

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HEDGERLEY 27th APRIL 2015

Chairman indicated emergency exits

In attendance – Cllr Derek Baker (Chairman) Hedgerley Parish Council, Penny Harris (Clerk to the Council) and 38 attendees.

Chairman welcomed those present and said thank you for coming and asked that everyone makes sure they sign the attendance sheets.

Minutes of APM 2014 had been approved as a true record.

PRESENTATIONS -

Hedgerley Parish Council

Chairman's Report

It has been a year of contrasts – the undoubted highlight being our triumph in winning the Best Kept Village competition once again; not only the main trophy, the Morris Cup, but the community trophy for the work carried out on Glebe Field. I know some residents would have liked us to have made more of an event for the whole village to celebrate, but the Assessment Panel only paid us a brief flying visit as they went around a number of villages in the competition. It is something we could consider if we are lucky enough to win again this year. We are in the process of delivering leaflets to all households in the village reminding that judging takes place in June for this year's competition. The two dates for litter blitzes are the first this Saturday and the key one in the week before judges could visit on May 30th.

Another father in our cap was we were, I believe, the first parish to take advantage of new localism legislation which enables us to have declared as a community asset the two shop units – Londis and the beauty salon. This means if either were the subject of a change of use application or closure, the PC would have a stay of execution of six months to mount a bid to retain them. Thanks are due to Neil Coxhead, our Vice Chair for piloting this through.

Residents will also have noticed work going on to replace the fence posts around the pond. Unfortunately held up temporarily by an accident to the contractor but which we hope to have finished in time for the judging of the BKV.

In Kemsley Wood, respraying of the holly to prevent its regrowth was carried out during the year. Also continuing problems with youngsters using mopeds and motorised scooters into the woods as well as noise and disturbance in the car park as this became a meeting place for youth in the surrounding areas, but not just Hedgerley were addressed by installing CCTV; a kissing gate; and monitoring visits by the police. As a result the situation has been noticeably improved.

Our financial situation is basically sound but with the national financial squeeze on local authorities the County Council is progressively reducing the amount we

receive for general maintenance of footpaths, hedgerows and grass cutting. It has been suggested that such powers

be devolved to Parish Councils. Our PC, in common with a number of other local PCs do not consider this to be a good idea as we already carry out much of the work ourselves. SBDC have curtailed the proposal for the current financial year.

I started by saying the year was one of contrasts. We now face a major challenge. Many of you will have been to the exhibition in this hall at the end of March when agents acting for Portland Estates – JDT and Essex Company – announced they were preparing to submit an application for extraction of sand and gravel with a processing plant, concrete batching plant, site office and ancillary equipment on a 25 hectare site at Slade Farm. Whilst we are led to believe that the County Council considers there are strong grounds to refuse such an application – Slade Farm is not a designated site in the current Minerals Plan and the County has reserves elsewhere to fulfil its obligation to provide a 7½ year rolling program this would be – assuming a refusal – only the first stage in a long drawn out battle on appeal. We would then have to consider calling upon expert Minerals Consultant advice to pursue our case and consider how this could be funded. Individual letters of objection from residents would also be important. We have sought support both from adjoining Parishes and the MSA which would be concerned at the traffic impact of 152 daily lorry movements on the roundabout.

I would finally like to thank fellow Councillors for their support throughout the year and a special thanks to our Clerk, Penny Harris, and also her son Ben for their efforts. We would like to wish our longstanding Councillor Ted Evans well in his ongoing fight against cancer.

**Derek Baker
Chairman**

Annual report from Peter Hardy (County Councillor)

The main issue at the County Council this year has been the need to invest another £10m p.a. in the Safeguarding Children service. In the last several years there has been a near doubling of the number of children referred to social services, and the council has struggled to cope with the increase in demand. We have had to increase the number of front line staff to cope with this demand, and most of the increase has been filled by expensive agency staff. Like other councils, we struggle to recruit full-time, permanent social workers in the context of a national shortage.

In the summer of 2014 Ofsted inspected the Safeguarding Children service and found it "inadequate". The Council has taken the Ofsted recommendations very seriously, and is undertaking a number of changes in the management of the service to address the issues raised. Protecting vulnerable children in Buckinghamshire is the most important responsibility that the Council has.

Finding sufficient resources to ensure suitable care for vulnerable adults is also a significant challenge given cuts in funding to local authorities. Vulnerable adults includes the frail elderly, the learning disabled, and so on. The Council's costs in this area are continuing to increase putting pressure on other

budgets. Currently 60% of your council tax goes on social services (children and adults) and this is forecast to rise to 75% in the next few years. The Council is therefore investing in preventative services which help to postpone the need for expensive

home or residential care, giving a better outcome at a lower overall cost to the taxpayer.

Work on building the waste incinerator in the north of the county is proceeding, and it will start operating in 2017. Locally, it is anticipated that the landfill site at Wapseys Wood will also close in 2017. A developer is threatening to build a large gravel works at Slade Farm in the village. This output from this facility is in my view not required in the foreseeable future, and the developer's application will be vigorously opposed by the local community supported by myself.

The Council is continuing to invest significant amounts of money in road resurfacing -£25m in this financial year. The backlog of work across the county is however running at £200m. In Hedgerley a number of roads require attention but without additional sources of finance these will regrettably have to wait their turn. The priority as set by Government is keeping the major road network in good condition at the expense of local roads.

I look forward to continuing to work with the parish council on behalf of Hedgerley residents in the next year.

Peter Hardy, Bucks County Council

SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

It has been a very busy year full of restructuring plans present and future in order to achieve balanced books which provide the same services for less.

The Council structure present and Future.

As you know Chiltern and South Bucks have been in 2014 proceeding with Joint Working to the benefit of both Councils in efficiency and financial savings. Every Department except Planning is now working jointly with staff being based in both locations, Capswood and Chiltern. The Planning Review is the biggest to date and it is likely that this Service may not be merged but will stay as two Separate Units situated in their respective Council bases. We do not have one Joint Council, just Joint working and this possibility may be a discussion for the future. There will be changes to the SBDC new Council as elected on May 7th. There will be 28 Councillors instead of the former 41, a smaller Cabinet body, 4 instead of 5 and a newly completed constitution review which defines all areas more distinctly. To achieve further savings and be environmentally aware this new Council will go paperless with all communication being via iPad.

You will all be aware that the Boundary Commission has changed Electoral Boundaries for most areas. Hedgerley together with Fulmer has seen possibly the greatest change since they are no longer an Electoral unit. Hedgerley is now linked with the Farnhams which means that there will be three local Councillors instead of one. The benefits to Hedgerley will be most felt in Community projects where there will be a larger pot of possible funding to share in

The waste service

Changes to the waste service have been well received and managed. Our recycling is above national targets of 45% and our local area should be commended for its

responsible contribution to that .It is now a critical detail in planning applications that in all new developments refuse

vehicles must have space to turn and leave premises in a forward direction. SBDC does not currently collect waste from commercial properties.

Local Issues

It was good news that the shop next door to Londis remained commercial premises and did not revert to housing thanks to it being listed as a local asset. This is new legislation and exists to protect the character of an area.

We are very grateful to the Police for their presence and action when we had youth issues in the Kelley Wood, Youth Club area. It is of prime importance that the police are kept informed on any deviant activity since if they do not know they cannot act. Everyone in the village needs to know that any information is helpful information

We are ready to challenge the Slade farm gravel application when it comes in. Your local Committee has been formed and it is a fact that according to recent published statistics Bucks have a sufficient supply of gravel until 2020 from its 8 named sites. After 8 years as your Councillor and a Member of the Cabinet I am stepping down. I feel privileged that I took part in some major local projects such as the settlement of the Motorway Service negotiations regarding our area (which are still ongoing regarding litter), the purchase of the Glebe Field the prevention of the Waste Incinerator in our area and the rebuild of The Farnham Park Golf Club now called The South Buckinghamshire. Equally it has been rewarding to help many of you with your issues, planning, litter advertising, potholes and personal concerns.

Anita Cranmer South Bucks District Council

St Mary's Church 2015

The past year has been very busy and full of change at St Mary's. In the middle of the year we received the quinquennial report on the church building from the surveyor and set about tackling the priority jobs identified. First amongst these has been work to make good water damage to the inner face of the tower walls – damaged tiles on the bell tower roof have been replaced, the guttering and down pipe cleared of plant growth, and the render treated with a waterproofing solution. Next was the repainting of the porch, where we also took the opportunity to remove the 'public convenience' opaque glazing and replace it with clear laminated safety glass which allows us all to admire the beautiful view of the church yard and meadow as we leave the church and also makes it a place which is a pleasure for visitors to the churchyard to sit in.

The lighting along the holt and in the churchyard, which had failed due to water penetration last winter, has been replaced and the tower floodlights have been wired with underground cable to replace the wire trailing over the grass. The notice board at the foot of the holt, which has been steadily rotting away for years, has been replaced by one with a rot proof resin frame.

We are very grateful to the Friends of St Mary's for their contribution towards the costs of these projects, and to all our friends and supporters who help to raise money for us.

2014 and the start of this year has also seen changes in our clergy. The Rev Helen moved on to her new post at Cookham, we will miss her work especially with the young families in the village. Rev Gordon has also now retired though we very much hope that he will continue to visit us at St Mary's Hedgerley. We have

welcomed John Turkington to St Mary's as a lay minister, and we are trying to broaden participation in our services by the occasional invitation of a 'guest' to read the lesson.

As a consequence the service pattern at St Mary's has been altered slightly, do please look at the notice board or on www.farnhamroyalchurches.org to see the details. The new 8am communion is almost as well attended as the traditional 11am services. It is a short half hour service and makes a great start to Sunday. Do come along and give it a try. Family Praise, on the 4th Sunday of the month is particularly geared for children and no one minds if they make a noise and can't sit still. If you haven't been for a while (or perhaps ever) come along one Sunday for a warm welcome and enjoy the experience for yourself.

Ruth Brogden

Hedgerley Youth Club

The new Youth Club's existence is with thanks to the commitment and dedication of Sue Cooper. It remains a successful venture and an amazing facility for our community.

Youth groups currently meet on two evenings a week and we will soon be expanding to three. Thanks go especially to Julie Tompkins and Natalie Fletcher who run a very well supported group.

The Youth Club also provides support for the Hedgerley Youth Football Club which meets every Saturday morning.

The facility is also used on a regular basis by an art group and is available for hire for meetings, parties and other events. Bookings are organised through Debbie Anstey.

As everyone is aware there have been problems with "anti social behaviour". Our objective is to engage with the youth in the Village rather than alienate them and we have had some success. Over the years acts of vandalism and litter has caused a lot of concern but we are ever hopeful that the perpetrators are maturing or have moved on. We must thank the Scout Group for the installation of high quality CCTV cameras and the Local Police for their assistance and support. We trust that the Youth Club and the work that it is doing will be supported by the community and the Parish Council, who we must thank for its financial support. We do not charge a membership fee and only a minimal attendance fee so that the club remains open to all. Our thanks also go to Vicky Grazebrook. Vicky organises our finances and is constantly reminding us that we need to do more fundraising and obtain more lettings to balance the books!

David Vincent

1st Hedgerley Scout Group

Currently 1st Hedgerley Scout Group have approx. 95 young people from the age of 6-14yrs and an adult support team of nearly 40.

We are also keen to encourage young leaders. We currently have 6 who want to extend their skills learned as Scouts to assist the leadership teams.

Lauren our new Cub leader started off as a Young Leader. Then an Assistant. Despite being our youngest leader she has nearly 10 years' experience !

We also have a new Beaver Leader and several new assistants who are bringing along new skills and are realising how much fun you can have as a volunteer whilst putting something back in to the community.

Our youngsters are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team delivering a varied and exciting programme. When you hear just some of the activities they

have done over the last year and some of the events coming up, you will know why we have a long waiting list.

All sections worked with the conservation volunteers last year and not only helped Hedgerley win the best kept village but also the Baille Trophy for outstanding work by young people in the community.

Staying with community work, the Annual Christmas party along with the Beavers carol singing brought Christmas cheer to our senior citizens.

The Cubs ran a panto night which rivalled the Jingle Tingle for Christmas humour. There were many sleepovers and camps. The most notable are:

The Wings international camp in Windsor where our scouts joined nearly 7000 others from over 40 different counties.

The Cubs had a fantastic camp at the HOAC centre in Hillingdon

Our 6-8 year olds joined 300 others in a dinosaur at the Natural History Museum. This included a night time safari. The lights were turned out and armed only with torches they explored the dinosaur hall in the dark!

This summer the Scouts are camping in Surrey, the Cubs are attending a water weekend at Longridge and the Beavers are having a sleepover in Calicott School. We also are very privileged to have 3 of our Scouts / Explorers going to Japan for the world jamboree. One of the largest contingents from one of the smallest villages. A huge thank you is due to all the volunteers who work so hard to give our kids skills the experiences that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Peter and Frontline Security Solutions and Guy from GK Electrical for the supply and fitting of the security cameras for monitoring the huts & car park area

Phil Anstey

Group Scout Leader. 1st Hedgerley Scout Group

Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers

Between the 1st May 2014 and the 26th April 2015 twelve conservation events (with an average of five volunteers at each event and almost 200 hours voluntary effort) have taken place. There has been a small, but encouraging, increase in Membership from 50 in 2013/14 to 51 in 2014/1

At midsummer we organised joint events (holly and scrub clearance in Kemsley Wood) with the Hedgerley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts as part of their Community Week. These proved to be very popular and extremely successful and we are planning to repeat this initiative in 2015 with further work in Kemsley Wood and a pond restoration project with the scouts in Church Meadow West.

The Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils announced the 2014 Bucks Best Kept Village Competition results in July last year and we were delighted to learn that Hedgerley was awarded first place in the Morris Cup (the first win since 2008). This was a well earned prize

after considerable effort during the year by volunteers and villagers to keep the village clean and tidy. We are hoping for similar success in the 2015 competition. Ragwort and thistles were then cleared in Church Meadow and once again a wonderful display of wild flowers was observed in high Summer. A detailed Botanical Survey of both Meadows was commissioned by Bucks CC in July.

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 in late summer again this year. My thanks to the team of lookers who keep an eye on their welfare every day.

In the Autumn, our focus turned to Holly clearance in Kemsley Wood, which will continue to be our main project for several years to come. We were successful in applying for woodland trees from the Woodland Trust and these were planted in Kiln Wood and Kemsley Wood.

Over the Winter and into early Spring we have been continuing to clear cuttings in Kiln Wood with assistance from Coppice Way residents and we have also cleared scrub re-growth in Church Meadow East.

One of our Committee members, Sarah Packer, has continued to lead the project to revitalise the planters outside the shops on Hedgerley Hill. This soft landscaping feature had deteriorated in recent years and the results of this hard 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.

After 13 years I am stepping down as Secretary (but will continue as Vice Chairman) and I wish my successor continuing success in organising this vital but rewarding voluntary work.

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

John Lovelock Honorary Secretary

Hedgerley Historical Society 2014/15 has been a busy programme with an excellent range of talks including a return visit by BBC Antiques Roadshow expert Paul Atterbury when he enthusiastically shared his passion for cruising history and an amazing evening with Jeremy Batch on a similar theme with The Story of Navigation.

In the Spring last year we visited St Mary's Church Langley to see the unique Kedermister Library followed in the Summer by visits to RAF Halton to see Halton House and the Trenchard Museum, an historic tour of Magdalen College Oxford with Alumnus Roger Askew, Hughenden Manor to learn the story of Operation Hillside and to Chesham for a Suffragette walk with the Rev Colin Cartwright followed by a lovely summer day at the Fawley Hill Railway. In the early Autumn we had an excellent day on the river Thames with our guide Richard Poad.

Our President Michael Rice was joined by Peter Marsden (Chairman of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society) at the Hedgerley Study Day where we learnt the results of five years' research of Hedgerley buildings.

We held our sixth Autumn lunch last October followed by a talk on Vanishing Windsor by local historian and writer Elias Kupfermann.

Membership has risen 16% from 180 in 2013/14 to the present total of 209 with members drawn from across South Bucks. Attendances at our regular monthly meetings have averaged 62 compared with 57 in the 2013/14 season.

Our study project on Hedgerley during the Great War has been running for 18 months now.

The study is looking at the lives of the men from Hedgerley and Hedgerley Dean who fought for their country in the Army and Navy and in particular the 10 men who were killed in action or died later as a result of their injuries. One of these men (Christopher William Bowden) is buried in an unmarked grave in St Mary's churchyard and we are still waiting for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to erect a memorial stone in his honour. Over the winter the enthusiastic research team have been looking at War Diaries at the National Archives to establish what part the 10 men played in the war effort. These records provide first-hand accounts that are both shocking and moving.

We are also looking at the impact the War had on Hedgerley and have recently discovered a wealth of information on the Hedgerley Park Estate (and the Stevenson family who lived there for over forty years) in the Eton College archives. We hope that the research will provide us with a greater insight into life in Hedgerley one hundred years ago and may uncover previously unknown photographs and documents from this period in our history.

We are now looking forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Society in 2016.

John Lovelock, Secretary

Tree Warden

The Council has an ongoing woodland inspection plan. Tree safety work has been our top priority. Less invasive species have been planted in Kiln Wood by Hedgerley Conservation Volunteers with the blessing of the Council. Trees are a great asset to the Village and I hope we will all enjoy them for years to come.

Maurice Ridgeley

Footpaths and Bridleways

Hedgerley has an array of varied and interesting footpaths for us all to enjoy. I am not aware of any current problems on our footpaths, but if anyone finds a blocked path, please report it to our Clerk.

Maurice Ridgeley

RSPB Church Wood

I'd like to start with a big thank you to the Parish Council for their kind donation towards the work the RSPB do at Church Wood.

This winter saw the completion of our current round of tree safety work. It took a while getting all the 'dangerous' trees dealt with, but they have now been felled and the timber left to rot on the woodland floor for the benefit of insects and fungi. It was a shame to see the cherry trees near the reserve entrance taken down, but they were infected with a disease that was slowly killing them and their close

proximity to the path and their large size meant it was important they were made safe.

As always, the two volunteer teams that do the majority of the management work in the wood, have been hard at work throughout the year. Fighting back bramble in the meadow, cleaning and monitoring nest boxes, mending fences, coppicing hazel trees and opening up the bluebell glades. Coppicing is an important woodland management tool, allowing gaps to be created in the woodland canopy, giving sunlight the chance to penetrate down to the woodland floor. This benefits flowering plants, which in turn benefit an array of woodland butterflies including silver-washed fritillaries, white admirals and speckled woods. A number of trees are coppiced by the teams every winter.

An elusive lesser-spotted woodpecker has been seen in the wood recently and with birds like willow warbler, blackcap and goldcrest singing and buzzards building a nest, it really is a good time of year to experience the woodland, taking in the flowering primroses and bluebells as you wander around.

The dogs on leads signs are now up in the wood, encouraging people to keep their dogs under control. It's an important time of year at the moment with birds nesting, flowers in bloom and snakes and small mammals patrolling the woodland floor and so we want to keep disturbance of them to a minimum. We have also recently put up signs asking people to avoid entering the wood through the fence in the south east corner. This has been an ongoing issue for a number of years. It is not an officially registered entrance to the wood and with the volunteers having put in a lot of work mending the broken fencing and we hope the signs will have some effect in terms of dissuading people from gaining access at this point.

Church Wood is one of the smallest RSPB reserves, but the tranquillity and the peaceful nature of the woodland more than make up for this, even the noise of the M40 can be forgotten as you sit on the bench, relaxing as you look down the central woodland ride, watching the butterflies fluttering by and listening to the robins and wrens singing.

Church Wood is managed from the RSPB's Otmoor reserve, located just north of Oxford. I'm going to be leaving Otmoor at the end of May, moving up to another RSPB reserve near Nottingham to become the Site Manager. It will be sad leaving Church Wood, but I'm going to make sure I come back every year to see the bluebell spectacle and trying to possibly, maybe finally see the lesser-spotted woodpecker!

Joe Harris, RSPB Church Wood Warden

Tracy Trust

The Tracy Trust continues to try to meet its trust Deed objectives which are to assist the needy of Hedgerley. The Trustees are very grateful to the Tracy Trust Local Committee for all of its hard work during the year within our community. If you know of people who need help and to become beneficiaries, please let us know. However, we are facing one major problem and that is on the service offered to the Tracy Trust beneficiaries who need assistance to attend hospital or our local doctors' surgeries. We are now very short of drivers who are able to undertake this much needed voluntary work. The Trustees are appealing to anyone who would be able to supplement our three very helpful drivers. If you would like to volunteer or speak to us on this matter, please get in touch.

Chris Woodwark

Hedgerley Mothers Union

Hedgerley Mothers' Union have 22 members, Mrs Ruby Huckle moved to Eastbourne and has joined another Mothers' Union; but we welcomed Mrs Gladys Bolton who transferred from another Branch also, a new member Jean Hemley.

We started the year with tea and chat and used our brains with a few quizzes and enjoyed catching up with events over Christmas.

In February we held our AGM, Vera Hines stepped down as a Committee Member and was thanked for all her hard work and cakes she has provided for us. The Committee members are Mary Lane (Branch Leader, Helen Bones (Secretary), Pat Field (Treasurer), Pam Powell, Ruby Huckle and Rita Sweeney. After our AGM, Mrs Sylvia James spoke to us about the work of the Thames Hospice Care.

We enjoyed had a very interesting talk about The Gideon Bible, and how they started putting them into hotels etc. In May we had our annual Branch outing, this year we had a Thames River Cruise which took us from Runnymede to Windsor; we invited guests to join us and all enjoyed the trip and cream tea. A highlight of the trip was when the roof of the boat had to be lowered to enable us to get under a bridge due to the high water level.

We welcome 3 firemen, together with their engine, from Gerrards Cross Fire Station who spoke to us about safety in the home. Several members had visits from the Fire Brigade to check the safety of their homes. In July we enjoyed a very hot afternoon at Patsy's home, where we were

served a cream tea. We also held a raffle for the Mothers' Union Wheels Appeal, which raised £45.00.

Our lunch in August was a great success when we welcomed over 40 visitors to share the buffet meal with friends. We held our Annual Church Service in September when Jean was enrolled.

We welcomed a speaker from Work Aid who spoke about the work of the organisation which send tools, etc to those in need both in the UK and overseas. Several members were able to dispose of unwanted tools from their sheds which were very welcome by both parties.

We entertained ourselves by reading "Plays to set you thinking", which proved an interesting afternoon, with members reading various parts in the plays and then discussing them. We ended the year with usual Christmas Party and games.

Members attended the Deanery Lady Day Service in Datchet, the Open Meetings in May and October, when our Rural Dean spoke to us about the importance of Mothers' Union in the Deanery and how we could help and ended the year with an Advent Carol Service in Langley, followed by a welcome tea. 10 members visited Southwark Cathedral with other Deanery members, again an interesting and enjoyable day out. We enjoyed an Advent Carol Service at Upton followed by a delicious tea and an opportunity to purchase some homemade Christmas decorations and preserves.

We took part in the Wave of Prayer (each Mothers' Union in the UK are given a specific date and time to pray for Members in a specific Diocese throughout the world, every Diocese will be prayed for during the year). We attended Diocesan meetings, and one member took part in the Diocesan Retreat

We helped serve the Easter Breakfast after the 6.00am Service in Hedgerley and organized the refreshment tent at the very wet August Bank Holiday Fun Day. We decorated a window at the Farnham Royal Flower Festival.

Members attended the Winter Meeting at and enjoyed meeting our new worldwide President in Beaconsfield. Three members visited Mary Sumner House (our Headquarters) and had a very interesting talk by our new President and a tour of the house, ending with prayers in the Chapel.

Our projects are still on-going, providing bags of basic toiletries and a soft toy for the Refuge in Slough as well as items for the children's ward at The John Radcliffe Hospital. Over 60 "crosses in my pocket" were made and sent to The John Radcliffe Hospital, where they were given to parents/relatives of sick children. We continue to run the Hedgehog Toddle Group on a Thursday morning. We collected and filled shoe boxes for the Samaritans Purse project and supplied Christmas cards for prisoners in the Diocese (over 2,500 from the Diocese were sent).

We have started a TLC (tea/coffee, laughter, chat) morning when we meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday for fellowship, TLC is open to anyone who wishes to join us from 10 – 12 noon, some very interesting debates have taken place!!! 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.

Mary Lane

Hedgehog Toddler Group

Hedgehogs Toddler Group provides toys, playdough, puzzles and books etc. for the youngsters to play with.

The Group meets on Thursday mornings (in term time) from 9.45 until 11.30 am in the Scout Hut. Adults are responsible for their own children; we do not entertain or look after them. Adults exchange ideas, discuss problems and generally relax.

There is no charge, but a donation box is on the table if anyone wishes to give something towards refreshments, new toys etc.

Mary Lane

St Mary's Church

The past year has been very busy and full of change at St Mary's. In the middle of the year we received the quinquennial report on the church building from the surveyor and set about tackling the priority jobs identified. First amongst these has been work to make good water damage to the inner face of the tower walls – damaged tiles on the bell tower roof have been replaced, the guttering and down pipe cleared of plant growth, and the render treated with a waterproofing solution. Next was the repainting of the porch, where we also took the opportunity to remove the 'public convenience' opaque glazing and replace it with clear laminated safety glass which allows us all to admire the beautiful view of the church yard and meadow as we leave the church and also makes it a place which is a pleasure for visitors to the churchyard to sit in.

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notice board at the foot of the holt, which has been steadily rotting away for years, has been replaced by one with a rot proof resin frame.

We are very grateful to the Friends of St Mary's for their contribution towards the costs of these projects, and to all our friends and supporters who help to raise money for us.

2014 and the start of this year has also seen changes in our clergy. The Rev Helen moved on to her new post at Cookham, we will miss her work especially with the young families in the village. Rev Gordon has also now retired though we very much hope that he will continue to visit us at St Mary's Hedgerley. We have welcomed John Turkington to St Mary's as a lay minister, and we are trying to broaden participation in our services by the occasional invitation of a 'guest' to read the lesson.

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Ruth Brogden

WAPSEY'S WOOD LIAISON

1. Programme

The programme for completion and restoration of the landfill site is on target.

Infilling with waste

will be completed by the autumn of 2016 with the capping and landscaping completed by 31

December 2017. The gas extraction system will also be fully functional and the odour issues resolved.

2. Odour Issues

Landfill gas escaping from the site has been a concern over the winter period.

Action has been

taken to reduce the problem; installation of plastic sheeting over the flanks of the infill and the

installation of gas wells in the new cell. With the completion of the infilling and capping, all the gas will be captured and used for power generation. There are currently 11 engines generating 10.5MW, surplus gas is flared. Gas production is likely to continue for 30 years.

3. Leachate Treatment

Leachate from the site is still being taken from the site by tanker, however, construction of the

leachate treatment plant is now underway following the "rehousing" of the great crested newts

discovered on the proposed site. The plant will consist of three concrete tanks forming a

"sequencing batch reactor" which will enable the treated liquid to enter the sewerage system. The plant will not emit any "smells" or generate noise. Several tankers a day are currently required to take the leachate for treatment either in

Camberley or Maple Cross, however, leachate from the Springfield Farm landfill site will be brought here for processing when this site becomes fully operational.

4. Footpaths

Following the completion of restoration works, the footpaths and bridleways will be reinstated and accessible by 2018. The permissive paths will remain. The bridleway north of the motorway will be reinstated further away from the motorway.

David Vincent

Hedgerley Memorial Hall

Hedgerley Memorial Hall provides the local community and surrounding areas a lovely venue for meetings, events, parties etc.

Many thanks should go to the hard working committee, namely Janet Mace, Mary Lane, Pat Field, Sue Livingston, Tristan Hanley and Maddy Bushnell.

Special thanks should go to the ongoing support from Susan Baldwin and Maurice Ridgley who are very much valued additions to the core team at events.

The committee meet on a monthly basis to address any issues and deal with ongoing activities. The AGM for Hall is being held on Wednesday April 29th at 7.30pm should anyone wish to attend.

In 2014, the Hall installed cinema screen and projection and DVD equipment to launch Hedgerley Film Club. The Film Club happens on the first Friday of each month and so far has been a moderate success – although does need more regular and consistent support to ensure that it is financially viable going forward.

The Hall has installed a telephone line and is awaiting the installation of broadband. It is hoped that this facility will encourage additional daytime bookings from local businesses.

The Hall does not receive any financial support and is self funded. Bookings are down on previous years so the Hall runs a series of local community events to try and raise funds including: Coffee Mornings, reindeer Drives, Beetle Drives, Jumble Sales. This is needed to maintain the hall and compensate for the reduced income.

The Hall has recently had the external woodwork and doors painted as part of general maintenance and to upgrade its appearance for the imminent Best Kept Village Award.

Thanks should go to local resident Mark Allen who is looking after the grounds on a pro-bono basis.

Thanks should go to Grundon Waste Management for the provision of the wheellie bin and its weekly collection.

The Hall just about covers the annual operational costs through bookings and events. Thank you to all regular hall users.

Jean Medway-Gash

Hedgerley Magazine

Hedgerley Village Magazine continues to operate and is accompanied by a website and Facebook page which is gathering continued support.

Many thanks should go to the team of distributors that deliver the Magazine, namely:

Nicola Morgan

**Jackie Gilder
Chris Woodward
Ron Stanmore
Ann Dawes
John Lovelock
Kim Allen
David Mitchell
Maurice Ridgley
Sue Livingston
Brian Ascough**

Thanks to John Lunn who retired from his delivery route this year, after many years.

Many thanks also to regular editorial contributors, namely:

**Rev'd Graham Saunders
Derek Baker
Betty Newcombe
John Lovelock
Emma Marshall
Adam poole
Anita Cranmer (who will be much missed)**

A special mention for the recently passed John Cooper who was the local Royal British Legion commentator. John was a gentleman and always on time with his copy! He will be sorely missed.

Jean Medway-Gash

Hedgerley Women's Institute

Hedgerley W.I. has had another most successful year under the leadership of Jenny Harper Jones and the membership has kept up at around 50. The monthly meetings draw ladies from Hedgerley, Farnham Common, Farnham Royal and a few from other nearside villages.

We meet each month in this Hall with excellent speakers and, over the past 12 months, the subjects have included Hand Spinning & Natural Dyeing, Literary Luminaries in Bucks, Nursing Heroines of the 1st World War, and The Amber Room at St Petersburg and, of course, the talks are followed by a delicious tea and time to chat. We also take part in the local community serving teas at the Horticultural Show in Farnham Common and in February we held a Pancake/Coffee morning here in the Hall which attracts people from near and far. Last year we also took part in the Farnham Royal Church flower festival where two members made an arrangement incorporating the WI badge.

There are always many outside events to attend and three of our members enjoyed a WI Science Day in Aylesbury and two went on a textile course at the W.I's beautiful residential

college, which is a Georgian house with 17 acres at Marsham Park, near Oxford, offering over 500 day or residential courses to members & non members. Our President, Jenny, attended the Inspiring Women Day at Ascot last Summer and on Wednesday last week several members attended the AGM in Aylesbury which

included two inspirational speakers – Anna Turney, a double Winter Paralympian and Jo Fairley, author, journalist and co-founder of the Green & Black chocolate company.

The first WI meeting in the UK was held in Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, on 16th September 1915 so this is the year to celebrate our Centenary. On Monday, April 27th, a baton, which is journeying round every Federation in England and Wales, arrived in Stoke Poges where they have laid on a tour of the Church and Memorial Gardens, finishing up with a delicious tea. It will then be passed on to Bedfordshire. Jenny will be attending the AGM on June 4th in the Royal Albert Hall and ten days later the Bucks Federation is planning a huge picnic at Waddesdon Manor when our members will join the expected crowd of about 1,000 ladies. The final highlight of these festivities will be two of our members attending a Royal Garden Party in June.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings and would so like to encourage more ladies from Hedgerley joining us.!

**Jenny Harper Jones
President**

Hedgerley Youth Football Club Chairman's report 2014/15

After 18 month's existence the Club is developing well and starting to realize the ambitions of its founding members. It has been possible to raise funds from a number of sources, particularly the Hedgerley Angel Fund, which was established some years ago to support initiatives with young people such as this in the community. We are immensely grateful to the Fund for the help it has given us. The money has been used to pay for coaching courses and to buy a full set of equipment for the Club.

The Club would not have been possible without the energy and commitment of Guy Robinson, Dave Poole and David Vincent. Guy and Dave gave up their valuable time to take FA training

courses to become accredited Coaches. It was also necessary for them to undergo DBS checks. David has been a tireless Treasurer and Secretary.

An excellent working relationship has been established with Farnham Common Rugby Club over the sharing of the Green. In fact it has not been necessary to overlap the playing areas because the younger footballers do not need a large pitch. The wear and tear caused by HYFC is minimal.

Apart from the Saturday training sessions, which are now attended regularly by about 12 young people, a very successful Football Funday was organized on Sunday 6 July. The weather was not brilliant but the six-a-side tournament attracted a good number of teams and the athletics, the barbecue, beer tent and ice cream stand kept the supporters well occupied.

In March this year Jo Bishop joined the Committee as Welfare Officer and she will also be progressing the proper registration of our young members and their families.

It is hoped to organize a first friendly match before the end of April 2015 and repeat the Football Funday on Sunday 5 July.

Tom Webb

Chairman's closing remarks -

Thank you all for coming.

Please help us win the Best Kept Village competition again this year; judges are due in June.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be held on MONDAY 11th May in the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm