

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HEDGERLEY 27th APRIL 2016

Chairman indicated emergency exits

In attendance – Cllr Neil Coxhead (Chairman) Hedgerley Parish Council, Penny Harris (Clerk to the Council) and 23 attendees.

Chairman welcomed those present and said thank you for coming.

Minutes of APM 2015. These were approved as a true record, and signed.

PRESENTATIONS -

Hedgerley Parish Council

Chairman's Report

The Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village judging took place in June. Having won the Morris Cup in 2014 for villages with a population 500-1500, Hedgerley was in the Tindall Cup competition, up against all the other 2014 cup winners. Hedgerley was runner-up to Chalfont St Peter; and Cuddington won the Morris Cup. Considering that Hedgerley was up against last year's winners in all categories, I think we can be pleased with our achievement. We will of course try our best to win back the Morris Cup off Cuddington this year!

The biggest issue our community is facing at the present time is of course the threat of gravel and sand extraction at Slade Farm. A group of concerned residents formed the Hedgerley Village Fighting Fund last year. Hedgerley Parish council continues to work with HVFF and planning consultants AECOM to ensure that these plans are robustly opposed. There have been over 200 objections to the proposed gravel pit. In addition, the Bucks County Council Minerals and Waste Policy lead officer does not recommend that it be approved, because it is not in the current plan. There is a sufficient supply of gravel for at least 10 years (compared with the minimum stock requirement of 7 years). The decision either way will not be made before June's BCC Development and Control committee meeting.

The Government wants to see more houses built, and this is putting huge pressure on the Green Belt. 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. It will allow us to set development priorities and help us all to develop a shared vision for Hedgerley.

The Council's Woodland Management Plan suggests that a path around Kiln Wood would make the wood more accessible. After consultation with residents of Coppice Way, however, it was decided not to progress with this. We regularly receive complaints from residents regarding the litter in Kemsley Wood. It was decided recently that a contractor should be engaged to clear away this rubbish. On a more positive note: the Council has given consent for Samatha Clement to use Kemsley Wood for Forest School activities. Finally, on property: The replacement pond posts were completed in November.

Our financial situation is sound, with adequate cash reserves, but with the continued financial squeeze on local authorities the County Council is progressively reducing the amount we receive for general maintenance of footpaths, hedgerows and grass cutting. HPC has decided to stay opted-out of devolved powers, and will wait and see what happens with any potential re-organisation of Bucks County Council (into one or more Unitary authorities, for example).

We were pleased that David Vincent was elected as our District Councillor in the May 2015 elections, continuing on from Anita Cranmer who represented us so well for eight years. David has now moved to Somerset so there will be a by-election on 5th May to elect a replacement. I would like to thank David for his service in representing Hedgerley at the District Council. We are hopeful that a Hedgerley resident will be elected, to ensure that Hedgerley continues to be properly represented, especially as SBDC further combines core functions with Chiltern district council.

At present there are five members of the Council: myself, Derek Baker, Maurice Ridgely; Marcus Orchard who was elected in May 2015; Paul Miller who was co-opted last year. Judith Evans has resigned - I would like to thank Judith for her service, especially regarding the Community Plan.

Sadly, long serving Councilor Ted Evans had lost his battle with cancer in September. Ted had been a member of Hedgerley Parish Council since May 1983. His affable style often brought much needed levity to Council meetings. Ted is greatly missed by all those who knew him. The Parish Council is in the process of installing a bench on the green by the pond, in memory of Ted.

Last Thursday was Her Majesty, The Queen's 90th birthday. It was a proud moment for me to light our Beacon bonfire, joining in with over 900 other communities across the land, to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday. I think our Beacon was probably the biggest and brightest of all! Thanks to all who helped organise it.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the Clerk, for their support throughout the year.

Neil Coxhead
Chairman

Report from the County Councillor

The main focus of my attention in the last few months has been the planning application for gravel extraction at Slade Farm. The application will now most likely be considered at the June committee meeting, where I expect it to be refused although this is not 100% guaranteed. I have worked with the parish council to make sure that the village's strong opposition is heard, and as your county councillor I met with the planning case officer to emphasise the key point that Buckinghamshire has no need for additional gravel extraction facilities for a number of years. There is still a longer-term threat though as a new Minerals Plan for Buckinghamshire covering the period to 2032 is being prepared, and it will be important for the village to argue as we have successfully before that Slade Farm is not a suitable site for inclusion.

Turning to the County Council as a whole, 2015-2016 was another year of financial stress, with overspending in social care budgets and a large reduction in government grants in the end of year settlement. By 2018 Buckinghamshire will have no revenue support grant at all from government. At the same time the increased requirements for spending on social care services, for both adults and children, means that fewer and fewer resources are available for services like road maintenance where the Council continues to perform poorly. I meet with the Local Technician regularly to identify areas of the village where the roads are in a particularly poor state

and patching works need to be undertaken, but resources are limited and it is ever more difficult to get funding.

The chief executive of the county council retired at the end of March, and a new highly experienced replacement has been appointed. I was disappointed to hear that her basic salary is to be £195k, which appears to me to be disproportionate to the scale of the responsibility. This exhibits a wider problem. We have 4 expensive chief executives and 5 head offices for the county and district councils, covering an area and population which could be served by one unitary council with a huge reduction in overheads estimated at a minimum of £20m per annum. That is over 10 per cent of our council tax bills. In the current economic climate, it is time to scrap all the existing councils, and start again with a single streamlined authority focused on providing excellent services.

Peter Hardy
phardy@buckscc.gov.uk

St Mary's Church 2015

During the year we have kept to the Sunday service pattern started at the end of 2014, with a short communion service at 8am followed by a regular 11am service. On the 4th 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.

Young people also featured importantly in our special services. The Remembrance Sunday service was exceptionally well supported by 1st Hedgerley Scouts, who laid a wreath, read prayers and laid palm crosses with poppies in the chancel. Young members of our congregation also read at our Christmas Carols by Candlelight service.

As part of our outreach to children we held two Sunday afternoon fun sessions in the Memorial Hall. These provide a relaxed setting for families to meet and socialise with plenty of activities to amuse the children. At the first of these children decorated blown eggs which were used to decorate the trees outside the church door for Easter. The Hedgehogs mother and toddler group also continues to meet on Thursday mornings during term time at the Youth Club Hut.

We had a successful year for fund raising to support the work of the church. Tom and Angela Webb put on a delightful Brazilian themed dinner in the Memorial Hall at which Tom presented a fascinating and beautifully illustrated talk on his bird watching trip to the country. Lydia Marshall and friends staged a marvellous concert in the church, a packed house heard a varied and enthralling programme of vocal virtuosity which raised money for St Mary's and local children's charity William's Fund. Finally we were fortunate that the church was chosen as one of the locations for the filming of the successful TV drama series 'Unforgotten'. The film crew were very considerate and the fee was very welcome.

John Lovelock and colleagues from the Historical Society carried out extensive research into the men and boys of Hedgerley who perished in the 1st World War which led to the recent erection in the churchyard by the War Graves Commission of a memorial headstone for Christopher Bowden.

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 and who cleared a large area of overgrown blackthorn.

Ruth & Peter Brogden

1st Hedgerley Scout Group

Our Group Scout Leader, Bob, is unfortunately away on business but I am delighted to present his report.

1st Hedgerley Scout Group is thriving. We have 86 young people spread across our three sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. All three sections have interesting and challenging programmes in place; for example, Scouts have had 'a kip on a ship' (a night on HMS Belfast), Beavers have visited Denham Airfield and seen Abramovich's helicopter and Cubs have been on a 'Chip' Hike (that's a hike with fish and chips at the end – they love it!). On top of that we have regular evenings and camps where our young people, under the watchful eye of our leaders, learn about leadership, teamwork, and outdoor life. This includes activities like abseiling, climbing, canoeing and sailing.

At the same time our young people have learnt skills that will stand them in good stead as they become adults. These range from learning about different religions and cultures through to more challenging life skills. We teach them first aid, map reading, expedition planning and execution, and how to care and help other people, to name but a few.

Our leaders are fantastic. They freely give up their time to help the young people of Hedgerley and the surrounding area and there is no doubt that they make a difference to these children's lives, helping them be better citizens, caring and yet tough enough to face life's challenges.

By the way, we are always looking for new leaders and we can promise you fun, challenge and being part of a wonderful world-wide organisation which today boasts over 30 million young people. We have come a long way from the early days of Baden-Powell's fledgling organisation 'Scouting for Boys'.

On that note this year is Cubs 100th anniversary; they were founded in 1906. So huge celebrations.

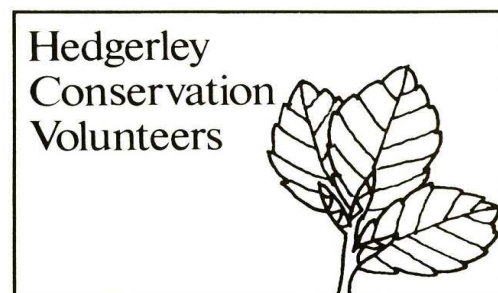
So in conclusion, Scouting, for Girls and Boys, is in fine form in Hedgerley. We believe we provide a safe yet challenging environment for our young people to grow in stature and be set up for life's challenges. We welcome young people from all ethnic backgrounds, all levels of ability and disability, whether wealthy or more economically challenged.

In short we are a very successful young people's charity and we look forward to expanding the Group and giving opportunity to all.

Come join us!

Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers

Over the last year 11 conservation events have taken place. Membership stands at 57, including 14 active members.



The Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils announced the 2015 Bucks Best Kept Village Competition results in July last year and we were heartened to learn that Hedgerley was awarded runner-up in the Tindall Cup. This was a good result considering that we were up against all the 2014 winners. There had been considerable effort during the year by volunteers and villagers to keep the village clean and tidy. Two Litter Blitzes were completed, plus a litter clearing session with 1st Hedgerley Cubs. 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.

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, the 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 hopefully they will return again this year.

We were all saddened at the loss of founding member and our Chairman, Ted Evans, in September. HCV are grateful to Ted's family for the donation of a large number of Ted's tools which will be of great use for our various conservation activities. HCV volunteers recently restored the chain fence at the bottom of Hill View in memory of Ted.

Over the Winter and into early Spring we have been continuing to clear holly in Kemsley Wood, and clearing scrub, brambles, etc in Church Meadow.

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.

Some additional working parties were organised to build the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon Bonfire. The bonfire mainly comprised bramble, being the arisings from scrub clearance in Church Meadow. I must say that the beacon was an impressive sight.

There will be two litter blitzes this year, in preparation for the Best Kept Village Competition: Saturday 7th May at 10am; Tuesday 31st May at 7pm; meet at the Youth Club Hut. 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, and to Hedgerley Parish Council, residents and village organisations for their moral and financial support.

Neil Coxhead Honorary Secretary 24th April 2016

Hedgerley Historical Society

2015/16 has been another busy programme with an excellent range of talks including an account by travel writer/publisher Hilary Bradt MBE on her travels in Ireland on horseback and the research by journalist Valerie Grove into the life and loves of Laurie Lee plus we have recently been privileged to have a return visit by Professor Chris Stringer to provide us with an update on groundbreaking Human Evolution research. We had a fascinating lecture on Magna Carta by Professor Nigel Saul and two local authors (Jane Robinson and D J Kelly) presented talks on their research into the history of the Women's Institute and Bucks Spies and Subversives. We finished the year with our AGM and a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Society – the first meeting was held in Hedgerley Memorial Hall on the 31st March 1976 following an initiative by the late Harry Kirby.

Last Spring we visited the John Lewis Heritage Centre in Cookham for a talk on the history of John Lewis and to see the wonderful historic fabric collection, followed in the Summer by a delightful Mid-Summer's evening at Hedgerley Park Estate where Francis and Norman Grundon kindly showed us the site of the old Mansion and restored Ice House plus the amazing landscaping of the old sand pit. Also in the Summer we visited the Friends Meeting House at Jordans to learn about the Friends Ambulance training there during the First World War. In the Autumn we visited Penn House where Earl and Countess Howe described some of the amazing artefacts in their home and their family history connections. We held our seventh Autumn lunch last October followed by a talk on the Rothschild Mansion Halton House and RAF Halton by Trixie Brabner and Sq Ldr John Brabner.

Membership has risen 10% from 202 in 2014/15 to the present total of 222, of which 29 live in Hedgerley and the remainder in the Farnhams, Stoke Poges and across South Bucks. Twelve regular meetings were held during the 2015/16 Programme with an average attendance of 63 people which is on a par with 62 in the 2014/15 season.

Our Hedgerley in WW1 Research Project has made steady progress over the past year and after much lobbying of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) we managed to get a memorial stone erected for one of the 10 Hedgerley men (Private Christopher Bowden) who sadly died following discharge from the army on health grounds and was buried in St Mary's Churchyard in December 1916. It is hoped that this stone will be dedicated on Remembrance Sunday (almost 100 years after his death). In the meantime we are trying to trace any living relatives who we can invite to the Ceremony. We hope to publish our findings in the Autumn of 2017.

John Lovelock

Tree Warden

Tree safety is the concern of the Parish Council in the properties that we own. These are Kemsley Wood, Kiln Wood and the Green.

The trees are monitored by an arboriculture consultant with required work carried out by qualified contractors.

Kemsley Wood is more open after the heavy clearance and stiling work by Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers.

There is a 10 year woodland management plan for Kiln Wood that is half way through.

Maurice Ridgeley

Footpaths and Bridleways

The footpaths in the Parish of Hedgerley are well used by locals and walkers from further afield. The Council has a supply of way markers to replace missing signs. If anyone feels there is a sign required please let us know.

Maurice Ridgeley

Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity for communities to have more influence on their local area – it is a way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. It can be used to:

- Develop a shared vision for our neighbourhood.
- Choose where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built.
- Identify and protect our important local green spaces.
- Influence what new buildings should look like.

Typically a Neighbourhood Plan could cover:

- The development of housing
- Provision for businesses to set up or expand their premises.
- Transport and access
- The development of schools, places of worship, health facilities, leisure and entertainment facilities, community and youth centres and village halls.
- The restriction of certain types of development and change of use, for example to avoid too much of one type of use.
- The design of buildings.

- Protection and creation of open space, nature reserves, allotments, sports pitches, play areas, parks and gardens, and the planting of trees.
- Protection of important buildings and historic assets such as archaeological remains.

The main stages in producing a Neighbourhood Plan are:

- Getting started
- Identifying the issues
- Develop the vision and objectives
- Generate options
- Draft the Neighbourhood Plan
- Consultation and submission
- Independent examination
- Referendum and adoption

The whole process could take as long as eight months.

The Hedgerley Community Plan steering group has been working on tactical projects since the Plan was finalised in 2013. The membership has dwindled since 2013 and currently the group consists of 4 residents who focus on tactical activity. The Group would be prepared to take on the Neighbourhood Plan, but it would need support, in terms of additional volunteers to help gather opinions, organise open days, etc. How to recruit this help is under discussion.

Neil Coxhead

RSPB Church Wood – no report sent

Tracy Trust

The Tracy Trust is a most unique charity right in the heart of our village. It was started in March 1990 by John White in memory of Edith Ada Tracy. John was a friend of Edith, a local resident, and it was he who encouraged her to leave a substantial amount in her will to a charity to be set up in her name. John added to this original sum when he sold a piece of local land left to him by Edith.

The charity makes available various activities and services –

- A meeting place with activities and refreshments
- A fortnightly bus service to a local shopping centre
- A subsidised chiropody services
- Financial help for Aid-call, TV licences, medical, dentistry and optical care
- Help with transportation to medical appointments
- An annual Christmas party

Financial benefits are subject to specific conditions being met and help with transportation is subject to availability of volunteer drivers. It is an exciting time in the history of the Tracy Trust as the Trustees move the Trust forward. They are open to ideas of how the trust could be developed, and support for the charity from Hedgerley residents is most welcome.

Finally, I would like to thank the hard working group of local people who manage and undertake all the work to achieve the above objectives. They are a group of enthusiastic volunteers – thank you.

Chris Woodwark



HEDGERLEY MOTHERS- UNION REPORT FOR 2015

Hedgerley Mothers' Union has 19 members, sadly 3 members died this year, Joy, Patsy and Hedy but we were happy to welcome 2 new members, Maureen and Rosemary.

Our year started with our tea and chat afternoon, at our AGM our Committee were elected, Mary continues as Branch Leader, Helen Secretary, Pat as Treasurer, with Pam and Rita assisting. After our AGM, Ruth spoke to us about The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). In March we had a talk about the Jewish Religion, which was very enlightening. In April we welcomed Mrs Gloria Richards from the Diocese who spoke on our theme for the year – “United in Prayer”.

In May we visited The Revd Helen Chamberlain who gave us a tour of John The Baptist Church in Cookham Dean, followed by a welcome cup of tea, sandwiches and cake in Helen's home.

We had a talk about the Life of Mary through Icons, a fascinating afternoon. Our garden meeting with a cream tea was held inside due to cold weather. Our lunch in August, when we welcomed over 40 visitors to share a buffet meal with friends was a great success, this was followed in September with our Annual Church Service, followed by refreshments.

Unfortunately in October our speaker from School Aid did not arrive, so we had a lively discussion afternoon, followed by tea. In November we welcomed Paul the South Bucks Community Links Officer who gave us various helpful leaflets, tips and information which were available to us. We ended the year with party games, jokes and a Christmas tea.

Members attended the Deanery Lady Day Service in Richings Park, The Open Meeting when our Diocesan President, Mrs Gillian Johnson was our speaker and the Autumn Meeting when the Revd Alistair Stuart from St Lawrence in Slough spoke to us. We also took part in the Wave of Prayer, attended Diocesan and Deanery events; had a stall at the Fun Day. In August, 12 of us went by coach to join in the 100th anniversary celebrations of Mary Sumner House (our

Headquarters in London) being opened, we were given a tour of the house, a souvenir programme and lunch.

Our Deanery outing, which 12 of our members took part in, was a visit to Winchester Cathedral followed by a tour of Old Alresford Place and church, the home of our founder, Mary Sumner. We enjoyed tea in the house and had a very picturesque ride home through the country lanes.

Our Advent Carol Service at Hitcham was an enjoyable start to our Christmas programme, this was followed by a delicious tea.

Our projects include, supplying bags of basic toiletries and a soft toy for the Refuge in Slough; toiletries, drink sachets, small packets of biscuits, for parents who stay to look after their sick children at The John Radcliffe Hospital. We continue to run the Hedgehog Toddler Group on a Thursday morning. We filled 30 shoe boxes for the Samaritans Purse project and supplied Christmas cards for prisoners in the Diocese, we also supplied blank Mothering Sunday cards for young offenders to send to their mothers.

Our TLC (tea/coffee, laughter, chat) mornings continue to flourish and we have very interesting discussions and catch up on local and world events; TLC is open to anyone who wishes to join us from 10 – 12 noon. Our forthcoming year promises to be as eventful and enjoyable as previous years and we hope to welcome new members and continue to serve families in our United Benefice whenever we can.

Hedgerley W.I.

Hedgerley Women's Institute continues to have a membership of around 50. Since the last report to the Parish Council, we have had a very full programme of speakers and events.

Last year we heard talks ranging from the Amber Room in St Petersburg to a cheese tasting, and so far this year we have learned about the language of fans, the Great Fire of London, African village support in Uganda, and Wild Brazil.

Lunchtime outings are very popular and about 30 of us enjoyed a delicious meal at Biggles restaurant recently.

Our Pancake Party is as popular as ever, and in February, for the sixth year running, we served about 60 people with pancakes and coffee, and raised some money for our funds.

Hedgerley WI were again involved with the local Horticultural Show, and served tea and cake to over 120 people.

Once a year we meet up with three other WIs who are part of the Beeches Group and last year there was an interesting talk on Hearing Dogs.

Last year was the Centenary of the WI and we participated in many events to celebrate our 100th birthday. Four of our members went to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and our President went to the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall, which was attended by the Queen. We also took part in the events surrounding the WI baton which was taken round to every Federation. A highlight for many of us was the Garden Party at Waddesdon Manor, on a hot sunny day.

Our monthly meetings finish with tea and cakes, and everyone has the opportunity of socialising among good friends.