the highlights of the year, and it is a pity that Andy has decided to give up his lecture programme otherwise I would have been keen to invite him back. In the New Year, Professor Nigel Henbest broadened our horizons considerably with the Secret Life of Space. We finished the year with two very popular talks - the ever popular local history speaker and writer, Julian Hunt, providing his unique slant on historical research with the Romance of the A413 and Nigel Smales describing the political landscape of the 1930's in his talk on Nancy Astor and the Cliveden Set.

In the Spring of 2016 we had a Study Day on famous gardeners with Letta Jones and an extensive and fascinating tour of the V & A Museum in the company of the charismatic Terry Bloxham. We had a Summer evening visit to the historic St Mary's church in Harefield and recently a visit to see some of the reserve collection of the Buckinghamshire Museum at their Resource Centre in Halton which gave us the opportunity to get up close to, and in some cases touch, some of the artefacts ranging from neolithic axes to modern toys. After her talk on the WI in 2015, Jane Robinson returned to present her enjoyable talk on Intrepid Women Travellers.

After several years of growth membership has stabilised from 222 in 2015/16 to the present total of 219. Attendances at our regular monthly meetings have averaged 70 compared with 62 in the 2015/16 season.

Our Hedgerley in WW1 Research Project has made steady progress over the past year and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) memorial stone erected for one of the 10 Hedgerley men (Private Christopher Bowden) was dedicated on Remembrance Sunday (almost 100 years after his death). We have managed to trace some living relatives of the 10 men and we hope to publish our findings in the Autumn of 2017.

John Lovelock

Secretary

24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## **TREES**

We only lost 2 trees in Kemsley Wood during storm "Doris". These were made safe by some members of HCV. A number of trees were felled by "Doris" at the north side of Kiln Wood blocking Kiln lane. Portman, the owners of this wood responded very quickly and cleared the road the same day.

The Council has an ongoing woodland inspection plan overseen by a Consultant. The contract for tree safety work has commenced and will be continued later this year. Trees are a great asset to the Village and I hope we will all enjoy them for years to come.

Maurice Ridgeley

## **HEDGERLEY FOOTPATHS**

Hedgerley has a range of varied and interesting footpaths for us all to enjoy.

We are informed that footpaths 13 & 14 will be closed at times during maintenance of the overhead electricity grid lines that cross Hedgerley Park. Footpath 13 is from the Village to under the M40 motorway. Footpath 14 joins 13 to Mount Hill Lane.

I am not aware of any current problems on our other footpaths, but if anyone finds a blocked path please report it to our Clerk.

Maurice Ridgeley

## **HEDGEHOGS**

Our parents/carers and their children still enjoy our meetings on a Thursday morning from 9.45 – 11.30 in the Scout Hut, although our numbers are small.

We have a varied range of toys, games and puzzles for the children to use, we have soft rugs for the little ones to sit on and plenty of room to move about, ride the small horse or push the shopping trolley or pram around.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are available for the adults and biscuits, squash/water for the children, entrance is free and open to all. We look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren) soon.

Mary Lane

## **HEDGERLEY MOTHERS UNION REPORT FOR 2017**

Hedgerley Mothers' Union has 19 members, sadly our friend Gladys died this year and she is greatly missed. We have had no new members this year.

In February we held our AGM. The Committee members are Mary Lane (Branch Leader), Helen Bones (Secretary), Pat Field (Treasurer), Pam Powell and Rita Sweeney. After our AGM. Mr Don Reed then spoke to us about Berkshire Blind for the 18-60 age group and the

activities they take part in. We were also able to try on various glasses which showed how your vision can be affected in different ways.

We had a visit from Mr Thomas Broom from the School Aid charity, we then visited their premises Hedgerley Green. We had a talk on the One Can Operation, and heard how the cans are collected, arranged in their warehouse prior to distribution. Our indoor garden meeting (due to the weather) was enjoyed by all and the cream tea was much appreciated. We welcomed a Mothers' Union Diocesan member to enlighten us on the 140 year history of the Mothers' Union.

We were joined by family and friends on a river trip from Boulters Lock going up river towards Marlow, enjoying the cream tea provided as well as the beautiful scenery. Our annual fund raising lunch was a happy occasion when friends and members enjoyed a 2 course buffet. In September we were in church for our annual service, led by The Revd Graham Saunders who enrolled Rosemary Gutteridge.

In November we welcomed a speaker from Rennie Grove who enlightened us about the work of the Iain Rennie trust, how it was formed, the area it covered and plans for the future. We ended the year as normal with our Christmas Party, with Graham leading us in the singing of carols.

As well as our monthly meetings, we provided refreshments for the family fun afternoon in the memorial hall for parents and children. Members attended the Lent Lunch in the Brian Jubb Hall, attended the Diocesan Lady Day Service at Gerrards Cross when The Bishop of Reading was our guest speaker, again we served tea/coffee after the service and prepared lunch for our guests. Members attended the Diocesan winter Meeting at Benson, the Deanery open meetings in April and October; took part in the Diocesan wave of prayer and several members visited Bristol Cathedral with other members from the Deanery; we ended the year with an Advent Carol Service at St Lawrence church in Upton.

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 continue to run the Hedgehog Toddler Group on a Thursday morning. We supplied Christmas cards for prisoners in the Diocese, also supplied blank Mothering Sunday cards for young offenders to send to their mothers.

We continue to send cards to those Baptised in our 3 churches over the past 4 years; our TLC (tea/coffee, laughter, chat) mornings continue to flourish and we have very interesting discussions as well as watching the wildlife in the garden.

We plan to continue to serve the United Benefice and families in the 2 parishes whenever we can and look forward to welcoming new members to our meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month at 2.00pm in the Memorial Hall and to our TLC meetings from 10 – 12 noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month at Ben-Venue, Gregory Road.

Mary Lane

## **HEDGERLEY MAGAZINE**

### **Annual Parish Meeting April 24, 2017**

At this point in time the final issue of Hedgerley Magazine has being published by Jean Medway-Gash. There are many people to thank, primarily the local distributors who trudge out rain or shine to deliver the copies to each local resident. The are:

Ron Stanmore, John Lovelock, Jackie Gilder, Ann Dawes, Nicola Morgan, David Mitchell  
Chris Woodwark, Kim Allen, Sue Livingston, Maurice Ridgley, Brian Ascough, Stuart Hodgson

Additionally thank you to all those contributors who have so generously shared information about their clubs/societies of interest to local residents.

The Magazine also has a FB Page and Website.

At this point my understanding is that Thomas Broom of the Parish Council is taking over the Magazine.

Good luck.

Jean Medway-Gash