

THE SEASON OF GOODWILL?

"This is the season of goodwill" said the Rector.

Hah! Goodwill? Anything but! In the list of life events which psychologists produce as causing stress, Christmas is one of the those which tops the bill. It would be nice if it were perfect though, wouldn't it?

"The Perfect Christmas." I wonder what that would be for you?

All the presents bought and wrapped by the end of the summer sales? Home baking complete and in the freezer by the middle of November? A **real** Christmas tree which didn't drop needles like a cloud of locusts, which bung up the Hoover when you try to clean them up? The toddlers writing notes to Father Christmas and not noticing clouds of soot which fall on your head as you try to ram them up the chimney? (The notes that is).

Even better if it starting snowing at about half past five on Christmas Eve, and for the first Carol Singers to arrive about an hour after that with ruddy faces, mufflers, lanterns, and at least some of the right notes.

Totally wonderful would be little Johnny showing at least a passing interest in the presents you have just taken out a second mortgage to buy, rather than playing with the cardboard box they came in. And then, wonder of wonders, you find you have just the right batteries to fit his fully automated space crane.

Perfect beyond the bounds of fantasy would be the wonderful sense of bonhomie which came over the family at Christmas dinner. Uncle Peter and Auntie Susan decide at least to try to speak to each other again; and when the turkey and pudding are eaten, everyone settles down in front of the telly to find that the James Bond film if one nobody has ever seen before!

It isn't like that is it. You will forget to buy those batteries. It will be the same old James Bond on the telly, or worse still "The Great Escape". If Uncle Peter and Auntie Susan have not actually spoken to each other for the last 52 weeks, they are not very likely to begin now.

Maybe you are spending Christmas on your own, you would give anything to be part of a family, even if they quarrelled all the time. And if you are lucky enough

to have relations, why is it that Christmas Day and Boxing Day seem so impossibly hard to keep smiling through?

Every year, so many of us set out with the expectation that Christmas will be the perfect family time, when old conflicts are forgotten and old hurts forgiven.

It is a lovely idea, but the peace that Christ brought into the world on that first Christmas needs full time attention not just one day a year. People are not like that, we need time and goodwill to sort out conflict, and the chances of doing it on one day in December are pretty small. Mother and son-in-law should not expect that the other will suddenly become warm, loving and understanding. If Uncle Harry has always been a pain, a funny hat and a lot of Christmas pud are unlikely to change him very much.

The perfect Christmas is an illusion, let's admit that and come down to earth. Kids are no more than passingly interested in expensive presents. What they will remember for years is you taking them to buy the Christmas tree, that you played silly games, that the food was good and everyone together; most of all that you gave them your time and attention, not just the right sized batteries.

And the family conflicts?

The truth is that **conflict** needs to be addressed and resolved the other 364 days of the year. Family closeness needs to be built as an ongoing structure, we will not cure the ills of year in two days. If we have not spent time together during the summer, suddenly to try and have family closeness on one day is too much. The stain is bound to tell sooner or later.

I think laughing at ourselves is half the answer. We are all so desperately serious and determined that we are going to have a good time. Be gentle with each other, take it all with a pinch of salt, and things might ease up a bit.

What Christmas suggests to me is unconditional love. Why? Because unconditional love is the Christian Way.

I met a lady recently who moaned at great length about the way the DSS gives Giro cheques to single parents. "Why should we pay for these women? She said. "They only have themselves to blame!"

God does not think like that. God did not treat mankind as it deserved or leave it in a mess, "Oh look down there at the earth, humanity is in one heck of a mess; still what's it got to do with me, they have only themselves to blame!"

God does not think like that, his love for us is unconditional. He became a person himself, Jesus Christ, born in a manger. He grew up and lived a life as a guide how life should be lived, but more than that, in his body and soul on the Cross he disposed of all our sinful trash, the trash of our false expectations, our hopelessness in relationships, our selfish pride and attention, the pile of trash which separates us from others and from God.

So it is true, God is the season of goodwill. There may not be much of it around from people, but there is from God. He sees us and your families as we really are. In Jesus Christ, born in a manger, God offers the gift of his unconditional acceptance, his unconditional love, and his unconditional forgiveness through this life and the next.

But will we accept it?

Revd. Tim Harper

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS'

HARVEST CHARITY 1997

The Harvest Supper was a great success this year, enjoyed by all who attended and our thanks go to Chris & David George who once again provided a delicious meal.

The main fundraising event this year was the John Suchet evening at the end of October. It was relatively well attended by villagers who enjoyed it immensely. John Suchet has a schoolboy enthusiasm for Beethoven and really brought him to life.

It is anticipated that as a result of the **1997** fundraising, All Saints will be in a position to send **£1,500** to Raphael and **£750** to **The New Life Home** in Nairobi. Our thanks to all who supported the charities during the year.

The second charity for 1998 will be the Village School and we hope to have details of the 1998 event ready for the next Newsletter. In addition, for those who have moved into the village since the All Saints' Harvest Charity's inception, Nick Sadler has kindly written the following article to explain about our village giving.

Amanda McCallum

ALL SAINTS' HARVEST CHARITY

In 1985 the Church Committee decided that All Saints should provide a local focus for people in the Village wishing to help those in dire need in the Third World. Of course there are many charities in this field but it was felt that villagers would wish to know precisely what their donations were being used for and who were benefiting and that could best be achieved by supporting a relatively small project. Furthermore, continuity was seen as crucial in order to achieve worthwhile results and to develop a relationship of concern and trust with an overseas community.

Thus the All Saints Harvest Charity was born and after much deliberation and research it was decided that the money raised should go towards the mobile TB unit at Raphael - the Ryder Cheshire Foundation village centre in Northern India. This was reviewed regularly and continued as the sole beneficiary for 11 years. During that time one or two people from the village have been privileged to see at first hand the inspiring work being done at Raphael including its TB outreach scheme and three young people from Coleshill have worked there as volunteers.

In 1996 the Church Committee decided that they would choose a second charity from proposals put forward from villagers which would receive 30% of the profits. The Friends of Rushmead Hospice and the New Life Home in Nairobi were chosen in 1996 and 1997 respectively. The Committee has decided that in 1998 the Village School will be the second beneficiary.

The All Saints Harvest Charity has raised a total of £23,588 of which £22,116 has gone to Raphael. By very careful monitoring Raphael has a known success rate in the cure of TB of 80% which is nearly double that of similar schemes sponsored by Indian state agencies. The cost of a complete course of treatment is £50 and it can therefore be stated with some confidence that at least 443 sufferers have completed their treatment and been cured as a direct result of the fund raising activities of The All Saints Harvest Charity.

This should be seen in the context of All Saints wider charitable giving and readers may be interested to know that the donations for 1997 were as follows:

Britwell Parish, Slough	£ 1,000
Harvest Charity [excluding fundraising]	£750
Coleshill School 150 th Anniversary	£500
Rushymead	£500
Leprosy Mission	£250
Rosanna Hospital	£250
Multiple Sclerosis	£250
Child Bereavement Trust	£250
TOTAL	£3,750

N.I.S.

COLESHILL VILLAGE SCHOOL

We have had another very busy and enjoyable term. Years 2 and 3 visited the Weavers' and Spinners' Exhibition at the Market Hall. We are visiting Curzon to watch their Nativity and again we shall sing at the Hospice.

The children held a Bring and Buy Sale in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and Harvest produce was also sold in aid of this fund, raising £133.21 in total.

L.S.

ALL SAINTS' MAGPIE CLUB

The number of children coming to Magpie Club this term has increased again and includes lots more younger members. There have been approximately 30 children each week.

With the increased numbers we have divided into two groups. Lesley Newth-West has been skilfully co-ordinating an excellent team of helpers for the younger group of children. They have had this term with 'Food' as their theme.

Rachel Quinn, our new Youth Worker, has made a huge difference helping with the older group, bringing with her new ideas and infectious enthusiasm. Our theme for the term has been 'The Armour of God'. Our half hour service on 23rd November was very well attended.

Hopefully, the children have learnt a little, had a lot of fun and met other children from Coleshill, Winchmore Hill and around. A big 'thank you' to everyone who helps with this action packed hour and for all the preparation work which has to be fitted into busy lives.

We meet on alternate Fridays in term time from 5pm to 6pm in The Village School. Children from 3 to 10 years are welcome. The dates for next term are as follows: January 16 & 30, February 13 & 27 and March 13 & 27.

Rosemary Valentine
725794

ALL SAINTS' YOUTH PROGRAMME

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Rachel Quinn, and I have taken up the new appointment of Parish Youth worker. This is a joint venture between All Saints', Coleshill and St Mary's, Amersham, and is aimed at providing a church based youth programme for young people in the parish. I moved here at the beginning of September, and was officially appointed at the beginning of October.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for making the appointment, and for the welcome which you have all given me. The work so far has been very encouraging, and has developed significantly even since my arrival.

I have joined forces with Rosemary Valentine and am helping her to run the Magpie Club. We have decided to split the group into two groups and she and I are involved with the older group (7-10), which is going very well, and numbers for Magpie Club have steadily increased over the term. We now have A Dutch Christmas and the Nativity play outing to look forward to.

I have been involved with some of the school assemblies at the Colleshill CE First School with Tim, and in Amersham I have worked with St Mary's First School, and with the two Dr Challoner's doing assemblies and helping with RE lessons. This half term we have started a new after school club called the 'After Eight's' which is a Christian club aimed at children over eight. We usually do some form of game, craft or activity followed by a short discussion time. It has got off to a good start, and I hope will become a popular introduction for children to come to church.

Sunday morning Youth Group is going well. We are following a series of classes about creation, but will now be doing the common lectionary course, along with the rest of the congregation. We also meet fortnightly on a Sunday evening, either at Piggott's End, or the Parish rooms, to do some kind of activity together. After Christmas these meetings will include confirmation preparation classes for those wishing to be confirmed - aimed at 12+. Coming up with the Youth Group before Christmas we have an ice skating trip on 14th December, and carol singing on 20th December.

I am also hoping to start an evening group at Piggott's End for the older ones who would like to spend more time discussing relevant topics to them and the Christian faith. This idea could follow something like the Alpha course programme, but would obviously be aimed at meeting the needs of the group. I hope to get this started before Christmas.

My aim for Colleshill is to set up a Crusader Group over the next year to cater for the 4-11 age group. Before I will be able to do this, I need to build up a group of committed volunteers who would be able to support the club. I am hoping to further promote the idea by taking a group on a Crusader Holiday over the summer to arouse their interest in having such a group running throughout the year.

One very challenging, and rewarding area of my work is the visiting which I do on a Friday at the Rushymead Hospice on the 'Young People's Day'. I have met some wonderful people there, and hope that the links which are being built up there with the church will continue to grow and strengthen.

I hope to be able to meet as many of you in the Parish as I can, but in case I don't see you before Christmas, I hope you have a very blessed Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

R.Q.

[Copies of *Youth News*, Rachel's newsletter is available from her on 01494 723793. If you want any further Information on any of the programmes she is running, please call her]

1ST COLESHILL GUIDE COMPANY

Meetings:

- Time: Monday evenings - 7.00 to 8.30pm
- Venue: **Coleshill Village Hall**
- Subs: £9.00 per term

Guiders Help

- The guider [details below] is supported by an experienced and retired guider, "Nightingale"
- Emma MacLean is our Young Leader.

Enrolments, Badges & Trefoils

- We have not worked on badges this term as we have been busily engaged in preparing for our annual concert - see below. We have also attended an activity weekend near **Hemel Hempstead** where we did a mixture of indoor [jewellery, candle making, sweet and Christmas cake making] and outdoor - absailing, adventure trail and archery not forgetting the Cresta Run
- After Christmas we will work towards enrolling our new guides - Joanne, Stephanie and Tracey. We also welcome Jacqueline who has moved from **Amersham** to our guide company.
- Finally we congratulate Katie and Harriet on their yellow trefoil achievement.

Activities

- *Theme of Challenge and Development*
Our Monday meetings, largely organised by the guides themselves, have been spent carrying out such activities as Cooking Competitions; preparation for badges [above] and trefoils; other competitions - memory testing, acting/miming, tracking and hunts - following cryptic clues
- *Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Guiding*
The first activity we all did together for the new year was to work on our contribution to this function. We put on some entertainment from Oliver to the song "I'll do anything for you!" and we also ran two stalls to raise money.

- *Fund Raising*

We raised some money with our face paints stall at the Coleshill Fete in June. Our major 1997 event will be held on **14 December**. We can guarantee original entertainment, a raffle, refreshments and Christmas Cheer! We will finish for the Christmas Holidays with our traditional panto outing [to the Swan in High Wycombe] and Macdonalds!

Anyone interested in helping guides in any capacity, please don't hesitate to contact me on 433419 or at work on 01784 433419

Kaye Smith

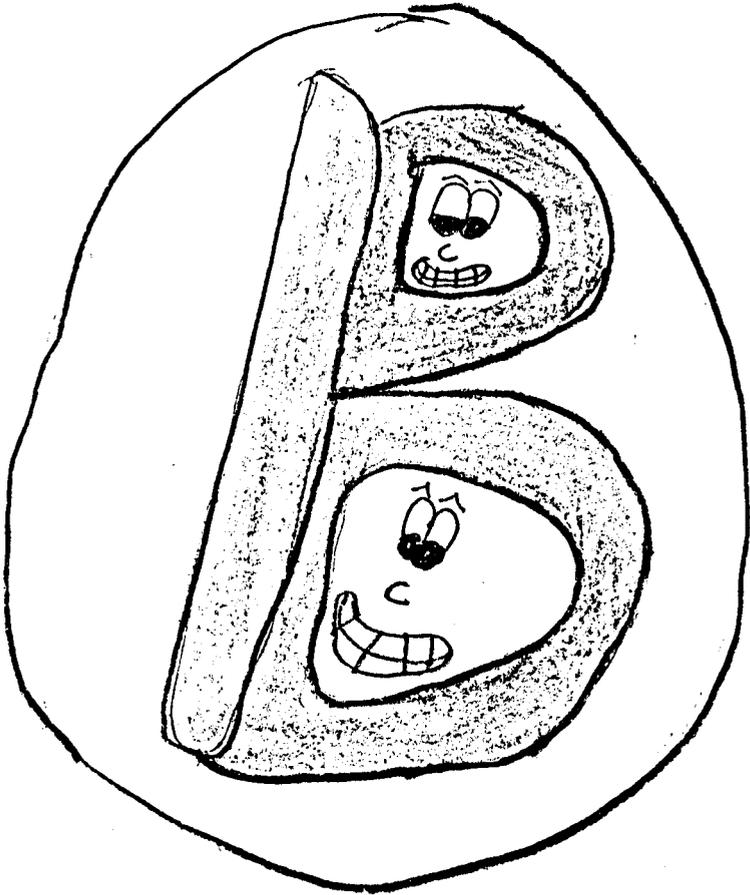
COLESHILL BROWNIES

Since last Christmas we have welcomed six new Brownies. Jenny Childs has joined us as a snowy owl and Emma has become our young leader.

At the beginning of the year we made marmalade to sell and **bird feeders**. Later we made hot cross buns. All the Brownies have done lots of different badges from friends of animals to cooking and craft. [Any offers of help with badge testing would be greatly appreciated. 725549].

We seem to have quite a good team for rounders, winning every game played against other packs! I think this is helped by the excellent coaching from our Tawny Owl - Camilla. One meeting we joined with another pack and did line dancing which was great fun. We are now getting ready for our Christmas tea party and carol singing at **Rushymead**. We have done many other activities which have been a great success mainly due to the enthusiasm and help of all the Brownies.

J.D.



Georgina Davis
9 years

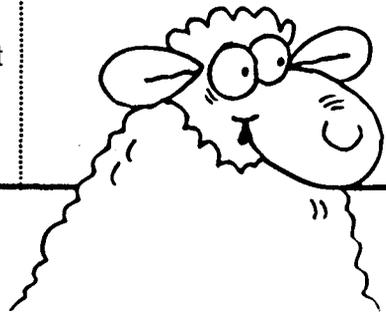
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Across

- 4 Town where Jesus was born (9)
 7 Find the missing word: The wise men were Caspar, **Melchior** - - - Balthazar (3)
10 To hit your toe on something (4)
 11 **Fish** eggs, or a kind of deer (3)
12 Find the missing word: The angel of the Lord came down **and** - - - - - shone around (5)
 14 **Jesus'** earthly father (6)
15 To perform or carry out (2)
16 Donkey which was in the stable when Jesus was born (3)
 18 A woman member of a religious order (3)
 19 A kind of cow, also present in the stable (2)
 20 An impolite way of saying 'pardon' when you can't hear (2)
 21 Find the missing word: I - - not going to school today (2)
 23 Drawing showing where roads and towns are (3)
 24 The North — and the Irish - - - are two that surround the British Isles (3)
 25 Something you turn to run water (3)
 26 A French word meaning 'bom' - it looks like a joint in the leg with a letter removed (3)
 27 A herb, or a French street - it sounds like 13 Down (3)
 29 This clue is the - - - of the Across clues (3)

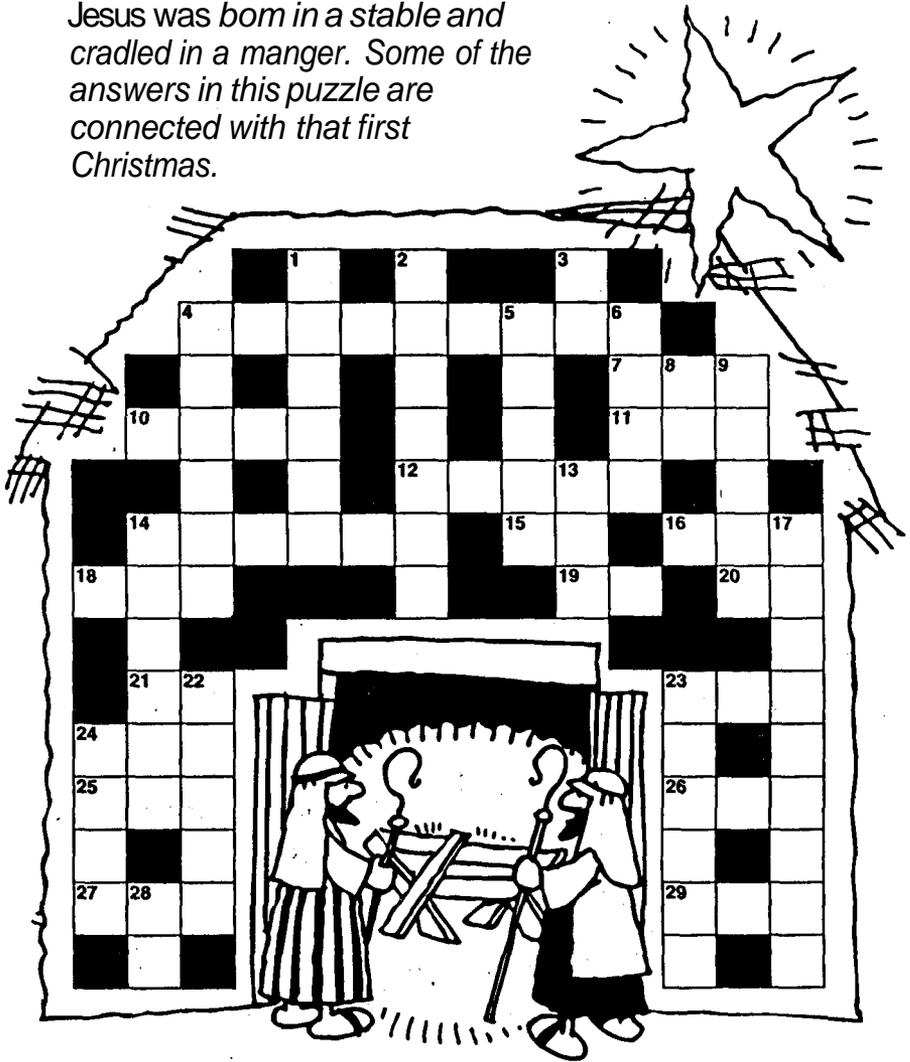
Down

- 1 The building in which Jesus was born (6)
 2 People (including Santa **Claus**) use them to travel over snow (7)
 3 The word you say when speaking of yourself (2)
 4 Round-shaped kind of fastening (6)
 5 The man who was king when Jesus was born (5)
 6 Jesus' mother (4)
 8 Opposite of 'yes' (2)
 9 Thick or crowded together, as in a - - - - - fog (5)
13 The baby of Winnie the Pooh's friend Kanga (3)
14 The province of which 5 Down was king - Bethlehem was part of it (6)
17 Men who look after sheep - they came to the stable to see Jesus (9)
 22 Tree - its leaf is the symbol of Canada (5)
23 It was Jesus' cradle (6)
 24 It shone in the sky over the stable and guided the Wise Men (4)
 28 Opposite of 'down' (2)





Jesus was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. Some of the answers in this puzzle are connected with that first Christmas.



WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU CROSS A SHARK WITH A SNOWMAN?

FROSTBITE!



N.S.P.C.C.



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas coffee morning where we made £450 for the NSPCC. We hope to have made £500 on our sale of crackers this year, which is a record I think!

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible for our Carol **Singing on Tuesday 23rd December** meeting at the Church at 7.00pm. This year we will be singing down Barrack Hill and back along the Bit to the pub! Please put your porch lights on for us and so that you can see our real life reindeer!

S.H.

THE POPPY APPEAL

Last month's Poppy Collection in Coleshill amounted to **£612.00**.

This splendid and generous response came from the house-to-house collection in the village, the Church collection on Remembrance Sunday and, from boxes at the school, Rushymead, the Red Lion and the Magpies.

The Poppy Appeal money goes towards the many benevolent and welfare schemes for all ex-Service people in need.

The Legion has asked me to pass on their sincere thanks to all our helpers whose efforts are very much appreciated.

Leslie Croydon
Hon. Organiser

**FRIENDS OF RUSHYMEAD
HOSPICE**

The friends of **Rushymead Hospice** would like to thank everyone who has so kindly supported them throughout the year.

This year we have raised £4,228. This includes profit from our events and also very generous donations.

We have therefore been able to buy for the hospice a variety of games, manicure items, a drugs cabinet and a beautiful piano. We are also funding the Christmas party and presents for the patients.

Next year we have organised two bridge events, at popular request - one on **26th March** and one on **15th October**. These will be 2.00pm - 5.00pm as usual. Please phone 433350 to book your table.

We are also planning to hold another cheese and wine evening in the summer at Rushymead Hospice and hope that many people from the village will take the opportunity come and meet friends for a social evening. (More details and ticket sales in the New Year.) Hope to see you there.

The Friends of Rushymead would like to think that we have the full support of this village and surrounding areas to enable the eventual plans of the hospice to be realised. We are so fortunate to have this facility on our doorsteps and it needs as much support as we can give it.

Best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

H.H



COLESHILL VILLAGE HALL

After 15 years Alan and Jean Dover have relinquished their responsibilities for the Village Hall covering every aspect of care and maintenance. Jean has also been a key member of the Village Hall Committee. It is largely due to Alan and Jean's unstinting efforts that, during this time, we have won the Best Village Hall competition **twice**. Our thanks go to both of them for all their work over the years.

After the problems of last year, here's hoping for a frost free winter!

L.E.

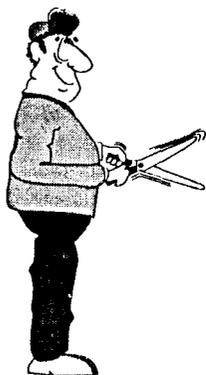
COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Sadly, our show coincided with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The show went ahead as all the planning and organising had been completed and the judges were all still available. As expected it was not as successful as we would have hoped.

The children's section has been completely re-vamped and all the entries were of a very high standard. Hopefully, more children from the village will be encouraged to enter next year!

COLESHILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CUP WINNERS 1997



- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| The Grindley Challenge Cup [Joint] | - | P Griffiths & G Pusey |
| The Jerram Challenge Cup | - | D Heimann |
| The Wooiacott Vase | - | I, tlaubncr |
| The Cotswold Challenge Cup | - | D Heimann |
| The Orchard Trophy | - | H Hollanby |
| The Society's Premier Cup | - | D Heimann |
| The Jackie Ferguson Memorial Cup- | - | K Richardson |
| The Ovington Challenge Cup | - | A Trotman |
| The Colshill Challenge Cup | - | S Platzer |
| The Edmond Waller Challenge Cup- | - | P Ware |
| The Windmill Bowl | - | B Holton |
| The Clifton Cup | - | I. Haubner |
| The Joseph Cup | - | H Hitchen |
| The Wheatsheaf Children's Cup | - | Tania-Marie Richardson |
| The Magpie Club Award | - | Charlotte Stainer |
| The Whitefield Cup | - | S Hitchen |
- [A new trophy for photography]

THE RED LION



Again this season all our competitive teams, whether they be darts, quiz, or crib and dominoes, have major representation from the village. New players are always welcome, and as a reminder, **Mens** darts takes place on Mondays, Ladies darts and quiz matches on Tuesdays; and crib and dominoes on Wednesdays. All matches commence at 8.30pm. In addition, this year a 100% village team has entered "The Publican Golf Pub of the Year" tournament. We are through to the regional finals to be played in late January/early February next year. For the not so serious golfers, enter the "Between the Houses Golf Challenge" on Boxing Day - Pool's Patch to the Pub's Porch in as few shots as possible at 10.30am!

For those who want non-competitive pastimes, on Wednesday evenings, a group meet for a general games evening (Scrabble, Taboo, Balderdash, etc) and on Thursdays there is always room for aspiring Bridge or Solo players.

We continue to support the village in any way we can. The pub has been used for coffee and biscuits after Church Services, for the display of paintings and for a book signing. If we can help you in any way, do contact Chris or John on 727020.

J.U.

COLESHILL W.I.

As usual during August about 40 members of the St Saviours Club for the Deaf came to Coleshill and the WI were pleased to help make their day in the country a happy one by providing lunch and tea, in between which they visited a local garden centre and came back with some interesting packages.

Two delightful events were held in the village for members only this summer, one being a Summer Tea at Pat **Emblow's** garden and then some members tried their hand at croquet at the invitation of Betty Joseph - both events being very enjoyable.

Outings had also been arranged to **Haddenham** to visit the exhibition commemorating the 100 years of WI and also to St Margarets, Westminster, for the Carols and Readings concert. In the New Year events will include a Quiz Night and an outing to the National Theatre to see Peter Pan starring **Ian McKellan**.

Our monthly meetings included a talk by Jean Archer on historic houses in Bucks with particular reference to their art collections. By popular demand in September we had an open meeting again where members had the chance of getting to know one another and joining in a quiz.

An earlier make-up demonstration had proved so popular that the demonstrator was asked back to enable individual members to practise on themselves under her supervision. From the feedback I gather most husbands approved of the effort involved!

Cake decorating demonstrations had also proved very popular and a further one is being held in the village hall on **11th** December.

For the first time, Coleshill WI is giving a bursary of £100 for a member to put towards the cost of attending a course on any subject either at the **WI Denman** College or a local institute, and the draw will take place at the Christmas lunch, which this year is on **Friday 12th December**.

At the recent Annual General Meeting the institute said a fond farewell to their retiring President, Helen Savory, who had had three very successful years in the

post. She had seen the membership increase to 61 and the institute put on a sound financial footing. However, she will not be lost to the WI as she becomes Group Convenor for the Chesswoods Group, of which Coleshill is part. It was also the time for other committee members to retire and the new committee will be headed by **Lindsay Haubner** (well known to most people in the village) as President and Gill Pusey as Secretary and we wish them every success.

Just a reminder that the meetings in January and February will begin at 2.00pm instead of the usual 2.30pm.

J.P.

COLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

There have been two meetings of the Parish Council since the last Village Newsletter was issued. In addition a meeting with the police about crime preventions was held under the auspices of the Parish Council. More details of this meeting can be found in the Neighbourhood Watch section of this Newsletter.

TRAFFIC SPEED

The matter of a speed limit having been raised again at the meeting with the **police**, and the County Council having introduced its Community Funded Traffic Calming Scheme, the Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility and implications of introducing a 30mph speed limit in the village.

FOOTPATHS

Now that the Chiltern Society have finished their work for this year, the footpaths are in much better condition and easier to walk. There are still problems over fields where we have failed to persuade the farmers to reinstate the paths after ploughing. We are still trying but this has proved an insuperable problem for many years. If any walkers find any problems when walking footpaths, do let me know and I will try to arrange for the necessary work to be done.

COMMON

Working parties have resumed and are **held** on alternate weekends. Details are on the notice boards. All are welcome to come and help keep our Common well cared for and a pleasure to use.

SCHOOL PARKING

There have been some problems in getting permission to make the changes planned to allow those dropping and collecting children to do so in the playground instead of on the road. The Parish Council supports the concept.

VILLAGE MEMORIAL

It was suggested that we might plant a tree in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. The Council wished to consult villagers as to what should be done and whether they would wish to make a financial contribution. If you have views do please let me have them.

WATER TOWER

After much time and effort, the plans submitted, which were strongly supported by this Council, were narrowly accepted by the Planning Committee. Because they affect the Green Belt, they have had to go to DOE for approval.

DATES OF MEETINGS IN 1998

The meetings in 1998 will all be held on Tuesdays, but not necessarily on the 2nd Tuesday. The dates agreed are:

24th February 19th May [AGM] 8th September 1st December



NEIGHBOURHOODWATCH

The meeting held on October 7 in the small village hall was attended by nearly 40 villagers who came to hear PC Dave Bevan and PC Andy Brittan talk about crime in our area and how we can help prevent it. The meeting was chaired by Mrs **Julie** Burton, Chair of **Coleshill** Parish Council.

PC Dave Bevan is the Crime Reduction Officer for the **Amersham** Area and told us that he had been in the force for 23 years. He was pleased to report that compared with other districts in his patch, **Coleshill** remains relatively crime free.

He had checked on the number of crimes committed in **Coleshill** between January and October of last year **1996**, compared with the same period this year and the number has dropped from 28 offences to **18** offences. Last year in that period

there had been nine burglaries, six criminal damages, five thefts, five thefts from motor vehicles and **three** others. This year there had **been** six burglaries, four **thefts**, three thefts from motor vehicles and two thefts of motor vehicles, with three others.

His main concern at present is his new Operation Washington which aims to cut down on car crime. Of 300 offences against cars last year, none were theft or of from cars parked in garages. He was glad that the craze for stealing car badges, which has been revived in **Beaconsfield** and other places has not yet reached **Coleshill**. Amongst the piles of literature he had brought there was advice on car security. The prime concern in Coleshill is still burglary. He suggested that we look at our homes the way he does when he visits the victims of crime, by using what he calls the onion method. He works his way into the house by peeling away the layers from the outside in. He wonders why the burglar chose **THAT** house. He looks to see if there is activity around such as footpaths, a school, shop, etc. He finds out what other crimes occur in that area. Then he looks at the perimeter of the premises. Are the fences or hedges high so that the door is obscured? Is there a garage which is open with no car inside? Does the house have a burglar alarm and can it be clearly seen from the road, thus acting as a deterrent. He then takes a long look at the window and door locks and looks in to see what is on display.

Often burglars strike lucky by seeing home owners drive out of their driveways and can guess that there is a chance that the house will be empty for a while. If you see anyone suspicious don't be afraid to double back and check. Likewise. If you see a neighbour along the road and then see someone entering their home, call in and check or call your co-ordinator who will do so. If there is someone acting very suspiciously don't risk it **call** the police.

Another worry is the Bogus Caller. There people are not unnerved when they call at your house and **find** you in, especially if you are elderly and have poor eyesight or are deaf or easily confused. Either one of them will keep you talking at the door while the partner nips in or the bogus caller will pretend to be from one of the utility companies or doing a survey and ask for admittance. PC Bevan told us that he receives at least one complaint about these **people** a week. The average age for the victims is 82 years and he said how distressing it is to visit a victim and have him or her tell the officer about the precious family heirlooms which have been stolen.

All the burglaries in the village in the last two years have occurred between **8am** and 6pm, when people are more likely to be out for the day. Admittance is usually

gained from the back of the premises by using force on a back door or window. Often the burglar does not even carry a tool to gain entry but will use a spade or other garden tool to break in.

PC Andy Brittan was then introduced and told us that he will be responsible for **Amersham, Winchmore Hill** and **Coleshill** and intends to do as much of his beat as possible on foot or on his bike. He has already spent an hour talking to the children who collect by the pond and had met several villagers. There are only ever between two and five officers on duty in our area but there is a cascade system where more officers can be called in if required. Don't be afraid to ask to see his ID card if he calls. He went through all the equipment he has strapped onto his uniform to show us how he can help protect us or to be in touch with the station as required.

From the floor much concern was voiced about the speeding of traffic through the village. It is unbelievable that there is a sixty **mile** an hour limit and parents are particularly concerned about children walking along a road, with few pavement stretches, going to and from school. The period between 7.45am and 8.30am in the morning is a particular worry with many short-cutters using us as a '**rat run**' to save a few moments. It was suggested that we all drive rigidly to thirty miles per hour to **hold** the speeders up. PC Brittan promised that he would make sure he would be seen in the village at that time.

The meeting closed at about 9.15pm and was pronounced interesting and informative by those present and will probably be repeated next year when we may see one of PC Bevan's videos. Most of the literature was taken to be read.

J. & L.H.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Revd Tim Harper	Rector	01494 724426
Valerie Royal	Parish Secretary	01494 729380
Nick Sadler	All Saints' Pro-warden	01494 726277
Helen Spencer	All Saints' Pro-warden	01494 725857
Amanda McCallum	Hon Secretary, All Saints'	01494 725 083
	Editor, Village Newsletter	Fax - 01494 431 129
Howard Pool	Hon Treasurer, All Saints'	01494 727687
Ruth Murphy	Organist & Choirmaster, All Saints'	01494 433539
Patsy Wright-Warren	Clerk, Parish Council	01494 433356
Ann Lawrence	Village Hall Bookings	01494 433421
Rosemary Valentine	Magpie Club	01494 725794
Rachel Quinn	Parish Youth Worker	01494 723793
Jane Davies	Brownies	01494725549
Kaye Smith	Coleshill Guides	01494433419
Penny Ware	Youth Club	01494 722486
Louise Stallwood	Headmistress, Village School	01494 727206
Jack & Lindsey Haubner	Coordinators, Neighbourhood Watch	01494 722589
Sharon Hall	NSPCC	01494 725231
Ewart Smith	Coleshill Horticultural Society	01494 725402
David George	Coleshill Tennis Club	01494 722535
John Bullard	Coleshill Drama Group	01494 729266
John Holland	Coleshill Short Mat Bowls	01494 729357
John & Chris Ullman	The Red Lion	01494 727020

DIARY DATES

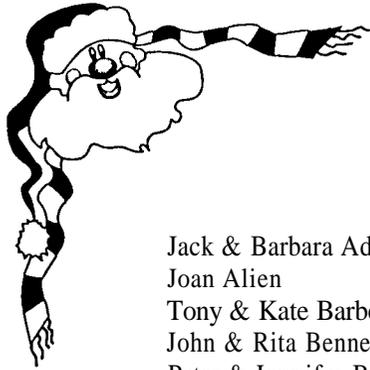
Tuesday 23 rd December	7.00pm	NSPCC Carol Singing
Friday 26 th December	10.30am	Between the Houses Golf Challenge [Red Lion]
Friday 16 th January	5.00pm	Magpie Club
Friday 30 th January	5.00pm	Magpie Club
Friday 13 th February	5.00pm	Magpie Club
Tuesday 24 th February	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 27 th February	5.00pm	Magpie Club
Friday 13 th March	5.00pm	Magpie Club
Thursday 26* March	2.00pm	Friends of Rushymead Bridge Drive
Friday 27 th March	5.00pm	Magpie Club
Tuesday 19 th May	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 8 th May	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 15 th October	2.00pm	Friends of Rushymead Bridge Drive
Tuesday 1 st December	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

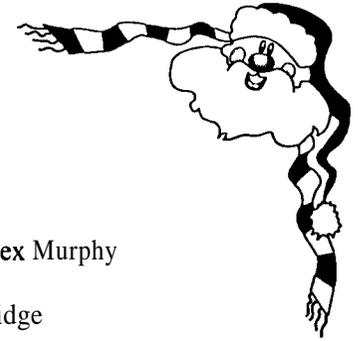
14 th December	5.00pm	Christingle
21 st December	3.00pm	Nine Lessons & Carols [followed by tea in the village hall]
25 th December	9.00am	Family Communion

FAMILY SERVICES 1998

25 th January	[4 th Sunday]	Brownies
8 th February	[2 nd Sunday]	Little Cottage School
22 nd March	[4 th Sunday]	Village School - Mothering Sunday
12 th or 26 th April		To be confirmed
10 th May	[2 nd Sunday]	Village School
14 th June	[2 nd Sunday]	Little Cottage School
12 th July	[2 nd Sunday]	Brownies
13 th or 27 th September		To be confirmed



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Jack & Barbara Adams
Joan Alien
Tony & Kate Barber
John & Rita Bennett
Peter & Jennifer Brock
David & Sue Bullough
John Chenevix-Trench
Kitty Clifton
Bill & Sue Collacico & Family
Nancy Collier
Ken, Penny, Victoria & Edward Crosley
Leslie & Jean Croydon
Marigold Curling
Tony, Pat, John & Fiona Dawson
Christina [Deaky] Deacon
Jim & Alison Denning & Family
Peter & Barbara Dodds
Joan & Andrew Domin
Alan & Jean Dover & Family
Jonathan & Lindsey Eardley & the girls
Louie Edwards
Jack & Pat Emblow
Minnie Darvill

Robin Ferguson & Dorothy
Bernard & Joan Frost
David & Chris George & the Boys
Howard & Catherine Green
David & Sharon Hall and the Girls
Dennis & Chloe Hall
Jack, Lindsey, Mikki & Nicola Haubner
Adam & Tessa Heathcote & Family
John & Lavinia Horsbrugh-Porter
John & Kezia Jefford
Geoff & Ginny Jordan
Teddy & Betty Joseph
Chris King
Peter & Ann Lawrence & Family
John & Mary Machin
Robert, Sarah, Emma, Julie & Katie Maclean
Ian, Amanda & Charlotte McCallum
David & Ineke McCammon & Family
Steve & Toni McGuinness & Family
George & Pat McNeil
George & Ruby May
Henry Maynard
Gail & Martin Wolfendelle & Family
David & Rosie Searle & Family

Ron, Ruth, Gregory & Alex Murphy
Tony & Stella Platzer
George & Barbara Plumridge
Peg Pomeroy
Derek, Alex, Philip & Susanna Pond
John & Jean Powell
Margaret Price
Micky Prothero
Graham Pyle & the Girls
Colin, Gillian, Clare & Fiona Sach
Nick & Mary Sadler & Family
Ewart & Jean Smith & Family
The Spencer Family
Mollie Stone
Graham & Dumpy Swerling
Chris & Hazel Thomas
Ann Trotman
Donald Urry
Richard & Rosemary Valentine & Family
Dick, Penny, Tessa & Dickon Ware
Sidney & Ann Ware
Chris & Mary Wege & Family
Spike & Phyllis Wright
Patsy Wright-Warren

**THE ABOVE PEOPLE EXTEND TO ALL FRIENDS THEIR BEST WISHES FOR
CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR**

