

Spring 2023

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the Clarion



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From the Editor

The spring issue is always a hopeful one—the days are starting to lengthen, the spring flowers are doing their cheering thing and the year is ahead of us. As ever, there's lots going on in the village and plenty to get involved with if you can find some free time.

A couple of things to look out for—Walk the Five Ends—a sponsored walk to raise money to save Finings Wood is on 23 April. It's a lovely way to celebrate spring and appreciate the beautiful countryside that lies within our parish. Do sign up via the website—there's no obligation, but it does just give an idea of numbers.

If you've a bit more time on your hands, Riding for the Disabled is looking for volunteers to help with their sessions at Grove Farm (in Lane End on the road down to Sands). You don't need experience with horses, just enthusiasm and commitment.

There are baby and toddler groups and older person groups for much-needed company and chats. There are classes for fitness, mobility and for learning with us, there's the conservation group, sports facilities, Lane End Players, welcoming churches and thriving allotment communities. We're a welcoming and sociable lot in Lane End Parish—there's never any need to be lonely or bored—just get involved!

Katy Dunn, editor—email katyjdunn@btinternet.com

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Your Parish Council



laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Hayley Glasgow

Tel: 01494 437111

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

PO Box 1616

High Wycombe

Bucks HP12 9FS

Councillors

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Cllr Simeon Achurch

Cllr Mandy Dunning

Cllr Colin Harries

Cllr William Hunt

Cllr John Nicolson

Cllr Jane Osborn

Cllr Callum Stewart

Cllr Keith Wright

Cllr Donna Graham

Up-coming Meetings for 2022

Parish council meetings take place on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Monday 6 March—Lane End Sports Pavilion

Monday 3 April—Cadmore End Village Hall

Monday 2 May—Rackleys Chiltern Hills (Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with relevant information about what's going on in the Parish.

<https://www.facebook.com/LaneEndParishCouncil/>

Website

www.laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

You can read parish council minutes, find archive copies of The Clarion, check on local planning applications and there's even a footpaths map.

Allotments

We have three allotment sites: Chalky Field, Marlow Road. Bunkers, Church Road. Sandyfield, Marlow Road. Prices range from £21-40 per year, depending on size.

Planning Applications

The Planning Applications relevant to the Lane End Parish Council are

updated on the Parish Council's website

www.laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

Whilst the Parish Council does not have the power to determine applications its local knowledge is sought on each and every application.

Street lights

To report a faulty street light please note the column number, the road where the street light is situated and the nearest property and report to the Clerk - Hayley Glasgow 01494 437111 /

clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

If a street light is shining directly into your windows, you can apply to Scottish and Southern Electricity for a shield to be put on the light.

FixMyStreet.com

If you want to report anything to the council such as things which are broken, dirty, damaged or dumped, go to FixMyStreet.com. You can also report things that need fixing, cleaning or clearing, like graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or street lights that don't work.

All you have to do is type in a post-code and describe your problem.

Please get in touch with the parish clerk on 01494 437111 or email clerk@laneendparishcouncil.org.uk

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What LEPC has done for you

A snapshot of some of the work carried out by Lane End Parish Council and the parish clerk in the last three months

Tenancies agreed and invoiced for allotment plots

Contracted landscaper to trim the foliage back at the top pond

Reported fly-tipping behind the flats on Simmons Way

Arranged Christmas trees in the top pond and along the high street

Investigating the ownership of the Foundry (bottom) pond, in order to create a management plan for the ponds

Contracted Forester to carry out the annual tree safety inspection

Contacted Transport for Bucks regarding installing temporary speed tubes to assess drivers' speeds and the viability of a zebra crossing on The Row

Contracted street lighting repairs

Issued tender documents for the parish grass cutting contract

Repaired guttering and outside lighting at Lane End Playing Fields

Considered and commented on 15 planning applications

Find out about the Community Speedwatch scheme in Lane End and get involved.

The parish council has received a number of enquiries from parishioners concerned about the speed of vehicles driving through the village.

Buckinghamshire County Council runs a Community Speed Watch initiative where local communities work with their local police team to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

PC Ian Turner is attending the next parish council meeting on Monday 6 March at Lane End Sports Pavilion. You are invited to come along to listen to PC Turner explain how the project works and how you can get involved.

If your Clarion arrives too late to inform you about the meeting, contact lee.turnham@thamesvalley.police.uk who can give you more information and sign you up.

Hey!Broadband connects Village Hall for free

Report by Tanisha Latoya Davis

Residents of Lane End can now wave buffering goodbye – for good.

Full-fibre providers Hey! Broadband have now added the parish village to their network, meaning residents can enjoy the benefits of budget-friendly lightning-fast broadband.

As well as connecting the village to the fastest broadband in the country, Hey! Broadband have gone one step further and connected the Village Hall for free.

With regular events taking place at the Village Hall, WiFi is essential for music, showing films and live streamed events. For activities including the Lane End Players Show and the Flower Club, speedier internet will be one less thing to worry about.

Andrew, the Chairman on Lane End Village Hall said 'Hey!Broadband Limited have been most generous and helpful in arranging the Broadband connection to Lane End Village Hall and, on behalf of the Hall Committee, I would like to thank you most sincerely.

'As you know, we have a wide range

of activities taking place here and we are in the process of improving our premises and facilities. Your installation will be most valuable in bringing the Hall firmly into the twenty first century.'

Hey! Broadband are on a mission to connect the UK with lightning-fast WiFi. They believe that everyone should have access to a good internet connection, no matter their income or where they live.

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The lowdown

Footpath report

Report by Nigel & Anna Bacon

As we write this, the 'glorious' mud on the footpaths has now frozen, making walking a much easier and more pleasant experience! The start of the year can bring us some of our coldest days and it may not be everyone's favourite time to go walking but there are many things to enjoy.

We enjoyed the spring-flowering bulbs coming through, with their shoots nudging through leaves and grass. Snowdrops and winter aconites are usually the first to bloom. Not only flora, but fauna are also beginning to be seen more.

Could we politely remind you that footpaths are for walkers. Cyclists and horse riders should only use the bridleways, most of which are clearly marked. The countryside code can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code> and gives helpful advice on how to make sure walkers safely enjoy the outdoors.

Lane End Conservation Group and The Chiltern Society regularly help to keep footpaths clear.

If you come across any problems on the paths, please let us know on:

nbacon@doctors.org or annabacon@thamesinternet.com We can

report such to either the landowners or the Chiltern Society who will endeavour to clear the paths.

Our monitoring role requires us to walk all the Lane End footpaths twice a year. Some people have already adopted a footpath and inform us of any problems. If anyone else would like to do the same for one of their favourite paths, please let us know.

A footpath map is available on the Lane End Parish Council website:
[https://
www.laneendparishcouncil.org.uk/
footpaths.php](https://www.laneendparishcouncil.org.uk/footpaths.php)

We hope you continue to enjoy your walking in our beautiful countryside this spring.



Lane End Conservation Group

**Report by Pauline Cavell and
Margaret Adnitt**

I suspect I am not the only one hoping this new year of 2023 will be rather better than the one that has just passed, although there were some special times—first the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and later in the year at the time of the Queen's death when the country seemed to really be pulling together.

Well, our first Action Day of the year was one of the best attended for a while, and we were able to go off in many directions to ditch, clip, saw and weed.

Since then we have had some very wet conditions and some hard frosty times. The trees planted by the Conservation Group near the motorway have not come through unscathed. The trees that suffered most last summer were the hollies which got badly burned in the heat through their protective casings.

In another month the Harris Garden will be coming into its own, and shoots of bulbs are already coming through. (Pauline Cavell)



With spring just around the corner the natural world around us will soon be bursting into life. Even much maligned species such as nettles and brambles have value to the natural world. Stinging nettles are home to caterpillars, brambles bring autumn blackberries, while light bracken cover provides dappled shade and protection for woodland flowers.

But they can become a problem where they spread across footpaths and bridleways. The Conservation Group works hard to keep the paths clear but with more than 20 miles of footpaths within the Parish it is a vast task.

This is where anyone can help. If you are carrying a stick you can bash back overgrowing vegetation to keep a path clear – that would work well for nettles. Bracken can be bent back away from the path. Brambles



will probably need cutting back to the edge of a path. Any larger branches blocking a path can be reported to Clive Cruse at cruse-clive@aol.co.uk or 01494 708646.

If we can keep the paths clear then it will be easier for all of us to get out and enjoy the natural world at it's best. Don't forget your gardening gloves! (Margaret Adnitt)





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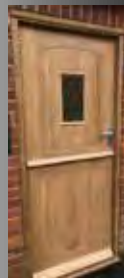
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THE LANE END LITTER MAGNETS



The following article appeared in the Chiltern Rangers Newsletter at the end of last year. We have received their permission to reprint it here.

The Lane End Litter Magnets have noticed an increase in the use of nitrous oxide and are now picking up more and more of the large cylinders.

The article, by Chiltern Rangers volunteer Colin Duncan, highlights the dangers of using this substance.

Linden Porter

Nitrous Oxide— it's no laughing matter

Using litter as a surrogate marker, it has been interesting to observe changes in society that have occurred over the four year period that I've been volunteering with Chiltern Rangers.

Prior to the Covid 19 Pandemic, face masks never appeared amongst the tonnes of litter we collect each year

from the woodlands and rivers Chiltern Rangers manage. On returning from lockdown, literally hundreds of face masks were collected and, as the disease has waned, so too has the number of face masks being recovered.

Another, and perhaps the most prominent of these surrogate markers, are nitrous oxide cartridges and

the 'recreational' use of the gas to induce euphoria and hallucinations.

Four years ago, we'd find just a few of the small, silver coloured cartridges. Three to four years ago, the

number of these small cartridges discarded as litter increased dramatically. Now, we are recovering large heavy weight canisters literally by the trolley load.

The UK has one of the highest uses of recreational nitrous oxide in the world. This dramatic rise in the so-called recreational use of nitrous



oxide is a growing public health concern.

Nitrous oxide is NOT a harmless gas. It is an anaesthetic. People who inhale the gas frequently or in high concentrations may experience dizziness and headache. Long term use results in vitamin B12 deficiency. This in turn can lead to irreversible nerve damage, including degeneration of the spinal cord, resulting in loss of sensation in the fingers and toes, and an inability to walk and speak properly.

If used medically as an anaesthetic, the supply of nitrous oxide would be strictly controlled. However, because

the gas is used in the catering industry as a propellant in the production of whipped cream, for example, it is not illegal to buy it. But many companies are selling it knowing full well that it will not be used for catering purposes.

The hope is that through tougher legislation and articles such as this, the word will get round that nitrous oxide is NOT harmless and its use will decline.

I look forward to the time that nitrous oxide cartridges and cylinders become a thing of the past and never appear in the litter we collect, in the same way that face masks have.



THE LANE END LITTER MAGNETS

Special Litter Pick
Clean up the Nation
Post Coronation

Join in the
Big Help Out Day
on Monday 8 May
Meet 9.30 am
Edmonds Shopping Centre Car Park

***Special Coronation
Lane End Litter Magnet Award Stickers
will be given to young participants***

Litter Picking Equipment provided

Emergency defibrillators

Report by Andrew MacTavish

NO AMBULANCE AVAILABLE?

We all know there are problems with the NHS. We've all heard about emergencies with people in trouble and no immediate help from the ambulances. We are all concerned. We are all taking care and looking out to help each other.

And what about a real emergency? A life-and-death one? What about the emergency defibrillators in the village. We ought to be sure we

know about them—where they are and what to do.

There are two: one outside the village hall and one outside Londis. They are green. They are simple to operate. If someone collapses, they may need instant help. The box tells you what to do:

1. Ring 999 on your phone.
2. Tell the operator the number



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which is on the green defibrillator

3. Stay on the phone
4. The operator will tell you a code number so you can unlock the box
5. Take the apparatus to the casualty and follow the instructions.

Don't worry, the equipment knows when it is right to shock the patient. It is not your decision to make.

Act fast! You may save someone's life. So make sure you know where the green boxes are (Londis and Lane End Village Hall) and make sure your family know. It could be **you** in trouble!.



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The u3a movement has been learning, staying active and having fun for 40 years - showcasing what it means to have a positive later life. The High Wycombe and District u3a is very active and welcoming new members.

Jay Blades (from the Repair Shop) receives an enthusiastic welcome at our tree planting ceremony

On 9 December, Jay Blades (pictured with Sylvia Chadwick, Chairman), planted a tree in the



Grounds of Wycombe Museum. Our thanks to the many members and visitors who attended. Jay spent at least an hour talking individually to those present, whilst we were all enjoying refreshments served by the museum.

New visits planned for our Local History Group.

Following on from the very successful visit to Haddenham Museum in late November, members have requested that we repeat the visit and extend the walking tour of Haddenham. We've provisionally booked this for April or May. But before then, we will be visiting the High Wycombe Magistrates Court in February with visits to another local attraction in March. New members are welcome.

Fancy a short holiday?

Our annual holiday is in May – and we're exploring Suffolk. We have a few vacancies for singles or couples. Do contact me urgently for the itinerary, dates and prices. gilliamph@aol.com

Exciting Plans for 2023 discussed

At our 'Convenors and New Members' Discussion Forum in January, we introduced ideas for new groups and reviewed the progress we had made on introducing Facebook and a new administration system.

We start work shortly on a new web site. We also plan to increase our local publicity keeping members and potential new members up to date with our activities. We are doing our best to help everyone make new friends, share our members'

knowledge and expertise with everyone. And have fun.

If you can help us, as a volunteer, in these areas, please contact me.
(gilliamph@aol.com)

You could be attending as many as 10 monthly group meetings a week and 10 Guest Speaker monthly meetings as well as special events for around £30 for a full year! That's value.

You can find out more via the facebook page. Just search High Wycombe & District u3a on Facebook. Or contact Paul Gilliam on gilliamph@aol.com

Holy Trinity Music Fund offers funding to young people from Lane End. It can help with buying a musical instrument, music tuition, joining a band or studying music at college.

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Pastor John's book published

Report by Arnold Page (Mr Tumnus!)

On the front cover of the March 2010 edition of *The Clarion* there was a picture of John Richards. John was about to retire after 29 years as the pastor of Elim Hope Church. During his ministry he oversaw the construction of the beautiful church building which is now opposite Lane End Primary School.

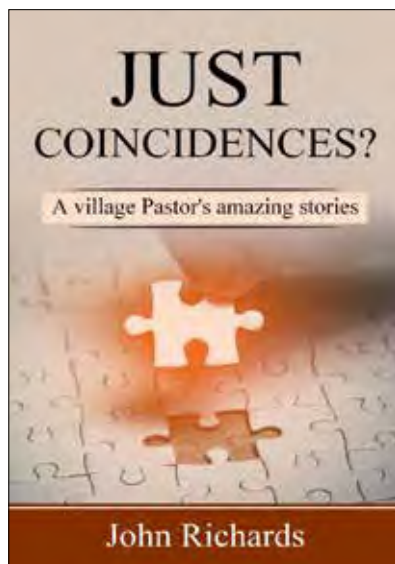
In the magazine, Katy Dunn reported a visit she made to one of several Oasis Projects that John had helped to set up to enable 16- to 25-year-olds to learn a trade. These included a car maintenance workshop; a plumbing, painting and decorating course; a literacy course; and a garden maintenance and landscaping course. At the end of her interview, Katy asked John what he was going to do once he retired. 'I'm going to write a book about the experiences of a village pastor,' he replied. 'Many miracles have happened in this village, and not enough people know about them!'

Well, John has now written his book, and it was published on 2 January this year. It is called *Just Coincidences? A village Pastor's amazing stories*. The 62-page book contains 29 remarkable short stories - one for

each year of his pastorate.

Just Coincidences? was edited by Arnold Page, who is a member of Elim Hope Church, and whom some of you might have met as Mr Tumnus in the Narnia event that the church staged just before last Christmas.

John's book is available as a paperback or Kindle Ebook from Amazon with the URL mybook.to/just_coincidences. The paperback edition may also be ordered from any bookshop, or directly from the publisher's website, booksforlife.today.



Playing Fields

Report by David Vance

Jamie has been running bingo every couple of weeks and now he's included bingo for children. It's becoming very popular. Both football teams are doing very well in their Sunday leagues, the first team are currently second in Division One with a couple of games in hand, and the reserves team are top of their Division Four league.

The club currently has four darts teams and they are all doing well again in the Wycombe & Amersham leagues.

We are in the planning stage for the Kings Coronation where we hope to

have a live group and a hog roast on 6 May. Please keep a lookout for final details.

We will be having another music festival on 3 June at the playing fields with different bands plus other activities throughout the day. We are hoping to get the wrestling back again, which was very popular. This year we will have a second bar outside to help with the queues and there will be different food vendors. If anyone would like to volunteer on the day please get in touch.

If anyone would like to hire the club for a function please email Anita lanendsports@yahoo.com

You can follow our Facebook page on Lane End Playing Fields/Sports Association. We put regular updates on it for all events coming up.



Lane End Players

Report by Ceri Nicolson

There's never a dull moment in the Lane End Players. We are busy, busy, busy. Back in February, we delivered the amazingly successful 'The Groom Has Cold Feet' a rip-roaring, yee-hawing western themed comedy-murder mystery, accompanied by a two-course supper which featured Texas Chilli – of course!

The show was such a success that tickets at our box-office sold out in 48 hours! Public demand was so great that we added an extra Thurs-

day evening which also sold out – we hope you all enjoyed the show and would gently remind those who were unable to come to get their tickets early next time to avoid disappointment.

Two weeks later we took the whole show down to Hughenden Gardens Village, a senior citizens residence in High Wycombe for another evening of entertainment. Congratulations to director Kath Gill and her talented cast for this wonderful production.

Our spring production is still in its casting stage so cannot be disclosed yet. By the time you read this all will be revealed and our box office will probably be open.



Dates for your diary: 21/22 April and 28/29 April.

We CAN reveal that our ever-popular variety summer show will be directed, written and produced by the multi-talented Tom Everitt (he's that handsome sheriff in the photo!) and this year will be titled: 'Summer Show's Greatest Hits' and will include all the best songs sketches and videos from the previous four summer shows that were themed around the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s – so something for everyone.

Tom says: 'If you love music this is the show for you with songs from the Beatles to Take That, Elvis to Queen. A nostalgic look-back at 40 years of great music and entertainment which will be a fun night out for all the family to enjoy.'

Dates for your diary: 13/14/15 July

And finally, something a little out of our usual activities – the Lane End Players are participating for the first time ever in the Maidenhead Drama Festival, which runs for a week at the end of March to beginning of April. We are entering the NODA prize-winning production of 'Two' by Jim Cartwright, which you may have seen in autumn 2021, directed by Ceri Nicolson and performed by Alison Hartnett and Ben Sansum

who both played a variety of different characters to depict life in a northern pub in the 1980s. If you'd like to come and support Lane End, our slot is on the evening of Saturday 1 April at Norden Farm Park in Maidenhead – details on the poster.

As always, the Lane End Players will be supporting the Village Fete Day on 17 June. Look out for us in the arena and visit us on our stand.

For more info and to book tickets go to:

Laneendplayers.com



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Finings Wood update

Report by Alastair Broom

Before my wife, Barbara and I moved to Lane End we lived in Cookham Dean and used to have the occasional drink and meal at The Jolly Farmer, opposite the Church. One day in 1987 a For Sale board went up announcing the brewery were selling the pub and rumours circulated that it was going to be converted into a restaurant – unheard of in 1987! We would lose our 'local'.

So a group of locals suggested buying it and within six months the deal was done and a sign went up by the front door which simply said:

The Jolly Farmer
Bought by the Village
for the Village

And the villagers have had control of the pub ever since with a Constitution that says it cannot be sold without 75% of the Shareholders (villagers) agreeing.

Follow **Lane End, Finings Wood Community Group**
on Facebook

Fast forward to 2023 and the sign is up at Finings Wood announcing that 63 acres of beautiful wood land is up for sale. The owner used to own woodland in Stokenchurch but has now sold that to company who then broke it up into smaller lots and sold them to several people who are now using the woods for their own purpose.

This is called Wood Lotting and control of the woods comes into the hands of numerous people with very little oversight.

head to
finingswood.org.uk

For more info and ways
to donate and support

A group in Lane End agreed that this cannot be allowed to happen to our local wood, and so formed the Finings Wood Community Group (FWCG). The aim is to buy the wood for Lane End village and manage it in a sustainable way so that it can be used for many generations to come. FWCG is made up of an exceptional team with all committee members living in the village.

But this cannot be done without everyone's help, so we are appealing to the Community at large to help by way of a donation of whatever size is affordable. Every penny helps. Leaflets have been prepared and will shortly be dropped through every house.

Donate to the purchase of
Finings Wood via Paypal at
paypal@finingswood.org.uk

Readers of the Clarion will have seen in recent editions the history of Finings Wood and the beauty of it. There are many old trees and an abundance of flora and wildlife. I walk through it as often as I can and not only do I get the exercise but it is a very relaxing place to spend free time.

Not only will the village own Finings Wood in perpetuity but we plan to considerably improve all aspects of the wood over the years so it really will merit the notice that will say:

Finings Wood

Bought by the Village for the Village

You will see elsewhere details of a fund raising walk we are organising for Sunday 23 April and we urge everyone to take part. The walk will go through beautiful parts of the area, including the 'Five Ends' and Finings Wood so it should make for

an enjoyable walk and hopefully help us reach our target.

Thank you to all those who have already kindly donated and to all others please do get in touch if you want more details or have questions to ask. Please email me at alastair@finingswood.org.uk

Sign up via the website
finingswood.org.uk to

Walk the Five Ends

Sponsored walk on 23 April to
raise money for Finings Wood



Photo by Allen Lewis

 Lane End Youth and
Community Centre

Report by Emma Savory

01494 883878

leycc@hotmail.co.uk

www.leycc.co.uk

This Spring at the Centre...

February - half-term playscheme is
back on **TUESDAY 14 FEB**,
10am - 3pm, £15 per child (Primary age children)

**DROP IN
AFTERNOON TEA**

THURSDAY 13 APRIL

12.30pm

£8.00 pp - booking essential



April - Easter Playscheme on
TUESDAY 4 & 11 APRIL

10am - 3pm,

(Primary age children)

Please add 'Lane End Youth &
Community Centre' on Facebook,

The Centre is here for the
community, so please support it.

LANE END FOOD HUB

CARE SHARE CONNECT

Every Friday 8.45am - 11am

EVERYONE welcome

Take what you need
or donate what you can

FREE refreshments

Having a party? - The Centre is so versatile and can be used for many different events/

Celebrations. Drop Emma an email at leycc@hotmail.co.uk to check availability and prices.



On at Lane End Youth and Community Centre:

Monday	Coffee morning 10am—12noon Gentle Tai Chi 2.30—3.30pm Bedouin Breathwork 7.30pm
Tuesday	Self Defence with Ultra Krav Maga 7pm
Wednesday	Junior Youth Club 6 – 8pm
Thursday	Zumba Gold 10.30-11.15am Drop-in lunch 12noon
Friday	Lane End Food Bank 8.45—11am
Saturday	Dog training with Bells and Whistles
Sunday	Self Defence with Ultra Krav Maga 9am

Report by Andrew MacTavish and Tom Willett

We did remarkably well with the Poppy Collection last November. It's some time ago now but this is the first opportunity to tell everyone that we totalled £6438.82 from our local area.

This includes £1047.84 from services held at Hambleden. Many thanks to all, especially our band of helpers who fill boxes, take them round and collect them, man stands and do all the other jobs.

We were a little short this year on door-to-door collectors and we are sorry to those who looked out for us

in vain. We could do with more people, so if you have an urge to join our little happy band, do ring High Wycombe 881948.

Remembrance Sunday was memorable. Now that it is held on Ditchfield Common outside the church, more people can see and become involved - the loudspeaker system, the drumhead altar, the hymn we can all sing. The 200 people of last year swelled to 300 this year. The impressive parade of our Scouts and Cubs, the representatives of the local Royal Logistics Corps Army Reserves, the Army Cadets from 17 Platoon (Booker) and the hospitality of our Elim Church with coffee and refreshments all made it a significant occasion.



A memorial plaque to the eight men from Piddington who fell during the two world wars was unveiled on Remembrance Sunday at Piddington Village Hall.

The plaque was unveiled by Seddon Parmoor, Chairman of the Lane End Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Piddington resident and local historian, Simon Cains has researched 'Piddington's Fallen' and all the residents who fought in both world wars, eight of whom gave their lives; five in World War One and three in the Second World War.

Much of Simon's research is available on the Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council website; the village hall also houses a Roll of Honour to the 53 residents of

Piddington who fought in The Great War.

The plaque was organised by Simon Cains, funded by the Parish Council and is now a permanent memorial to the eight men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The eight men who died were

World War I

- Ernest Harris, aged 24
- Garry Batting, aged 27
- Alec Hipgrave, aged 25
- Sidney Bates, aged 29
- Albert Johnson, aged 21

World War II

- Francis Barlow, aged 36
- Reginald Foley, aged 21
- Arthur Smith, aged 24



✧ Include your
events here.

Email details to:
katyjdunn@btinternet.com

What's On?

To include your event or group meeting (free) email: katyjdunn@btinternet.com
Please also be sure to inform me of any changes on katyjdunn@btinternet.com

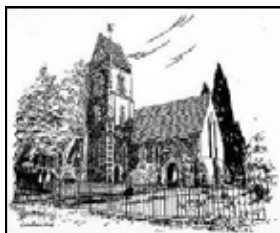
✧ Church Services

Sundays 10.30am Elim Hope
Church

Sundays 9.15am Holy Trinity
church, Lane End

Sunday 11am St Mary le Moor
church, Cadmore End

Mothering Sunday 19 March
9.15am. Short half hour Communion
Service followed at 10am with a
Family Service.



✧ Lent lunch

Saturday 25 March 12noon, Lent
Lunch in Lane End village Hall. Just
turn up, donation to Air Ambulance
appreciated.

✧ Church fundraiser quiz

Friday 19 May Lane End Village
Hall 7.30 for 7.45 start. £10, two-
course Supper. Bring Your Own
Drinks and Glasses. Contact Sheila
Keatinge on 01494 882437 or
sheila.keatinge@gmail.com

✧ Village tidy

First Saturday of every month—The

Lane End Conservation Group meets in the village (doctor's) car park at 10am. No previous experience necessary, everyone welcome, young and old. Litter-pickers also meet here at the same time and place.

Tai Chi

Monday 2.30-3.30 Gentle Tai Chi
LEYCC Community Centre.

Tuesday 2pm in Lane End Village Hall, £6 per session. Contact Dr Sue Stuart, sastuart@globalnet.co.uk
01494 532088

Coffee morning

Mondays 10am – 12noon for coffee and homemade cakes by Charmain and Thursday 12noon for drop-in lunch. LEYCC Community Centre.
Tel 883878

Junior youth club

Wednesdays 6-8.30pm at LEYCC Community Centre.

Children's role play

Tuesdays 9.30-10.30am and 11-12noon. Role play sessions from birth to 10 years old. £6 per child, £4 per sibling, £3 under 1s. More info at rolecity.co.uk / sc@rolecity.co.uk

Self defence classes

Self defence classes are Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings with Ultra Krav Maga at the Community

Centre. Contact Marc on
07774 633209
email raretalent@me.com

Bedouin Breathwork

7.30pm LEYCC Community Centre

Dog training

Saturday mornings at the Community Centre 9am-12noon.

Bellsandwhistlesbehaviour.co.uk

Little Fishes baby group

Baby and toddler group for children aged 0-4 years and their parent/ carer at Elim Church Lane End every Wednesday morning in term time. 9-11am. Free, with coffee and snack provided, songs, bible crafts, toys and stories.

Lane End Players

Maidenhead drama festival 1 April
Norden Farm Park

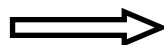
Spring Show 21/22 and 28/29 April
at Lane End Village Hall

Summer Variety Show 13/14/15 July

Book via the website:
laneendplayers.com

Zumba Gold

Low-impact classes, on Thursdays 10.30am-11.15am in Lane End Youth and Community Centre. £6 or buy 5 classes and get 6th class free.



Contact Jennifer, 07595869012,
jennifer.morais.zumba@outlook.com

Walk the Five Ends

Sponsored walk to save Finings Wood. Sunday 23 April. Start between 10.30 and 12noon at the village hall in Lane End. Sign up via the website finingswood.org.uk or email fundraising@finingswood.org.uk

Forget me knot café

Last Tuesday of every month 2-4pm, Ridley Manor. Helping people and families living with dementia. There'll be a discussion topic, guest speaker or presentation as well as light refreshments each session. Come along for a chat and meet with others who understand what it means to live or care for someone with memory loss.

Language classes

'Français à pied' 11-12 on the first Friday of the month. A walk around

the village to practise your spoken French. We speak (almost!) exclusively in French during this session as we stroll.

German 'Kaffeeklatsch': 12-1pm on the Second Tuesday of the month. Coffee and chat usually about a social interest or a current affair issue.

Contact FlexiTalk on 07974 738266 or head to www.flexitalklanguages.webs.com for details.

Socatots

Football for ages 1-4 in Lane End village hall Thursdays 9.30-10.10 am. Tel 07545 148201

Lane End food bank

Every Friday 8.45-11am. Everyone welcome, take what you need or donate what you can. LEYCC Community Centre

Easter playscheme

4 and 11 April 10am-3pm. LEYCC Community Centre.

Home library service

If you are a full-time unpaid carer or find it difficult to visit your local library due to age, poor mobility or health we can arrange for a volunteer to visit you with books, audiobooks or large print on a regular basis.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, please get in touch by phone on **01494 475573** or by email at: homelibraryservice@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Lane End fête

By Alison Hartnett



This year Lane End Village Fete & Dog Show - also known as Village Day - will be held on Saturday 17 June 12 - 4pm on the Green in front of Holy Trinity Church in Lane End. Put the date in your diaries now!

In 2022 the village day was a great success, despite its absence since 2019, all the challenges of Covid and only having a 16-week window to organise it. The fete and dog show managed to raise a whopping £2500 with all the proceeds going towards the upkeep of Lane End Village Hall.

For the first time in 2022, we had live music which went down so well, from local artists The Sepia Tone Folk Collective and also Dave Dunbar. Some of our grand draw prizes were phenomenal! The dog show was very well attended and it warmed my heart to see so many people attend and have such a lovely time.

Planning for this year's event is about to begin and the one thing that

is needed more than most is people to run the stalls to keep everyone entertained. **We are also looking for businesses and food vendors who would like a stall.**

If you would like to get involved or could spare some time on the day, please contact the organiser Alison Hartnett on 07919 104048 email at LEVFADS@outlook.com or send a message through our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Facebook - Lane End Village Fete and Dog Show

Instagram - [lane_end_village_fete](#)

Lane End Village Hall also has its own Facebook page and a website where you will find details about its facilities and hire:

laneendvillagehall.uk

The fete team cannot wait to get going and would welcome any support that could be offered - and hope for some great weather!

Good news and not so much

First, some good news: the RSPB reports that numbers of guillemots on Lundy Island increased five-fold between 2004 and 2021, when the removal of non-native rats began. Razorbills are also on the rise. Heathland restoration at the RSPB's Arne reserve in Wales has brought back dartford warblers from the brink and in Shetland, red-necked phalarope reached a record high. With the will, declines can be reversed.

It was disappointing, therefore, to hear our Government outline plans in September to scrap environmental laws which defend nature. They proposed Investment Zones across England, where planning simplifications would apply, encouraging development with relaxed environmental protections. Needless to say, the environmental lobby and charities are up in arms, and in the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor rowed back and announced a rethink, but there will still be a battle to be fought.

Watching the buzzards and red kites soar and wheel above Golden Guff and Finings Wood, whilst pheasants and red-legged partridges trot across the field on daily foraging trips, we are reminded how much we have to lose. Gazing out of the window at busy bird-feeders in the garden each day provides pleasure and a sense of satisfaction that we are not just abandoning nature.

What can be more lovely than a covey of long-tailed tits twittering away in flashes of black, white and pink as they pass through your garden? Take a moment to enjoy this simple pleasure.



Lane End resident Jerry Gray is author of a darkly humorous satirical novel set in the recruitment industry. He's also a keen birdwatcher.



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Lane End in the Ice Age

By Richard Hicks

The landscape is like an encyclopaedia and if you know how to read it, it tells a tale of times gone by.

Anyone driving down the Marlow road towards the Wycombe Airpark will be aware of the two rollercoaster-like valleys traversing the road, the last one locally called Piccadilly Bends.

Both are deep and steep-sided and obviously formed by a stream of water, but where is the stream?

Tracing the paths of these and other similar dry valleys on a map, (see map opposite) an interesting pattern becomes clear. It is apparent that the heads of these valleys originate on the ridge of high land between the two highest points in Lane End: Finings Wood and Widdenton Park Wood. This ridge broadly follows the High Street sloping away to the north and south. Both high points are around 200m above sea level.

Tracing each of these valleys downstream shows they join each other into three main channels. Two into the Thames via the Hambleden val-

ley and Mundaydean lane and the third via Sands into the Wye valley.

In order to understand how these valleys formed, you need to look back over the past million years to the succession of Ice Ages which have affected the Chilterns.

The last Ice Age finished 12,000 years ago and nearest glaciers were 150 miles to the north. But some of the previous ones had glaciers making it all the way to Ivinghoe Beacon.

With uninterrupted ice all the way to Scandinavia, the Chilterns were very different to today, with a freezing, windswept, treeless tundra landscape and permafrost making the porous chalk impermeable to water.

Temperatures were on average 5°C lower than today and although glaciers never formed locally it is likely that there were small ice fields present on the ridges and highest hills including in Lane End itself.

These ice fields accumulated and melted repeatedly, releasing vast torrents of melt water in a very short space of time. As the water could not

drain into the chalk because of the permafrost, it flowed overland, gouging out the chalk and forming deep channels across the landscape.

These valleys are also asymmetrical with steeper, more eroded west and south facing slopes probably as a result of the afternoon sun thawing and refreezing the icy slopes.

The road north west to Stokenchurch follows a ridge of the hills with dry valleys running on either side taking away the accumulated snow melt. The landscape of the Chilterns is full of these ancient, now dry, meltwater channels

You can follow one of these meltwater valleys as many have paths along the base. My favourite starts in Marlow and after walking up

Mundaydean road you come onto a footpath. The valley opens up before Blueys farm and the channel loops round cutting into the hillside under the Frieth road leaving an almost vertical slope. Further on the path leads to Moorend Common and up to Church Lane and into Lane End.

Next time you walk over Ditchfield common, turn, and with the church behind you, look at the track to Wycombe Court between the allotments and the row of cottages next to Church road. Then imagine a raging torrent flowing from the ice on the hill in Finings wood down through the gap all the way to the Thames in Marlow. Very different from today's peaceful Chiltern village.





Volunteer! Riding for the disabled

Contact Viv on 07843 227025 maidensgroverda@gmail.com

Do you like being around horses? Or have no experience with horses, but would like to help people who have physical or learning difficulties? Volunteering locally to help Riding for the Disabled (rda.org) could be the thing that brings that extra 'feel-good factor' to your life.

Maidensgrove RDA is part of a national charity that offers therapeutic riding sessions for children and adults who have mild to moderate disabilities. These could be autism, Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy or visual or hearing impairments.

The sessions involve learning basic riding, but also a lot of occupational therapy to help with mobility and balance. It also helps the riders a lot with self-confidence and communication skills.

The sessions take place at The Grove Riding School in Lane End and are run by RDA coaches. There are up to six riders in each session and each rider can need two side walkers as well as someone leading the pony—which means quite a lot of volunteers!

The team currently has more than 50 volunteers who have a wealth of experience in supporting children and adults with special needs. Some are experienced around horses, but many have no horse experience. All you really need is enthusiasm and commitment.

Lessons take place during school hours and in term time on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

To find out more please call Viv on 078943 227025 or email maidensgroverda@gmail.com





WALK THE FIVE ENDS SUNDAY 23 APRIL

LANE END, BOLTER END, MOOR END,
WHEELER END AND CADMORE END

SPONSORED WALK TO SAVE FININGS WOOD

Bring your friends and join us for a
spring walk amongst the bluebells and
blossom of our beautiful home

- Start between 10.30-12 Sunday morning, 23 April from Lane End Village Hall
- Approx 11km (2.5hrs) or 2km family walk
- Minimum suggested donation £20 per adult
- Free tea and biscuits at the end in the village hall, plus hot bbq treats for sale
- Please sign up so we know you're coming



SIGN UP VIA
THE WEBSITE

finingswood.org.uk

email:
fundraising@finingswood.org.uk



As I write these few words, it is snowing, which is only the second time this has happened since Beryl and I moved to France in 2002! Everyone has now recovered from Christmas and New Year and looking forward to events in 2023.

The folks on Oléron have just held a week of music and lectures involving the unique history and music of Georg Friederich Handel. This event was quite surprising to me as his reputation was largely forged in England rather than France.

Businesses on the island are already worrying about the lack of seasonal workers for the forthcoming summer. However, the Department of Charente Maritime is holding a number of recruiting events to help all businesses to find their employees for the summer.

Simultaneously, St Pierre is funding a review into all travel options on the island involving cycles, buses and ferries to facilitate better connectivity with La Rochelle, Royan and Rochefort.

On 13 December, the Oléronaise

enjoyed a grand firework display postponed from 13 July because of the hot weather fire restrictions during the summer. So it was an unusual event celebrating Bastille Day in December. The display was held at the harbour of La Cotinière and a great evening was enjoyed by all.

For Beryl and I, it was wonderful to meet all the Lane Enders who had travelled to be at this year's St Pierre Christmas Market on Saturday 10 December. The picture shows the oyster hut suitably decorated for sale of all things 'So British'.

Apparently all the British produce was sold out by mid-afternoon Saturday; well done everyone. Furthermore, it was great to hear that liaison was being made with the Mayor of St Pierre with the idea of renovating and re-using the red telephone box donated by Lane End to St Pierre some 15 years ago; how time flies!

Let us all hope that 2023 will bring better news and outcomes than in 2022. How about making Oléron your holiday destination this year?

Lane End in Oléron

By Tom Willett

For obvious reasons, we have had little or no twinning activity with our friends in St Pierre d'Oleron over the last few years - so it was great to receive an invitation to visit their Christmas Market in December.

We spent a very enjoyable weekend in St Pierre; Lane End Twinning had a stall in the Christmas Market selling local produce from our area and

as ever we were warmly welcomed by our French twins.

It was also a pleasure to meet up with Terry and Beryl Denet – formerly of this parish and a regular contributor to The Clarion – now residents in Charente, SW France.

We really hope that this visit will mark a fresh start to our twinning relationship with the French and there are plans for the mayor of St Pierre to visit in June.

Vive Le Jumelage.

Photo – Lane End Twinning stall at the Marche de Noel in St Pierre d'Oleron



Milk Men

with Will Lacey 



Wildlife on the farm

In the interest of writing about something you want to know about, I asked for suggestions on our Facebook page. I got a good selection of responses, but nature and wildlife was the top request. I was really pleased with this, as it is something we are very passionate about and happy to tell you about what we do and see.

Our family has always farmed in a manner that supports growing crops and raising animals at the same time as supporting the natural environment and wildlife. This has not always been the most fashionable thing to do, but we have stuck with it as we want to manage our land in a way that supports farming and the environment for generations to come. Today, we are part of a number of different projects that are

looking specifically at the habitats we have across our farm, and managing them to support wildlife from insects and worms, all the way up the food chain to deer, foxes and birds of prey.



The food chain is key. If you remember from your biology lessons at school, the food chain is the basis for a healthy wildlife balance. The idea is the animals at the bottom of the food chain (primary producers and primary consumers) need to be the largest population, and

these plants and animals feed the animals above, so as you go up the food chain the numbers of animals decrease. It must be in balance or it will have a negative impact on the chain below.

Primary producers are our plants that grow and feed a whole range of

animals further up the chain. We have a good variation of primary producers as we farm a mixed landscape. Not everywhere in the country is so fortunate to have such a patchwork of woods, crops, hedges and grasslands, and this in turn supports a wider range of animals.

Primary consumers or herbivores are the 'vegetarians' of the animal world. They graze only plants and on our farm cover things like song birds, mice and voles, squirrels, rabbits and deer. The population of song birds is an area we have paid particular attention to. We have planted crops specifically to feed the birds over winter, when other feed sources are low. As well as supplementary feeding 1000kg of wild bird seed mix each winter to help bridge

the hunger gap. Every spring we work with a local bird watching group to record what species we have on the farm and have identified 43 different species so far. This includes many rare birds including yellowhammers, corn buntings, bramblings, lapwings (pictured on the opposite page) and barn owl.

Next in the pyramid are the secondary consumers or omnivores. They can eat plant or animals, and include animals like frogs, grass snakes, woodpeckers and spiders. What is unique about secondary consumers is that they can sometimes also be considered primary or tertiary consumers depending on the environment. For example, when squirrels eat nuts and fruits, it is a primary consumer. If a squirrel



switches to eating insects or baby birds, then it is considered a secondary consumer.

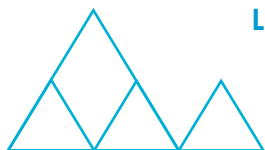
Finally, at the top of the pyramid are the predators; foxes, badgers, and birds of prey. They eat the primary and secondary consumers, but have no natural predator other than man. We regularly see foxes on the farm, we have a few sightings of badgers. But most impressively the past year we have seen seven different birds of prey (red kites, buzzards, kestrels, sparrow hawk, hobby, barn owl, tawny owl and a peregrine falcon). I think it's great to see such a variation across the farm.

The large numbers of predators are a slight concern for particularly for

our small mammals and ground nesting birds, as they are being over-predated so their numbers are low (this is a national problem). This goes to show the food chain must be balanced. Predator numbers are high for a number of reasons. In the past man would have hunted or collected eggs of birds of prey. Natural food sources were scarcer (today many of them survive off road kill) and reintroduction programs have been hugely successful for the red kites, but may have a negative impact on the species below them in the chain.

To conclude, we have a fantastic variation of wildlife right on our doorstep. Sometime you just have to know where to look to see it!

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Bliss banana pancakes

Martha's baking column

By Martha Foster-Will

Hello! I thought that I could share with you a delicious breakfast recipe that is quick to make. You can modify it to your liking or just keep it the same as it is. Though you do need to be careful, because if you change it too much, it may not cook properly!

Ingredients:

2 free-range eggs

1 ripe banana

20g butter

1 ½ heaped dessert spoons plain flour

Optional- 1 tsp chia seeds

Method:

1. First, mash the bananas until they are smooth, whisk the eggs in a bowl, add in the banana and use an electric whisk to really smooth out the mixture.
2. Add 5g of butter, in little cubes, along with the flour and the chia seeds, if liked, and mix it all together, making sure that there are no lumps.
3. Heat your frying pan and place roughly 5g of butter in there, allowing it to melt and warm up (make sure that you do not burn it).
4. When you spoon in your mixture, ensure that the size of your pancake is small enough to flip over with your fish slice, when it comes to it.
5. When your pancake is cooked well, depending on how crispy you like it, get your fish slice underneath it and flip it over onto the other side.
6. Making sure that your pancakes are cooked to your liking, take them off the hob and put them on a plate.
7. The toppings are the fun bit. I like: honey, slices of banana, peanut butter or chocolate chips. Though, I am sure that you have some scrumptious ideas as well. Now you are free to eat your pancakes. Bon appetit!



Schools



What an incredibly wet start to the year – but we haven't let it dampen our spirits!

In nursery we have been learning all about animals that enjoy a few puddles. We've been reading *Pig in the Pond* and learning that pigs cool down by rolling in mud or jumping in ponds. The children have learned the different parts of a pig and how they are different to other animals. They've also discovered that pigs live in sties, exploring further, through constructing their own using junk modelling and building blocks. Inspired by pigs in mud, they've been enjoying the sensory experience of messy play.

We are proud to have become a Helicopter Stories Hub school, one of very few in the county and we share expertise and experience with other schools. Helicopter Stories is an accessible, child-centred approach to education for the early years. It is rooted in storytelling and

develops children's confidence, communication and vocabulary. We have been delighted with the progress we have seen in our very youngest children.

Nursery parents have been excited by the introduction of our new learning journey app. Now they are able to see what their children have been doing at nursery and share with us the amazing learning and achievements going on at home.

Over the past few years we have developed our focus on reading throughout the school – aiming to develop a real love of reading in all of our children. This year, we will be building on our already successful approach to phonics and reading fluency support by introducing Master Readers which focuses on the teaching of vocabulary and comprehension providing a consistent approach throughout Key Stages 1 and 2 with the aim of accelerating the progress of all children, no matter what their starting point.

If you are considering schools or nurseries for your child please call us to arrange a visit. Lane End is a lovely school with fantastic teachers and set in approximately three acres of open space.

Please call the office on 01494 881169 or email us at office@laneendprimary.co.uk and our children would be delighted to show you around.

Scouts



Lane End Scouts
(est 1909)
Registered Charity
308008

Many people are aware of Scouts and their place as the largest youth organisation in the world with over 31 million members across 188 countries.

In the UK our annual census figures (April 2022) show a youth membership of 420,000. This represents a growth in the UK membership since 2021 of 16%, the largest growth since the Second World War. There are also currently 90,000 young people on waiting lists for Scouts across the UK.

The Scouts are supported by 140,000 adult volunteers in a number of roles, all of whom follow a prescribed training regime, incorporating not only activities and program ideas, but mandatory sessions covering safeguarding, safety and first aid. All adults have an enhanced DBS carried out prior to involvement and also attend an appointments committee to determine suitability, before their leadership warrant is finalised.

Scouting began in 1907 and was founded by Robert Baden-Powell, a lieutenant-general in the British Army, serving from 1876 until 1902 in India and Africa.

In 1899, during the Second Boer War in South Africa, Baden-Powell successfully defended the town of Mafeking in a siege that lasted seven months. Baden-Powell's troops were vastly outnumbered so he used local boys to administer first aid, carry messages and run errands.

On returning to the UK, Baden-Powell realised that boys at home could benefit from similar sorts of activities to the boys at Mafeking. These activities went on to form the basis of the Scouting Movement.

Scouting in Lane End began in 1909 and has run in various locations for the last 114 years, before we finally found our home in the old village school on Wheeler End Common. A building we own, have invested in heavily, and rent to a private day care nursery which allows us the funding to keep this facility running for the young people in our care. In fact in 2022 we spent £90,000 refurbishing the building, making it one of the best equipped Scout HQs in the county and beyond.

We at Lane End sit in the Scouting County of Buckinghamshire, which is further broken down into Districts, us being part of Chiltern Vale district

which consists of 10 Groups from Brill in the North of the district to us in the South, with Stokenchurch, Radnage and Princess Risborough and a few others in-between.

We run three sections within the Group:

Beaver Scouts, which run as a Colony, in which the young people work together in groups known as Lodges. (age 6 – 8 years)

Cubs, previously known as Wolf Cubs, are a pack as a whole and work together in groups known as Sixes. Age 8 – 10 ½ years)

Scouts are known as a Troop and work together in groups known as Patrols. (Age 10 ½ - 14 years)

Scouts then have the opportunity to move across to a District Explorer Scout Section (ages 14 – 18 Years) and after that can join the Scout Network (ages 18 – 25 years) or as many do, recycle back to the Group to become leaders themselves.

We have a vibrant Group, with all sections well populated and a healthy waiting list. Our Leader team is long serving, focused and skilled with 14 uniformed leaders who are dedicated to delivering a well-balanced and challenging program for your young people.

We run a small but effective Executive Team, that manages the development of the Group, with a Chair,

Treasurer, and committee members. We work under the guidance of the Scout Association and as an independent registered charity adhere to the financial regulations and returns required.

A common Myth debunked.

'How much do you get paid as a Scout Leader?'

Scout Leaders are volunteers, we receive no payment or benefit in kind for our involvement, many of us are parents, have full-time jobs and busy households to run. The immense satisfaction of watching young people develop skills for life is a reward unmeasurable with money.

At our AGM in January, several of our team were presented with Chief Scouts Commendation for good service awards and 10 year service awards.



We are lucky to have a long-term team of adult volunteers and all contribute a great deal to the success of our group. I am proud of each and every one of them.

On the land

with Bryan Edgley 



Winter is nearing its end and moving into spring. For arable farms, this generally starts during the second week of March, for that is the time when in most years the land will have become sufficiently dry to start field work after winter.

The cereal crops we grow are all seeded either in autumn, from mid-September up to the end of October, or the following spring, starting around this second week of March. Seeding of cereal crops is never carried out in the coldest winter months, since soil temperatures would be too low for the seeds to germinate, and generally the fields would be too wet

to take the weight of a tractor with the seed drill without causing over-compaction. The ideal seedbed for germination of the new seeds is when it's dry enough to walk over it wearing shoes – if the soil is so wet that gumboots are essential footwear, then almost certainly a tractor in those conditions would leave deep ruts, and the seed drill would probably clog up.

It always seems surprising that autumn sown crops, growing for ten or eleven months, will ripen ready for harvesting within a few days of spring sown crops, which will only

have been growing for around seven months, but they will both be ready for the combine harvester at the end of July or during August.

Local Farmer Discussion of Defra Farm Policy

We had a useful meeting here at Kensham Farm on 3 February with Steve Baker, our



Member of Parliament for the Wycombe Constituency. The main subject discussed was food security – the encouragement for we farmers to grow food, rather than the present Defra policy which appears to regard environmental objectives as being more important than growing food.

Steve acknowledged the point that I have often made, that we farmers should be encouraged to grow food, rather than letting our fields be used for other purposes. Then this good quality home grown farm produce will be available in the shops for British folk to buy, even when Russia has invaded the Ukraine, or other world events that might happen in the future, to curtail supplies of food from overseas.

The Chilterns Conservation Board

All readers of *The Clarion* will already know that in these villages served by the Lane End Parish Council, The Chilterns Conservation

Board (CCB) is responsible for the conservation of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and its landscape and local environment. To assist funding this work, the CCB has received significant funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund for projects designed to further the landscape and rural areas of the Chiltern Hills. This funding is now administered through the 'Chalk Cherries and Chairs' scheme. This is a five-year scheme to address current challenges faced by the Central Chilterns, such as construction of HS2 slightly north of our immediate area, ancient woodlands being sold off, wildlife habitats fragmenting through development, and hedgerows disappearing.

The Central Chilterns Farmer Cluster

The part we farmers are taking as a part of the Chalk Cherries and Chairs scheme has been through the Central Chilterns Farmer Cluster,



which had first been formed in 2018 to assist farmers to understand wildlife on their farms and how best to look after it. We at Kensham Farm, and the Lacey family at Bolter End Farm are among the 18 farmer members, and between us 18 farmers we look after 6,500 hectares (nearly 16,000 acres) of the farmed land in the area between Ibstone at the West, Beaconsfield at the East, and Askett and Great Missenden towards the North.

The Farmer Cluster group have been able to access the FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) scheme to secure funding for hedge coppicing and planting. It is through this scheme that we had a contractor here in January at Kensham Farm to carry out the work of coppicing two of our original hedges,

both of which were already well established in 1955 when, with my dear late wife Alison, we started farming the original 102 acres of Kensham Farm. Over the years we have trimmed these hedges regularly, but they have lost vigour and become leggy (that is with gaps at the bottom), as well as looking weak, but there are good hedgerow trees in both hedges.

The photo below shows the contractor's 360 degree excavator, fitted with a powerful grab and shear head, at work on the hedge between our Malin Hill and Kensham End fields. It will be seen how all the good trees are being left as they are, but the hedge itself is being sheared off about twelve inches above ground level.



New hedging plants will be planted before growth restarts this spring to fill any bare gaps in the hedge, and it is hoped that the stumps of the sheared off hedge plants will grow up vigorously, in the same way that pruning a hybrid tea rose bush in the winter leads to vigorous new growth in the spring. These new shoots should grow at similar speed as the replacement hedge plants, so that after a few years it will have been reinvigorated as a dense traditional Chilterns hedge.

The Edgley family has farmed at Kensham Farm, Cadmore End since 1955

kenshamfarms.com

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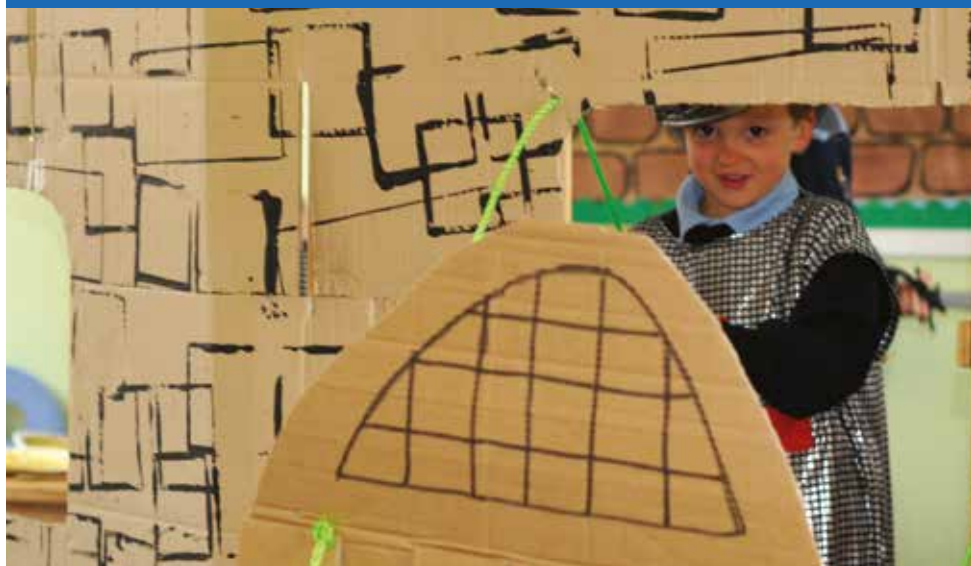
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Ask the: plumber

with Bill Blake 



'Bill – my toilet is leaking. Can you help?'

Generally speaking, my answer is 'yes, no problem'. On this occasion, however, the toilet in question was slightly different in that it was a built-in toilet. Built-in toilets obviously are not uncommon – you may have one yourself – but this particular one was behind floor-to-ceiling tiling with no access to anything.

Sometimes, you can access some of the parts through the flush plate, but this didn't have even one of those, just a flush button that was about 1.5" across, set into the tiles. There was no way to find out what was leaking without destroying half the wall. What should have been a simple fix took over eight hours.

Please be wary of building things in. They will always need mending at some point.

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It's a fact that if we feed our plants, they grow bigger, produce more blooms, and generally perform better, but fertilisers are pricey. I got shocked the other day when visiting our local garden centre. I couldn't believe how expensive gardening has become, but it doesn't have to be this way. I have been making my own fertilisers for years and you can do the same.

Making your own plant food is not only a very easy and environmentally friendly solution, but it is also a

very cost-effective way of boosting your garden.

One of the best plants for making your own fertiliser is *Symphytum officinale*, commonly known as comfrey. Comfrey leaves are rich in potassium, which is particularly important for flower and fruit production. Great for feeding all your flowering plants including veg. Comfrey is also full of nitrogen, phosphorus, vit B12 and many trace elements. All the wonderful nutrients needed by all plants to grow and give us joy!



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN COMFREY FEED

Simply harvest comfrey leaves, chop them roughly and place in a bucket of water. Hairy comfrey leaves can irritate the skin, so always remember to wear gloves. Cover the bucket with a lid if possible and keep it for a few weeks until the leaves have rotted down. There are a few varieties of comfrey and all of them can be used to make your own fertiliser. After 2- 6 weeks your feed is ready to be used.



HOW TO USE YOUR COMFREY FEED

Dilute at a rate of 1 part of comfrey to 10 parts of water. (For example: 100 ml of comfrey feed added to 1 litre of water). Water your plants once a week between April and October and you'll see a significant difference just like I did with my

erigeron grown in whiskey barrels. Fed regularly, my plants looked spectacular and grew much bigger and produced more flowers than the ones that haven't been fed.

Another great plant for making your own feed is stinging nettle (*Symphytum officinale*). Stinging nettles are rich in iron, calcium, magnesium, and nitrogen. Nitrogen is particularly important for leafy growth and brilliant for feeding your plants in the springtime to boost your plants growth.

Stinging nettles are such brilliant plants and as we all know, they grow everywhere. They like nitrogen rich soil, which enables them to outcompete other plants. Their roots absorb the nitrogen from the soil, the nitrogen then gets transferred into the leaves (the vegetative part of the plant) which then can be used by us gardeners as a fertiliser. Simply follow the same recipe as with comfrey and your nitrogen rich feed will be ready to use after 2- 6 weeks.



Dilute at the same rate as the comfrey feed of 1 part of feed to 10 parts of water and water your plants once a week between April and October.

Gardening doesn't have to be expensive. On my Instagram

@anya_thegarden_fairy

I share lots of practical advice and easy to follow tutorials showing you how to create a garden of your dreams for a fraction of the cost.



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Any copy submitted to The Clarion may be edited for space, content or style. By sending information or articles to the editor for inclusion, you are accepting these terms.

We welcome any news or diary dates from community organisations and letters from individuals. The next copy deadline is 1 May and the next issue will be delivered in June.

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