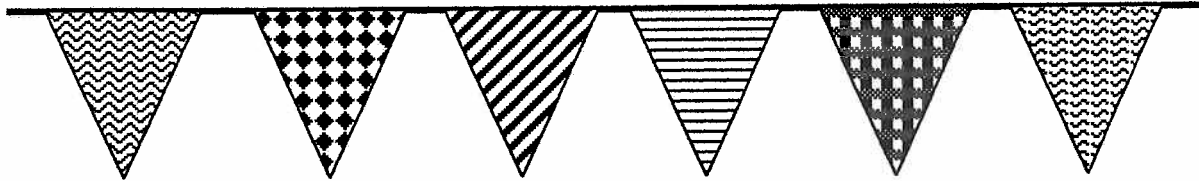


Broughton  
Gifford

VILLAGE

St Mary's Broughton Gifford School



# Traditional Summer Fete

Sunday 24th June



Gates open 12 noon



OLD FASHIONED FAIRGROUND GAMES

LOTS OF STALLS



selling cakes, local produce, gifts, toys, cards, jewellery & more



GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON



DELICIOUS BBQ FOOD TO EAT



A BEER TENT



**FUN FOR ALL AGES  
EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

MAGAZINE

June  
2007



**JUNE 2007**

Putting together this month's edition has been particularly wearisome. Much of the pain has been caused by the late arrival of contributions - to the extent that we are going to have to revert to the time honoured cut-off; if it doesn't arrive at Magazine Mansions by midnight on the nineteenth it has missed the boat! To be fair, serious incompetence on the part of the Editor has compounded the problem - time seems to have caught up with some of my brain cells. I am sure you will be reading this at some point in June - it's just the year that I'm not sure about !

My incompetence is nothing if not consistent. Last month I forgot to remind you of the date and time of the Magazine AGM and as a result we had no members of the public present. My apologies to our two or three regular supporters who missed out on the great event! The AGM gave me the opportunity to reflect on the strength of our team starting with our Committee Secretary, Anita Stratford who is by far and away our longest serving committee member, our Treasury Team of Tom and Maggie Chippendale and our Distribution Manager Chris Pitura. Of course, Chris couldn't do her bit without her team of street distributors and I thank them all on your behalf. The Committee also receives the invaluable support of some illustrious former members: Annette Stone (who typed the contents of the magazine for ten years) distributes the mag to our MP, the Bishop of Salisbury, the British Library (as required by law !) etc and Hilary, of course, continues to Ponder over village comings and goings.

On the subject of comings and goings....this month has seen the retirement of two very long standing parish councillors, Kathy Wright and Tony Taylor (Kathy alone has 23 years service to her name). Neither of them would expect it and I don't really want to set a precedent, but it would be negligent not to note their service to this community. They both brought mature judgement and good sense to the Council table. I would like to think that they will miss the monthly meeting. We will certainly miss them. Here's Hilary.....

**Ponderings .....**

As I write, you could be forgiven for thinking that we are in April, not May. The months appear to have got themselves reversed, and it is blowing a hooley out there, and promising rain (again). It is two months to the day since I broke my arm, and it feels more like ten! My thanks go to all of you . kind folk who have sympathised with me, and it is to be hoped that when I go back to the RUH on 4th June the x-ray will reveal a mended member, which is more than it did last time. Never mind, at least the plaster is off and I can function more or less normally again, so long as I remember not to use my left arm. Household Male deserves a medal, as I have not been a patient patient.



In order to maintain some form of bodily fitness, and prompted by the spreading of parts of my anatomy, I have been taking regular walks through the village, usually in the mornings. You could have fooled me that there is a 30 mph speed limit through the village. I have got very smart at leaping for cover, and the main culprits, I hate to say, are of the female persuasion, presumably doing the school run. It is to be hoped that their offspring survive to grow into teenagers. Come on girls; give yourselves five extra minutes in the mornings so that we can all have less heart-stopping moments.

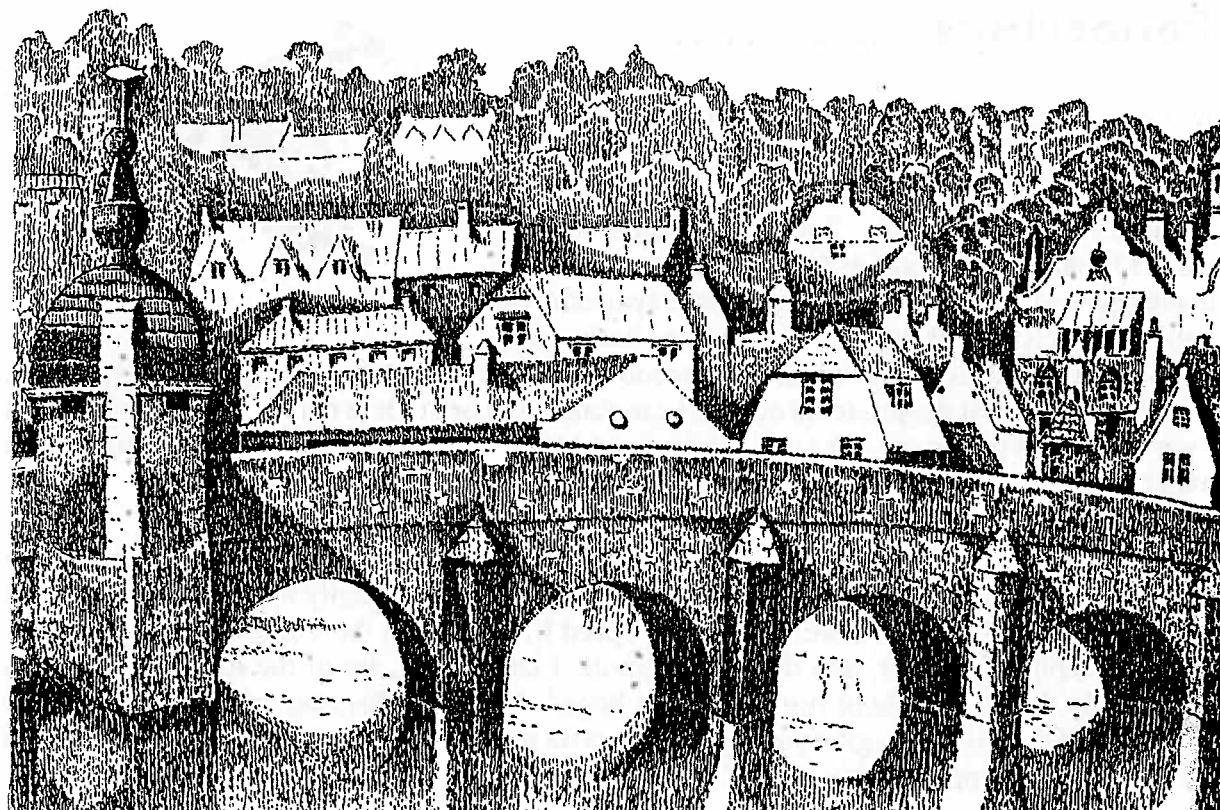
I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Broughton Piecemakers for staging such a superb exhibition of their work. I hope it was well supported, as it certainly deserved it. Where you lot all find the time for doing such exquisite work, and still function as wives and mothers, I will never understand. Keep up the good work, and I am looking forward to next year's show.

At this time of year, Household Male and I usually set sail and head for the Isle of Wight, to meet up with other members of our Sailing Club in Yarmouth. This is rarely a straightforward event, as weather patterns have to be studied, forecasts obtained, and much lip-pursing and muttering takes place, together with a bit of seaweed-fingering before a decision as to whether to set sail or not can be taken. This year, we have got it sussed. I cannot partake in seafaring activities with a wobbly arm, so we are going to take part with the aid of Wightlink Ferries and the camper. I am thinking of letting the two spare seats in the car go the highest bidder among my less enthusiastic sailing friends !

I would like to welcome to the village a new arrival in the small shape of Callum Newland. Callum lives with his Mum and Dad, Richard and Emma Newland, at Church View Cottage, 159 Brook Green, and his little sister, Jodi. Many congratulations to you all. May all your nights be peaceful ones. I am sure that there must be many others (not necessarily newborn) who have crept into the village. Please forgive me if you have not been welcomed personally, but my bush telegraph suffers from broken lines sometimes. It has, however, picked up that Dora Mortimer is now 100 years old. We at Magazine Mansions join with Her Majesty in sending our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

Best wishes go to anyone who has been unwell lately. Sue Clark has been laid low with a broken ankle, so we send her all our best wishes for a speedy mend. Broken feet and legs are definitely more inconvenient than arms.

Copy deadline for the July magazine is 19th June, and Peter looks forward to hearing from you then.



## REPORT OF BROUGHTON GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007

County Councillor Sarah Content and one of our new District Councillors Ernie Clark had both sent their apologies. Mr Duncan Hames, who did not stand for District Council on this occasion, sent his apologies but stated his wish to remain in contact with the Parish Council as he would be the Parliamentary candidate for this area at the next General Election. One Parishioner was also present for part of the meeting.

Following only 9 candidates coming forward to fill 11 seats on the Parish Council an election was not necessary. However, this left two vacancies which the Parish Council can fill by co-option. All Parish Councillors signed new Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and were given Register of Interest forms for completion and return to the Clerk within 28 days. Mr Gurney was elected Chairman for the coming year, with Mr Atkins being elected Vice-Chairman.

As it was nearly 8 pm Mr Gurney asked if the Parishioner wished to speak to the Parish Council. The Parishioner stated that he had read in the summary Minutes in the Village Magazine that the Parish Council had objected to his planning application for a two storey extension at 149 The Street on the grounds of the proposed extension blocking light from a neighbour. He supplied photographs to show the Parish Council that the first floor window was actually his with a doorway underneath that was shared with his neighbour. He explained that the existing single storey extension houses the bathroom, which was built in the early 1990's by the previous occupant and was of poor quality and needed regular painting inside due to dampness. Therefore, he was proposing to remove this and build a two storey extension as a replacement and to provide an upstairs bathroom and this application had the full support of his neighbour. Mr Gurney stated that the Parish Council judged the application on the plans viewed at the last meeting and its comments had already been passed to the District Council. Therefore, it was unable to comment further on this matter but it was likely that a Planning Officer from the District Council would inspect the site. It was suggested that the photographs should be provided to Planning Services to show the relevant Planning Officer. The Parishioner was advised that the District Council would take the Parish Council's comments into account when making its own decision on the application. However, comments made by the Parish Council were only ever advisory and would not necessarily be reflected in its final decision as it had its own very strict criteria that it applied during any planning process. Mr Gurney thanked the Parishioner for coming, who then opted to stay for a while to observe the meeting.

Inquiries about the cost and frequency of training courses for Dog Control Wardens would be made with ENCAMS with a view to the Parish Council eventually appointing its own enforcement officer to cover the commons. Three waste bins would be installed on Broughton Common and one on Norrington.

A reminder would be sent to Wiltshire County Council Highways about the remedial road repairs promised outside 27A The Street to alleviate pooling of water on the road outside the property being continually splashed against the wall by passing traffic.

The Fiat parked outside the Methodist Church had now been taxed, albeit for a short period in anticipation of the vehicle being sold. The Parish Council would monitor the situation.

Nothing further had been heard from Codford Parish Council about its 'booklet' submitted in support of its affordable housing scheme. A reminder would be sent to enable the Parish Council to view the booklet before inviting members of Codford Parish Council to a future meeting.

Duncan Hames had advised via email that he had spoken to John McGuire, District Council Environmental Health Officer who had visited D Mortimer's on a number of occasions since the noise complaints had been made and intended to do a night visit to witness the problem himself. Mr Hames had drawn his attention to the lack of correspondence from the District Council to either the complainants or the Parish Council and Mr McGuire had since written to the Parish Council confirming that some progress on this matter had been made and that he hoped the situation would be improved very soon.

Wessex Water had written advising that a build up of debris within the public sewer had caused the overflowing drain outside D Mortimer & Sons and this had now been jetted and was working satisfactorily. The pipe is of pitch fibre construction and may need remedial work in the future.

The Wiltshire Association of Local Councils monthly newsletter announced details of a free Seminar being held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 6.30 pm in the Corn Exchange in Devizes to inform parish councils about the bid for "One Council for Wiltshire". Two places will be booked as Mrs Jarvis and Mr Wiltshire may attend.

Occupiers of 120 The Street had asked permission to cut down two willow trees in their rear garden due to them being in a dangerous condition. They would be advised to contact the District Council Planning Dept for guidance.

Mr Gurney had a telephone call from a parishioner stating her concerns about children playing football across the road outside The Fox. There had been several 'near misses' with both cars and buses. It was agreed that those children thought to be involved would be spoken to at Youth Club.

## **Planning**

Nothing further had been heard from the District Council about Pickwick Caravans on land near Hayleyan Farm and this matter would be chased up. The field on the B3107 between Reeds Yard and Challymead where cars appear to be stored has been reported and a standard letter had been received back from a District Council Compliance Officer stating it was of a low priority. The Parish Council would be notified within 40 days of any action the District Council intends to take on this matter. A concerned parishioner had also contacted the Clerk about a van and trailer being parked on the edge of the road at this site causing a hazard to other road users on more than one occasion. She was advised that the activity had already been reported to the authorities but a follow-up letter confirming that a parishioner had complained would be sent to the District Council. Communication received from the owner of 25a The Street advised the Parish Council that she had confirmation from the Land Registry that the land in front of her wall to the edge of the public footpath to be under her ownership. The Parish Council agreed to make independent inquiries with Land Registry on this matter. It was agreed that the Parish Council would perform a search with the Land Registry, at a nominal cost of per property, to resolve ownership issues on the rare occasion boundary issues arose and that the Clerk should have delegated power to carry this out on its behalf as and when necessary. A sign to the new housing development 'Avon Mews' installed at the Holt end of East Lane obstructed drivers vision and should be removed. Wiltshire County Council Highways would be advised accordingly. District Council permission would be granted at some time in the future for a new dwelling at 9A Curtis Orchard when a legal agreement to secure a commuted sum towards an affordable housing contribution had been obtained. Permission had been given for a single storey rear extension at 7 The Street. The District Council had revoked a Tree Preservation Order on a tree in the rear garden of 70 the Common as it had already been felled. A replacement tree, a Walnut, had been planted in its place and had immediately become the subject of a Tree Preservation Order itself. Additional plans had been received in respect of the conversion of farm buildings into industrial workshop at Lower Farm had been received. These included a supporting letter detailing proposed operating times; number of employees etc and this was read out to the Parish Council. As these showed no substantial difference to original plans supplied the Clerk had already reiterated its comments on the original application. An application for a first floor extension at 13 Newleaze Park had been received. The Parish Council had no objections. Building work at 45 The Common had resulted in the 'Willow Crescent' sign being removed from the bank. It was thought that the sign would probably be re-sited as necessary but the Parish Council would monitor this to ensure it is done by the next meeting.

## **Report from Grazing Rights Holders Meeting**

The main area of contention was the Parish Council's claim for Single Farm Payment (SFP) from The Rural Payments Agency (RPA), which Mr Richards had also claimed for part of the commons on his forms, thus duplicating claims for the same area of land. He had then requested the Parish Council to withdraw its claim and repay the money to RPA. After the meeting the Clerk had supplied him with relevant information to enable him to follow up his claim with RPA. Mr Hooper had reread information on this matter and reported that since the Parish Council had all the relevant reference numbers and the RPA had paid out for both years (2005 & 2006) that its claim was perfectly legitimate. Mr Richards would have to take this matter up with RPA, not with the Parish Council. Mr Gurney had spoken to both an independent farmer and a land agent solicitor about this matter and reported that the IACS Scheme and SFP Scheme are totally different and that as the Parish Council was the majority owner (ie 100%) of the commons that its claim was the only legitimate one that could be made for SFP. Mr Hooper pointed out that if Mr Richards wanted to claim for a proportion of the commons then all the Grazing Rights Holders should also be entitled to their own portion. Mr Gurney proposed

the Parish Council do no more than it already has in supplying the relevant information and await any further response on the matter. This was agreed. The treatment of the thistles with Dowsheid would take place in the next few weeks.

Mrs Jarvis asked if an area on the Common could be cordoned off so that it was not cut by the tractors in June, to allow wild flowers/grasses to seed and to see how the area develops over a period of time. She proposed an area to the front of nos 88 to 91a as this area showed the highest incidence of wild flowers on a survey carried out sometime ago. Mr Hooper seconded the proposal and the vote was 2 for, 5 against and 2 abstentions so the proposal failed. It was thought this area was going to cause problems for the tractors to leave. Mr Gurney proposed an area following the hedge line from Common Farm to opposite no 98 be left as this was easier for the tractors to avoid. The vote was 7 for and 2 abstentions. It was agreed for members to meet this weekend to 'peg out' the area. Letters would be sent to Mr Richards and Mr Ovens advising them accordingly and asking them to inform the Parish Council of when they intended to cut the Common, giving about 48 hours notice so that it could ensure that the area was well marked for them.

Mr Coward reported that Broughton Gifford and surrounding parishes are to have a general footpath survey for maintenance purposes during 2007/8. Mr Hooper reported several repairs/replacement bridges are to be carried out on land at Church Farm.

Wiltshire County Council Highways advised that Royal Mail had requested permission to replace the existing letterbox outside The Bell with a traditional pillar-box on the area near the telephone box. It confirmed that Royal Mail had been informed that this is not public highway, but forms part of the Common and that they should seek permission from the Parish Council.

A low hanging branch on a tree by the War Memorial hangs over the bench resulting in people not being able to use it. A request would be made for this branch to be removed.

A tree had blown down in the hedge at Hollybrook House, which landed on the railings outside the Methodist Church causing one section to bend. Mr Hudson would look at obtaining a replacement scaffolding pole if the existing bent one could not be bent back into shape.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007 starting at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

## BROUGHTON GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL - VACANCIES

We would like to introduce to you your new Parish Councillors (although many familiar faces!), who will be serving you for the next four years:

Chairman (for the coming year) – Mr Gus Gurney, 84 The Common – 782032  
Vice-Chairman (for the coming year) – Mr Peter Atkins, Challymead Mill – 702819

Mrs Mary Jarvis – 78 The Common – 782941  
Mr Richard Coward – 103 The Common – 782368  
Mr Richard Hall – 6 Curtis Orchard – 07970 288854  
Mr Martin Hooper – Church Farm – 783413  
Mr Jeff Hudson – 34 Newleaze Park – 782077  
Mr Clive Pitts – 74 The Common – 782257  
Mr Paul Wiltshire – 131 The Street – 782277

As you can see the Parish Council currently has only 9 members and it has two vacancies to fill its quota of 11 members.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor or would like more information then please feel able to speak to any of the above detailed members who are only too happy to help. Alternatively contact the Clerk – Mrs Dawn Cuthbertson – 702158. This is a voluntary role but the satisfaction of helping in your local community to keep this little part of Wiltshire just as it should be is priceless and very rewarding! We look forward to welcoming you onboard.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS FROM ERNIE CLARK, YOUR INDEPENDENT DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

At the recent district council election the residents of Broughton Gifford were given the opportunity, due to the size of the new Avonside Ward, to return three councillors.

There was a choice from seven candidates comprising three Conservatives, one Independent and three Lib Dems. The turn-out was a very healthy 42% with the result being that the Independent (Ernie Clark 1,514 votes), one Lib Dem (Trevor Carbin 1,129 votes), and one Conservative (Dave Binding 902 votes) were elected. May I thank those of you that voted for me and remind you that, if you have a problem, I am here to assist you. However, you are free to contact whichever councillor you prefer.

I endeavour to write something for parish newsletters every month and try to keep it politically neutral! If your editor is happy with my copy, I hope to supply you with more news next month.

**Ernie Clark**

14 May 2007

**THOMAS  
CHIPPENDALE FCA**  
*Chartered Accountant*

Personal service for preparation  
of accounts  
taxation, tax returns,  
VAT returns and payroll for  
small businesses, partnerships  
and small Limited companies.  
Telephone for free quotation.

Maryfield House, 22 The Street,  
Broughton Gifford, SN12 8PH  
Tel: 01225- 783233

also at:-

39 Market Place, Chippenham,  
Wiltshire, SN15 3HT  
Tel/Fax: 01249- 465435

E-mail:  
chippendale@tcca.prestel.co.uk

MARYFIELD MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED

### WHAT OUR BUSINESS CAN OFFER YOUR BUSINESS

Maryfield Management Services Limited is a local enterprise set up to help small businesses with their bookkeeping, VAT returns, invoicing, statements, secretarial work etc. If we can be of any assistance to take some pressure away and help you run your small business more efficiently please contact us at the telephone number below to make an appointment for a friendly consultation.

Maryfield Management Services Limited

Maryfield House  
22 The Street  
Broughton Gifford  
Wiltshire SN12 8PH

01225 - 783233  
chippendale@tcca.prestel.co.uk  
Registered in England No: 5689468  
Director: Mrs M D Chippendale



**LOGS FOR SALE**  
**PHONE GARY GRAY**

ON

**01225 790692**

**07773 123924**

**Church Farm Meats**  
**Church Farm**  
**Broughton Gifford**

**01225 783467**

Top quality beef produced on our own farm.  
Locally sourced Pork Chickens Lamb  
Free range eggs

Cooked hams & cheese, Pickles & preserves

Fresh Veg Daily  
Local Fresh Bread - Thursday, Friday and Saturday

**OPENING TIMES:**

Monday, Wednesday, Sunday 9 am - 12 noon  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8 am - 5.30 pm  
Saturday 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

---

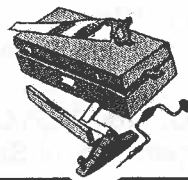
**L MITCHENER KITCHENS**

**LEE MITCHENER - KITCHEN SUPPLIER/FITTER**

**UPGRADE YOUR EXISTING KITCHEN**

**NEW DOORS/WORKTOPS, FLOORING & TILING AVAILABLE**

**FREE QUOTATION SERVICE**



**TEL/FAX: (01225) 783 682**

**MOBILE: 07 812 579 508**

## *Andrew writes .....*

All sorts of people have followings in our society. Football clubs have fans, MPs have political parties, radio presenters have devoted listeners and so on. Some followers are dedicated, even fanatical, but more often than not the British way is not to go over the top about anything. We can sometimes view enthusiasm as something we all grow out of.

Recently at St Mary's we've been looking at what it means to be a follower of Christ, and the answers have been very positive and affirming. The line of thinking goes something like this.....In Jewish society 2000 years ago, the educational system was based on learning the Jewish scriptures. Only a few of the most able students would end up being disciples of a Rabbi. The Rabbi would only take on someone as a disciple if he felt that that person could assimilate his teaching and go on to be a rabbi himself. For those who made the grade, the call to follow a Rabbi and be his disciple was very affirming, because the Rabbi was, in effect, saying "I believe you can be like me and do the things I do."

Jesus was treated as a Rabbi, and when he called disciples, he chose ordinary people – the sort of people who would not have made the cut in the ordinary way in the Jewish educational system. Jesus called two fishermen, and it's not surprising they hastily dropped their nets, because it was such an honour to be counted worthy to be the disciples of a Rabbi. Again, Jesus was, in effect, saying "I believe you can be like me and do the things I do."

We might think that no one could ever be like Jesus, but the stories in the book of Acts that record what the disciples went on to do after Jesus had died, record that they did go on to do some amazing things, and that Jesus' faith in them was not misplaced.

I don't know how you would define a Christian, but we are certainly modern day disciples of Jesus Christ, and we are therefore under the same affirming call as his first disciples. Just as the first disciples took their call seriously, and spent their time with Jesus for the three years of his ministry, so we need to apply ourselves to the calling of being a disciple.

If you would like to consider Jesus' affirming call to follow him, you might like to consider joining our Alpha Course starting in September. For those who are interested, we are having a big Alpha Supper Party in Holt Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30 pm. There will be a two course meal, wine and soft drinks, a talk, and an opportunity to ask questions about what an Alpha Course entails. I like to say to people that an Alpha Course gives you the opportunity to bottom out the claims of Christianity once and for all, and to ask the questions that trouble you over matters of faith. Do please telephone me if you would like to come to this supper, 782289.

With Every Blessing

Andrew

### June

- 5<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am - 3 pm. Quiet Garden, Great Chalfield Manor. Bring a packed lunch. Led meditation at 1 pm by Ven John Wraw.
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Art Exhibition, St Katharine's Church. 10.30 am - 6 pm daily, 2.30 -6 pm Sunday, Morning Coffee and Strawberry Teas.
- 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm. Irish themed evening, Broughton Gifford Village Hall. Tickets £12 from The Bell on the Common, Holt Superstore, or Sarah Chandler, tel. 782241

## SUNDAY SERVICES

	ST KATHARINE'S HOLT	ST MARY'S BROUGHTON GIFFORD	ALL SAINTS GREAT CHALFIELD
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00 am HC 10.30 am AAW	10.00 am MS	6.00 pm E
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am PC	10.00 am MS	11.00 am HC
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am AAW Open Air at Holt School 6.00 pm Immanuel Service	8.45 am HC 10.00 am MS	11.00 am M
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am AAW 6.00 pm E	10.00 am PC	9.00 am HC
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00 am HC 10.30 am AAW	10.00 am MS	6.00 pm E
8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am PC	10.00 am MS	11.00 am HC

### KEY TO TYPES OF SERVICE

HC	Holy Communion	PC	Parish Communion, Common Worship	M	Matins
AAW	All Age Worship	E	Evening Prayer	FC	Family Communion
ChE	Choral Evensong	SP	Special Praise Service	MS	Morning Service

# Music, Supper With an Irish theme Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June Broughton Gifford Village Hall

- Black Velvet or Bucks Fizz Reception
- Irish Hotpot
- Irish music
- All Star Auction
- Dancing to midnight
- Starts 7.30 pm

Tickets £12 from The Bell on the Common, Holt Superstore and Sarah Chandler (tel: 01225 782241) (in aid of the Benefice churches)



**Holiday club programme  
for 5 to 11 year olds**

**AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> (mornings)**

**at  
Broughton Gifford School**

**Registration Forms will come  
from School  
or call 783119 for more information**

**Environmentally friendly from the  
churches of Broughton Gifford and Holt**



## **BOMBAY DUCK RACES HOLT**

**SATURDAY JULY 14TH AT PHILLIS COTTAGE,  
HOLT  
6.30 - MIDNIGHT**

**"THE LAUNDRY YARD SCRUB BAND"  
CURRY, BAR, PETE'S DISCO**

**TICKETS - FAMILY (4) £25  
ADULT £10  
CHILD £5**

(CHILD MUST BE ACCOMPANIED & UNDER 14, UNDER 5 FREE)

**TICKETS : HOLT SUPERSTORE**

**IN AID OF HOLT, BROUGHTON GIFFORD &  
GREAT CHALFIELD CHURCHES**

## **HOLT VILLAGE FAIR SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE HOLT SCHOOL, THE GRAVEL 'Beside the Sea'**

**All the fun of the seaside - traditional 'End of the Pier' stalls; steel band;  
hoopla & home-made cakes; BBQ & beach photos; crazy golf & volley ball**

**Gates open: 1.30 pm**

**Grand raffle**

**In aid of Holt School & St Katharine's Church Sudan Fund**

# Memories

## A Walk to Whaddon

The first hot day of the year, some time in May, and Mr Wood, our Schoolmaster, would say, "This afternoon we shall go for a nature walk." Of course, these words were music to our ears, we waited and waited for them, and several times throughout the summer we were to hear them, and rejoice. No lessons for one whole afternoon! A nature walk, with all its joys, lay before us.

We always took the same route. Always. It was the accepted routine every summer, and we wanted it no different. If we had been taken on another walk, then the afternoon would have been spoilt. We knew every footpath, every stile, every gate, and every bridge on that walk. We looked for all the familiar land marks, and picked the same flowers from the same places, year after year. It was a tradition of our village school, and I daresay our fathers and grandfathers before us had been taken over the same terrain.

Out of the school gates, turn left, and march down the road towards the brook. Opposite the Church climb over the stile, and follow the footpath, sloping downwards through a field of buttercups.

Phew! Isn't it hot! I have my sundress on today, with a little bolero. Off with the bolero, to expose straps over shoulders and crossed at the back. But underneath I am still wearing my liberty bodice, and the effect is ruined. Don't cast a clout 'till May is out, and Mother wouldn't let me leave it off. "You've still got your liberty bodice on," yells Jeannie. "It shows." I carefully pretend not to hear, and discreetly slip my bolero back on again.

We reach the brook, and the bridge which is made up of a single plank and iron handrails. Cross over in single file. This is where we have paddled, and even, at times, changed into bathing costumes and submerged. It is deeper at this spot. Just around the corner at the place we call Sandy Bay, the water is only ankle deep. There are bushes either side where blackberries grow, and willow trees hang over the water. At Sandy Bay, a single tree leans over the stretch of smooth soil which gave the place its name. We have climbed this tree, and held on with our hands, before dropping on to the beach beneath.

In the corner of the field it is slightly marshy, and there are rushes growing here, and the pretty pale mauve blossoms we call cuckoo flowers. Us girls decide to pick some. We already have buttercups, donkey sorrel, and moon daisies, and as many different grasses as we can find.

There is a commotion by the hedge. "A snake. A snake," shout the boys. We rush over. A grass snake is on the ground. It is dead. A smaller snake lies beside it. "Tha's a baby 'un," says Alan. "We cut open the snake, and that 'un were inside." We stare in amazement, wanting to believe, but not quite sure. "No 'taint then," says another boy, "'ee cut off th'end of 'is tail, 'ee did, so thur!"

Leave the brook behind, and in two's and three's follow Mr Wood up another field, and across a road. There are stiles to climb over, and gates to pass through. We have now reached the railway line, where Mr Wood carefully chaperones us across. In the distance is the river and the lovely old stone Packhorse bridge. We rush up to it, and scamper over between its walls. Then, in a crowd, we follow the river, and walk under the black iron railway bridge. We can now see our destination, with its distinguishing land mark, a big old tree.

One more tiny bridge, over a stream which is little more than a ditch, and we are there! Up the steep slope to our tree, and we must climb it, girls and all. It is a wonderful tree, made for climbing, and there is a hollow trunk to peep from.

Only the little church left now to visit. There are vaults beneath it, and the boys delight in horrifying us girls with their tales of skeletons that are inside.

It is time to return; the afternoon is drawing to a close. We retrace our steps, and return over all those bridges, and across all those fields, with the wonderful smell of a beautiful day in the country assailing our nostrils. There is no other smell like it; it is a hot, lazy, nostalgic smell, and its magic never fails to anyone who has been a country child.

The last field is reached, and I am so tired. Mr Wood picks me up and gives me a "chuggy back" and I gaze down superciliously on my less fortunate playmates. "Ha, one up on Jeannie," I say naughtily to myself, remembering the episode of the liberty bodice.

The school gates are reached, and so, home; the wonderful afternoon is over.

That was the routine. The dearly loved, familiar routine of our school's nature walks. Mr Wood is no longer there, he retired long ago, and we are now adults. A quarter of a century has passed away, but I like to think that it is still the same. That "time" who brings wrinkles to our faces and changes the colour of our hair, has left our nature walk alone. The trees may be bigger, and the bridges older, but the years which ravage us tend only to enhance nature. So the cuckoo flowers, the donkey sorrel, the moon daisies and the willow trees must be as beautiful as ever, and I feel convinced that they are still there in all their glory. Bringing joy to other children, another generation taking a nature walk. The lesson which is not a lesson, and therefore never forgotten.

Pam Gooding

May 1967

## **K T SCHAFER**

*your local electrical contractor*

*for all domestic and additional wiring requirements.*

*From one point to a full rewire, showers and storage heaters.*

*NICEIC registered*

*Ask for Karl - 01225 703888 or mobile 07703 791972.*

## BROUGHTON GIFFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	6 pm	Holy Communion	Flowers: Ethel Flatt Cleaning: Lesley Marshman
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	6 pm	Local Arrangements	Flowers: Margaret Mallabone Cleaning: Lesley Marshman
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	6 pm		Flowers: Vera Ovens Cleaning: Eileen Gaisford
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	6 pm	Holy Communion	Flowers: Jenny Taylor Cleaning: Ethel Flatt
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	6 pm		Flowers: Eileen Gaisford Cleaning: Liz and Margaret

We send our love and prayers to all our sick and absent friends.

### RAY COLLINS

**General Home Improvements**

**Carpentry**

**Painting and Decorating**

**Tiling**

**25 years experience and based in Broughton Gifford**

**01225 783417**

**mobile 07941 173896**



**Nursery School**

**Atworth**

Contact Juliette Stone

On 01225 791506

Montessori based education  
for 2 - 5 years in a small  
group with individual tuition.

**Open Morning**

**Come and see a working day**

**Friday 22nd June**

**10 am - 12 noon**

**St Michael's Church Hall,  
Atworth**

# WOODLEY

ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS  
01225 782012 & 708615

## DECORATORS

### JACQUI'S HOME MADE SWEETS

3 Newleaze Park, Broughton Gifford

Freshly baked and delivered to your door.

Fruit pies, crumbles, puddings and a good selection of cakes.

Traditional homemade fudges.

Please phone for price list or visit me at Wiltshire Farmers Markets

Tel: Jacqui on 01225 783518 or 07796 331943

## OUTSIDE-IN

David Bull

### GARDENING SERVICES AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE

All types of gardening work - Fences - Hedges - Maintenance - Gutter clearance

Also inside and outside painting, tiling and general odd jobs

Tel: Broughton Gifford 783518 Mobile: 07868 759504



# MIS TAYLOR

## PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES

01225 783553 or 07967 134697

*OFTEC* Registered Technician For oil Fired Central Heating Systems

*BPEC* Registered Engineer For Pressurised Domestic Water Systems

*GRANT SOLAR* Panel Trained Engineer (Solar DVD Available On Request)

*BATHROOMS* Complete Design, Supply & Installation Service

*For Your Local Plumbing & Heating Engineer Call Max Taylor*

