SARRATT

SCRAPBOOK

VOL 3

Hemel Hempsted, 19th April 1832

Sir

I write to acquaint you that a General Court will be holden for the Manor of Sarratt
on Saturday the 28th day of April instant ~~next~~, at the Red Lion on Sarratt ~~in~~ Green
at 11 o'Clock; at which the Third Proclamation will be made for the Party entitled to be admitted to the Tenements held of that Manor, of
which the late Samuel Salter died seized unless some person attends to take admission to the same.

I am,

Your humble Servant,

H. Grover

Steward of the said Manor.

Thos Tolbort Esq
Sol
Rickmansworth

Buttfield, Printer, Hemel Hempsted.

19 April 1832

Mr Grover

Thos Tolbort Esq
Sol
Rickmansworth

HERTS. MERCURY 9TH. JULY 1847

GOLDINGTON PARK,

In the Parish of SARRATT, Herts.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY

Mr. G. A. SMITH,

AT THE COCK INN, SARRATT,

On Friday, July 9th, 1847, at Three o'Clock,—in three lots, by order of the Proprietor,

A VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, consisting of FOUR most substantial, newly-erected brick and stone-built and slated DWELLING HOUSES, with large gardens and every requisite convenience; together with a right of carriage-way at all times and for all purposes across Goldington Park, in front of the house, and through the Sarratt mill-yard into the high road; and being freehold, each lot will confer on the purchaser a vote for the County of Hertford.

May be viewed by applying to the several tenants, and particulars had at the place of sale; at the Offices of Mr. Boughton Smith, solicitor, Marlowes; and Mr. Geo. Alex. Smith, Surveyor and Land Agent, High-street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

100 years ago

From the Watford Observer, October 26, 1895

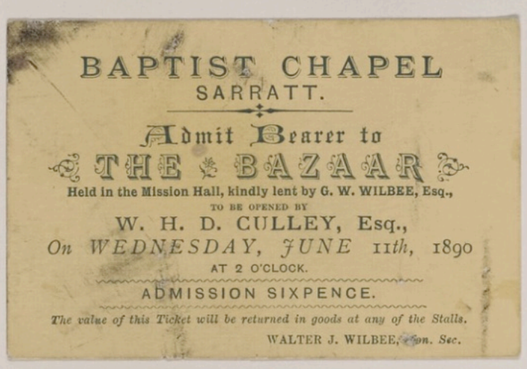
THE village of Sarratt has for some time past been known to the Herts Union of Baptist Churches as a thriving centre of Nonconformity.

But before too long the Baptists of Sarratt will have a building in which to worship which is worthy of their zeal and work. The memorial stones were laid on Monday, and the ceremony drew together a large assembly from London, Watford and the surrounding places. Amongst others present were The Rev J C Thompson (Sarratt), The Rev J Stuart (Beechen Grove Chapel, Watford) and Mr C King Smith (Kingsfield, Watford).

The new chapel, which faces the green, will be worthy of the position it holds. The Gothic windows will be filled with cathedral glass, and the general style of the building will be that of a substantial village chapel, on which, while there has been a lack of attention to detail, little is spent on ornament.

The cost of the structure, which is being erected by Messrs Andrews and Sons of Watford, is £499, but the total outlay, including the baptistry, the restroom and the seats will be about £700, of which fully £500 had been promised before the proceedings commenced.

The proceedings began by singing the Rev F W Goadby's hymn O Thou Whose Hand Has Brought Us and prayer was then offered by Mr Clifford.



BAPTIST CHAPEL
SARRATT.

Admit Bearer to
THE BAZAAR
Held in the Mission Hall, kindly lent by G. W. WILBEE, Esq.,
TO BE OPENED BY
W. H. D. CULLEY, Esq.,
On WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11th, 1890
AT 2 O'CLOCK.
ADMISSION SIXPENCE.
The value of this Ticket will be returned in goods at any of the Stalls.
WALTER J. WILBEE, *Hon. Sec.*

Plan of
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY,
and
ACCOMMODATION LAND,
Situate in the
PARISH OF SARRATT,
in the
COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

For Sale by
MESSRS HUMBERT, SON & FLINT,
1896.

From Chesham

From Kings Langley & Chipperfield

COMMON WOOD COMMON

BOTTOM LANE

236
PART LOT 7
8.1.18

237
5.1.21

239

JOHN EDWARD GROOME ESQ

208
PART LOT 7
SARRATT VILLA

194

MESSRS SALTER & Co

SARRATT GREEN

LONDON HOUSE

THE LATE H. B. DIDSBURY ESQ

To Watford

HILL

THOS CLUTTERBUCK ESQ

244
PART LOT 7
9.1.26

THOS CLUTTERBUCK ESQ

DEADMANSASH

ALLOTMENT GARDENS

R. BRANTON DAY ESQ

From Chorley Wood

From Rickmansworth

Ordnance Scale $\frac{1}{2500}$ or 25·344 Inches to a Statue Mile.

Feet 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 Feet

Compiled from Ordnance Map.
HUMBERT, SON & FLINT,
Land Agents & Surveyors,
WATFORD, HERTS., AND
11. SERLE ST., LINCOLNS INN, LONDON. W.C.

T. Way, Lith. London.

AGREEMENT.

I, Philip Pritchard
of Old Plough Cottage, Bellingse Lane Sarratt hereby

acknowledge that I have this day purchased Lot 5 of the Property described in the annexed

Particulars of Sale, for the sum of £75 under the foregoing Conditions of

Sale, and that I have paid a deposit of £7 10 on account of the purchase-money and

I undertake to pay the remainder of the purchase-money and to complete the purchase according to the said

Conditions.

Witness my hand this 15th day of March 1896.

Purchase-money..... £75 : 0 : 0

Deposit ..... £7 : 10 : 0

Balance ..... £67 : 10 : 0

On behalf of John T. Theobald the Vendor, I ratify this Sale

and acknowledge the receipt of the said deposit of £7/10/-

Herbert Edw. Hunt

Address reply to—"The Secretary, General Post Office,"
quoting Registered No. 513333/06

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.

19th January 1907.

Sir,

With reference to the memorial which you forwarded to this Office on the 5th of November last, I am directed by the Postmaster General to state, for the information of the Memorialists, that arrangements have now been sanctioned for erecting a Letter Box and affording a second delivery of letters at Sarratt Bottom.

The Box will be cleared at 8. 15 a.m. and 5. 30 p.m. on weekdays.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. Oakshott

for the Secretary.

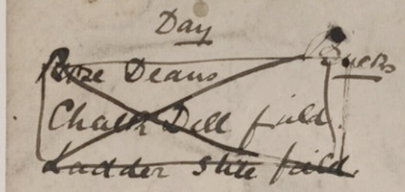
Mr W. Matthews.

1914

MANOR OF SARRATT

List of Copyhold Tenements 1914

Tenant	Tenement	Annual Quit Rent £. s. d.
Walker, Arthur Mewburn Mortimer, William James	Two cottages (formerly one), carpenters shop and land at Bucks Hill.	3.
Rogers, James and Halsey, Charles Henry	A messuage and ten acres of land at Bucks Hill	6. 11.
Allen, Mrs. Sarah Collett	Two closes called Wood Reddings (8 acres)	4. 2.
Walker, Arthur Mewburn	One acre of land with orchard barn and yard at Bucks Hill (sold)	5.
Day, Ralph Branton deceased	A piece of land (roadway) 20 feet wide from Micklefield to Chandlers Cross through Red Hall Farm	5.
Zeller, Joseph	Cottage and garden at Bucks Hill	2.
Fisk, George Arthur Last	A messuage (Norcott House) with two little orchards containing two roods near Common Wood Pond	4.
	A piece of ground (formerly waste) at Common Wood containing 4½ poles	1.
Friend, Fred	A cottage divided into two tenements and another cottage since built adjoining Oakley Lane	10.
Hosier, Charles deceased	Two cottages and orchard at Common Wood Bottom (Bedford and Parsons tenants)	9.
	Two cottages at Common Wood late Thirkettle	4.
Leach, Charles deceased	A close of meadow land at Bucks Hill containing 3 roods	X 6.
Pennington, Francis Joseph	A cottage garden and orchard at Common Wood (Cox tenant)	2.
Verity, David	Four cottages and gardens at Common Wood	2.
Wilbee, Walter John	Three undivided fourth parts of 3 closes of ~~arable~~ land called Stoney Deans near Common Wood containing 14a. 3r. 12p.	3. 0.



C. Leach
Fork Butcher
Ashford Rents
D. 17th July 1885
Given to Son 2 cottages
C. Leach.

Rol. Tuesday
Apl. best 13th May.

1914

Manor of Sarratt.

Last Tenants

RENTAL

Sedgwick Turner Sworder
and Wilson.
Watford.

CERTIFICATE
OF
MEMBERSHIP.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ruth Blake.

WAS RECEIVED INTO fellowship at a Meeting of

Sarratt Baptist CHURCH

on 4th March 1923.

and was welcomed on behalf of the Church, and commended to the prayers and love of the brethren at the Communion Service of the Lord's Supper. on Sunday.

4th March 1923

"We therefore ought to welcome such, that we may be fellow-workers with the truth."

"I prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not."

B. Corbett. Minister.

1934

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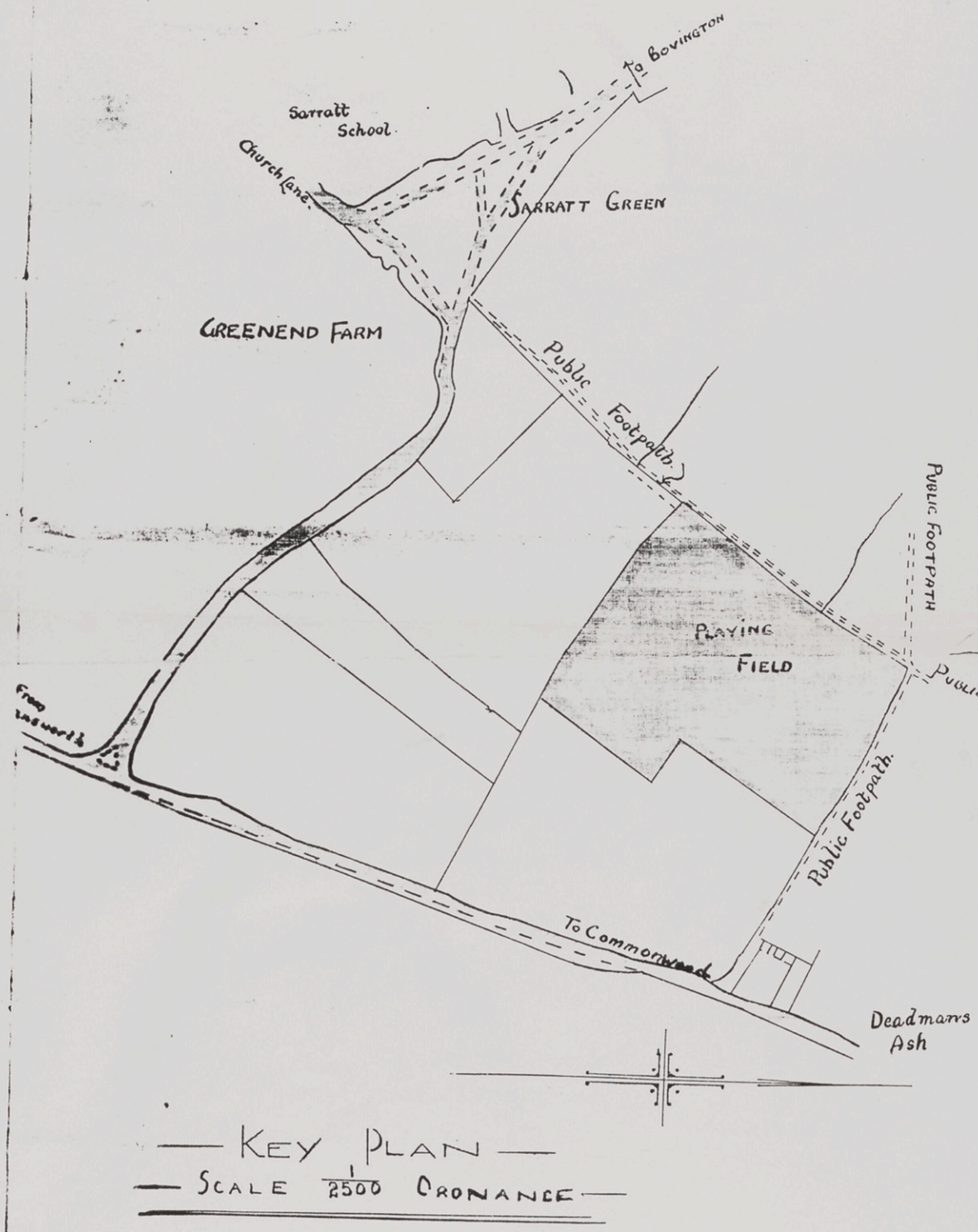
Plan of Proposed Playing Field at Sarratt



Key Plan
Scale 1/2500 Ordnance

PRESENTED
6 APR 1934
No. 6257

FIVE SHILLINGS

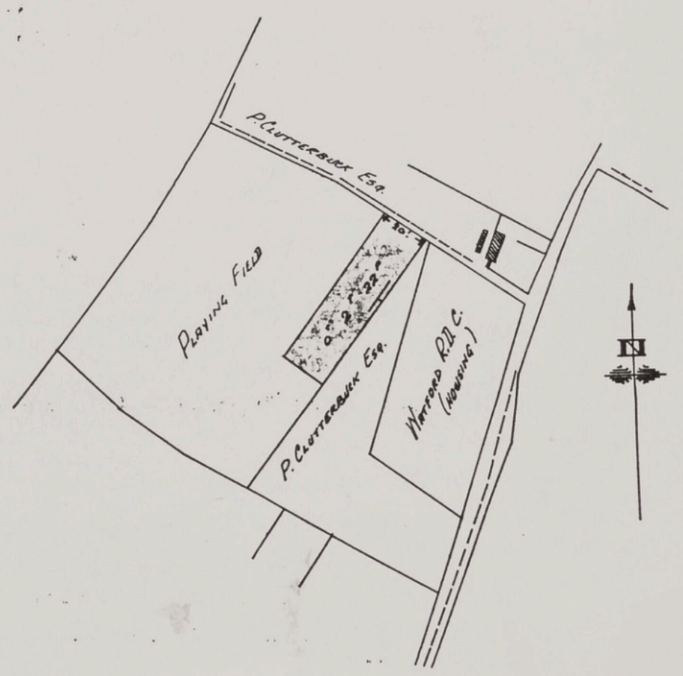
THE SOLICITORS LAW STATIONERY SOCIETY LTD

COMMISSIONERS OF INLAND REVENUE ADJUDGED DULY STAMPED

This Conveyance

is made the thirty first day of March One thousand nine hundred and thirty-four B E T W E E N PETER CLUTTERBUCK of Goldingtons Sarratt in the County of Hertford Esquire (hereinafter called "the Donor") of the first part the said PETER CLUTTERBUCK, THOMAS CLUTTERBUCK of Goldingtons Sarratt aforesaid Esquire THE REVEREND GILBERT NOEL RYLEY of The Rectory Sarratt aforesaid Clerk in Holy Orders the Rector for the time being of the Parish of Sarratt aforesaid and THE REVEREND JOHN READ of Sarratt aforesaid (hereinafter called "the Trustees") of the second part and THOMAS ELSMERE KEYSELL, HERBERT SILMONDS, EDWARD WALLINGTON, the said REVEREND GILBERT NOEL RYLEY, ROBERT ARTHUR SIMPSON, FRED VAUGHAN BARRETT, ALAN HERBERT OLD, JAMES HIGGS, STANLEY GEORGE CHALK, JAMES PERCY RYLEY all of Sarratt aforesaid STANLEY GEORGE REEVES BARRATT of Great Westwood in the Parish of Chipperfield in

Playing Field at Deadmans Ash
Sarratt.





This 1930's group pose at Sarratt Village Hall. What was it all about?

E.

Dear Mr Wilson

SARRATT GREEN

Referring to my letter to the R.D.C. dated 11/12/37, it now appears that the scheme then proposed for the control of the Green, will be difficult to work smoothly in practice, and I have therefore decided that the best solution will be to transfer the control of the Green together with the other rights of the Lord of the Manor, to the Sarratt Parish Council.

I should be glad if you will put in hand the necessary formalities.

Yours faithfully

F.Wilson Esq
Watford Place
Watford

G.

30th January 1938

Dear Sir

SARRATT GREEN

With reference to your letter dated 26/11/37, I have reconsidered my reply of December 11th, and I should now prefer that all rights of the Lord of the Manor, so far as they concern the control of Sarratt Green and Common Wood, should, subject to the consent of the Parish Council, be transfered to that body.

Yours faithfully

F.Wilson Esq.
Clerk to the Watford R.D.C.
25 King Street
Watford

SARRATT GREEN

SUMMARY OF LETTERS RELATING TO TRANSFER OF GREEN TO COUNCIL

A)	26/11/37	R.D.C to T.C	Suggesting transfer of Green to R.D.C on proposal of Mr. Downer.
B)	23/11/37	P.Cl: to T.C	Parish Cl: support R.D.C in asking for transfer to Parish Cl:
C)	26/11/37	P.Cl: to T.C	Invitation to attend Parish Cl; 9/12/37
D)	11/12/37	T.C to R.D.C	Would prefer transfer to Parish Council.
E)	December 1937	T.C. to F.W	Please arrange for Conveyance to P. Cl:
F)	3/12/37	R.D.C to T.C.	R.D.C will await interview T.C./ P.Cl:
G)	30/1/38	T.C to R.D.C	Offering Green & Common Wood to P.Cl:
H)	11/2/38	P.Cl: to T.C.	Confusion re Bus Stop decision explained. Offer to transfer Green to P.Cl; to await next meeting of P.Cl: (? in 2 weeks)
I)	30/5/38	F.W. to T.C	Advising making a nominal charge for Green
J)	24/12/38	P.Cl: to T.C	Advising Conveyance signed by P.Cl: Thanks for gift to Council.

Extract from Conveyance TRUSTEES to PARISH COUNCIL 29/12/1938.

" Personal Representitives of the said PETER CLUTTERBUCK have agrred with the said Parish Councilfor the sale of the said lands & heriditaments at the price of one hundred pounds to the intent that the same may be held by the Parish Council as public walks or pleasure grounds...."

2) ..... The Parish Council xxxxhx for itself and its assigns covenants with the Vendors that the Parish Council or its assigns will for ever hereafter support maintain and improve the lands & hereditaments hereby conveyed as and for the purpose of public walks and pleasure grounds.

J.

"Aysgarth"
Copthorne Rd,
Rickmansworth.
24-12-38

Dear Mr. Clutterbuck.

At a meeting of the Sarratt Parish Council, held on the 23rd inst., the Conveyance relating to the Green & Commonwood Common was duly read & agreed to, & the necessary signatures were affixed to the document.

I am instructed to convey to you & to your family the sincere & grateful thanks of the Parish Council for your generous & public-spirited action as expressed in the splendid gift which you have made to the Parish.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. Simpson.
Clerk to the
Parish Council

A39

SARRATT

Women's Club Formed.—A public meeting was held at the Institute on Friday to consider whether there was a demand for a women's club in the village. There was a very good attendance. A resolution was passed that in the opinion of the meeting such a club was necessary. A club was formed and it was decided to commence on February 21. Officials elected were:—Chairman, Miss E. Barnett; hon. secretary, Miss F. Pritchard; committee, Mrs. F. Baldwin, Miss K. Pritchard, Mrs. A. Sibson, Mrs. S. Chalk, Miss J. Bernett.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE INSTITUTE
ON TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 14th, 1939.

Mrs. Johnston conducted the meeting and there were 16 of the 28 members present.

Officers were elected as follows:-

Chairman.	Miss E. Barnet. (Appointed by the Committee).
Secretary.	Miss F. Pritchard.
Committee.	Miss E. Barnet. Mrs. Baldwin. Mrs. Sibson. Mrs. Chalk. Miss K. Pritchard.

The following suggestions were made:-

1. Competitions.

   It was agreed by all that we should have Competitions in needlework, games etc.

2. Dancing.

   Miss E. Barnet kindly consented to teach members Ballroom Dancing, Barn Dances, etc., and the suggestion was well received.

3. Music.

   Mrs. Johnston put forward the suggestion that we have Community Singing, the music and songs being provided by the members and Miss Bliss agreed to act as pianist.

Contd.,

4. Dramatics.

   It was felt that at a later date we would take an active interest in Dramatics.

   The members were very enthusiastic.

5. Games.

   A Table Tennis equipment is to be provided.

   Dart and Ring Boards are also to be furnished for the entertainment of the members.

6. Socials.

   Until we were fully organised, it was proposed that Socials would not be held at present.

.....
Chairman

February 14, 1939.

SARRATT GIRLS' CLUB

COMMITTEE

Chairman.	Miss E. Barnet.
Secretary.	Miss F. Pritchard.

Members of the Committee -

Miss E. Barnet.
~~Mrs. Baldwin.~~ Miss Green.
Mrs. Sibson.
Mrs. Chalk.
Miss K. Pritchard.

February 14, 1939.

SARRATT GIRLS' CLUB

Following are the names of members who have already joined:-

1. Mrs. M. Keysell. Pd.
2. Miss E. Barnet. Pd.
3. Mrs. M. Johnston. Pd.
4. " ~~E. Freeman~~.
5. Miss W. Mason. Pd.
6. Mrs. I. Brown.
7. Miss E. Bliss.
8. Mrs. E. Pritchard. Pd.
9. Miss R. Gasson.
10. ~~Mrs.~~ Baldwin.
11. " Biggerstaff. Pd.
12. " S. Chalk. Pd.
13. ~~Miss A. Fear.~~
14. " S. Rowe. 1/6 Pd.
15. " K. Clack. 1/6 Pd.
16. " F. Rushman. Pd.
17. ~~Mrs. B. Fear.~~
18. Miss J. Wood.
19. " L. Bergen .
20. " E. Sibson. ~~Pd.~~
21. Mrs. Sibson. Pd.
22. Miss Richardson. Pd.
23. " D. Wingfield.
24. " Green. Pd.
25. " Saunders. Pd.
26. " D. Rushmar. Pd.
27. " K. Pritchard. 1/6 Pd.
28. " F. Pritchard. Pd.
29. Mrs. Simons. Pd.
30. Miss D. Norman Pd.
31. Miss U. Prichard 6d Pd.
32. Mrs. Wallington 3d Pd.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE INSTITUTE
ON FEBRUARY 21st, 1939.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and approved.

There was a very good attendance, including two new members.

An enjoyable evening was spent and Miss Barnett supervised a class in Ballroom Dancing.

Table Tennis, Darts and games were also played.

.....
Chairman

SARRATT GIRLS' CLUB

WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE TO SWITCH OFF THE LIGHTS IN THOSE PARTS OF THE CLUB ROOM NOT IN USE.

THANK YOU.

SARRATT GIRLS' CLUB

The Committee of the above has arranged a Novelty Competition, in which all Members are invited to enter.

Details are given below and it is hoped that everyone will take part.

1. No more than 1/-d can be spent on making an article by hand.

2. This can take the form of something to wear or to use in the home, etc.

3. The Competition covers Needlework, Knitting, Embroidery or similar crafts.

4. Entries must be submitted on the last Tuesday of this month, i.e., March 28th.

5. Prizes will be awarded for the most original and interesting entries.

March 28th, 1939.

SARRATT GIRLS' CLUB

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Committee has arranged to postpone the Sewing Competition until a fortnight from date.

Entries will be judged on Tuesday evening, April 11th.

1939

Sarratt Working Men's Club

President:—T. CLUTTERBUCK, Esq., J.P.

Hon. Treasurer:—A. WINGFIELD, Esq.

Hon. Secretary:—Mr. P. TAVENER,
DAWES LANE,
SARRATT, Herts.

M 19

Received the Sum of £3 - 0 7½
From Girls Club Nov 8 1939

P Tavener

No

Nov- 9 1939

Received of Sarratt Girls Club
the sum of three Pounds
shillings and seven pence ½

£ 3 - 0 - 7½

A. Wingfield
Treasurer

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

HERTFORDSHIRE BRANCH.
DETACHMENT 94

COMMANDANT —

SARRATT DIVISION
VICE-PRESIDENT:- MRS. WALTER BARNETT,
RED HALL,
CHANDLERS CROSS,
RICKMANSWORTH,
HERTS.

TELEPHONE:
No. 2151 RICKMANSWORTH.

19

Dr. Scorer hopes that as many of the Detachment as possible will attend his next Lecture at Great Westwood First Aid Point. It will take the form of an exercise and will be on Sunday June 22nd. at 10-15 a.m. Members must attend in uniform and carry gasmasks, and be prepared to render first aid to patients supposed to be suffering from different injuries etc.

Detachment Members who are also C.N.R., and who work at a Hospital for at least 48 hours each months can apply to:-
Miss Brown,
County Hall,
Hertford,
for a Free Issue of C.N.R. Outdoor Uniform.

It is hoped to have another course of First Aid Classes in the near future. Kindly let me have the names of those wishing to join as soon as possible.

Probably on Thursdays beginning June 12 at Commonwood

MILK and BREAD DEPOT. — Le Lauds, during 1939-1945

For the sale of milk and bread to the civilian populace only.

Hard and fast rules cannot be laid down. Common sense is the chief requirement.

The following rules should be carried out as near as possible.

MILK and BREAD should only be supplied to persons with a ration book. That book must be marked.

If you know that a person has definitely lost household and all other effects including their ration book you should supply them.

The ration for BREAD is:-

The Ration for MILK ~~is~~ will vary day by day. A special ration will be issued to all priority classes. They are those who have.
A child's ration book. A special milk voucher. Are nursing a young child or an expectant mother.

A lower ration will be issued to all others.

A careful check must be kept of the following:-

Quantity of MILK and BREAD issued to Depot.
Names and addresses of all persons supplied with cheap or free milk.
Amount of cash taken for all daily sales. Milk and Bread monies should be kept seperate.

Goods must be paid for at time of purchase unless you know they have lost all personal effects.

If the Depot becomes contaminated by Gas let the Milk Convener know at Kings Langley 7498 or Invasion Head Quarters, also A.R.P. Head Quarters Kings Langley 7456.
Do not sell any goods.
Do not use a telephone if you are contaminated.
Get de-contaminated as soon as possible.
The depot must be manned so long as it is humanly possible to do so during opening hours.

Service to the public is your first and only consideration.

Although the public have been requested to bring a utensil in which to put the milk. Failure to do so does not mean refusal to supply them, if it is possible to loan a bottle.

Milk Covener for Sarratt Parish.

E B Hewitt

Milk Convenor is Mr. Hewitt Micklefield green
Tel: Kings L. 7498.

Invasion Hdqrs are at the Forge - Mr. Downer

A.R.P. Hdqrs is at the A.R.P. Post. Tel: Kings L 7461 -
Tel: Kings Langley 7456.



VILLAGE HALL CONCERT. SEPTEMBER 1940

1942

re Mrs. L. A. SEATON (deceased).

SYRINGA,

DIMMOCKS LANE, SARRATT, HERTS.

THE FREEHOLD DETACHED COUNTRY COTTAGE

With Vacant Possession on Completion of the Purchase.

Followed by the Sale of the

FURNITURE AND EFFECTS

Messrs. SWANNELL & SLY

Are instructed to offer for Sale by Public Auction,

On WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1942,

ON THE PREMISES, at One o'clock precisely.

The property may be viewed by previous appointment but the Furniture on morning of Sale only.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Solicitors: Messrs. Sedgwick, Turner, Sworder & Wilson, Watford Place, King Street, Watford, and Catalogues at the Auctioneers Offices:

52, HIGH STREET, RICKMANSWORTH,
and Branches.

J. Woolcott & Son, Printers, Rickmansworth

THE
FREEHOLD DETACHED COUNTRY COTTAGE
DIMMOCKS LANE, SARRATT, HERTS,

SYRINGA,

About 2½ miles from Chorleywood Station, 4½ miles from Rickmansworth and 6½ miles from Watford; is pleasantly situated, close to Sarratt Green and the Village, on the bus route, with good views over open country.

The Cottage which is brick built, cement faced and tiled contains:

TWO BEDROOMS, both having fireplaces and one a wardrobe cupboard;

PASSAGE ENTRANCE;

SITTING ROOM, about 11ft. 6in. x 10ft. 6in., fitted tiled fireplace;

LIVING ROOM, about 11ft. 6in. x 10ft. 6in., fitted tiled fireplace, cupboard with shelves over and Larder;

SCULLERY, fitted Sink (cold supply only).

Company's water and Electricity.

Outside: Coal Shed and Closet. Side entrance.

The garden at the rear is planted with young fruit trees and fruit bushes, leaving accommodation for vegetables, and the front is chiefly lawn with flower borders and there are a number of rose bushes and shrubs, the property being screened from the road by a thick holly hedge has a frontage of about 29ft.

Vacant Possession on Completion of the Purchase.

CATALOGUE.

The Lots are sold subject to the usual Conditions of Sale and must be paid for and cleared on the day of the Sale.

Bedroom No. 1

LOT

1 Light ground figured & fringed Mirzapore Rug 8ft x 4ft 11in and piece of blanket under.
2 Bedside rug, 3ft 3in copper cased kerb, wood decorated fire screen and stained medicine chest.
3 Wall mirror in Walnut frame—plate 29in x 18in.
4 2 Mahogany dining chairs with seats in crimson velvet.
5 A 3ft Walnut washstand with marble top and white toilet basin and jug.
6 An Oak 6-division umbrella and stick stand with trays, and a hanging mirror in compo frame.
7 A 2ft 6in Oak linen cupboard on legs.
8 A 2ft 5in Oak Dressing Chest with 3 long drawers, centre bevelled plate mirror and 2 side dittos, brass drop handles and a dwarf chest of 2 long drawers en suite.
9 A 2ft 6in FIGURED OAK WARDROBE fitted rail and hooks, enclosed by centre mirror door and drawer under.
10 A 3ft Oak combination Bedstead with spiral spring and flock mattress in extra cover.
11 3ft Feather bed and 2 feather pillows.
12 2 under blankets, flock cushion and a white table cloth.
13 Down quilt in satin cover and blue & worked cotton bedspread.
14
15
16

Bedroom No. 2

17 2 pieces pink and figured Axminster carpet, wall mirror, 3 picture frames and 2 photos, glazed.
18 A light ground figured and firinged Mirzapore Rug 8' x 4' 11"
19 3ft shaped Walnut Washstand with drawer and marble top, a bentwood chair, blue decorated vase, 2 bedside battery lamps.
20 A 2ft 9in FIGURED OAK HANGING WARDROBE fitted rail and hooks, enclosed by centre mirror door.

21 A 4ft OAK BEDSTEAD, spiral spring, mattress, protector and wool overlay in extra cover.
22 4ft Feather Bed in extra cover.
23 Feather bolster and 2 feather pillows.
24 An under blanket and 2 other blankets.
25 A quilt in extra green and worked artificial silk cover and a white cotton bed cover.
26 A blue bordered wool blanket.
27 The pink and figured 22in Axminster stair carpet about 5 yards and the bakelite holders.
28
29
30

Living Room

31 A pair of fawn and figured rugs 5ft 6in x 4ft.
32 A blue figured and fringed hearth rug 5ft 6in x 2ft 10in.
33 Cocoa door mat and 2 figured rugs.
34 Pair stained elbow chairs with wood seats and 2 cushions.
35 Electric fire (200 volts) flex & plug, folding stool & fire guard.
36 A stained and shaped octagonal table with shelf under, 27in.
37 Easy chair in figured tapestry.
38 3 photos and pictures various framed and glazed, letter rack, about 19 novels and sundry magazines.
39 A 3ft 6in OAK SIDEBOARD with cupboard under enclosed by 2 doors and 2 drawers over.
40 A shaped frameless bevelled hanging mirror 20½in x 12in.
41 A 3ft 5in Oak Gateleg Table.
42 2ft 6in Oak Writing Desk with fall front and 2 bookshelves over and 2 under.
43 19 novels various in brown and black covers.
44 About 20 novels various.
45 About 18 ditto and sundry magazines.
46 26" Oak Hall Seat & coat stand with mirror & umbrella holder.
47
48
49

Sitting Room

50 A LIGHT GROUND & FIGURED Mirzapore Carpet 10ft x 7ft 6in.
51 4ft 2in oval blue and fawn wool hearth rug.
52 Stained coal box and shovel, copper cased kerb and glass and brass fire screen (a.f.)
53 3 Mahogany Dining Chairs with loose seats in crimson velvet.
54 Stained low ladder back chair with rush seat and a cane elbow chair with 2 cushions.
55 9 engravings in Oak frames glazed.
56 A shaped bevelled hanging mirror 20½in x 12in.
57 A 21in oval and shaped ditto.
58 Pair heavy fawn & figured tapestry curtains & fringed pelmet.
59 An EASY CHAIR IN PINK and fawn cloth and extra cretonne cover.
60 A ditto in green and figured tapestry and extra cretonne cover and cushion.
61 A 2ft 6in Divan bed with spiral spring and wool overlay with pink artificial silk cover, flock bolster and 2 feather pillows in ditto.
62 Hoovers Cleaner
63

Scullery

64 2 rush mats, hip bath and sundries.
65 Bentwood chair, set of scales & weights.
66 Paper mache bowl, iron kettle, tin ditto, aluminium fry pan, ditto teapot and 2 ditto saucepans and lids.
67 19in "BELLING" ELECTRIC TABLE COOKER.
68 Tall meat safe with 3 shelves.
69 White and black bordered part dinner service of about 15 pieces.
70 White and decorated Wood's Ivoreen China tea service of about 20 pieces.
71 6 cut glass and shaped tumblers.
72 4 Hock glasses, 6 various glasses and glass water jug.
73 2 Willow pattern meat dishes, fruit bowl, teapot and sundries.
74 Quantity of jam jars.
75
76 Electric Bulb & Socket

Outside.

77 Ironcrete 2-cylinder 14in roller.
78 "Ideal" wringer on stand and galvanised bath.
79 Dust bin and lid and sundries.
80 Salmon 12in lawn mower.
81 Set 3-tread steps.
82 4 wood boxes various.
83 Length of garden hose and sprayer.
84
85

1944

29th Platoon — 8th Battalion — Herts H.G.

THERE'LL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND

There'll always be an England,
While there's a country lane,
Wherever there's a cottage small
Beside a field of grain.

There'll always be and England,
While there's a busy street,
Wherever there's a turning wheel,
A million marching feet.

Red white and blue,
What does it mean to you,
Surely you're proud,
Shout it aloud,
Britain is awake.

The Empire too, we can depend on you.
Freedom remains,
These are the chains
Nothing can break.

There'll always be an England,
And England shall be free,
If England means as much to you
As England means to me.

W. G. Kingham Printers) Ltd., Kings Langley

"You can't help Laughing"

A REVUE
Written and produced by
Pte. STARLING

PANTOMIME
Written by Pte. STARLING
Produced by G. PHODIADES

Programme

1. Introducing the Show ... ...LIEUT. ELLIOTT
   (Our Compere)
2. The Show is on! ... ... M. SEFTON—Violin; Pte. SWABEY—Electric Guitar; Sgt. CUTLER—Drums; Pte. STARLING—Piano
   The Band
3. "The Weaker Sex" ... Sgt. BLAKE; G. G. STARLING
   1 Act Sketch

Wigs by:—Tonsorial Artists Ltd. Costumes by:—War Office et Cie.

4. Songs ... ... Sgt. TYLER
5. "The Awkward Squad" ... Pte. STARLING
   1 Act Sketch

Lighting by:—Parafin Syndicate Ltd. Shoes by:—Pawnbroker's Guild

6. Violin Solos ... ... M. SEFTON
7. Early Birds" ... ... Pte. STARLING; Cpl. MANN; Pte. BROWN; Sgt. NASH; Sgt. BLAKE; Pte. COWPER
   1 Act Sketch
8. Songs ... ... G. G. STARLING
9. ... ... THE BAND

INTERVAL (10 MINUTES)

All Steak and Kidney Puddings served during the interval are our own make.

10. Monologue ... ... Assisted by Pte. STARLING; Sgt. NASH
11. Songs ... ... Pte. BUXTON
12. "Lords of the Air" *Commander:* Pte. G. PHODIADES; *Orderly:* Cpl. FRANZ; *Flyers:* MANN, NASH, COWPER, BLAKE

Scenery by:—Sarratt Scenics

13. Violin Solos ... ... M. SEFTON

This Hall is regularly sprayed with Machine Gun Fire.

14. Out-and-Out Patients ... ... Sgt. NASH; Pte. STARLING; V. YOUNG; M. NASH
    1 Act Sketch
    (Any London Hospital)

Cigarettes by:—Stealth and Proxy.

15. A scene from "Love from a Stranger" BARBARA FRANCIS and JOHN STUART (The well-known Stage and Screen Stars)
    The dramatic thriller by
    AGATHA CHRISTIE and FRANK VOSPER

Stage swept with broom made from hair of the 1922 Derby winner.

16. Songs in Harmony ... Pte. STARLING & G. G. STARLING

For the safety of the Artistes the Armoury is locked.

17. Dick Whittington
    A Spectacular Pantomime

To ensure civility the attendants are all "privates."

Dancing till midnight to the Blue Rhythm Serenaders.

A VILLAGE COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL

ORGANIZED BY THE SARRATT GUILD

Hon. President - - - SIR ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL

OBJECT : To encourage the practice and performance of the various arts included in the Festival.

JUNE 11th - - JUNE 16th, 1945

ADJUDICATORS :

Music . . . . . FLORA WOODMAN.
Dr. C. H. PHILLIPS.
DOROTHEA VINCENT.

Drama . . . . . AUSTIN TREVOR.

Dancing . . . . . EMMA MARQUES.

Literature . . . . Dr. F. St. JOHN BROOKS.

Public Speaking and Reading at Sight . COLIN KEITH JOHNSTON.

Art . . . . . SYDNEY GAUSDEN and J. R. LOCKIE.

Crafts . . . . . Miss C. M. SMALE and W. G. DOWN.

Accompanists . . . ANTHONY HOPKINS and MADELINE JOHNSTON

FINALISTS' CONCERT AND PRIZEGIVING
at The Institute
Saturday, 16th June, 1945, at 6 p.m.
(Tickets 3/6 and 2/6)
The Prizes will be presented by LADY CAMPBELL

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE :

Miss Barbara Francis.
Mrs. Madeline Johnston.
Mr. K. F. Goodwin Bailey (Treasurer).
Mr. Warburton Knight (Chairman).
Mr. George Photiades.
Mr. John Stuart (Secretary).

PROGRAMME - - - SIXPENC

F. E. Blower & Co., Printers, Sutton Road, Watford.

PROGRAMME

The winning Competitor in each Class will perform at the FINALISTS' CONCERT

MONDAY, 11th JUNE, at 5 p.m., at The Institute

Class 8. Solo Voices (under 16).

Competitors to sing **either** "The Ash Grove" (Traditional) **or** "Big Lady Moon" (Coleridge Taylor).

ADJUDICATOR—Dr. C. H. PHILLIPS

1 Florence Ahearn.
2 Iris Bleakley.
3 Bridget Casey.
4 Margaret Coyle.
5 Sheila Davis.
6 Florence Duggan.
7 Joyce Gartland.
8 Mary Imms.
9 Richard Knight.
10 Ann Knight.
11 Kathleen Light.
12 Doreen Maddock.
13 Mary Morrison.
14 Violet Norman.
15 Doreen O'Donnell.
16 Una O'Connell.
17 Gwyn Phillips.
18 Rosemarie Sedwell.
19 Janet Smart.
20 Rosemary Smart.
21 Audrey Smith.
22 Sonia Sully.
23 Patricia Wheeler.
24 Betty White.

TUESDAY, 12th JUNE, at 3.30 p.m., at The Institute

Class 9. Junior Choirs (under 16).

Competitors to sing "Nymphs and Shepherds" (Purcell).

ADJUDICATOR—Dr. C. H. PHILLIPS

1 Ave Maria School Junior Choir.
2 Marie Bromley's Junior Choir.
3 Sarratt Junior Choir.
4 Miss Stoneley's Junior Choir.

TUESDAY, 12th JUNE, at 5 p.m., at The Institute

Classes 4, 5, 6 and 7. Solo Voices.

Competitors to sing a song of their own choice.

ADJUDICATOR—FLORA WOODMAN

Class 4. Soprano Voices.

1 Margaret Aitken.
2 E. L. Baldwin.
3 Mary Beaumont.
4 F. M. Biggerstaff.
5 Mildred Fermor.
6 Dorothy Fulluck.
7 Kathleen Good.
8 Grace Hinkley.
9 Nancy King.
10 Gweneth Knight.
11 Bernice Prime.
12 Maureen Risbridger.
13 Betty Saunders.
14 M. R. Spinks.
15 Celia Sporne.
16 C. Walker.
17 Thelma Wells.
18 M. L. Wright.

Class 5. Contralto Voices.

1 Doris Daniel.
2 Cathleen Joyce.
3 Doris King.
4 Marjorie Nash.
5 Margaret Royle.
6 Violet Seddon.

Classes 6 and 7 (not to be taken before 7.30 p.m.). Male Voices.

1 A. W. Lethbridge.
2 Sidney Hoare.
3 James Ralph.
4 Maurice Staines.

WEDNESDAY, 13th JUNE, at 2.30 p.m., at The Rectory.

Pianoforte

ADJUDICATOR—DOROTHEA VINCENT

Class 3. Under 12.

Competitors to play a piece of their own choice.

1 Roy Baldwin.
2 Gillian Blake.
3 Beverley Brentnall.
4 Rita Brooks.
5 A. F. M. Button.
6 Shirley Connoll.
7 Catherine Da Casa.
8 Dolores Da Casa.
9 Peggy Elbourn.
10 Mavis Elmitt.
11 Janet Gale.
12 Ann Knight.
13 Patricia Lathwell.
14 Shirley Lishman.
15 Richard Salisbury.
16 Pamela Tong.
17 Mary Wallington.
18 Joanna Wrigley.

The Committee wish to express their grateful thanks to all who have helped wit the Festival.

WEDNESDAY, 13th JUNE, at 5.30 p.m.

Class 2. Pianoforte (12-15).

Competitors to play either "Elfin Dance" (Jensen) **or** "Hornpip." (Alec Rowley) **or** "Boys' Merry-go-round" (Gade).

1 Anthony Bowles.
2 Jane Day.
3 Peter Element.
4 E. T. Ellison.
5 Daphne Goldberg.
6 Patricia Hedges.
7 Shirley Humphreys.
8 Richard Knight.
9 Pauline Maguire.
10 Jean Templeman.

Class 1. Pianoforte (over 15). At 7.30 p.m.

Competitors to play "Etude de Concert" (Beringer).

1 Iris Bedford.
2 Cathleen Joyce.
3 Dorothy Parish.
4 Evelyn Stoutzker.

THURSDAY, 14th JUNE, at 6 p.m., at The Rectory.

Class 24. Reading at Sight.

ADJUDICATOR—COLIN KEITH JOHNSTON

1 Mrs. Hervey Bathurst.
2 Anthony Bowles.
3 Rachel Brierton.
4 Joyce Collis Brown.
5 D. Farrow.
6 Angela Hobbs.
7 Madeline Johnston.
8 Pauline Maguire.
9 George Photiades.
10 A. M. Russell.
11 Gordon Seddon.
12 Joan Sedwell.
13 Solomon Stoutzker.
14 J. H. Tarver.
15 Betty White.

Class 23. Public Speaking (impromptu) at 7.30 p.m.

1 Rachel Brierton.
2 Madeline Johnston.
3 Doris King.
4 W. H. J. Knight.
5 A. J. Lewis.
6 George Photiades.
7 Violet Seddon.
8 Gordon Seddon.
9 J. H. Tarver.

FRIDAY, 15th JUNE, at 3.30 p.m., at The Rectory.

ADJUDICATOR—AUSTIN TREVOR

Class 11. Elocution (under 16).

1 Esther Brierton.
2 Joyce Brown.
3 Pauline Elmitt.
4 Ann Knight.
5 Pauline Maguire.
6 Mary Osborn.
7 Sonia Sully.
8 Mary Wallington.
9 Rosermon Wallington.
10 Betty White.

Class 13. Group Drama (under 16). At 4.30 p.m.

Group to perform "She Stoops to Conquer" (Goldsmith) (part of Act III).

1 Aylwin School, Form Lower 5, Group 1.
2 Aylwin School, Form Lower 5, Group 2.
3 Winifred McDonnell's Group.
4 Mary Osborne Group.

Class 15. Mime (under 16). At 6 p.m., at The Institute.

ADJUDICATOR—EMMA MARQUES

1 Anthony Bowles.
2 Joyce Collis Brown.
3 Pauline Elmitt.
4 Sonia Sully.

Class 17. Dancing (under 14). At 6.30 p.m.

1 Kathleen Canny.
2 Margaret Coyle.
3 Elsie Fox.
4 Doreen Gaynor.

Class 16. Dancing (over 14). At 7 p.m.

1 Margarite Canny.
2 Violet Jennings.
3 Margaret Meehan.
4 Margaret Moody.
5 Margaret Muldoon.

Class 12. Group Drama. At 7.45 p.m., at The Rectory.

Group to perform "Twelfth Night" (Shakespeare), Act I, Sc. 5.

ADJUDICATOR—AUSTIN TREVOR

1 Commonwood Group.
2 "Company of Ten," St. Albans.
3 Sarratt Guild, Group 1.
4 Sarratt Guild, Group 2.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Entries are on Exhibition in the Barn of Green End Farm by kind permissi Mr. and Mrs. John Stuart.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY . . . 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY . . . . 3 to 9.30 p.m.
Admission 6d.

LITERATURE

ADJUDICATOR—Dr. F. St. JOHN BROOKS

Class 18. (Over 16.) **Essay.**

1 George Photiades.
2 Pauline M. Roberts.
3 Evelyn Stoutzker.
4 J. H. Tarver.

Class 19. (Under 16.) **Essay.**

1 Brian Baldwin.
2 Gillian Blake.
3 Jean Bowen.
4 Margarite Canny.
5 Bridget Casey.
6 Joan Dillon.
7 Geoffrey W. C. Herring.
8 Doreen O'Donnell.
9 Janet Smart.
10 Rosemary Smart.

Class 20. Poetry Writing.

1 Josephine Baker.
2 Anthony Bowles.
3 Dorothy R. Colls (4 entries).
4 P. M. Crompton.
5 N. P. Cutcliffe.
6 Murial Douglas.
7 Pauline Elmitt.
8 D. Farrow.
9 Alexander Firks.
10 G. A. Gilbert.
11 June Hill.
12 Angela Hobbs.
13 Ivy J. Ingall.
14 A. P. Jordon.
15 Mrs. Keen.
16 Ann Knight.
17 W. H. Knight.
18 Frances Latham.
19 T. W. Newell.
20 Mary Osborn.
21 Margaret Pearce.
22 James Ralph.
23 A. M. Russell.
24 Joan Sedwell.
25 Shirley Smith.
26 Solomon Stoutzker.
27 Sonia Sully.
28 Josephine Tewson.
29 S. Weston.

Class 21. Short-Story Writing.

1 Josephine Baker.
2 Dorothy R. Colls (2 entries).
3 Alice Colls (2 entries).
4 Kenneth E. Cross.
5 Muriel Douglas.
6 Phyllis Doyle.
7 D. Farrow.
8 Geoffrey Herring.
9 June Hill.
10 Angela Hobbs.
11 Madeline Johnston.
12 W. H. J. Knight.
13 T. W. Newell.
14 Mary Osborn.
15 Dorothy Owen.
16 Evelyn Stoutzker.
17 Solomon Stoutzker.

Class 22. Play Writing.

1 Josephine Baker.
2 Evelyn Cook.
3 Madeline Johnston.
4 C. S. Matthews.
5 Winifred Southam.
6 S. Weston.

Two Certificates of Merit and one Prize will be awarded in each Class. Further prizes in each Class will be awarded at the discretion of the Committee.

ART

ADJUDICATORS—SYDNEY GAUSDEN and J. R. LOCKIE

Subject : SARRATT

Class 25. Landscape Painting. Oil or Water Colour.

1 Mrs. Justin Baker.
2 Pamela Baker.
3 Brenda Bettinson.
4 Dorothy R. Colls.
5 Frederick Colls.
6 Barbara Connolly.
7 Ann Davey.
8 Phyllis Doyle.
9 A. J. R. Doyle.
10 Doreen Duggan.
11 Betty Giles.
12 E. G. Hoare.
13 June Holderness.
14 Anita Jones.
15 P. Memory.
16 John Merrett.
17 George Photiades.
18 Vera Pimm.
19 Lois Prime.
20 J. C. Tarver.
21 L. Whitlock.
22 J. H. Williams.
23 Lotte Zurnporfer.

Class 26. Black and White. Any Medium. Subject : Own Choice.

1 Josephine Baker.
2 Mrs. Justin Baker.
3 Pamela Baker.
4 Brenda A. Bettinson.
5 Dorothy R. Colls.
6 Phyllis Doyle.
7 Mildred Fermor.
8 June Holderness.
9 Anne Scott.
10 E. Stubbington.
11 S. L. Taylor.
12 L. Whitlock.
13 A. J. Wright.

Class 27. Portrait or Figure-Drawing. Any Medium.

1 Joyce Alderman.
2 Mrs. Justin Baker.
3 Pamela Baker.
4 Brenda Bettinson.
5 Joyce Brook.
6 Dorothy R. Colls (2 entries).
7 Frederick Colls.
8 Barbara Connolly.
9 N. P. Cutcliffe.
10 N. F. Cutcliffe (2 entries).
11 E. G. Hoare.
12 June Holderness.
13 Shirley Hubbard.
14 Marie Imms.
15 Pamela Memory.
16 Margaret Pearce.
17 Pauline M. Roberts.
18 Violet Schulze.
19 Jacqueline Schulze.
20 Anne Scott.
21 Peter S. Seldon.
22 Josephine Tewson.
23 L. Whitlock.
24 June Zurnporfer.

Class 28. (Under 14.) Subject : "A Day Out."

1 Mary Rose Beech.
2 G. D. Collins.
3 John Henley.
4 Margaret Merrett.
5 Doreen O'Donnell.
6 June Paul.
7 Richard Salisbury.
8 Sonia Sully.
9-14 Miss B. M. Wilk's nominations (6 entries).

CRAFTS

ADJUDICATORS—Miss C. M. SMALE and W. G. DOWN (Model Making).

Class 29. Model Making.

1 G. D. Collins.
2 J. A. Game.
3 John Henley (2 entries).
4 Geoffrey Herring.
5 Peter Hitchcock.
6 John Holderness.
7 Oliver Owen (2 entries).
8 John Parsons (3 entries).
9 C. J. Phipps.
10 R. W. Sacker.
11 D. A. Smallbone.
12 P. Stacey.
13 R. E. Tidball.
14 Edward Webb.
15 A. J. Wright.

Class 30. Embroidery. A Cushion Cover.

1 Judy Fenton.
2 Elsie Kavanagh.
3 Doris King.
4 Miss Phyllis Stevens.

Class 31. (Under 16.) **Embroidery.** A Kettle Holder.

1 Helen Barratt.
2 Irene Cook.
3 W. M. Elbourn.
4 Shirley Hubbard.
5 Winifred McDonnell.
6 G. Weston.
7 Sheila D. Willmott.

Class 33. Knitted Fancy Article.

1 F. Clarke.
2 M. Clarke.
3 W. M. Elbourn.
4 Kathleen Good.
5 Mrs. Hider.
6 Marjorie Read.

Class 34. (Under 16.) **Child's Socks or Gloves.**

1 Florence Duggan.
2 Elsie Fox.
3 Joyce Gartland.
4 Marie Imms.
5 Doreen Maddock.
6 Mary Morrison.
7 Joan Sedwell.
8 Rosemary Smart.
9 Mary Wallington.
10 Violet Jennings.

Class 36. Sewing.

An original article from scraps of fabric.

1 Mrs. Coxhill.
2 Mrs. C. Freeman.
3 W. D. Hayward.
4 F. E. Old.
5 Dorothy Owen.
6 W. E. Strawson.
7 Mrs. J. Tarver.
8 S. L. Taylor.

Class 37. (Under 16.) **Sewing.** A Handkerchief.

1 Kathleen Conley.
2 Joyce Hutchinson.
3 Margaret Meehan.
4 Beryl Stanley.
5 Mary Wallington.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale

of the

Freehold Investments and Land

comprising :—

Nos. 49 and 51, Acme Road, Watford,
Nos. 53 and 55, Acme Road, Watford,
No. 124, Queens Road, Watford,
"Park House," 83 Upper Paddock Road, Oxhey, Watford,
"The Nook," "Wayside," and "Oak Beam," Sarratt Green,
Lewin's Field, Bottom Lane, Bucks Hill,
69, 71, 73 and 75, High Street, Bovingdon,

AND

77 High Street, Bovingdon, Herts.

The above Properties will be offered

FOR SALE BY AUCTION

On TUESDAY, 8th OCTOBER, 1946

at 2.30 p.m. precisely, at Messrs.

W. S. Weller & Son's Estate Offices

IN SIX LOTS.

Solicitors :—

Lots 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6. Messrs. MATTHEW ARNOLD & BALDWIN, Friern House, Clarendon Road, Watford. Telephone 4434.

Lot 3. Messrs. PENMAN, JOHNSON & EWINS, 19/21, Clarendon Road, Watford. Telephone 5212.

Lots 7 & 8. Messrs. A. J. ADAMS & ADAMS, 157, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead. Telephone Boxmoor 28

By Order of the Personal Representatives of Charlotte Pritchard deceased.

PARTICULARS **LOT FIVE**

THE FREEHOLD COTTAGE INVESTMENT

known as

"The Nook," "Wayside," and "Oak Beam," Sarratt Green, Sarratt.

Comprising THREE BRICK BUILT AND TILED OLD WORLD COTTAGES fronting the West side of Sarratt Green close to Dawes Lanend together possessing a combined FRONTAGE of about 87ft. with an average depth of 150ft. or thereabouts.

The cottages vary in size and accommodation and are all LET as described in the following

SCHEDULE.

	Accommodation.	*Restricted weekly Inclusive rent.*
"The Nook"	Double fronted and containing 4 large rooms and scullery.	6/6
"Wayside"	Single fronted and containing 3 rooms and scullery.	5/-
"Oak Beam"	Single fronted, oak beamed interior and containing 3 rooms and scullery.	6/-

the three thereby producing a

GROSS INCOME £45 10s. 0d. PER ANNUM

(Landlord paying outgoings.)

Electric Light. *Gas.* *Water.* *No Main Drainage.*

Rateable Values £10, £5 and £5 respectively.

Watford Rural District Council Rates for the current half-year amount to £7 1s. 8d. Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Rates amount to 15/10 per half-year.

By Order of the Personal Representatives of Charlotte Pritchard deceased.

PARTICULARS **LOT SIX**

The Very Valuable

FREEHOLD AGRICULTURAL LAND

known as

Lewin's Field, Bottom Lane, Bucks Hill.

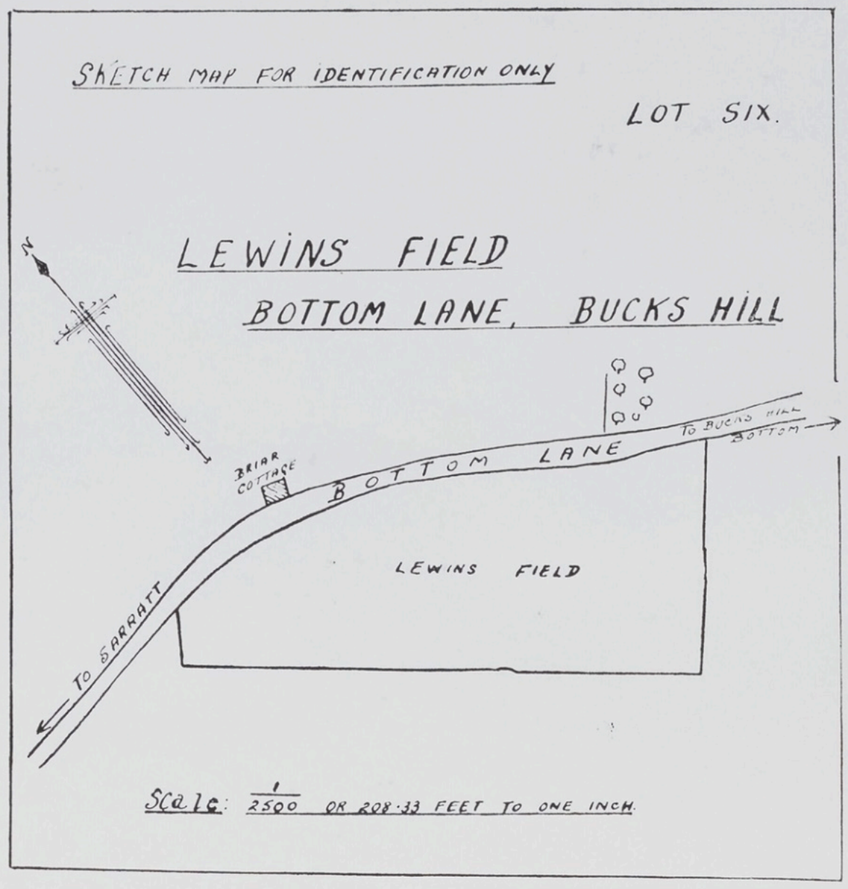
comprising the field as shewn on the plan attached situate on the South side of Bottom Lane immediately opposite Briar Cottage and being about half-way between Sarratt Green and Bucks Hill Bottom.

The land occupies an approximate

ROAD FRONTAGE OF 977 FEET.

AREA :—6 ACRES, 2 ROODS AND 39 PERCHES.

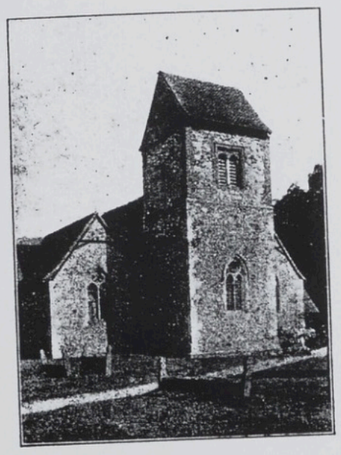
The land is at present unlet and is offered with the advantage of POSSESSION.



No. 475 (40th year). Price—not less than 2d. July 1947
(By post not less than 3/6.)

"That ye might know our affairs."

Sarratt Parish Magazine



"It is strange how many are content to offer to Almighty God on Sundays sums which they would not dream of offering at the pay box of an inexpensive provincial cinema." —The Archbishop of York.

Sundays

Holy Communion—After Morning Prayer 1st and 3rd Sundays; at **8** a.m., 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.
Morning Prayer, **11** a.m. Evening Prayer, **6.30** p.m.

Rector—The Rev. G. N. Ryley, M.A., Oxon. (Tel. Chorleywood 113).
Churchwardens—Mr. W. Reeve, Green Bushes, and Mr. D. J. Saunders, Junr., Great Bragmans.
Sydesmen—Messrs. D. C. Brown. D. P. Burdett. T. Burdett. H. L. Chalk. G. Flitney. C. Goodman. A. Hawes. E. B. Miles. R. F. Miles. W. E. F. Newman. P. D. Saunders. R. A. Simpson. A. E. Wallington.

Organist—Miss M. E. Ryley. **Sexton**—Mr. C. Goodman (Church End).

Local News on Third Page of Cover.

G. Young & Son, Ltd., Printers, Croxley Green. Tel. Rickmansworth 2311.

The Parish Registers.

Holy Baptism—
May 25 Barbara Joan, daughter of L. and U. Lumley.
June 1 Joan Elizabeth, daughter of A.H. and G. E. Grace.
„ 8 Keith William, son of D. P. and H. M. Saunders.

Holy Matrimony—
June 7 William Thomas Morton and Joyce Kathleen Cox.
„ 7 Gordon Wilson and Sheila Lilian Cox.

Free-will Offerings in May—No. 2 (Anonymous), 11/6½; 6 ("Pillar-of-the-Church 1178), 1/6; 16, 3/-; 17, 6/-; Total: £1/2/0½.

Episcopal Visits to Sarratt

There is no record of Dr. Claughton, the first Bishop of St. Albans, ever having come here.

Dr. Festing, the second Bishop, consecrated a part of the Churchyard, in **1900**. It was July 16, and on account of the intense heat he gave a short address from the Chancel steps instead of outside. Why he should not have given it inside anyhow I do not know.

Then about the year **1906**, a Confirmation was held here by Dr. Johnson, Suffragan-Bishop of Colchester, then in this Diocese.

About **1907,** our third Bishop, Dr. Jacob preached one Sunday evening. Then on June 14, **1912** he instituted me as Rector.

He also celebrated the Holy Communion and preached in the morning, and met the Parochial Church Council in the afternoon, on Sunday, May 7, **1916**.

On May 5, **1918** Dr. Hodges, once Bishop of Travancore and China (1890-1904) came as assistant Bishop of our Diocese to consecrate a narrow strip of land added to the north west side of the Churchyard.

On Sept. 13, **1925**, the sermon at Evensong was preached by the late Dr. P. C. T. Crick, then Bishop of Rockhampton, Australia.

On March 5, **1926** a Confirmation was held here by Bishop Furse, then our Bishop.

On Sunday evening, 17 July, **1927**, the sermon was preached by Dr. Eyre Chatterton, Rector of Merstham, Surrey, Hon. Canon of Canterbury and at one time Bishop of Nagpur. This was owing to the keen sympathy of Lady Standen, which the Bishop shared, for Anglo-Indians.

On May 27, **1931** a further large piece of land, having been added to the churchyard on the north side, was consecrated by Bishop Lander, Assistant Bishop in this Diocese.

On June 6, **1937,** Bishop Furse again came to confirm here.

On **June 8 last** our present Bishop most kindly preached at Morning Prayer. I know he enjoyed his visit here, and I know I, with doubtless many others, did. He motored himself from St. Albans. After lunch and only ten minutes' rest he went on to look in at the Sunday School, and take a Confirmation, at All Saints' Parish, Luton, in the afternoon. He then motored to Hormead in East Herts to take another Confirmation at 6.30, after which he journeyed back to St. Albans. When one remembers the twisting character of Hertfordshire lanes, he must have motored some 80 miles at least. And all that is but an instance of his busy life. It confirms what was to be read in "The Watford Observer" issued on the previous Friday: "There can be few busier folk among the churches than the Bishop of St. Albans. Routine duties of his office involve constant time and attention, yet Bishop Loyd is at the call of all good and worthy causes. No longer young, having endured the strenuous conditions of an Indian episcopacy, he travels all over his diocese, which embraces Herts and Beds." In anticipation of his visit here I acquired a "1928 Prayer-Book," larger than the small one which I keep in my cassock pocket, and he very kindly wrote in it: "Holy Cross Church, Sarratt. This Book was first used by me on the occasion of my first visit to the Church 8 June 1947. † Philip St. Albans. Psalm 122, 7-9."

Note "first visit." How nice it will be to see him again! On May 28 at St. Oswald's, Croxley Green, he confirmed: Richard Knight, Moya Leben, Joan Pritchard, Barbara Ward, Mary Wallington and Marion Rendell.

Dr. Furse was the first since the Reformation to hold a Bishopric in this country after having been consecrated abroad. Our present Bishop is the second. Bishop Furse was consecrated in Pretoria Cathedral, and Bishop Loyd in Bombay Cathedral.

An Essay on the Ministry

With regard to the article in these columns last month about the difference between Rectors and Vicars, here is an essay written by an eleven-year-old Streatham boy, quoted by the December "Musical Times" and told in this magazine over 20 years ago but too choice not to be repeated: "There are three kinds of clergymen, bishups, recters and curates. The bishups tell the rectors to work, and the curates have to do it. The curat (sic) is a thin married man, but when he is recter he gets fuller and can preach longer sermons and becomes a good man."

* * * *

Mrs. Horace Wilbee has done good work in raising £10 for Diocesan Moral Welfare work by means of women's penny offerings and donations.

Mr. R. B. W. SIMONS and Miss L. E. BOOTH



[Photo: Techniphotos

The Rev. G. N. Ryley officiated at the marriage on Saturday at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, between Mr. Raymond Basil Walter Simons, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. W. Simons, of Deadman's Ash-lane, Sarratt, and Miss Louisa Emily Booth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Booth, of Penthouse-lane, Chipperfield. Attended by the Misses D. Booth, B. J. and V. Simons, the bride was given away by Mr L. F. C. Simons. Mr. D. Simons was best man. A reception was held at Sarratt Village Hall.

LADY'S jodhpur boots size 5½; lady's skates and boots size 3; man's skates and boots, size 8; soccer boots, size 10; rimmer boots, size 11; 3 pairs black walking shoes, sizes 9½-10½; high-heeled evening sandals, size 5; tweed sports jacket and waistcoat, 38in. chest; Vyella shirts, 15in. neck; blue serge trousers, 31in. waist.—Hickmans, Micklefield Green, Sarratt.

WAT. OBSERVER
30-8-1946

0410.

L.M.S. railway have vacancies for shorthand-typists; salary according to national scale with war allowance.—Apply to Welfare Supervisor, The Grove, L.M.S. Headquarters, Watford.

0141.

SARRATT

DETACHED 4-bedroomed house, large lounge, dining-room, double garage, ½-acre garden, £3,950 freehold.—Gordon Hudson and Co., Chartered Surveyors, 147 The Parade, Watford. Tel. 6276-9.

DETACHED cottage-style residence with 4 bedrooms, 2 reception-rooms, bathroom, kitchen, garage for 2 cars, ½ acre of garden, greenhouse, £3,800 freehold.—Corry and Corry, 130 High-st., Rickmansworth (tel. 3992), and at S.W.1, Harrow, Pinner and Chalfont St. Peter.

1947



J. FLANAGAN

MODERN AMUSEMENT CATERERS

Mayfair Bungalow, Oxhey Lane, Watford Heath, Herts.

ALL FAIRS AND GALAS ATTENDED UNDER OWN PERSONAL SUPERVISION

MEMBERS OF THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

PRESENT ADDRESS:
Leggatts Way.
N. Watford.

DATE April 11th, 1947

Our Present List of Rides for 1946

CALLOPING HORSES

THE "WALTZER"
The World's Wonder Roundabout

BODGEMS

AUTODROME

THE FLYING CHAIRS
A Wonderful Thrill

FEATURING
NEW RIDES
NEW SHOWS
NEW GAMES

T. Downer Esq.
Chairman,
Sarratt Parish Council.

Dear Sir,

Could you let me know if it would be convenient for the Showmen who are conducting Sarratt Fair, which falls on Thursday May 1st this year, to remain over Saturday May 3rd inclusive?

Your early advice would be very greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

J. Flanagan.

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL.

Fieldway,
Church Lane,
Sarratt
22nd April 1947.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter to Mr. Downer, of 11th April, I am to inform you that at their Meeting of 21st April this Council Decided to grant you permission to conduct a Fair on Sarratt Green from Thursday 1st May till Saturday 3rd May. This concession is granted for this year only and is not to be regarded as a precedent for subsequent years.

I am further to request that the Showmen who conduct the Fair be asked to make a donation towards the clearance of the Green as in former years.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk.

Fieldway,
Church Lane,
Sarratt.
23rd, April 1947.

Dear Mr. Downer,

I tried to get you on the phone this evening but you were out. Iam writing about the question of the extention to three days of the Fair on Sarratt Green this Year.

At the audit of the Parish accounts last year, the Assistant Auditor queried the item in the Minute of the Meeting on 30th April 1946 and asked why no charge appeared in the accounts for the fair on Sarratt Green. I pointed that it was a free shand for a one-day Fair, according to custom.

It is probable that he will query this again, especially in view of the extension granted. I feel therefore that I must point out to you:-

(1) That I am of the opinion that it is possible that it will transpire that such an extension is not legal.

(2) That even if it is found to be legal, I am of the opinion, as Clerk, that the Parishioners' rights ought to be safeguarded by imposing a charge for additional days beyond the first, which, it would appear, can ~~e~~ reasonably be claimed as a 'free' day.

You will remember that I suggested at the Meeting that some sort of charge be made.

I write to you thus because I want to make it clear, should the matter be raised at a subsequent date, that no responsibility attaches to me as Clerk, either directly or indirectly, for the decision made; and that I was ~~nay~~ not instructed to refer to any previous mi minute, nor to the Title Deeds of the Green, nor to any record of Commoners' rights in the matter.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

L.A. Knight

SARRA



ESTIMATES FREE
PROPERTY REPAIRS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO

PHONE. KINGS LANGLEY 7461

T. DOWNER

BUILDER OF DISTINCTIVE HOUSES AND CONTRACTOR

THE OLD FORGE
SARRATT. HERTS.

Mr. W. H. J. Knight,
Fieldway,
Church Lane,
Sarratt.

April 29th, 1947.

Dear Mr. Knight,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 23rd instant re Sarratt Fair. As perhaps you are aware I have been very much under the weather this last week or so, and am only just feeling really fit enough to deal with correspondence, hence my reply now.

First, as far as I have always been given to understand Sarratt is a two days Statutory Fair.

Secondly, I feel I am right in saying it is a matter for the Parish Councillors to decide whether or not they will under special circumstances give extra time, but at the same time embodying conditions they think fit in safeguarding the rights of the Parishioners.

The Parish Council agreed at their last meeting to allow the Fair to be held on Saturday 3rd May, meaning one day extra, at the same time agreeing that a collection be taken. If no other person wants to do this I am perfectly willing to take the matter up with the writer of the letter read at the Council meeting, who appeared to be their leader. But now as your letter has been written to me personally I would ask that a special meeting be called to discuss this matter.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

T Downer

1955

Form W.6.
Owner's Consent.

WAYLEAVE CONSENT.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) ACTS, 1882–1936
ELECTRICITY ACT, 1947

I, Alf Warn Ltd.
of 12, Old Barn Lane, Croxley Green
being the Owner [and Occupier] of land situate in Sarratt
in the County of Hertford (hereinafter referred to as " the said land ") shown on the plan annexed hereto and thereon coloured Pink for myself my successors and assigns HEREBY CONSENT to THE EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD (hereinafter referred to as " the Board ") placing on under and across the said land an electric line (as defined by Section 32 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882) in the position (as near as may be) indicated in Red on the attached plan, and using, maintaining, repairing, altering, renewing, inspecting and removing the same and to the Board lopping or felling in a woodmanlike manner any tree or hedge on the said land which obstructs or interferes with such use, maintenance, repair, alteration, renewal, inspection or removal of the said line and to the Board entering on the said land at all reasonable times by themselves, their officers, servants and agents for any of the said purposes (without prejudice to any relevant statutory rights and duties of myself or the Board) upon the following terms :—

*Delete paragraph in brackets where Grantor is Owner/Occupier.

1. The Board during the time when the electric line is on and across the said land shall pay to me a yearly sum calculated in accordance with the First Schedule hereto *[~~and I and my legal personal representatives successors and assigns will keep the Board indemnified against any claims for wayleave rental which may be made by my lessees or tenants and will pay to the Occupier(s) of the said land in occupation at the date hereof until determination of such occupation the yearly sum calculated in accordance with the Second Schedule hereto~~].

2. In addition to the damage for which the Board are liable under Section 77 of the Schedule to the Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899, and Section 17 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882, the Board shall be liable to me for all damage sustained by me by reason of any accident (not excluding Act of God) due to or arising out of the existence of the said line on the said land (except such as may be due or caused by or arise out of the wrongful act or neglect of myself the occupier of the said land or any of our employees).

3. This consent shall remain in force until determined by either party giving to the other party at any time twelve months' previous notice in writing in that behalf but such determination shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Board under Section 22 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919, and Section 11 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1922, as amended by the Electricity Act, 1947, or under Section 9 of the Electricity Act, 1947.

4. If any dispute or difference shall arise between myself and the Board concerning the interpretation of the aforesaid terms or as to our rights duties or obligations thereunder such dispute or difference shall be referred to a single arbitrator in case we can agree upon one or otherwise to an arbitrator appointed by the Minister of Fuel and Power and in any case the provisions of the Arbitration Act, 1950, shall apply to such reference.

5. References in this consent to any enactment shall be construed as references to such enactment as originally enacted or subsequently amended or re-enacted with or without modifications whether before or after the date of this consent.

FORM W.6.

5A. In the event at any time hereafter of my bona-fide desiring to build any premises upon that part of the said land across which the electric line is placed and provided I give to the Board not less than six calendar months' previous notice in writing of such my desire, the Board in the event of the building operations being actually commenced shall with all reasonable despatch after the expiration of such notice remove the electric line (or the relevant part thereof) from the part of the said land upon which such operations have been commenced, provided that I permit the Board to place the electric line (or the relevant part thereof) across my land at the option of the Board either below ground along the route of the said electric line or above or below ground as near as reasonably may be to the said route.

ENCLOSURE 9

FIRST SCHEDULE.

(*a*) **Payments to Owner-Occupier.**

	Erected on		
	Arable land per annum	*Cultivated grass land per annum*	*Other land per annum*
For each single pole, strut, or stay	6/-	3/6	1/-
For each " A " or " H " pole	9/-	5/3	1/6
For any length of overhead electric line where no supports are erected on the said land ...	6d.	6d.	6d.
For any electric line laid underground—each 100 yds. route length or part thereof	1/-	1/-	1/-

(*b*) The said sums shall be paid on the 31st December in each year, the first payment being proportioned from the date of commencing the placing of the line.

3 H.V. Poles Hedgerow @ 1/-	=	3.	0.
2 H.V. Stays Arable @ 6/-	=	12.	0.
1 H.V. Stay Hedgerow @ 1/-	=	1.	0.
1 L.V. Pole Hedgerow @ 1/-	=	1.	0.
1 L.V. Stay Hedgerow @ 1/-	=	1.	0.
		18.	0.

Form W.6.

First Schedule and Second Schedule.

(*c*) The said sums in respect of arable land and cultivated grassland shall be subject to variation as follows:—
(i) In any year in which the land is cultivated twice and more than one separate and distinct crop is taken off, double the rates shown in paragraph (*a*) shall be payable.
(ii) When arable land is laid down to grass, arable rates shall continue to be paid for the first two years but thereafter the land shall be treated as grassland until it is again ploughed.

	per annum	*per annum*
For each single pole, strut or stay	5/-	2/6
For each " A " or " H " pole	7/6	3/9

(*b*) The said sums shall be due on the .... in each year, the first payment being proportioned from the date of commencing the placing of the line.

Dated this 20th day of December 1955

SIGNED by the said
Alf Warn Ltd.
in the presence of

} Alf Warn
Eva. Warn.

WAYLEAVE FOR CABLES TO
CROSS LITTLE BRAGMANS,
BRAGMANS LANE, BELSIZE, SARRATT

PTO FOR MAP

EXTRACTS FROM THE ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) ACTS AS AMENDED BY THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 1947.

Compensation for damage

Section 17, Electric Lighting Act, 1882.

" In the exercise of the powers in relation to the execution of works given them under this Act, or any local enactment applicable to an Electricity Board, the Electricity Board shall cause as little detriment and inconvenience and do as little damage as may be, and shall make full compensation to all bodies and persons interested for all damage sustained by them by reason or in consequence of the exercise of such powers, the amount and application of such compensation in case of difference to be determined by arbitration."

Definition of electric line

Extract from Section 32 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882.

" The expression ' electric line ' means a wire or wires, conductor, or other means used for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, or insulator enclosing, surrounding, or supporting the same, or any part thereof, or any apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity or electric currents;"

Electricity Board to be responsible for all damages

Section 77, Electric Lighting (Clauses) Act, 1899.

" An Electricity Board shall be answerable for all accidents, damages and injuries happening through the act or default of the Electricity Board, or of any persons in their employment, by reason of or in consequence of any of the Electricity Board's works, and shall save harmless all authorities, bodies and persons by whom any street is repairable, and all other authorities, companies, and bodies collectively and individually, and their officers and servants, from all damages and costs in respect of those accidents, damages and injuries."

Wayleaves

Section 22 (1) and (6), Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919.

" (1) Any Electricity Board may place any electric line below ground across any land, and above ground across any land other than land covered by buildings or used as a garden or pleasure ground in cases where the placing of such lines above ground is otherwise lawful, and where any line has been so placed across any land the Electricity Board may enter on the land for the purpose of repairing or altering the line :

Provided that, before placing any such line across any land, the Electricity Board shall serve on the owner and occupier of the land notice of their intention, together with a description of the nature and position of the lines proposed to be so placed ; and if, within twenty-one days after the service of the notice, the owner and occupier fail to give their consent or attach to their consent any terms or conditions or stipulations to which the Electricity Board object, it shall not be lawful to place the line across that land without the consent of the Minister and the Minister may, if after giving all parties concerned an opportunity of being heard he thinks it just, give his consent either unconditionally or subject to such terms, conditions, and stipulations as he thinks just ; and in deciding whether to give or withhold his consent, or to impose any terms, conditions, or stipulations (including the carrying of any portion of the line underground) the Minister shall, among other considerations, have regard to the effect, if any, on the amenities or value of the land of the placing of the line in the manner proposed."

" (6) A notice under this section may be served on the owner or occupier of any land by delivering it to him, or by leaving it or forwarding it by post addressed to him at his usual or last known place of abode, and may be addressed by the description of the owner or occupier of the lands (naming them) without further name or description."

Power to retain wayleaves

Section 11, Electricity (Supply) Act, 1922.

" Where any Electricity Board have under any terminable agreement or arrangement, whether made before or after the passing of this Act, placed above or below ground any electric line which could have been so placed under the provisions of section twenty-two of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919, the Electricity Board may, notwithstanding the termination of such agreement or arrangement, retain the line in position on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as were previously applicable thereto, unless and until objection is made by the owner or occupier of any land over or under which it is placed, but, in the event of any such objection being made, the line shall only be retained if the provisions of section twenty-two of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919, regulating the placing of a new line are complied with, and subject to the provisions of that section applicable to lines placed across land in pursuance of that section :

Provided that the Electricity Board may, at any time whilst a line is so retained, apply to the Minister for a revision of the said terms and conditions, in which event the provisions of section twenty-two of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1919, shall apply as if the retention of the line in position were the placing of an electric line across land, and the Electricity Board shall not be required to remove the line pending the decision upon such application."

Power to lop trees and hedges obstructing electric lines

Section 34, Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926.

" (1) Where any tree or hedge obstructs or interferes with the construction, maintenance, or working of any electric line which is being constructed or is owned by any Electricity Board, or will interfere with the maintenance or working of such a line, the Electricity Board may give notice to the owner or occupier of the land on which the tree or hedge is growing requiring him to lop or cut it so as to prevent the obstruction or interference, subject to the payment to him by the Electricity Board of the expenses reasonably incurred by him in complying with the notice :

Provided that, in any case where such a notice is served upon a person who, although the occupier of the land on which the tree or hedge is growing, is not the owner thereof, a copy of the notice shall also be served upon the owner thereof, if known.

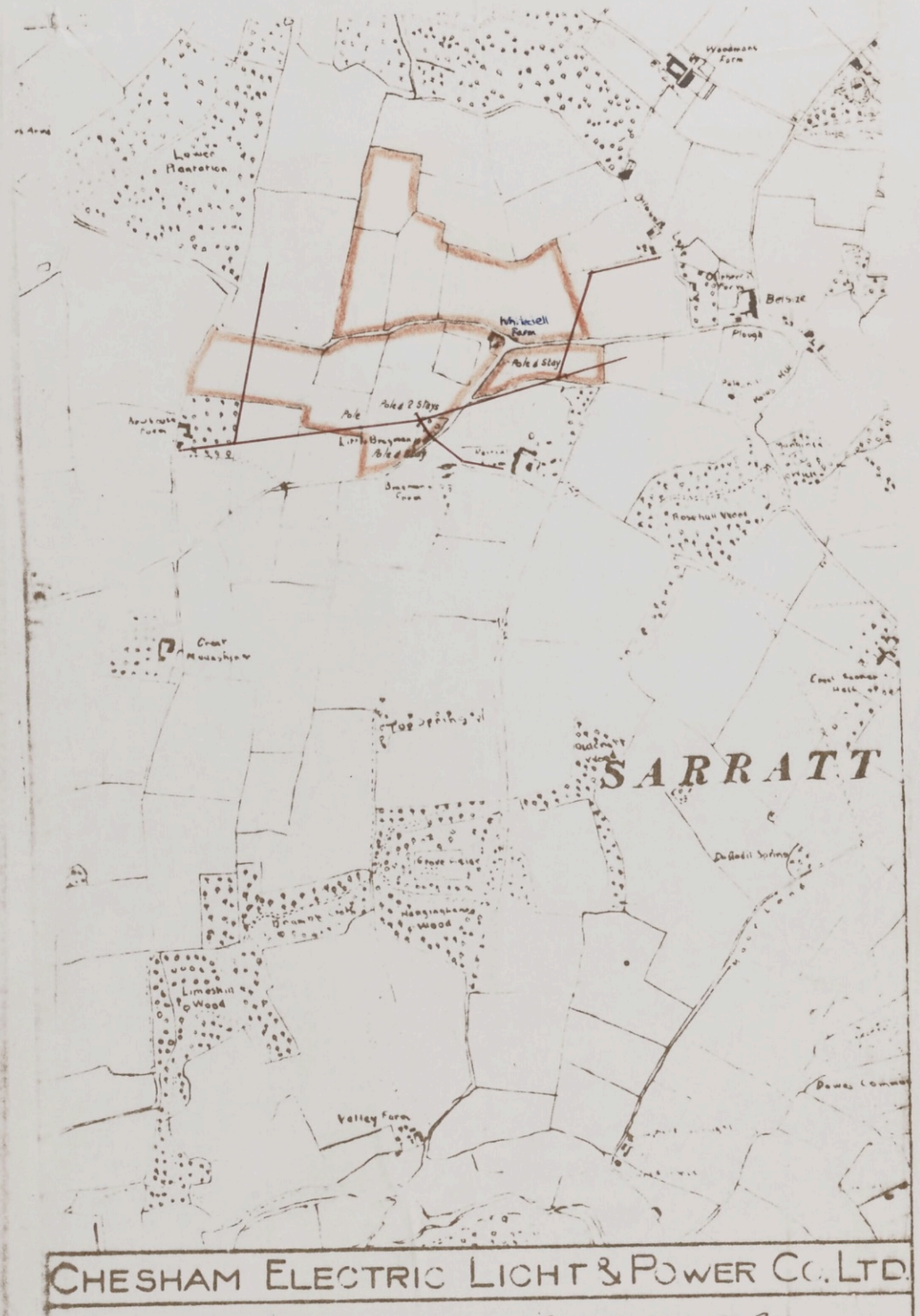
(2) If within twenty-one days from the giving of such notice the requirements of the notice are not complied with, and neither the owner or occupier of the land gives such a counter notice as is hereinafter mentioned, the Electricity Board may cause the tree or hedge to be lopped or cut so as to prevent such obstruction or interference as aforesaid.

(3) If, within twenty-one days from the giving of such notice, the owner or occupier of the land on which the tree or hedge is growing gives a counter notice to the Electricity Board objecting to the requirements of the notice, the matter shall, unless the counter notice is withdrawn, be referred to the Minister, who, after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard, may make such order as he thinks just, and any such order may empower the Electricity Board (after giving such reasonable previous notice to any person by whom such counter notice was given of the commencement of the work as the order may direct) to cause the tree or hedge to be lopped or cut so as to prevent such obstruction or interference as aforesaid, and may determine any question as to what compensation (if any) and expenses are to be paid.

(4) An Electricity Board shall issue instructions to their officers and servants with a view to securing that trees and hedges shall be lopped or cut in a woodmanlike manner and so as to do as little damage as may be to trees, fences, hedges, and growing crops, and shall cause the boughs lopped to be removed in accordance with the directions of the owner or occupier, and shall make good any damage done to the land.

(5) Any compensation or expenses payable to the owner or occupier by an Electricity Board under this section shall be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

(6) Where for the purpose of the construction or maintenance of a transmission line it is necessary to fell any trees, this section shall apply to the felling of trees in like manner as it applies to the lopping of trees."



CHESHAM ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER CO. LTD.

ELECTRICITY METESCO SERVICE

PROPOSED E.H.T. LINE & POLES ON PROPERTY COLOURED PINK,
BELONGING TO ;-
OCCUPIED BY ;-

E.H.T. LINES & POLES SHOWN RED ;-

DR. BY	SCALE. 6" TO 1 MILE	SK. NO.
TR. BY	REVISION.	1920
CHKD BY		

POST OFFICE TELEPHONES
EASTERN/T REGION / ~~BOARD~~
BEDFORD AREA QQA EXCHANGE

PLAN & SECTION No. PT 5673/77

DRN	CKD	APPD	DATE
G.M.W			13.10.77

ROUTE PLAN

BOVINGDON

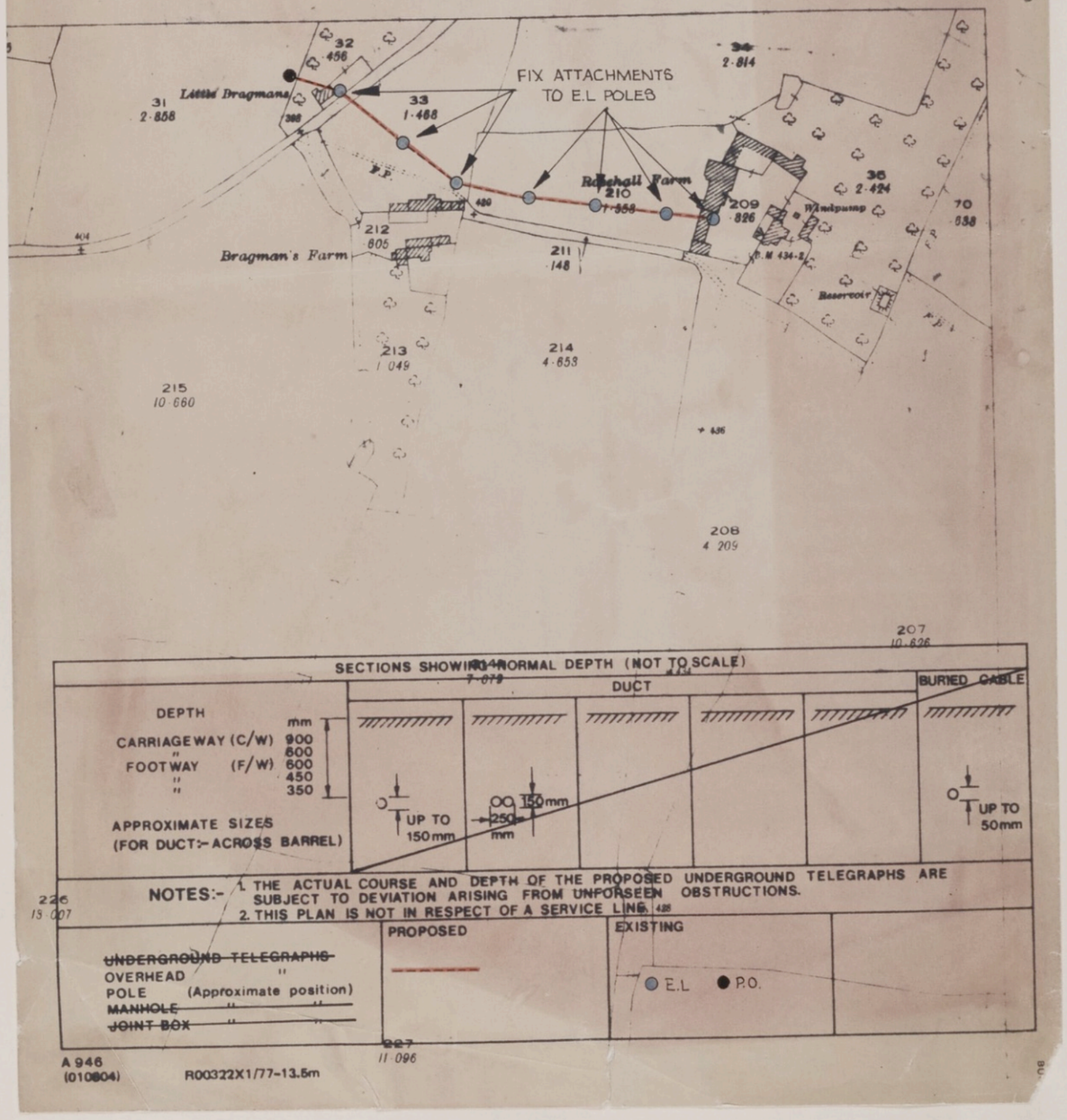
REG. PPS. ITEM No.
W.O./A.N.
ENCLOSED WITH APPLICATION No.
OF 19.

ORD. MAP REF. HERTS XXXVIII-10
BUCKS XXXIX-15

SCALE 1:2500

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

HERTFORDSHIRE SHEET XXXVIII. 10.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SHEET XXXIX. 15. *(Part of)*



SECTIONS SHOWING NORMAL DEPTH (NOT TO SCALE)

DEPTH	mm	DUCT	BURIED CABLE
CARRIAGEWAY (C/W)	900		
"	600		
FOOTWAY (F/W)	600		
"	450		
"	350		
APPROXIMATE SIZES (FOR DUCT:- ACROSS BARREL)		UP TO 150mm	150mm 250mm; UP TO 50mm

NOTES:- 1. THE ACTUAL COURSE AND DEPTH OF THE PROPOSED UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPHS ARE SUBJECT TO DEVIATION ARISING FROM UNFORSEEN OBSTRUCTIONS.
2. THIS PLAN IS NOT IN RESPECT OF A SERVICE LINE.

	PROPOSED	EXISTING	
~~UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPHS~~			
OVERHEAD "			
POLE (Approximate position)		E.L P.O.	
~~MANHOLE~~ " "			
~~JOINT BOX~~ " "			

A 946 (010804) R00322X1/77-13.5m

1957-58

Farewell to school

W.H. OBSORNE APRIL 1957



Retirement presentation

FORMER pupils of Sarratt Primary School returned to the school on Thursday to honour former Headmaster Mr. R. A. Simpson and his wife, Mrs. E. G. Simpson on the occasion of Mrs. Simpson's retirement after 34 years at the school.

Mr. Simpson retired six years ago after 28 years as headmaster.

Mr. Jack Woods, who presided during the formal part of the evening's events, said the village was "most grateful" to Mr. and Mrs. Simpson for the work they had done for Sarratt.

A cheque for £30 which had been contributed by former pupils and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, was presented by Mrs. Brenda Mason. Mrs. Mason was herself a pupil at the school and had secured a scholarship under Mr. and Mrs. Simpson's tuition. Her daughter had also been taught by Mrs. Simpson and had recently completed the first stage of the present-day equivalent of the scholarship.

Earlier in the day the present pupils of the school and the School Managers had presented Mrs. Simpson with travelling cases. She received the cases from the former Rector of the village, the Rev. G. N. Riley, and she was presented with three bouquets during the day, the last being from her youngest pupil, five-year-old Christine Ogden.

APRIL 1954

The Village School

THE [illegible]-years-old school building in cool grey flint stands on the village green at Sarratt, whilst outside the blackbird sings amongst the pink almond blossom that flowers so profusely in this lovely untouched corner of Hertfordshire, and the children, as in days gone by, play hop-scotch and roll hoops in the small square of asphalt that serves as a play-ground, before it meets up with the old-world cottages and rich green meadows that surround it.

Yes, Sarratt Church of England primary school is part of a tradition that is fast disappearing in this age of automation, new housing estates and comprehensive education, the tradition of the village school.

And as much a part of this charming heritage as the grey walls of the school itself, is Mrs. Edith Simpson, who will retire at the end of the week.

Two Buses A Week

It was thirty-four years ago last Thursday that Mrs. Edith Simpson came to the school as assistant mistress, and her husband, Mr. R. A. Simpson, as headmaster.

In those days the Sarratt bus only ran twice a week and Mrs. Simpson, on her ever-faithful bicycle, used to travel the five miles from her home in Copthorne-road, Croxley Green, along the winding, steep country lanes that lead to the enchanting country of Sarratt, Sarratt-Bottom, Chandlers Cross and Chipperfield.

The countryside was certainly a lovely picture in the spring and summer months, but cycling along the dusty lanes was hot and tiring work, and in the winter there was no protection from rain, hail and snow. But Mrs. Simpson battled on untiringly and if she arrived tired out, she never let it show by a cross word to the children.

No School Bus

She remembers, too, that in those days there was no coach to take the children to school, and the little mites used to trudge the two miles or so from Chandlers Cross and Sarratt Bottom at seven o'clock every morning.

Despite this, and despite the fact that they did not have welfare milk and free school dinners, these children grew up to be good citizens and the parents of the infants that Mrs. Simpson has been teaching for the last few years.

Teaching methods have not changed a great deal since those early days, says Mrs. Simpson.

The children still have to learn the three R's, and the boys woodwork, while the girls learn needlework and cookery.

The only modern influence that has crept into the curriculum, is pottery, and perhaps the craze for contemporary furniture and modern art lies behind that trend!

Even the education revolution of 1945, which made Grammar School places open to everybody, did not disturb the unruffled peace of Sarratt School, except that a partition was put up to divide the one large schoolroom into half.

Before the introduction of the partition, infants and juniors were taught in the same room with the two different teachers competing against each other for the attention of the children.

The changeover in 1945 also meant that the children left the village school at 11 and went over to Croxley Green to finish their education.

Now there are four teachers on the staff, instead of three, but the number of children is roughly about the same—100, thus following the modern idea that children should be given more individual attention.

Perhaps the education of yesterday wasn't so occupied with the psychological approach or split on the different methods of infant teaching, but it seems to have done the older generation no harm.

Neither, for that matter, do all the latest modern inventions seem to have harmed the younger generation.

Hundreds, maybe thousands, of children have passed under the protective eye of Mrs. Simpson, but she has seen none of the vast differences between the children of today and yesterday that everyone is so preoccupied with, except, perhaps, that today's children are more self-confident.

Progress marches on, however, and in time a new school will be built to replace the little grey flint building, with its sunny classrooms decorated in blue and cream, with childish pictures on the walls, and the blackbird singing outside on the almond tree.

Sarratt says goodbye with regret to Mrs. Simpson, for she belongs to a tradition of unhurrying peace that will soon be lost for ever in the hurry and scurry of modern civilisation.

SARRATT PAYS TRIBUTE

"MRS. SIMPSON has two of the vital qualities necessary for all teachers of young children—a love of the children themselves and the courage to overcome the difficulties that confront the teacher both inside and outside the classroom."

This was Mr. K. G. Green, the headmaster of Sarratt Church of England Primary School, speaking on Thursday at a presentation to Mrs. Edith Simpson, assistant mistress, retiring after 34 years with the school.

He continued: "How many children have learned to read and write from Mrs. Simpson? The number must run into thousands, and I am sure you will agree with me that she can well feel proud of the wonderful service she has rendered to this village.

"These many desirable qualities have won the affection of both children and parents,

Miss T. Burnley-Jones, Assistant Divisional Education Officer, added these few words: "Sarratt School is in the way of being a unique school in this area. Village schools are fast disappearing, and with them I think we are losing something very valuable.

PRESENTATIONS

Then came the presentation—this was two lovely suitcases in red Moroccan leather, for Mrs. Simpson to use when she travels down to Sussex, where she will be retiring with her husband.

It was indeed "an afternoon of thanksgiving," to quote the words of the Chairman, the Rev. T. McArdle.

In the evening over 150 people crowded into the tiny school hall to see Mrs. Brenda Mason present Mr. and Mrs R. A. Simpson with a cheque for £30 on behalf of the friends in the village and the ex-pupils of Sarratt School.

Mr. J. Wood also entertained the audience with some reminiscences of his own schoolboy days at Sarratt School.

He said: "From the time Mr. and Mrs. Simpson arrived on the scene we have never looked back, respite some drawbacks in the way of poor facilities."

SARRATT RETURNS R.D.C. CHAIRMAN

Cllrs. Clutterbuck and Tyler for Rural and Parish

CLEAR-CUT majorities were gained by Sarratt's two successful candidates in the Watford Rural District Council election on Saturday. Although there was a mere ten votes difference in their totals they each polled over 300 votes more than any of their four rivals.

Polling figures were as follows:

Thomas Clutterbuck (Con.)	**532**
Frank Tyler (Ind.)	**522**
Clarence John Morris (Lab.)	**199**
Reginald Albert William Strawson (Lab.)	**184**
Arthur Smith (Ind.)	**87**
Frederick William Beare (Ind.)	**46**

Mr. Clutterbuck was Chairman of the Rural District Council last year. He lives at "Goldingtons," Sarratt, and is a chartered electrical engineer. Mr. Tyler, a watercress grower, of "Crestyl," Dimmocks-lane, Sarratt, is new to the Rural District Council. He replaces Mr. T. C. Downer, who did not seek re-election.

Nevertheless, Mr. Tyler is not new to Council work. He has been a member of Sarratt Parish Council for the last ten years and topped the poll (by three votes) in the parish election, on Saturday. The three other members of last year's council who sought re-election were also successful.

These were the figures:

Frank Tyler	**394**
Thomas Clutterbuck	**391**
Reginald Ernest Wood	**303**
Maurice Joy Smith	**275**
Herbert James Simmonds	**232**
Arthur William Smith	**202**

The remaining five unsuccessful candidates were: James Harold Bailey, 200; Ronald Ernest Cox, 195; Reginald Strawson, 138; Frederick William Beare, 125; Robert Maugham, 108.

Those re-elected to the Parish Council are Mr. Tyler, Mr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Wood and Mr. Simmonds. The new members are Mr. Maurice Smith and his namesake (no relation), Mr. Arthur Smith.

A builder, Mr. Wood lives at "Harewood," Church-lane, Sarratt. Mr. Maurice Smith is a chartered electrical engineer, residing at "Hollymead," The Green, Sarratt. Mr. Simmonds, a gardener, of The Green, Sarratt, was the oldest member of last year's Council. He has been a member for about 25 years. Mr. Arthur Smith is licensee of "The Boot" public house.

There were no nominations for Durrants Ward this year, and the two nominees in the Grove Ward, where there are three seats, were automatically elected. They are Mrs. Gillian Avril Phyllis Drabble of Commonwood Cottage, near Chipperfield, and Mrs. Iris Lowry Wood, a housewife, of the "White House," Chandlers Cross.

Three sided contest for two Rural seats

Interesting battle for Sarratt

THERE are six contestants for Sarratt's two seats on the Watford Rural District Council. In the parish election, 11 candidates will fight for the six seats in Sarratt itself, but in the Grove ward, where there are three seats, only two candidates have been nominated.

Line-up in the Rural contest is as follows: Mr. Frederick William Beare, an inspector, of 12 Deadmans Ash-lane, Sarratt (Ind.); Mr. Thomas Clutterbuck, a chartered electrical engineer, of "Goldingtons," Sarratt (Con.); Mr. Clarence John Morris, a schoolmaster, of 24 Oakdale-road, South Oxhey (Lab.); Mr. Arthur Smith, licensee of "The Boot," Sarratt (Ind.); Mr. Reginald Albert William Strawson, a retired engineer, of "Holly Cottage," Dimmocks-lane, Sarratt (Lab.); and Mr. Frank Tyler, a watercress grower, of "Crestyl," Dimmocks-lane, Sarratt (Ind.).

Mr. Clutterbuck is a sitting member of the Rural District Council.

Contestants in the parish are: Mr. James Harold Bailey, of Wheeler's Cottage, The Green, a representative; Mr. Frederick Beare (as for Rural); Mr. Thomas Clutterbuck (as for Rural); Mr. Ronald Ernest Cox, of 32 Dawes-lane, Sarratt, a foreman; Mr. Robert Maugham, licensee of "The Cricketers," The Green, Sarratt; Mr. Herbert James Simmonds, of The Green, Sarratt, a gardener; Mr. Arthur William Smith (as for Rural); Mr. Maurice Joy Smith, of "Hollymead," The Green, Sarratt, a chartered electrical engineer; Mr. Reginald Strawson (as for Rural); Mr. Frank Tyler (as for Rural); and Mr. Reginald Ernest Wood, of "Harewood," Church-lane, Sarratt, a builder.

Grove Ward nominees are Mrs. Gillian Avril Phyllis Drabble, of Commonwood Cottage, near Chipperfield, and Mrs. Iris Lowry Wood, a housewife, of the "White House," Chandlers Cross. They are automatically elected and one vacant seat remains.

Mr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Simmonds, Mr. Tyler and Mr. Wood are sitting members of the Parish Council. Mr. Simmonds, the oldest member, has been on the Council for about 25 years. Mr. Tyler has been a member for the last ten years.

Mr. Strawson, who is blind, is Chairman of the local Labour party, and Mr. Bailey is well-known in the village as Chairman of the Parents' Association.

There are no nominations for Durrants ward this year.

26-4-1958

Sarratt cesspool complaint

Complaints from the Sarratt area about the emptying of cesspools have been taken up strongly with Watford Rural District Council's contractors and a copy of the correspondence has been given to Sarratt Parish Council.

NICE—BUT HOW ABOUT THOSE MEN!



BEHIND every man's success is a woman. So goes the saying. Maybe it was a woman who coined the phrase. At any rate, it is one which no man would be so foolish as to contradict!

One thing is patent—behind every man in public life is a woman endowed with more than the usual amount of patience, for wives of such men must be prepared to see their husbands absent on frequent committee meetings.

Watford Rural District Council's Chairman Mrs. R. Short thought it would be an excellent idea for the wives of councillors and officials to meet over a cup of tea at the Council Offices, and chat over their mutual problems. Here she is seen acting as "mother" with the tea pot, for (left to right): Mrs. D. G. Williams, Mrs. R. Wakeman, Mrs. F. Tyler (wives of councillors), Mrs. S. A. Nicholson (wife of the Clerk), and Mrs. C. D. Barnett (wife of the Deputy Clerk).

But surely one thing seems to have been overlooked. Mrs. Short is one of several married women on the Council.

What about a tea party—or possibly something a little stronger — for their patient, wait-at-home husbands!

Making the news

MR. FRANK TYLER, of Sarratt, is certainly in the news this week. At last Saturday's election he was returned to the Watford Rural District Council with a good majority, and in the Parish election he topped the poll.

Also in this successful week he put Sarratt on the air when he was interviewed on the B.B.C.'s Town and Country Magazine on Tuesday.

The interview was not on local government but on local watercress growing in Sarratt Bottom. Mr. Tyler said that he had taken over the business in 1927. His father and grandfather had farmed the beds before him.

He spoke of the difficulties of the job, labour, pumps, the weather and water temperature. I feel that it is as well that Mr. Tyler has some knowledge of temperatures, for no doubt, on occasions, they will run very high in the Rural Council chambers.

L.T. 22-11-58

DANGEROUS PASTIME

Deputising in goal for Sarratt F.C. on Saturday, Terry Tyler was injured and taken to Watford Peace Memorial Hospital for treatment. He was allowed home after seven stitches had been inserted in his wound.

A SARRATT POSER

Tuesday's meeting of Watford Rural District Council was told by Mr. F. Tyler that for 30 years the status of a stretch of road at Sarratt Bottom had been in dispute. He asked the Council to "adjudicate" as to whether the road came under the County Council or not, saying that there was ample evidence that in the past its upkeep had been the responsibility of the local authority.

The Clerk (Mr. S. A. Nicholson) said there was no evidence in the Rural District Council's records to settle the matter, but the Council decided to pass the matter to him and the Council officials for further investigation.

L.T. 1-6-58

"SARRATT BOTTOM" PROBLEM

Concern over right-of-way

CONCERN that Watford Rural District Council had been unable to give Sarratt Parish Council any satisfaction regarding the status of a right-of-way at Sarratt Bottom was expressed by Cllr. T. Clutterbuck when the Rural Council met on Tuesday.

He declared: "This has been up for three months, and we have pressed every time for action but nothing seems to have been done."

If no information could be promised in the near future the Parish Council would negotiate direct with the County Council, he envisaged.

The Clerk told the meeting that he thought a letter would soon be sent to the Parish and County Councils saying that the Rural Council had no highway records for this highway and were unable to assist.

Cllr. F. Tyler asked whether the Council would give a favourable recommendation that the highway should be established, but on the advice of the Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. R. Short, the matter will be left until next month.

A GREAT DAY FOR SARRATT CHURCH

Rev. Tom McCardle on nationwide network

LETTERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY POUR IN RECTORY

LETTERS from all over the country have poured into the Rev. Tom McArdle's Rectory at Sarratt this week, congratulating him on the success of Sunday's nation-wide television broadcast of the harvest festival service.

Both members of the Church and the television company were extremely pleased with the programme. The arrangements went ahead without hitches and Mr. McArdle told the "Langley Times": "We feel very happy about it all." It is believed that Sarratt Parish Church is the smallest Church from which a service has been televised.

The congregation of more than 120, including 38 children, took their places well before the start of the service so that lighting and camera equipment could be tested beforehand.

Camera scaffolding was erected in front of the bell tower alcove and this meant that the bellringers had to work under some difficulty in the restricted space.

Four cameras were used, two outside the Church, to carry Sarratt's rural atmosphere into the homes of the nation.

"BEAUTIFUL PARISH"

Mr. McArdle, in his address, told his mammoth "congregation": "Here in this very beautiful parish of Sarratt on the edge of the Hertfordshire farm lands, we are, very rightly, holding our harvest thanksgiving. It means a great deal to us and we are truly and, I trust, humbly thankful for all God's gifts. But God forbid that we should divorce our Thanksgiving from the world's need. For we are holding our harvest festival in the knowledge that two-thirds of the world's population will still go hungry, that, for them, Harvest Festival will be meaningless.

"It is possible that many who are watching this service will be representatives of countries whose peoples will experience various degrees of starvation during the next few months, whose families will grow hopeless as they grow hungry and homeless. I wonder what they are thinking as they hear us sing: 'All is Safely Gathered In.' Perhaps it is safely gathered in for us, but what of them? Here in this country we depend a great deal on a good harvest but, the fact is, we are not likely to starve if we have a bad one."

"PROBLEM OF BREAD"

Earlier the Rector had said: "Our Lord Jesus Christ contemplated the problem that lies at the heart of all human problems: the problem of bread. He knew that those who lack it must mortgage their lives to get it and those who have it will sell their souls to keep it, and in the end both will go hungry because Man has a capacity for something more than bread. Bread alone and all that bread stands for in the world's economy cannot satisfy him or even keep him alive.

"The great tragedy and even scandal of the Christian world is that Christians, recognising the truth of our Lord's Words have, for the most part, misinterpreted them, and imagined that because bread alone is insufficient, then providing their own physical well being is not too much at stake the Word of God can be considered a substitute for bread."

Later Mr. McArdle said: "God knows, and we know, the world needs bread. Not bread alone that might conceivably be distributed on a purely materialistic basis, for man is not a purely material being any more than he is a purely spiritual being. Not the Word of God alone because the Word of God without bread is not the Word of God. But bread, real honest to God bread that being consecrated in the service of God communicates the Living Word of God to feed the whole personality of man. To nourish bodies, inspire minds and enrich the souls of men everywhere."

SUPPER AND SERVICE

In the evening the bar of "The Boot" public house was filled to capacity for the harvest supper and service, and the proceedings were relayed by amplifier to an overflow meeting on the forecourt outside.

Again Mr. McArdle addressed the gathering. He said: "In every community there are two houses where a person has a right to seek refuge and receive a welcome. Both are what we might call 'public houses.'

"These two houses are part of the common life of our country and have existed side by side for hundreds of years, and we should be very different people without them. Both houses have landlords or hosts who are concerned with the welfare and well-being of the people.

"The two public houses," he went on "are known as Church and Inn. It would be difficult to imagine our country without the one as the other. In fact I doubt whether one could continue to exist without the other.

"The important thing for us to remember today as we celebrate harvest festival in both houses, is that Church and Inn exist, not for separated groups of people, but for the same people. As I look round I think it is true to say that many of the people who are in this house this evening are the same people who have been in God's House earlier today. Something is wrong, very wrong, with a community, especially a community like ours, if, on a harvest thanksgiving Sunday, Church and Inn are unable to give thanks to Almighty God for each other's existence.

"DISASTROUS"

"I am anxious, and every parish priest is anxious, that the people who frequent Church and Inn should be the same people. Then, and probably only then are both Houses safe for souls, minds and bodies. God forbid that they should ever stand over against one another in opposition. Such a cleavage could only be disastrous for any community."

Mr. McArdle continued: "If, in any way, these Houses cause unhappiness and division in our family and community life, then the underlying cause is stupidity or downright sinfulness that can originate from either House or both Houses. If an occasion of sin arises in one House by reason of excess then let us never forget that the same sin is frequently visible in the other house.

"Some people may occasionally drink too much, most people eat too much and nearly everyone talks too much. It is the same sin. The person who, for strong personal reasons will not drink will often for the same strong personal reasons, not forgive, and an unforgiving spirit is the greatest of all sins in excess.

"The success of both Houses depends upon what we bring into them, the kind of people we are, and the spirit that dominates our lives. Both Houses depend upon the people being thankful people, people who give each other their worth, their due; above all, people who give the Creator all His worth and His due.

"The bounty of this Inn, the happy fellowship, we experience here this evening, is part of God's goodness and His love. But His goodness is not any namby pamby goody goodiness and His love is not a weak kind of sentimentality. To try and exploit goodness and love is really asking for trouble in Church or Inn or anywhere else for that matter.

"The Church is here this evening to thank God for the village inn and it must be fairly obvious that the inn has invited us all to thank God for the Church and that is the secret of wholesome and holy living."



Members of the church look on as the Rector is offered a sandwich by Mr. J. W. Smith during the harvest supper.



(S.4847D)



MAIN DRAINAGE FOR SARRATT URGED

'Little hope in immediate future' says Chairman

NOW that the Government are easing their ban on capital expenditure, Watford Rural District Council are to be urged to reconsider the possible provision of main drainage at Sarratt.

When the Parish Council met on Monday they heard a reply from the R.D.C. to their recent query on the subject. The R.D.C.'s letter said that the possibility of carrying out a scheme had been under consideration for some time but no action had been taken since 1955 because of the restrictions on capital spending.

Cllr. R. E. Wood told the Council that that was no longer the state of affairs. The Government had intimated that they were now prepared to release money for schemes of this sort.

Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, pointed out that Ministry approval still had to be sought and that was a long-term job. "We on the R.D.C. have been strugling for some time to get a scheme through for Tomslane at Abbots Langley and it is only just being done."

He said that the original disposal site could no longer be used. Instead, a larger scheme would have to be drawn up to take the effluent either to the bottom of the valley or to the existing Chorleywood sewage disposal site.

Cllr. Wood, "Don't you think that now the Government have issued this White Paper we should go forward and try to do something?"

LITTLE CHANCE

Cllr. Clutterbuck, "We can keep on pressing for it, but I think your chances of getting it in the immediate future, are not large because there are so many other schemes with priority. I don't know what the Minister's reaction would be to a £100,000 scheme, since that would be about the cost."

Cllr. E. Tyler asked whether the scheme could be carried out under the new block grant system, but the Chairman felt that the grants were designed to cover smaller items of expenditure and did not take in large schemes of this nature.

Said Cllr. Jervis, "Would it not be best to write and ask the R.D.C. what they are going to do now that money is a bit easier?"

Cllr. Wood, "They have got no excuse now."

Cllr. Clutterbuck, "There would be no harm if that is the wish of the Council."

NOT SO DIFFICULT

Cllr. J. Bailey, "There prime objection originally was finance but now that that is so different we must ask if we have got any better chance."

The Chairman pointed out that one of the restrictions imposed on local authorities prevented them from going to the Public Works Loans Board for assistance. Instead, they had to get their money through the open market. He had not heard that they were now empowered to go back to the Board for assistance.

Cllr. Wood, "A list of the monies the Government are now prepared to grant for this type of work was published in the National Press."

Cllr. Bailey, "I think it's anticipated. I don't think it's a fact yet."

Cllr. Wood, "I don't think we are doing our job if we do not try to get some of this money."

Cllr. Clutterbuck, "I think the R.D.C. still have to go to the open market for it."

The Chairman went on to point out that the scheme could not be expected to cover more than half the houses in Sarratt —probably the more central properties.

BURIAL PROBLEM FOR SARRATT COUNCIL

Church may soon have to stop taking burials

BURIAL facilities are worrying Sarratt Parish Council. At their meeting on Monday they gave further consideration to the request for a donation towards the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard but heard at the same time that it is likely to be full within five years. The Council have also been paying large sums to the Burial Board at Rickmansworth for some time in order to "keep their place warm" but have had "nothing at all" in return. Paying twice in this way is likely to make heavy demands on the rates.

Members felt that they would have to review the position. It seemed they would have to possibly retract from the Board and invest in enlarging the parish churchyard or, alternatively, remain in the Rickmansworth scheme.

Further consideration will be given to this at their next meeting when they will have before them details of the amounts they have paid to the Board.

In the meantime they will make an interim donation of £25 to the Churchyard.

Originally they deferred making a payment, suggesting that the Church should increase their charges to bring them in line with present day costs, but the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck (he is also Church Treasurer) said he had ascertained that the charges were fixed sums laid down by the Church Commissioners.

HEAVY BILL

Cllr. R. E. Wood said: "Looking to the future we are going to have a very heavy burial bill, and I think we will have to look into this more deeply as it will add to the rates of the parish as a whole.

"We are attached to the Rickmansworth Burial Board and I cannot see that we have had anything out of it at all. There is a suggestion that the Church will soon have to stop taking burials."

Cllr. Clutterbuck: "My guess is that in five years it will be full. Then we will have to consider what we are to do."

Cllr. J. Bailey: "Can't the Church get more ground?"

The Chairman: "Yes, but it is an added burden to the upkeep. It is one of the Church's biggest headaches."

Cllr. F. Tyler: "I think we must weigh up what we pay Rickmansworth and what it would cost to continue in this parish."

THE DANGERS OF DIMMOCKS LANE

"County Council rather unco-operative" says Cllr. Bailey

HERTS County Council are to be pressed to upgrade the priority of Sarratt's dangerous Dimmocks-lane corner on their road improvements list.

Sarratt Parish Council decided to write to the County Council on Monday after considering the matter at length. They were told that six accidents had occurred there this year to the knowledge of the police and of these five involved personal injury. In addition, there may have been other damage-only crashes which have gone unreported.

Chairman Cllr. T. Clutterbuck told the Council that two accidents had occurred at the junction since the Council discussed it last.

Cllrs. Jervis and M. Smith reported on their recent meeting with Mr. Rouse, of the County Highways Department. He explained that there was "a plan on paper" but other, bigger schemes in the county were taking priority and he was not prepared to give a starting date.

WARNING SIGN

In the meantime he would erect a suitable warning sign on the Croxley Green approach.

Cllr. Smith added that the white line had been reinforced, the hedge was to be cut back but they had been unable to get any satisfaction from Mr. Rouse on the money angle. The plan was to move the existing island and to keep all traffic streams to their left.

The scheme, which has already been drawn out, involves moving electricity supplies, water mains and telephone lines.

It was Cllr. F. Tyler who presented the accident figures for 1958, pointing out that there were no accidents in 1957. Strangers to the junction might think that the white line as it exists gave them precedence but the police view was that no traffic stream had the right of way.

"Don't you think they are getting rather unco-operative about this?" asked Cllr. J. Bailey. It's the old story. It's like biting a feather pillow. You can never get your teeth in with Hertford."

"HANDS ARE TIED"

"It's rather an important corner and if there are six accidents in one year you cannot say it is unimportant," he added.

Cllr. Clutterbuck: "It rather surprises me that there has been no police action on this."

Cllr. Tyler: "The Superintendent told me that their hands are tied and the County have given them no guidance. They are wary of taking Court action because no-one has precedence."

Cllr. R. E. Wood: "Visibility is the important thing. There is none whatsoever."

Cllr. Clutterbuck: "The camber is against you, too."

The Council decided to ask the County Council to give higher priority to the improvements and to paint "Slow" in the roadway on each approach in the meantime.

Sarratt bottom request

SARRATT Parish Council are forging ahead with their efforts to establish the right of way over a cart track at Sarratt Bottom. When the Council met on Monday they decided to request a meeting with County Council representatives on this subject.

This decision followed a reply from Watford Rural District Council to their original letter. The reply said that although the existence of a footpath was not disputed the District Council did not feel, in the absence of records, that they could commit themselves to expressing a view on the existence of a vehicular route. The County Council, however, probably had power to establish a traffic route.

Said the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, "The R.D.C. have decided that they are not a highway authority and are therefore not going to commit themselves on this. I still think that this business of proving that it is a right of way is extremely difficult. It does not seem to me that the evidence we have accumulated is going to carry any weight.

"I think the best way of doing it is to go to the County Council, saying, 'We have no right to demand that you call this a public right of way, but we do ask, in view of its usefulness, that it should be declared a public right of way and maintained.' I think that if we can make out a good case that it is a useful access way, it will help. There is no question of land arising and I can see no reason why they cannot undertake to do this."

Said Cllr. F. Tyler: "I think a letter in similar tones should go to the County Council to keep the ball rolling."

But the Chairman felt that a meeting with the County Road Surveyor of appropriate committee would serve more purpose.

The Chairman and Clerk are to endeavour to arrange a meeting.

Post box poser

SARRATT Parish Council are to write in strong terms to Watford's Postmaster, requesting him to reconsider his decision to remove a wall postbox from The Green.

They decided this on Monday after hearing a letter from the Postmaster saying that the box had been demaged beyond repair and he intended to take it away. There would be no replacement box as its use had been negligible in the past and another box was outside the Post Office a mere 200 yards away.

Said Cllr. F. Tyler: "I think we should press for it to be retained, because once we lose that we may lose some more outlying ones. That box has been there since Queen Victoria's time and it's the first time it has been damaged. Contrary to doing away with it many people were thinking of asking for two more. I think we should ask him what he can do in that respect."

"It's not a question of the parish getting smaller," Cllr. J. Bailey pointed out.

Cllr. Tyler added that many people, including himself, used the box. He thought the post office were worried about the expense of replacing an "out-of-date" wallbox with, perhaps, an upright pillar.

1959/60

LANGLEY TIMES

THEY ALL USE THIS SARRATT POSTBOX

Council not satisfied with Postmaster's decision

A SHARP rap over the knuckles is on its way from Sarratt Parish Council to Watford's Head Postmaster. And when the reprimand arrives—in the form of a letter—the Postmaster will hear that the Council are still not satisfied with his decision over the wall postbox near The Green.

Members decided to send the letter at their meeting on Monday. Originally the Postmaster had written to explain that the box had been damaged and as it was seldom used he proposed to remove it permanently.

The Council wrote back asking him to reconsider his decision in view of the hardship to local residents. His reply was before this week's meeting. He said that the Council's opinion had been noted but in view of the small number of items in the box in the past and the fact that people would only have to walk a few additional yards to the next one, his former decision would have to stand.

Said Cllr. F. Tyler: "That box was put there before 30 or 40 of the present houses were built. On two occasions before Christmas the box in existence could not take the letters. Any child could have taken 30 or 40 letters out of the box. It is a definite lie to say that very few people use the box. Everyone you talk to says: 'Yes, I use the box.'"

"GO FURTHER"

Cllr. A. Smith: "Since the Postmaster seems to think the facts wrong and we seem to be able to prove it, we should tell him of these facts and tell him if he will not reconsider his decision we will take it to a higher authority.

Said Cllr. H. J. Simmonds: "Could we get a petition signed by the residents?"

Cllr. Smith: "Not at this juncture. I think we should first refute the point he makes, which is utterly wrong, that nobody uses the box. You don't expect the same amount of items in a village as in an urban district, say."

Said the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck: "I think he is being very unreasonable."

REASONABLE

Cllr. Smith: "He is refusing something that is a reasonable request."

Cllr. Tyler: "In 1925 the service was better than it is now. There are 40 new houses at least since it was put there."

Said Cllr. Simmonds: "Keep on at him and you will get it."

Cllr. R. E. Wood: "He hasn't produced evidence to show that it is very little used."

Cllr. J. H. Bailey: "It is not up to us to prove. It is a public service and I don't see what right he has got to take it away."

Cllr. Smith: "He has a local right probably, but we don't necessarily have to agree with it. I think we should protest most vigorously. I consider they have an excessive distance to walk—it's three or four times more than some people."

Cllr. Bailey: "Why does he wait for it to be put out of action before he says 'You don't need it.'"

THE MISSING BINS

Disappearing litter bins are worrying Sarratt Parish Council.

When members met on Monday, they heard Cllr. F Tyler say that one had been retrieved from "half-way down Church-lane" after it had been found missing from the Green, and another was still missing.

He thought the co-operation of the public should be sought in this matter, pointing out that it was only at their last meeting that they had acknowledged the fact that the new bins had been erected.

It was decided to bring the matter up at the Council's annual meeting on March 18.

NO BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Sarratt will not enter the Hertfordshire Best Kept Village Competition again this year, the Parish Council decided on Monday.

"We haven't got a chance," Cllr. F. Tyler told members.

"I don't think we have," added the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, disclosing that he had been appointed to the panel of judges.

LANGLEY TIMES

COUNCIL

KEEP THE PATHS OPEN

Attention was drawn by Cllr. M. Smith at Monday evening's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council to the present condition of a number of footpaths. Many, he said, had been ploughed up by farmers, but not restored. One even had a fence across it.

"It is a growing practice and either we have got to decide we are no longer interested or make sure that they are kept open," he complained.

"I think its our duty to keep them open," added the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck. He thought it would be advisable to set up a footpaths sub-committee to consider the position and report. He had been told that the footpaths in the parish stretched altogether for more than 100 miles.

The Council appointed Cllrs. Smith, Tyler, Wood and Gervis look into the matter.

SARRATT WANT 30 M.P.H. RESTRICTION

Vehicles passing through Sarratt may be restricted to 30 m.p.h. in future if a decision by Sarratt Parish Council at their meeting on Monday is accepted.

The Council decided to write to the County Council requesting them to impose a speed limit on the village.

First to raise the question was Cllr. F. Tyler, who referred to the increasing number of small children now in the village, saying that a restriction had become a necessity.

But the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, thought it unlikely that the request would be granted while the village is without street lighting.

"They have got it from Tower Hill to Bovingdon," Cllr. Tyler pointed out.

And Cllr. J. H. Bailey added that under recent legislation an unlit road could be restricted if "repeater" signs were placed at intervals.

Sarratt Bottom snags

Sarratt Parish Council have encountered another obstacle in their attempts to get a right of way established over the cart track at Sarratt Bottom.

They recently wrote to the County Council asking for a meeting on the site to discuss the matter, but when they met on Monday members heard that the County Council, in their reply, had said that the suggestion is "not one which can be easily undertaken." To become a right-of-way the track would either have to be made up or purchased as a new road. This was impracticable and was likely to meet with opposition from the landowners. Nevertheless a meeting could still be arranged if the Parish Council required it.

Said the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, who owns a large proportion of the land in question, "The suggestion that the landowner would object made us smile a little."

Members decided to send Cllrs. Clutterbuck, Tyler and A. Smith to meet the County Council representatives later this month.

LT 11-2-59

NO BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Sarratt will not enter the Hertfordshire Best Kept Village Competition again this year, the Parish Council decided on Monday.

"We haven't got a chance," Cllr. F. Tyler told mem

"I don't think we added the Chairman Clutterbuck, disclosi had been appoin panel of judges.

FORMER SARRATT RECTOR DIES

CLERGYMEN from all over the Deanery and friends from far and near gathered at Sarratt Parish Church last Thursday for the funeral of the Rev. Gilbert Noel Ryley.

A former Rector of Sarratt, Mr. Ryley died at "Troutstream Hall," Rickmansworth, a home for retired missionaries and other churchpeople the previous Sunday. A bachelor, he was 77.

The service was taken by one of the Assistant Bishops for the diocese, Bishop Claude Wood. He was assisted by the Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. T. McArdle, and the Vicar of St. Peter's, Mill End, the Rev. Godfrey Edwards. Mr. Ryley had assisted at Mill End in his retirement.

He retired in 1950 after 38 years at Sarratt. His father had been Rector in the same parish before him and their combined ministry totalled 91 years.

Born in Sarratt Rectory, Mr. Ryley grew up in the village and apart from a short period in Barrow-in-Furness had spent most of his ministerial life in the parish.

On the Sunday before he died, Mr. Ryley had taken Holy Communion at Sarratt when Mr. McArdle was ill.

Requiem Mass was held in the Church on Thursday morning and the funeral in the afternoon. Interment in the Churchyard followed the service.

It had been hoped to arrange a memorial service for the village but it has been decided to comply with Mr. Ryley's request that there should be no such service.

'FLU TO BLAME

Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, blamed 'flu at the meeting on Monday, when he told members that he had been unable to fulfil his promise to purchase on the Council's behalf, a suitable present for Mr. T. Downer who left the Council last year.

"I hope to have it buttoned up by the next meeting," the Chairman added.

Ob 26.6.59

A Charming Beauty Spot in the Chess Valley



A contrast to this week's heat is this cool, peaceful aspect of the Chess Valley, where the ford crosses the river between Sarratt and Chenies.

New scheme for Dimmocks-lane

Plans to relieve the dangerous road conditions at Sarratt's notorious Dimmocks-lane junction with Deaman's Ash are in hand at last, the Parish Council heard on Monday.

The County Council's Divisional Surveyor, in a letter, said he had discussed the matter with the police and the true cause of most of the accidents at this spot was the fact that motorists were not taking due care. He, therefore, felt that a "physical barrier" was the only sound solution and the best way to achieve this would be to have a definite right turn by creating a square junction.

Unfortunately the cost was prohibitive at the present time but the scheme would be borne in mind and a site meeting might help at a later date.

"Obviously they are going to do nothing before the next financial year," said the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck.

SARRATT AND THE BUSES

Continued from Page 1

the Executive's London headquarters seeking relief for the local garage.

Cllr. Tyler said he was in a position to give details.

Cllr. Clutterbuck also pointed out that there had recently been some timetable changes but he did not think that these would seriously affect the 318 route.

The Council heard that one bus — at the peak period in the morning — terminates at Croxley Green and then returns to Hemel Hempstead. The result is that a large number of people are forced to change buses mid-way through their journey when the 318 would normally take them all the way. This alteration had only occurred since the new timetables were brought into effect.

Cllr. Tyler said the whole problem revolved round the fact that Garston were "doing their best with the available crews" but the crux of the matter was "What are London going to do about it?"

Sarratt Bottom cart track

Still under consideration is the Sarratt Bottom cart track, members of the Parish Council heard recently.

The County Council have said that a report on the subject has been prepared for the next meeting of their Highways Committee, although it would probably receive sympathetic consideration if there were more generous contributions from the owners of nearby land.

Latest estimate of the cost of repair work was £650.

The Council are to tell the County Council that they are not in a position to approach the owners direct but would be pleased to know what they consider to be a "fair contribution" from the owners.

GRASS TRACK ON THE GREEN

Cars and lorries driving across the Green are gradually wearing a road, Sarratt Parish Councillors were told at their meeting last week.

"Only yesterday, motor cyclists were doing circuits of the Green and going across there," complained Cllr. M. Smith.

Cllr. F. Tyler felt that if the Green were built up at that point to the same level as the remainder, and a footpath left for prams and pedestrians, the problem would be overcome.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Simmonds, Tyler and Wood should consider the matter and report to the next meeting.

THE GREEN AND THE PUMP

Sarratt Parish Council are to remove the fence surrounding a tree on the Green. Their decision, taken at Monday's meeting, follows a request from the annual Parish Meeting that the matter should be attended to.

Regarding the preservation of the village pump—it was also suggested to the Parish meeting—the Council decided to ask Cllr. F. Tyler to negotiate with the owner of a similar pump with a view to reconstructing the Parish pump with parts from the other.

Sarratt footpath survey

Sarratt Parish Council's footpaths committee have been busy. Appointed only in February to consider the village's footpaths, the committee got down to immediate paperwork and footslogging and arrived at last Monday's Council meeting with a full report.

Cllr. M. Smith, who has been heading the four-man footpath fellowship, told members that there were 50 footpaths on the county map with a total length of 28 miles. All but two of them had now been walked. Of the unwalked paths, one was under dispute and the committee had been unable "to get round" to the other.

Their fine work was praised by Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, who interposed: "That's a very good effort."

Cllr. Smith went on to say that the committee had comments to offer on 11 of the paths. They had come to the conclusion that two of them were not footpaths at all.

Another from Chipperfield to Hillmeads Farm had a misleading notice and the owners attention was to be drawn to it. The one from Bucks Hill (Rose and Crown) towards Model Farm presented a problem—walkers could not tell how to get on to it.

DIVERSIONS

There were six cases in which diversions had taken place. One of these diversions had been taken under war emergency but the attention of the owners was to be drawn to the others.

The path from "The Cock" to Micklefield Green had been diverted and the entrance was in a very bad state, and Cllr. F. Tyler added that two gaps had been obstructed with barbed-wire, with the result that people unable to get through were crossing private land. Again attention will be drawn to the matter.

Cllr. Smith said the remaining footpaths were in a satisfactory state and none of the stiles were "completely unsatisfactory."

In addition to giving the Clerk details so that he could contact the owners concerned, it was proposed to provide a book containing details of the paths and in which the dates on which they were last walked could be inserted, he added.

NOT SO MOD-CONS.

Very embarrassing say Council

So bad are the sanitary arrangements in Sarratt's Church Lane council houses, that the Parish Council decided on Monday to urge the Watford Rural District Council to take immediate action to improve them.

The decision followed comments by Cllr. F. Tyler. The properties had been erected over 30 years ago and attention would have to be paid to the "semi-detached pail closets," which, he said, were "very embarrassing."

In many cases the dividing back-garden fences were non-existent too, and those that remained were made of wire netting, chestnut paling and—bedsteads.

Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck felt the Council had a "good case" when in other parts of the Rural District the Council were fitting hot-water systems and other services to their pre-war houses.

Said Cllr. Tyler emphatically: "I went there on Sunday and this business is all wrong."

Mystery of COYPU in the cress

A SOUTH American water rodent—a coypu—was killed in a watercress bed at Sarratt Bottom last week. Affixed to its ear was a metal tag bearing the letters and numbers ANRCA 1132.

Although the coypu is sometimes bred for its fur in England, the Hertfordshire County Council Health Department has no records of anyone breeding them in the county. Officials are now trying to trace where it came from.

A worker at the watercress beds, Mr. Brian Freeman, shot the animal. It weighed eight pounds and measured two feet from head to tail.

Said Mr. Frank Tyler, who cultivates the beds: "I understand coypus are fairly common in the Fen district, but this is the first time I have heard of one here."

He said the coypu was first seen early last week. "At first we thought it was the cat—then maybe two moorhens in the distance."

A water keeper has skinned the animal and will give the pelt to Mr. Tyler as a souvenir.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tyler is keeping a lookout in case there are more.

"They travel along water I understand, and as this one was a male I should not be surprised if there was a female somewhere," he said.

EY TIMES & RECORDER SATURDAY APRIL 30 1960



Some people will say that this is the only time they get their money's worth out of their local Council! At the Sarratt Village Hall spring bazaar on Saturday, Parish Councillor G. R. Gervis was again giving bargains on the "Handyman" stall. (S.9872F)

"SLOW" AT DIMMOCKS-LANE

By erecting a "Slow, major road ahead" sign and promising to paint "Slow" on the carriageway at Sarratt's dangerous Dimmocks-lane junction, the County Council have largely fulfilled the Parish Council's request for interim action pending the commencement of the long-term scheme. But when the Parish Council met on Monday, Cllr. R. E. Wood declared that in his opinion the County Council were merely playing with the problem.

Said Cllr. Wood: "I don't think these things are going to do very much at all; I think it's playing with the whole thing. The whole basis of that corner is sight."

". . . . I think it's speed," the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck interposed.

"Well, lack of knowledge," said Cllr. Wood.

But the Chairman did not think so.. He said: "No, I disagree. It is not the entire stranger that falls down there. It is very often the local who takes a chance."

"I think the sign will help," added Cllr. J. H. Bailey.

And the Chairman thought the police would now be more in a position to take action.

Said Cllr. G. R. Gervis: "Other schemes will come first and we must wait. We cannot do a great deal to hurry it up."

Cllr. M. Smith: "I think the Road Safety Committee have done all they can."

Sarratt Bottom snags

Sarratt Parish Council have encountered another obstacle in their attempts to get a right of way established over the cart track at Sarratt Bottom.

They recently wrote to the County Council asking for a meeting on the site to discuss the matter, but when they met on Monday members heard that the County Council, in their reply, had said that the suggestion is "not one which can be easily undertaken." To become a right-of-way the track would either have to be made up or purchased as a new road. This was impracticable and was likely to meet with opposition from the landowners. Nevertheless a meeting could still be arranged if the Parish Council required it.

Said the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, who owns a large proportion of the land in question, "The suggestion that the landowner would object made us smile a little."

Members decided to send Cllrs. Clutterbuck, Tyler and A. Smith to meet the County Council representatives later this month.

SARRATT BAZAAR TAKINGS WERE UP

"Full Scale Co-operation" At The Village Hall

IT was a case of "full scale co-operation" at Sarratt again on Saturday when the Village Hall Committee held their annual spring bazaar. As in previous years, all the village organisations supported the event and many of the items offered for sale on the stalls were the handiwork of the stallholders themselves.

Home-made cakes, home-grown plants and knitted garments were included in the wares that were stacked high on the brightly decorated stalls which had been erected the night before in the centre of the hall and round its walls.

Support from the general public this year was very good and when the income was totted up after a busy afternoon's trading it was found that more than £120 had been received. That is higher than last year's figure.

The organisers, under Committee Chairman Mr. J. W. Smith, had arranged the hall so that the youngsters could enjoy the sideshows while their parents thronged round the busy stalls to seek out the bargains, before going into an adjoining room for the usual teas provided by Mothers' Union members.

FOR IMPROVEMENTS

The money raised will again be spent on improvements to the Hall, and while it is not intended for any specific scheme, the Committee have plans for improved access, a paved terrace, redecoration, maintenance work on the roof and exterior, and a scheme to make adoining land suitable for outdoor events.

Stalls and sideshow holders were as follows: Handyman, the Parish Council; cakes and sweets, the Women's Institute; garden, the church; household, the ladies' choir; white elephant, the Village Hall Committee; mystery parcels, the Baptist Chapel; darts, the Cricket Club; ping-pong balls, cover the shilling, and name the teddy-bear, the Youth Club; competitions, Mrs. Gervis, Miss K. Steuart; sweet-jar, light the candles, pick-up-peas, the Guides; take-your-pick, the Parents' Association.

SARRATT COUNCIL AND ACCESS ROAD

LT. 19-3-60

"Positively disgusting," says Cllr. F. Tyler

ON hearing that the County Council had written to say that the drainage work for the access road to the school had now been done; Cllr. F. Tyler exclaimed at Monday's meeting at Sarratt Parish Council: "If that's been done they ought to do another job and drop dead or something."

The irate Cllr. Tyler said it was like a "quagmire," with more than three inches of slushy mud for people to walk through. So far as he could see the County workmen must have merely taken barrowloads of soil and dumped them on top of the existing puddles.

And Cllr. R. E. Wood said the nearby residents had been "raking around" in an attempt to find a supply of ashes from household fires to put on top of the mud, in order to have some semblance of a path to the shops. They did not have to do that before, he added, saying that he could understand the County rate going up if the manpower was used in this fashion.

"It was positively disgusting," complained Cllr. Tyler in a fresh outburst.

It was decided to write to the County Council pointing out that the road is still not satisfactory, and seeking a site meeting. It was agreed that in addition to Cllrs. Tyler and Wood a nearby resident should be asked be one of the Council's representatives at any meeting.

Sarratt man's evidence

W. OBS. 1-12-1961

A SARRATT man gave evidence at Ampthill on Tuesday in the case in which **James Hanratty** is accused of the murder of Michael Gregsten, of Abbots Langley, and the rape and attempted murder of Valerie Storie, of Cippenham.

The Court which adjourned on Wednesday until Monday is expected to sit until Tuesday of next week.

So far, more than 50 witnesses have been called.

On Tuesday evidence was given by Mr. Arthur Gordon Sindall, of Sarratt.

Mr. Sindall, director of a publicity company, said that he went to Ireland on holiday early in September.

He was passing through Castlemartyr about noon on September 7 when he had a collision with another car. It was not his fault.

"I got particulars from the other man and wrote them down on a map. He gave his name as James Ryan, 72 Wood-lane, Kingsbury, N.W. **He produced an Irish driving licence, and on it it said he was a window cleaner.** He said the car was a hired one from a firm **named Ryan in Dublin.**"

Evidence was given by other witnesses that they knew Hanratty as Ryan.

Sarratt Chairman Re-elected

L. Times 28-5-60

DESPITE his warning that it was a bad thing for one man to hold office too long, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck was unanimously returned as Sarratt Parish Council's Chairman at Monday's annual meeting.

Cllr. Clutterbuck reminded the Council that he had said last year that they should have a change and he felt even more strongly about it now. There was a tendency for one man to continue in office until he was "almost senile" and then the remaining Council members would say "We can't shift him because it would break the old boy's heart." He thought it only right that someone else should have the experience.

But Cllr. R. E. Wood said that he thought "quite frankly" that the Chairman would be thrown out when he was no longer any use. He, for one, was still quite satisfied with the present arrangement.

Cllr. J. Bailey thought that as the present Vice-Chairman, Cllr. G. R. Gervis, had intimated that he would not want to take the office this year, it would be the best plan if the Chairman could remain at the helm while they chose a new Vice-Chairman, with a view to his taking the main office next year.

But the Chairman said there would be an election in the meantime and it might well be that neither he, nor the Vice-Chairman, nor anyone else would still be members.

Cllrs. F. Tyler, Wood and M. Smith all turned down the post when they were offered the chairmanship and Cllr. Wood reminded the meeting that they had not yet finished with the problems of the Green Belt and planning. Since the Chairman knew so much and had done so much in this direction it would be wrong to change at this stage.

Accepting the post again, the Chairman said the Sarratt Council meetings were always pleasant and he only wished that other local government bodies might be able to command the same atmosphere.

Cllr. Wood was appointed Vice-Chairman.

A "Standing" Problem

At the close of Tuesday's Watford Rural District Council meeting, Cllr. F. Tyler (Sarratt) said he would "stick his chin out" and ask whether the Council had disposed of two of its standing orders—the one which required members to stand when they were speaking and the one which gave members the chance to speak only once to a subject.

The Chairman, Cllr. W. F. Rich, replied that the standing orders had not been dispensed with.

"Well, we've been waiving something tonight," Cllr. Tyler retorted. LT. 16-7-60

MUST SARRATT VILLAGE SCHOOL EVENTUALLY CLOSE?

L. Times 11-9-60

The Downward Trend In Attendance Causes Concern

THE need for main drainage at Sarratt has taken on a new urgency in the minds of Parish Councillors as a result of disclosures made by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllr. R. E. Wood, at the Parish Council meeting on Monday of this week.

A lively discussion began at the end of the main business of the evening, when Cllr. Wood, acting as Chairman in the absence of Cllr. Clutterbuck, urged the Council to consider very carefully the implication to the village as a whole, of the latest figures for school attendance at the village school.

The downward trend in attendance at present discernible meant that slowly but surely it must eventually die out, he maintained.

"At the moment there are 89 children in the school" said Cllr. Wood, "Next year it is foreseen that 15 or 16 will be leaving, and up till Christmas, only five are going in."

MORE COUNCIL HOUSES?

Cllr. Wood went on to suggest that the Council should think seriously about putting up more Council houses to redress the situation. "The building of private houses will not help the village to that extent" he said.

Cllr. F. Tyler pointed out that the answer to the question was bound up with the scheme for main drainage "which at present is going slowly," he added.

Cllr. Tyler went on to point out that when the main drainage scheme was completed, it would be sufficient to cater for any future development over a wide area.

Cllr. Mrs. G. A. Drabble thought that something might be done to bring children to the Sarratt school from Bucks Hill, a point of view shared by Cllr. J. H. Bailey, who said also that that was not the business of the Council.

CESSPOOL OBJECTION

A suggestion that the Watford R.D.C. might put up some houses "as an interim measure" with cesspools, brought an objection from Cllr. Tyler, who said that the present Dawslane cesspools in the village were not satisfactory. "As the law stands, the cesspools are not a success" maintained Cllr. Tyler.

After further discussion, the Council agreed to a proposition by Cllr. H. Simmonds, asking the Watford R.D.C. to press forward with the main drainage scheme, and to supply a progress report of the work already done.

NO INVITATION WAS "REMISS"

19-11-60

Cllr. F. Tyler commented at Monday's Sarratt Parish Council meeting that he thought it was "remiss" of the village's King George's Playing Fields Committee not to have sent an invitation to the Parish Council to send a representative to their meetings.

At the Council's July meeting, after a recommendation from Cllr. R. E. Wood, the Council appointed Cllr. J. Bailey to service, subject to the invitation being received.

SARRATT W.I. REQUEST

LT. 26-11-60

Need For Street Name-boards

Sarratt Parish Council agreed at last week's meeting to ask Watford Rural District Council to erect street name-boards in the village. Their decision followed a request from the Women's Institute for the signs to be provided. Their argument was that drivers of lorries and other vehicles who stopped on the road to inquire the way were increasing the hazards.

The Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, said this was an "urban practice" although it would no doubt assist visitors.

Cllr. F. Tyler thought that if name-boards were to be provided, the houses would also have to be numbered as it was just as difficult to find a house-name as it was a road.

But the Chairman thought numbers were usually so small that they were difficult to read from the road anyway.

Commented Cllr. G. R. Gervis: "It's one of the joys of the countryside that you cannot find your way about."

But Cllr. R. E. Wood said he thought it would be a service to visitors and later made the proposition that the R.D.C. should be asked to provide the service.

Cllr. M. Smith said he thought this was the sort of thing that should go before the Parish Meeting since it was something which was likely to affect everyone in the village and they should have the opportunity to discuss it.

FOOTPATH FOR DIMMOCKS-LANE

14-1-61

Road Not Safe For Schoolchildren

Urging Sarratt Parish Council on Monday to take some immediate steps to provide a footpath along Dimmocks-lane, Cllr. F. Tyler said the position from the road safety point of view was getting "very bad" and was deteriorating every day. In fact it was not safe for children to use the road unaccompanied on their way to school during the daytime and at night it was "a bit of a terror."

He knew it might not be a very popular move some residents of Dimmocks-lane, but it was something which had to come.

The Chairman commented that he knew this was rather an urban feature of the village, but since they had already got sufficient traffic for an urban area, it was something which was obviously necessary.

It was agreed to ask the County Council to consider the provision of a footpath from the Deadmans Ash-lane corner to The Green.

STREET LIGHTS AT SARRATT

LT 14-1-61

Public To Decide, Say The Council

IF Sarratt residents want street lighting for the village, the onus is on them to say so. That is the outcome of a discussion on the matter at Monday evening's Parish Council meeting, when it was decided to place the question of street lighting on the agenda for the annual Parish Meeting—which has been provisionally fixed for March 27.

It was Cllr. M. Smith who said he thought the public should be given a chance to "have a crack at this one" and in supporting him, Cllr. F. Tyler said it should be "thrown to the people of Sarratt" for them to decide.

In the meantime, the Council are hoping to arrange for a short experimental stretch of temporary lighting to be installed to give the parishioners a chance to see for themselves.

Watford Rural District Council had written to say that their Lighting Committee had noted that there was no lighting in Sarratt and would like the Parish Council to consider the desirability of a scheme for the village. In any event, it would only be on a small scale. A scheme of 19 lamps costing £375 or one with 12 lamps, costing £250, were suggested.

The Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, said he thought this was a "half class B lighting scheme," and would mean the expenditure of a ½d. rate. It had to be remembered that this sort of scheme did not really light the road—the lamps were too far apart—it merely showed people using the road the next point to aim for. "It's nothing like Watford

THESE "ATROCIOUS THINGS"

LT. 14-1-61

After Cllr. F. Tyler had said that they did not want the "atrocious things" which stood about four feet high, Sarratt Parish Council decided at Monday's meeting to ask Watford Rural District Council whether they could see a sample before any decision was taken to erect street name-boards in the village.

The Rural District Council had asked which roads the Parish Council had in mind when they recently asked for the boards, and the Council are to reply that they would like two boards for each of the following roads: Church-lane, Commonwood-lane, Dimmocks-lane and Deadmans Ash-lane. In Dawes-lane and Moor-lane they would like only one board.

LIME TREES TO BE LOPPED

THE lime trees on Sarratt Green are to be lopped, the Parish Council decided last week.

The work, which includes reducing the height of the trees by 30 feet, will cost £65.

Some members contended that more than one estimate should have been sought before they decided to put the work in hand, particularly Cllr. F. Tyler, who said he was "dubious" about accepting the £65 quotation when he had no knowledge of comparable prices. It might be expensive or might be cheap at this price—they just could not tell.

But on the proposition of the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, members decided to have the work carried out after Cllr. M. Smith explained how he had to pay £35 for two trees to be lopped four years ago, and Cllr. R. E. Wood, who raised the question of alternative estimates in the first place, had said that the Council would be responsible if anyone was hurt because the trees were unsafe. LT. 18-3-61

Dimmocks-lane Footpath

LT. 21-1-61

Cllr. F. Tyler told Monday evening's Sarratt Parish Council meeting that the Divisional Surveyor seemed to favour the south side of Dimmocks-lane for any future footpath arrangements.

The Council recently asked for the matter to be considered in the interests of road safety, and heard in a reply from the Divisional Surveyor that he had referred the matter to the County Surveyor.

So far as the churning up of the Green by heavy vehicles was concerned—it was at a point where a wayleave was in existence—Cllr. Tyler reported that the Divisional Surveyor had a scheme in mind for that too. If a small kerb was necessary it would be provided, but if the problem could be satisfactorily overcome without one, there would be no kerb.

GETTING NOWHERE ON ACCESS ROAD

LT. 18-3-61

Sarratt Council To Seek Another Site Meeting

WHEN Monday evening's Sarratt Parish Council meeting heard a letter from the School Managers regarding the still unsatisfactory state of the access road to the school, Cllr. F. Tyler said that despite the fact that there had been three site meetings they had got "nowhere" in five years.

Now the Council are to be asked for another site meeting—with representatives of the County Education Authority.

Cllr. R. E. Wood said that from previous site meetings members had always gone away knowing in their own minds that something would be done.

Earlier he had said that on the last occasion the Council were told that the work would be attended to as soon as the necessary manpower was available.

Cllr. Tyler said the Divisional Road Surveyor had originally said the matter was outside his sphere and the "Education man" had later promis[ed to] have the work carried o[ut] Cllr. Wood had s[aid] ...

"DISGUSTI[NG]"

"I felt confiden[t] ... got somewhere." ... But he ha[d] ... requests fr[om] ... mothers ... and there ... state of the ... disgusting."

He poin[ted out] ... access road a... the Green. Eith[er] ... continue it over ... of the Green to ... or, if the Parish ... had the Green made up, the Education Authority would be unable to use their own road.

Cllr. M. Smith thought that even if the original promise was fulfilled and the section of the Green was made to form part of the road, a similar problem might occur at a later date when the question of maintenance was considered. He felt it would be better to convey the necessary land to the authority—perhaps for "a nominal fee."

"COCK" FOOTPATH MEETING

SARRATT Parish Council's Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck described at Monday's meeting as a "small but useful step forward" the in... he had been given th... representatives of the brewe[rs] ... to meet Watford Rural ... Council officers on th[e] ... regarding the controv[ersial] "Cock" footpath at Sarratt.

Cllr. H. J. Simmonds ask[ed] ... would be ... for the Parish Council to be represented at the meeting in view of their prolonged attempts to get action on this matter and their local knowledge of the situation. But the Chairman reminded the meeting that they had not been asked "to give evidence" for the time being. Perhaps they would be invited later.

Earlier the Clerk, Mr. S. Harrold had referred to his correspondence with the brewers. To one of his letters they had replied that they had noted the complaint, were looking into it and would write again. He had written back to them at the beginning of the month but there had been no further reply on the subject.

... we had ... he went on. ... now received ... schoolchildren's ... into the matter ... doubt that the ... road was "quite ... out that ... actually finis[hed] ...

A KERB TO CURB

Monday's Sarratt Parish Council meeting agreed to ask the County Council whether a kerb could be provided to retain the roadside grass verge at Bucks Hill near Bucks Hill Farm.

Cllr. G. R. Gervis reported that the roadside waste had been "churned up into a mud heap" by lorries which pulled on to it to park. Moreover the vehicles obstructed pedestrians—particularly at night. A kerb would overcome the nuisance he felt.

HONORARIUM

Sarratt Parish Council decided on Monday to give a "small honorarium" to the village hall caretaker for the effort she voluntarily puts in to prepare the room for each Council meeting.

DOING HIS BEST

18-3-61

Following Sarratt Parish Council's recent request for a sample of the "half Class B" street lighting arrangements to be demonstrated in the village, in time for the annual Parish meeting on March 27, Watford Rural District Council's Engineer and Surveyor has said that he is doing his best to meet their request.

SARRATT BURIALS ARE STILL A PROBLEM

18.3.61

Parish Council To Seek Relief From Obligations

SARRATT Parish Council agreed at Monday's meeting to take steps to see whether the Minister would be prepared to allow them to be relieved of their obligation to provide burial facilities. This move follows the Council's latest investigations into the problem. They have been favouring a suggestion that they should opt out of the Rickmansworth Burial Board Scheme under which they have been paying large sums each year for a facility which is hardly used and perhaps provide their own burial ground in Sarratt.

But on Monday the Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, said the outcome of the latest correspondence with the Clerk to the Board was that he felt the Council would have to prove that they were actively concerned in the provision of alternative facilities if they wished to proceed on these lines. He did not feel that the Minister would agree to the Council being the parish burial authority on the slim proviso that they would be able to acquire the necessary land in several years time if it was needed, when the present Churchyard became full.

If the Council wanted to follow the present course it would probably be necessary to acquire, lay-out and maintain the new ground even if it was not being used for the time being, in order to satisfy any Ministry officers who came to inspect it, the Chairman went on.

BEST COURSE

It seemed that the alternative was to opt out of the Rickmansworth scheme and shed the responsibility for providing facilities, in view of the fact that the churchyard was a satisfactory alternative at the present time. Then when the churchyard was becoming full, the matter could be reviewed by the Council in power at the time.

The meeting heard that there were many other Parish Councils throughout the country who were not burial authorities.

The Chairman added that the Burial Board's Clerk seemed to think that the last suggestion was the best to adopt in the circumstances. And the Council's own Clerk, Mr. S. Harrold, pointed out that they would be able to proceed on the original lines if the Minister turned down this idea.

Cllr. F. Tyler said if the action suggested was adopted it would allow the Council to save the "vast sums" they were paying to the Board. And although it might put a future liability on the Parish Council or even the Church, the present Council appreciated that they were not paying a "fair share" to the Parish Church where they were reaping a service, compared with what they were paying the Rickmansworth Board for a service which was not being used.

£120 A YEAR SAVING

Cllr. H. J. Simmonds asked what the position would be if the land the Council now had in mind was no longer available in the future, and existing restrictions ... prevented them from ... a suitable alternative ...

But Cll... said they would not ... "to leave the coffins ... side of the road," and the Chairman said he thought cemeteries would certainly be allowed in the Green Belt. The main thing now was to decide whether they wished to ask for complete release from their burial obligations and save, say anything up to about £120 per year for the next ten years.

Cllr. R. E. Woods thought any Minister would be "mad" to allow this course if no alternative facilities were being provided. But the Chairman said the Council would have to prove that the existing churchyard constituted a satisfactory facility at the present time.

SARRATT RESIDENT'S DEATH

A former Hertfordshire Constabulary Policeman who on leaving the force became gate-keeper of the "Salmon" gate, at Messrs. John Dickinson and Co. Ltd.'s Apsley Mills, died on Tuesday last week.

He was 74-years-old Mr. Frederick William English, of 2 Long Meadow Cottages, Moor-lane, Sarratt, who had held his post as gate-keeper for roughly 20 years until his retirement three years ago.

Mr. English leaves his widow and one son, Mr. Richard English, of Chipperfield.

The funeral, at Sarratt Parish Church on Friday, was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. T. McArdle.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

L. Times 18-3-61

WHEN ... name plates are erected in Sarratt shortly, ... "Red Lion-lane" ... the Parish Council's ... request for ... board bearing ... name "Commonwood-lane."

The alteration was agreed at Monday evening's Council meeting, and followed a query from the Watford Rural District Council.

The Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, said he had always been brought up to call it "Red Lion-lane," because of the old public house which stood on the corner. And Cllr. F. Tyler said, he had received requests from residents in the Lane that it should be called "Red Lion-lane."

Cllr. H. J. Simmonds, however, referred to a previous occasion when people sought to prove to the Parish Council that it was actually Commonwood-lane, and the Chairman said, he had heard both sides of the argument. It was mainly the newer residents who knew it as Commonwood-lane, he felt.

When the available types of sign-board were discussed, the Chairman said, he had no doubt that the Council would plump for those with raised white letters on a soft green background.

S.W. HERTS "A FLOATING KIDNEY"

18-3-61

CLLR. T. CLUTTERBUCK, the Chairman, described South-West Herts as a "rather obstreperous floating kidney" at Monday's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council when members discussed the recent report of the Royal Commission on Local Government in Greater London.

The Commission, he said, had not felt able to make any recommendations for the future of South-West Herts. Although they seemed to think that Watford should be allowed to expand they did not favour the idea of County Borough status being granted.

By excluding South-West Herts from the proposed Council for Greater London they had in effect "passed the baby" to the larger Commission reviewing England and Wales as a whole. But it was probable that the district was not included in their terms of reference either, he said. Thus there was this "floating kidney."

The discussion arose after a letter had been received from Watford Rural District Council inviting views on the Commission's report for consideration by their Boundaries Committee.

After Cllr. M. Smith had said he could not see that anything had occurred in recent months to change the views the Council had held all along, it was decided to reply to the effect that they supported the Commission's recommendations for South-West Herts in general where they were relevant.

1961

BARGAIN HUNTERS AT SARRATT



Some of the many visitors who patronised the Sarratt spring bazaar on Saturday, which raised over £100 for Village Hall improvements. Some £700 has now been collected for the project in the past by the Village Hall Committee.—M3583G.

SUCCESSFUL SPRING BAZAAR AT SARRATT

£113 Raised For The Village Hall Fund

FAIR weather—for the time of year—rewarded Sarratt Village Hall Committee's enterprising venture of a spring bazaar, part of which was held in the open air, in aid of their improvement fund last Saturday afternoon.

And despite a fickle April forecast, cool, overcast, but mainly dry, they succeeded in raising £113 profit on the day, making a grand total of well over £700 raised and put to good use on this popular Village Hall in the last four years.

The main reason for including an open-air section in this year's spring event was to show off the Committee's latest improvement: an artistic stone terrace outside the hall, facing a useful green enclosure, newly mowed and levelled up, making the hall and its surroundings even more useful and attractive than before.

The hall itself had also been modified by the addition of a double width doorway opening out on to the terrace.

TRIBUTES

Opening the bazaar, Mr. T. Clutterbuck, the Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, paid tribute to the energy and resource of the Hall Management Committee, who had, he said, put in an enormous amount of purely voluntary work over the years, improving the facilities of the hall for the benefit of the whole village. He pointed out that the hall received no grants or aid of any description from public funds. "Naturally," said Mr. Clutterbuck, "the hall has had its ups and downs, but fortunately there have been more 'ups' than 'downs'."

As soon as Mr. Clutterbuck had finished his opening speech, the numerous stalls which had been set up inside the Hall offering a wide variety of pr[illegible] sale, and the equally numerous sideshows in the enclosure outside, began a brisk business which continued until there was a general adjournment for tea.

STALLHOLDERS

Almost all the village organisations were represented either by a stall inside or a sideshow outside the hall.

The full list was as follows: Sideshows: treasure hunt, quoits, "Diana's Door" and rifle range, organised by members of Sarratt Youth Club; 10s. on a dart-board and 2s. 6d. on a stump, Sarratt Cricket Club; cover the sixpence, 1st Sarratt Girl Guides. Stalls: white elephant, Management Committee; gardening, Holy Cross Church; mystery parcel, Baptist Church; household, Ladies' Choir; competitions, British Legion Women's Section, Mrs. M. R. Gervis, Miss K. Steuart and Clinic; pick-a-straw, Parents' Association; refreshments, the Mothers' Union.

1961-62

JACK WOOD TOPS POLL AT SARRATT

LT 20-5-61

THERE was no contest at Sarratt for representation on the Watford Rural District Council where Cllr. T. Clutterbuck and newcomer Mr. R. O. Walchli were returned unopposed.

In the Parish Council elections in the Sarratt Ward, newcomer Jack Wood, the local newsagent, proved his popularity by topping the poll at his first attempt, with Cllr. F. Tyler a councillor for many years, in second place.

Results:

RURAL DISTRICT

T. Clutterbuck (unopposed)

R. O. Walchli (unopposed)

PARISH COUNCIL

*J. A. Wood	224
*F. Tyler	199
*R. E. Wood	163
*M. J. Smith	160
*T. Clutterbuck	156
*R. E. Cox	152
J. W. Smith	145
R. O. Walchli	108
H. J. Simmonds	86
R. A. W. Strawson	57

* elected

CHARITABLE EFFORT

1961

£30 Raised For Cancer Campaign

WHEN Mr. Alec Howarth, who runs the popular Ajax Dance Band at Croxley Green, offered the services of his Band free, if anyone would organise a charity dance in the Sarratt Village Hall, the offer was quickly taken up by two young Sarratt housewives, Mrs. Rosemary Clack and her sister, Mrs. V. J. Mason, neither of whom had ever organised a dance before.

Enlisting the help of their friends, they made a great success of their first venture by raising £30 for the British Cancer Research Fund, when the dance was held in the Village Hall last Saturday.

Said Mrs. Clack to the "Langley Times" earlier this week: "We were delighted with the support and help we received from everyone."

There were enough prizes donated for six competitions held during the course of the evening, and all the refreshments were donated by friends and well-wishers.

Helping with the decorations in the Hall and the refreshments were, Mrs. Dowse, Mrs. Grego, Mrs. Joan Biggerstaff, Mrs. Ivy Brownsell, Miss June Chilton and Miss Susan Mason.

LANGLEY TIMES.

PLENTY of good cheer to enjoy—and still four weeks to go to Christmas. That was the happy thought for more than 100 Sarratt women—and some of their luckier menfolk—when the Sarratt Women's Institute held their fifth inaugural anniversary party in the Village Hall last Saturday evening.

December is really the inaugural month for this enthusiastic local W.I. Branch, but until two years ago the anniversary party was held at Christmas. Now the party date has been changed. As one member, Mrs. Wilson, explained to the Langley Times: "Holding the party a month earlier means that our members have more time to devote to their own family parties when Christmas comes."

TRADITIONAL COLOURS

But whether Christmas or [illegible], Sarratt W.I. members never fail when it comes to Saturday, the President, Mrs. L. Petts, welcomed the guests before the party began to the cosy Village Hall, resplendent for the occasion with red, green and yellow decorations—the official W.I. colours.

There was red, green and yellow icing on the grand birthday cake, too, with the inscription "For Home and Country" in the best W.I. tradition. Not even Mrs. Beeton of cookery-book fame could have been more thorough. "First catch your hare," the good lady is reported to have said. "First make your tin," contended Mrs. C. Patmore, who made and baked the huge cake for five and three-quarter hours, before it was iced by Mr. Petts and his 15-years-old daughter.

FUN AND GAMES

There was dancing, games and an amusing sketch, performed by three members on the stage, by way of entertainment during the evening. Close on 150 people enjoyed the fun—and the refreshments. They all joined in wholeheartedly with "Auld Lang Syne" at the end. "Auld Lang Syne" you may ask, with three weeks to Christmas and even longer to Hogmanay? Won't they be tired of the tune by then? Hardly likely, "Auld Lang Syne" and hospitality go hand in hand with each other, and Sarratt W.I. members, it seems, never grow tired of either.

The Sarratt W.I. party was organised by Mrs. Griffiths and committee, the decorations were made by Mrs. Pritchard, and the sketch was performed by Mrs. Mosedale, Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Crocker.



Members of the Sarratt Women's Institute in gay and festive mood at their fifth anniversary party held in the Village Hall on Saturday.—C5614G.

DEC. 1961

THANKS FOR DUSTMEN

13-1-62

Refuse disposal in Sarratt over the past year has been "exceptionally good," said Cllr. F. Tyler at Monday's meeting of the Parish Council. All members agreed that there had been a marked improvement over the past two or three years. The Clerk, Mr. S. B. Harrold, was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the public health authorities.

PARKING IN THE DELL?

13-1-62

With the increasing number of cars on the roads, the Chairman of the Sarratt Parish Council, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, thinks that quite soon parking in Sarratt will become very difficult.

At Monday's meeting of the Council he asked members whether they considered it a good idea to fill in The Dell and use it as a car park. There was nobody for the suggestion and nobody against so Cllr. Clutterbuck asked members to "think about it."



The retiring Commandant of Sarratt Red Cross, Mrs. M. Gervis, being presented with a tea service and tokens of thanks in the Sarratt Village Hall last Saturday. Pictured in the group are: (left to right), Mrs. P. Harpley the new Assistant Commandant, Mrs. E. Archer, Mrs. Gervis, Miss K. Steuart, the Vice-President for Sarratt, and Miss W. Hayward.

10-2-62

"Best Kept Village" Scheme—Headache For Councils

13-1-62

TO enter or not to enter? That is the question that Sarratt residents will have to decide at a special public meeting in the Village Hall on February 19, when they decide whether they would like to enter the "Best Kept Village" competition.

The meeting is being called by the Parish Council on the suggestion of Cllr. Jack Wood, who, at Monday's meeting of the Council, said that he thought it was up to the residents to "thrash the thing out" and reach a decision.

Cllr. T. Clutterbuck said: "It means someone's going to have to do a lot of extra work. I hate to have to say that Sarratt can't do anything."

Cllr. F. Tyler said that there were certain things that the village could do, and he added, "but who would walk around the village and say 'Will you put a coat of paint on your gate'? I wouldn't."

It was suggested that the matter be raised at the annual parish meeting, but Cllr. J. Wood was against this. He said: "Only a few people know the rules, that is why I am against it being discussed at that meeting."

Cllr. J. W. Smith thought that nothing would be lost by entering the competition. Replying, Cllr. J. Wood, who had reached no decision as to Sarratt's possible entry, said: "It might put some people's backs up."

Cllr. R. O. Wachli suggested that each organisation in Sarratt should appoint a member to serve on a committee, who could then arrive at a decision. Replying, Cllr. J. Wood said: "I am not interested in organisations. This should be discussed at a public meeting."

Mr. S. B. Harrold and Cllr. J. Wood are to draw up a leaflet informing Sarratt residents of the date, place and subject of the meeting. Copies will then be printed and enclosed with every newspaper that leaves Cllr. Wood's shop—he is a newsagent.

W.O.B. 1-12-1961

FARMERS CAME FROM FAR AWAY

WELLINGTON boots, duffle coats, cloth caps and ruddy faces were de rigeur at Lord Dudley's Great Westwood Farm on Tuesday.

Farmers came from far and wide (from Scotland and East Anglia) for one of the biggest sales of the year—the auction of the British Friesian cattle comprising the Great Westwood section of the famous Dudley Herd.

After 56 lots were "knocked down," the grand total of the sale was 6,282 guineas.

The herd had the highest milk average in Herts and Middx for the four years ending October 1, 1960, and is maintained on the four farms of the Earl's 2,000 acre estate.

Commented a spokesman for the auctioneers (Harry Hobson and Co., of Southampton Row, W.C.1) at the close of the sale: "This was a very good sale and we got some respectable prices."

Bull was the "star"

Highlight of the auction was the nine-year-old stock bull, "Lavenham Traveller," which was sold to Mr. P. Riseborough, of Great Yarmouth, for 300 guineas. At the other end of the scale was a wet, spindly bull calf which first saw the light of day just 12 hours earlier.

As it shivered in the ring, farmers nodded, winked, flicked their catalogue or waved a hand until the youngster finally went for 25 guineas to Bedmond farmer Mr. Bryn Thomas. Minutes earlier its proud mother, with the quaint name, "Rhodian Dazzle," was sold for 140 guineas.

It was, indeed, a nostalgic scene of rural England, with the farmers sitting round on bales of straw in a barn and on a haycart listening to the fast patter of the auctioneer—words unintelligible to the layman—as he appraised the stock.

"Remember its mother" and "note the butterfat" were about all an "Observer" reporter's ear could catch.

NO SAND OR GRIT

13-1-62

Complaints From Road Users

ROAD conditions in the Bucks Hill and Fir Tree Hill areas during the heavy snowfall, gave rise for comment at Monday's meeting of the Sarratt Parish Council.

Cllr. Mrs. Joan Gough said that she had received several complaints from local residents because the County Council had scattered neither sand nor grit on the roads which came in for the most use.

She said that a local doctor had to go via Kings Langley because of adverse weather conditions in the area.

Other members of the Council pointed out that the county took steps to ensure that main roads were sanded and gritted, and these were given priority over the less frequented roads.

Cllr. Mrs. Gough said that although some motorists had difficulty in coping with the conditions, "the buses were wonderful for a change."



On the Beat! Mr. John White takes the members of Sarratt Choral Society through the early stages of "M[illegible] England." They hope to present the concert version of Edward German's comic opera in Sarratt Village H[all] the Autumn.

L. TIMES 24-2-62



The Earl of Dudley was there to see the [illegible]

Sarratt Rector's Induction



The Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, M.A., the new Rector of Sarratt, pictured in the centuries old vestry of Holy Cross Church after evensong last Sunday. With him is the Rector's Warden, Mr. S. B. Harrold (right) and the People's Warden, Percy Saunders (left).

NEW CHAPTER IN LIFE OF SARRATT CHURCH

Institution Of The Rev. A. J. Tomlinson, M.A.

A NEW chapter in the life of the Parish Church of Holy Cross, Sarratt, began last week when, on Thursday evening, February 1, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, M.A., became the new Rector of the Parish at a Service of Institution and Induction conducted by the Bishop of Bedford, the Right Rev. Basil Guy, M.A., assisted by the Rural Dean of Watford, the Rev. R. W. Martin.

In spite of the cold wintry weather the tiny Parish Church, whose foundation dates back to the 11th century, was comfortably packed with a large congregation, including at least a dozen clergy from other parishes in the Watford Deanery.

CALL FOR FULL SUPPORT

In his address to the congregation, the Bishop of Bedford reminded the parishioners of the vital importance of the promises they had made during the Service of Institution, in which they had agreed to support their new Rector in every way in the work of his ministry. "Just 'trying to be good' is not fulfilling our duty as Christians," said the Bishop. "We must in regular Communion partake of the Body of Christ by assembling at the Lord's Table on His Day, and we must live as Christians for all seven days of the week." Only by so doing, the Bishop concluded could the people fully support the Minister in his work of God.

The ceremony of the Induction was carried out during the course of the Service by the Rural Dean, the Rev. Martin. After the Service there was a crowded social gathering in the Sarratt Village Hall, when refreshments prepared by the ladies from the Church were served to many guests.

SPLENDID WELCOME

The Rev. Tomlinson took the opportunity of speaking for the first time to his parishioners. He thanked them for the splendid welcome he and his family had received, and said that he hoped they would look on him as a friend as well as their Priest. He promised that he would, as quickly as possible, visit all of them in their homes, but he hoped, in the meantime, that if they had any problems they would not hesitate to call on him at the Rectory.

The Rector's Warden, Mr. S. B. Harrold, expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish to the Bishop and the Rural Dean for having made the journey to Sarratt to Institute and Induct the new Rector. He also thanked the Rev. and Mrs. Tomlinson for "having come to Sarratt at all." There was general amusement when Mr. Harrold remarked lightheartedly: "They don't know what they have let themselves in for." More seriously he continued that he felt sure they would find Sarratt a very pleasant place in which to live, full of very pleasant and enjoyable people.

OLD FRIENDS

A number of friends and parishioners from the Rector's previous ministry at Furneux and Stocking Pelham were among the guests at the Service and at the gathering afterwards.

Taking his first services at the Parish Church on Sunday, one of the Rev. Tomlinson's first tasks was to "read himself in," as he explained, by reading through and reaffirming his acceptance of the 39 articles of the Established Church, a custom dating back over 300 years. In his address at the evening service he enlarged on the thoughts suggested by the Bishop on the need for a personal Christian witness. "It is your task and mine to spread the good news of God's Glory," he told his congregation.

PLANE CRASH LANDS AT BUCKS-HILL

Pilot Escapes Injury Following Afternoon Flip

A 28-YEARS-OLD flyer escaped unhurt on Sunday when he crash landed a tiny single-seater biplane in a field near Bottom-lane, Bucks Hill Bottom, during an afternoon "flip" from Denham Aerodrome.

A German, Kurt Lang, of Branville-road, West Drayton, was flying the red and white Curry Wot, registration G-APWT, above Bucks Hill when the engine cut out.

With this type of aircraft—there are only four in existence—spectacular aerobatics can be performed. But without the engine Kurt could only head for a field below and hope for the best.

The field he chose was at the top of the hills in a part the locals know as "Under The Heavens." But the strong winds took over control and forced the aircraft down into a hedge.

The wings crumpled up and the crash split part of the wooden fuselage near the cockpit. Kurt climbed out without a scratch.

A 999 call that "an aircraft is down in a field" sent fire tenders from Kings Langley and Watford, ambulances and police cars racing through the lanes to the scene. As far as was then known it could have been an airliner.

Kurt described his landing to the Langley Times as he began salvage operations on Monday morning. With the wings badly damaged there was no hope of taking off from the field again.

The aircraft, which was not his own, has had to be partially dismantled and carried away for repairs, by road, a tricky operation as it was hemmed in on all sides by hedges and steep slopes.

"It's all part of the game," said Kurt, as he got to work on the wings.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

SARRATT WILL ENTER

SARRATT'S Best Kept Village Competition committee got down to business on Friday at a meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. Clutterbuck. Village schoolmaster, Mr. K. Green, has been appointed village organiser and Mrs. Edna Smith, Secretary.

At a special public meeting earlier in February it had been decided that although Sarratt might have only a small chance of winning the competition, a better standard of cleanliness and tidiness would be achieved in the village by making the effort.

THE BOUNDARY

The committee decided on Friday that the boundary for the purpose of the competition—subject to the organisers' approval—should be Church-lane from Goldingtons, Dimmocks-lane, Deadman's, Ash-lane, Bottom-lane and Plough-lane to Belsize taking in the main part of the built-up area around Dunny-lane, and back to Sarratt taking in all The Green and built-up lengths of road running off the Green.

It was agreed to divide this area into four sections with part of the committee responsible for each.

Each committee section will appoint a leader. These leaders, together with the village organiser and Secretary will form the Executive Committee to deal with matters arising between meetings of the full committee.

In order to obtain full co-operation, Mr. Green is to circularise local bodies and committees of the village organisations with premises or land, and also shopkeepers.

PERSONAL VISITS

Committee members will pay personal visits to householders and allotment holders, and each section will form working parties to undertake any work of clearing and tidying up which is not considered to be the responsibility of individuals.

The co-operation of applicable departments of the district and County Council will also be sought.

Members of the committee, who have been given wide powers for co-opting, are: Mesdames E. Archer, D. Bond, B. Mason, L. Petts, D. Singleton, Edna Smith, A. Thomas and B. Walchli, Rev. A. J. Tomlinson, Messrs. R. Clack, T. Clutterbuck, E. A. Cox, H. C. Gammon (Belsize), K. Green, S. B. Harrold, M. J. Smith, J. W. Smith, R. West and J. A. Wood.

Which Local Authority Will Be Responsible?

SARRATT Parish Council discussed the ups and downs of main drainage at Monday's meeting.

Cllr. F. Tyler said he was under the impression that Belsize would be provided with main drainage as part of Hemel Hempstead Rural District Council's scheme put forward in 1957. This would involve the construction of pumping stations, and would be "a waste of public money" in view of Watford R.D.C.'s scheme for Belsize, which was for gravitational drainage.

He added that although Watford R.D.C. were opposed to Belsize drainage under Hemel Hempstead R.D.C.'s scheme, the County Council seemed in favour of it.

The Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, said that when Hemel Hempstead R.D.C. had put forward their scheme, nothing was known about Watford R.D.C.'s plan.

Cllr. Tyler said that despite the advent of Watford R.D.C.'s scheme later correspondence still gave the impression that main drainage would be provided by Hemel Hempstead.

The Chairman assured Cllr. Tyler that he would discuss the matter with Watford R.D.C.'s Engineer and Surveyor, and find out what the position was.

Members also expressed concern at Watford R.D.C.'s proposal to postpone modernisation of pre-war Sarratt council houses pending the provision of main drainage to the village.

They were told that the council had recently carried out modernisation to one house, but the lack of main drainage presented problems as far as the comprehensive modernisation of further houses was concerned. The programme was costing £850 for each house, and £450 for smaller houses.

The meeting agreed to tell the R.D.C. that in their view modernisation should not be postponed, and that certain works could well be carried out before the arrival of main drainage.

The R.D.C. had also stated that modernisation work would be carried out as and when houses became vacant, but members agreed that in the case of elderly tenants, death was the only factor likely to result in houses becoming vacant, which made the prospect of modernisation dismal.

PARISH RATE DOWN AT SARRATT

Thirty Residents Attend Annual Parish Meeting

THE thirty people who attended Sarratt's Annual Parish Meeting at the Village Hall on Monday evening heard the Chairman, Cllr. Thomas Clutterbuck, say that the Parish Council was "about the only authority in the country that is asking for less rates this year."

The Council had put in for a 2d. rate precept this year as against 3d. last year, he said. This had been made possible because of balances in hand and because certain expenses in the coming year, especially the Burial Board expenses, would not be so heavy.

CO-OPTION

Cllr. Clutterbuck opened his report by referring to the Council election. No nominations had been received from Durrants Ward, he said, and with Herts County Council permission Mr. J. Smith and Mr. Walchli had been co-opted to represent Durrants, although they lived outside the Ward.

On footpaths, he reported that the path between the Cock Inn and the main road was to be reopened. The hedge had become overgrown, blocking the path, but the brewery company had now agreed to provide a style.

At Dimmocks-lane the county had agreed in principle to a footpath. The path was among the works to be done this year but there was now doubt as to whether sufficient money would be available, as the work involved the removal of hedges on land in front of the houses.

The state of the footpaths and accesses to bridges over the River Chess had also given the Council concern. The County Council had now agreed to improve the approach to the Solesbridge bridge with the help of the land owners by building up the access way.

An inquiry had been held by the County Council into all disputed rights of way, and the status of all parish footpaths was now clear.

On roads, he reported that widening was to take place on the Green opposite the shops. The access road to the school had been made up, but the owner's consent had not yet been obtained to cut down the hedge on the bend opposite the public-house at Chandlers Cross.

To prevent cars parking across the footpath outside the Village Hall the adjoining hedge would be cut down. The co-operation of the licensee of the Chandlers Cross public-house was being sought in preventing obstruction by customers' cars. Road name plates had been provided and white lines painted on the roads of the parish.

On housing, he said that a garage block was planned for the Church-lane Council houses. Council house modernisation had not gone too well, as the work could not be carried out until they became vacant. Six old people's houses were to be built in Alexandra-road.

On main drainage, he said that since Watford R.D.C. had given details of their gravitational scheme Hemel Hempstead R.D.C. had asked to take Belsize into their scheme for Chipperfield, which seemed unthrifty on the face of it. Watford R.D.C.'s £208,000 scheme would be started as soon as ministerial approval for raising the loan was given.

Once it was completed the ratepayers would find the cost of drainage less than the cost of the present cesspool emptying, even though interest would have to be paid on the large loan.

The Parish Council had received grants of £3,000, of which £275 had been devoted to playing fields and the remainder to the Village Hall authorities. They had again granted £30 to the Parochial Church Council for upkeep of the Churchyard.

A SAVING

It had been decided by agreement with Rickmansworth to dissolve the Joint Burial Board. This had now been done—the first time an Act of Parliament had mentioned Sarratt. The Council would benefit from the new arrangement and would certainly save a lot of money.

The present Churchyard had ample room to cope for the next 15 years. There was also ample room at Chipperfield Churchyard to cater for Bucks Hill and at Langleybury Churchyard. Durrants Ward at present had no facilities, although under the old agreement they had the right of burial at Rickmansworth or Harefield. That right would continue. In fact there was only one burial in two years from Durrants Ward at Rickmansworth, and the remainder probably took place at Watford Cemetery.

The Council had considered what might happen in 15 years time when Sarratt Churchyard was full. A suggestion had been made that further land should immediately be acquired for expansion, but the suggestion had been vetoed. They could not insist on the Parochial Church Council taking over more land.

Cllr. Clutterbuck, as the owner of the land which may be required, said he would leave provision in his will if he was not alive in 15 years' time that the Parish Council should have first option on it.

The meeting was then open for discussion from the floor, and a request was made for larger litter bins at Commonwood. Cllr. Clutterbuck said that four councillors were at present investigating the litter problem there and would report back to the Council.

BOUNDARIES

Asked about parish boundaries, he said he understood that the commission examining them throughout the country had decided to leave South West Herts until last. Sarratt had told the Royal Commission on Greater London that it did not wish to become part of a county borough of Watford, in which case in would lose its Parish Council. It thought that Watford R.D.C. was big enough to exist on its own as now, although Sarratt's big recommendation had been that Oxhey be transferred to Watford borough. If Watford R.D.C. had to be split up then Sarratt would ask to be transferred to Hemel Hempstead R.D.C.

RATE RISE FOR ABBOTS AND SARRATT

RATES for 1962-63 of 22s. 10d. for Abbots Langley (up 2s.) and 22s. 2d. for Sarratt (up 1s. 9d.) were approved by Watford Rural District Council at Tuesday's budget meeting.

The meeting was told that the Council's aim is to maintain a General Rate Fund balance of about £40,000. As a result of variations in expenditure during the past year it will in fact amount to £77,469 on April 1 next, and consequently the Finance Committee recommended a rate relief for the coming year of 9½d.

This, together with a Rate Deficiency Grant of 7d., makes the burden on the ratepayers far less severe than it might otherwise have been.

For the Council's gross estimated expenditure for the coming year at £272,308, is an increase of £37,098 over this year and requires a rate of 5s. 6½d. (up 4½d.). The West Herts Main Drainage Authority precept is up, and the county rate is up 1s. 10d.

The ratepayers could, therefore, have faced an increase of 2s. or more before the levy for special local requirements was added to the uniform rate.

SARRATT SEWERAGE

Commenting on the budget, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck noted that no start was to be made in the coming year on the Sarratt sewerage scheme, which would keep the village in another year of "medieval squalor." "I would suggest that this very urgent work has been treated with very considerable slackness," he said. "If other more vociferous parts of our district had to suffer the disappointment of such a scheme being put back we should have heard far more about it."

Cllr. John Bright assured Cllr. Clutterbuck that the Public Health Committee had made every effort to speed up the scheme, but were dependent on the Ministry, and could do no more than they had already done.

Provision is also made in this year's budget for the setting up of the Council's Direct Labour scheme.

Summing up the budget, Cllr. Eric Branwell, Finance Committee Vice-Chairman, said he could not understand why some members were in doubt about the scheme. There was no reason why it should not be a good scheme, and many other councils were running such direct labour forces very successfully.

COUNCIL'S THANKS

SARRATT Parish Council agreed at Monday's meeting to write to the brewers and thank them for their co-operation in erecting a stile on the footpath at the Cock Inn.

The council also agreed that the work on the access road to the school had resulted in a great improvement, but that more could be done.

Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, Chairman, said that this additional work was neither a matter for the school authorities or for the Highways Department, and the Parish Council would probably have to bear the cost. It was agreed to discuss the matter more fully at the next meeting.

It was also reported that no provision had been made by the County Council during the next financial year for the improvement of a footpath at Dawes-lane, but that estimates for the work were being prepared.

INDUSTRIOUS SARRATT

New litter bins will be in place at Sarratt in time for the judging of the Best Kept Village Competition. Sign-posts and railings have already been painted, and at Monday's meeting the Parish Council gave the Competition Committee permission to repaint the pump, seats and the flag-pole on the green.

MEMORIAL SEAT

Sarratt Parish Council were told at Monday's meeting that Mrs. M. Hay had offered to donate a seat on the village green to the memory of the late Lady Stabb. After discussion on the proposed position of the seat the Council agreed to thank Mrs. Hay for her offer, and to ask to be allowed to make suggestions for the best site for the seat.

PROBLEM OF SARRATT DRAINAGE

Which Local Authority Will Be Responsible?

SARRATT Parish Council discussed the ups and downs of main drainage at Monday's meeting.

Cllr. F. Tyler said he was under the impression that Belsize would be provided with main drainage as part of Hemel Hempstead Rural District Council's scheme put forward in 1957. This would involve the construction of pumping stations, and would be "a waste of public money" in view of Watford R.D.C.'s scheme for Belsize, which was for gravitational drainage.

He added that although Watford R.D.C. were opposed to Belsize drainage under Hemel Hempstead R.D.C.'s scheme, the County Council seemed in favour of it.

The Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, said that when Hemel Hempstead R.D.C. had put forward their scheme, nothing was known about Watford R.D.C.'s plan.

Cllr. Tyler said that despite the advent of Watford R.D.C.'s scheme later correspondence still gave the impression that main drainage would be provided by Hemel Hempstead.

The Chairman assured Cllr. Tyler that he would discuss the matter with Watford R.D.C.'s Engineer and Surveyor, and find out what the position was.

Members also expressed concern at Watford R.D.C.'s proposal to postpone modernisation of pre-war Sarratt council houses pending the provision of main drainage to the village.

They were told that the council had recently carried out modernisation to one house, but the lack of main drainage presented problems as far as the comprehensive modernisation of further houses was concerned. The programme was costing £850 for each house, and £450 for smaller houses.

The meeting agreed to tell the R.D.C. that in their view modernisation should not be postponed, and that certain works could well be carried out before the arrival of main drainage.

The R.D.C. had also stated that modernisation work would be carried out as and when houses became vacant, but members agreed that in the case of elderly tenants, death was the only factor likely to result in houses becoming vacant, which made the prospect of modernisation dismal.

Sarratt Baptists Celebrate

ONE HUNDRED and eighteen years of worship by the Baptist denomination at Sarratt was celebrated last week-end with special services at the Baptist Church on the Green on both Saturday and Sunday.

At the service on Saturday evening, which like those on Sunday, attracted a large congregation, the singing was led by Christ Church, Kings Langley, Baptist choir, with Mrs. Betty Swabey as the soprano soloist. Mrs. Swabey, with Mrs. Nora Hoar at the organ, sang Liddle's well-known setting of "How lovely are Thy dwellings," and the choir sang two anthems, "Fight the good fight" and "He shall keep them in perfect peace."

The service on Saturday was conducted by Mr. R. A. Anderson, the Sarratt Baptist Pastor, and the address was given by Kings Langley Baptist Minister, the Rev. E. Bryn Little. Taking his text from Acts II, "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved," the Rev. Bryn Little said that one of the attractions of the early Christian Church which drew people into it must have been the story of the Gospel which they had to tell. "God is still in the church whether large or small, where the Gospel story is told," said the Rev. Bryn Little. "It is the duty of all Christians to tell their story and share their experience," he continued. "The testimony meeting now is the work bench, the office desk and the home."

The services on Sunday were conducted by Mr. R. F. French, of Beaconsfield, who also spoke of the duties of church members during the evening service. The soloist on Sunday was Miss Valerie Anderson, soprano, who sang "Consecration" (Jude) and "Come to Me," by Eric Hutchings. She was accompanied at the piano by her father, Mr. R. A. Anderson. The organists at the anniversary services were: On Saturday, Mrs. Nora Hoar; on Sunday morning, Mr. W. Wingfield, and on Sunday evening, Mrs. I. Baldwin.

After Saturday's service the Kings Langley Baptists were entertained to tea, arranged by the ladies of the Sarratt Baptist group.

A TASK FOR THE (PH)EW



rratt Schoolmaster Mr. K. Green takes a breather while Mr. M. Smith does a spot of muck raking in the village nd. In the background are Mr. Jack Wood, Mr. Bob Clack and Mr. Ron Higgs. It is all part of Sarratt's effort for the "Best Kept Village" competition.

"LATE NIGHT BRIGADE" BLAMED FOR LITTER

Commonwood Common Is "Most Disgusting"

SARRATT Parish Councillors who went to inspect Commonwood Common after complaints about litter got a sharp shock, according to the reports given at Monday's meeting. "It was the most disgusting thing I have seen in all my life," said Cllr. R. E. Cox. "In one alcove alone we counted 80 bottles."

Said Cllr. C. A. Swann: "No-one would want to take their wives and children there." The Council agreed that most of the blame lay with what Cllr. T. Clutterbuck called "the late night brigade."

Cllr. Swann said that at the apex of the green, vehicles turning from one road into the other had worn away about 20 feet of the grass. The Council agreed to ask for high kerbstones to prevent further encroachment.

In clearings where it was possible to drive cars off the road down the left hand side of the common there were empty bottles and tins, and other relics of beer parties, added Cllr. Swann. There were also heavy lorry tracks.

The Council agreeed to ask for suitable waste material to be tipped at the entrances to these clearings. It would then be grassed over to provide a permanent barrier to vehicles.

Cllr. Cox said that the inspection party had seen picnickers enjoying the open area at the top of the common. Here, and where it was impossible to drive cars, there was no litter at all.

It was agreed that the top of the common was satisfactory apart from the existing litter bins being too small. The Council will ask for these to be duplicated, as they are the largest in use at present, and will investigate the possibility of installing the large circular concrete type of bin.

The Clerk, Mr. S. B. Harrold, also read a letter from a resident complaining about the present state of the common. It suggested that an ex-serviceman or other person might be found to supervise the common for a small weekly wage.

Staff Shortage Blamed

THE acute shortage of staff in Watford Rural District Council's engineer's department is probably responsible for the slow progress on modernisation of old council houses at Sarratt, Cllr. R. O. Walchli told Monday's Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman, Cllr. R. Wood, said that when main drainage was provided quicker progress might be made. He understood that at the moment modernisation was taking place as and when houses became vacant.

Cllr. James Smith said that if he were a tenant he would be prepared to put up with some inconvenience to get his house modernised. Cllr. F. Tyler said some tenants were not happy about losing some of the existing space in their houses.

A "FAIR" COMMENT

Sarratt Parish Council agreed at Monday's meeting to send a letter to the operator of the May Day fair thanking him and his showmen for their co-operation this year. Cllr. J. A. Wood said that the fair people had gone to great pains to leave the green in a tidy state this year.

CLLR. WOOD IS NEW CHAIRMAN

CLLR. Reg Wood was elected Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council at Monday's annual meeting. The retiring Chairman, Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, takes over from Cllr. Wood as Vice-Chairman. All committee representatives were re-elected en bloc.

Cllr. Clutterbuck told the Council when he handed over the chair: "If Cllr. Wood receives the co-operation which you have given me, I am quite sure his term of office will be both fruitful and pleasant."

Cllr. Clutterbuck said he was taking the Vice-Chairmanship "because there are certain hangovers from my term of office, and therefore I agreed to carry on and help my successor with them."

FINANCES HEALTHY AT SARRATT CHURCH

Rector Attends First Parochial Meeting

A SUBSTANTIAL increase in freewill offerings at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, over the past twelve months has helped considerably in putting the Church accounts on a healthy basis, which should allow for a "reasonable margin" of income over expenditure, it was stated at the Parochial Church Meeting held in Sarratt Village Hall last Thursday evening.

The welcome news for Sarratt church people was given in the Treasurers' reports by Mr. P. Hamblyn and Mr. J. Rogers. Reference was also made by the treasurers to the help received from the annual Church Bazaar, which last year, recorded a highest-ever profit to be handed over to Church accounts.

Speaking for the first time at the village Parochial Church meeting, the new Rector, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, M.A., who has ben in Sarratt barely three months, said that both he and his wife were settling down and getting to know people. He applauded the good work maintained faithfully in the Church during the period of the inter-regnum.

In his Church Warden's report, Mr. S. B. Harrold, the Rector's Warden, said the fabric of the Church was in good order and an architect's survey undertaken recently had not yet been implemented as there were no items on it requiring urgent attention. In the forthcoming year it was hoped to study this survey in detail, and see what work could most usefully be done.

EASTER PILGRIMAGE

Reports on Church activities were also given at the meeting by the Mothers' Union and the bellringers. Other points from the meeting included the news that eight church youth members attended the St. Albans Pilgrimage on Easter Monday, accompanied by the Rev. Tomlinson. There are 189 members on the new electoral roll for Holy Cross, and church attendance has been well maintained.

The number of Easter communicants compared favourably with that of a year ago, and the register of children at the Family Communion services remains particularly good.

The new Parochial Church Council for Holy Cross was elected as follows: Diocesan Conference Representative, Mr. P. Hamblyn; Rural Deanal Representatives, Miss Maragaret Clutterbuck, Mr. C. H. Duke, Mr. K. Green, Mr. T. Clutterbuck; elected lay members, Mrs. L. Miles, Mrs. N. Hay, Mrs. I. Green, Mrs. E. Salisbury, Mrs. M. Baxter, Miss J. Chilton, Mrs. Jan Clutterbuck, Mr. J. W. Smith, Mr. C. Marshall, Mr. K. Green; Chairman, the Rector, the Rev. Tomlinson.

At a vestry meeting immediately preceding the Parochial meeting, Mr. P. D. Saunders was unanimously elected People's Warden, and Mr. S. B. Harrold, Rector's Warden.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE PLAN

THE winner's scroll, given to Sarratt parish for gaining first place in the West Herts section of this year's "Best Kept Village" Competition, will shortly be on view to the public on the Council's notice-board, together with a copy of the marking sheet used by the judges.

Sarratt Parish Council were wholeheartedly in favour of this step to give publicity to the recent village success when the subject of the competition award came up for discussion at the Council meeting in the Village Hall on Monday.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks and congratulation should be sent to the Chairman of the village Organising Committee, Mr. K. Green, expressing the Council's warm appreciation for the work put in by many local helpers, making success possible at the first attempt.

Plans for the village participation in future "Best Kept Village" Competitions, for which the Council are in favour of maintaining a permanent, independant Village Committee, as at present constituted, will probably come up for discussion later in the year, following the meeting of the competition Area Committee at Hemel Hempstead.



Business was brisk at Sarratt Village Hall Spring bazaar on Saturday. These were the prizes in the competitions run by the Clinic, Red Cross and British Legion. Buying her tickets in the background is Lady Poole.—C7416H.

WELCOME SURPRISE AT SARRATT SPORTS

SARRATT Church of England Primary School's annual sports ended with an unexpected and welcome surprise last week when the Chairman, Mr. R. Ogden, handed over a cheque for £75 to the Headmaster, Mr. K. Green, on behalf of the Parents' Association. He also announced that a profit of £90 had been made at the school's recent centenary celebrations.

Thanking Mr. Ogden, the headmaster said that the £75 would be put towards the cost of a sound film projector for the school.

The Parents' Association also gave generous assistance in providing over £14 worth of prizes for the sports.

A large gathering of parents watched the races and competitions, and the afternoon ended with races for the fathers and mothers and a display of country dancing by the children, whose efforts were rewarded with ice-creams supplied by Mr. J. Wood.

The prizes were presented by Miss Kathleen Steuart, the special Barnes' Cups for pupils in their last year at the school being won by Pat Pritchard and Colin Lumley.

RESULTS

Boys

50 yards flat: 5 years, 1 C. J. Tomlinson, 2 S. Vasey; 6 years, 1 C. Wilson, 2 A. Biggerstaff; 7 and 8 years, 1 B. Baker, 2 A. Brockwell. 75 yards flat: 9 years, 1 J. Lane, 2 K. Baker. Sack race: 5 and 6 years, 1 A. Biggerstaff, 2 T. Brownsell. Novelty race: 5 and 6 years, 1 M. Singleton, 2 C. Wilson.

Three-legged race: classes 1 and 2, 1 D. Vasey and A. Sharland, 2 J. Mosedale and C. Lumley. Novelty race: 7 and 8 years, 1 A. Brockwell, 2 P. Gregory. 75 yards flat: 10 years, 1 M. Kempster, 2 R. Davis.

Sack race: 7 and 8 years, 1 D. Batchelor, 2 A. Brockwell. 75 yards flat: 11 years, 1 C. Lumley, 2 J. Goodman. Sack and obstacle race: Class 2, 1 M. Wilson, 2 M. Kempster.

Relay race: Classes 1 and 2, 1 C. Lumley, J. Mosedale, J. Lane and D. Saunders. Sack and obstacle race: Class 1, 1 D. Vasey, 2 A. Sharland. Wheelbarrow race: Class 1, 1 C. Lumley and J. Mosedale, 2 D. Lane and M. Holloway; Class 2, 1 M. Kempster and M. Wilson, 2 S. Jason and R. Saunders. Football dribbling: Classes 1 and 2, R. Davis, J. Wood, M. Kempster and M. Wilson.

Girls

50 yards flat: 5 years, 1 M. Ostle, 2 P. Tillott; 6 years, 1 E. Southern, 2 H. Johnson; 7 years, 1 V. Church, 2 C. Southern. Egg and spoon: Class 2, 1 M. Hudd, 2 J. Taylor; Class 1, 1 P. Pritchard, 2 M. Simmonds. 60 yards flat: 8 years, 1 S. Plessner, 2 J. Collins. Skipping: 5 and 6 years, 1 Sally Ann Biggerstaff, 2 A. Baldwin; 9 years, 1 L. Baldwin, 2 R. Singleton.

Novelty race: 5 and 6 years, 1 P. Tillott, 2 J. Wood. Three-legged race: Classes 1 and 2, 1 T. Crocker and M. Hudd, 2 P. Pritchard and F. Dawkins. Novelty race: 7 and 8 years, 1 J. Collins, 2 S. Smith. Skipping race: 7 years, 1 V. Church, 2 C. Southern; 10 and 11 years, 1 M. Hudd, 2 T. Crocker; 8 years, 1 S. Plessner, 2 S. Smith.

Bean bag race: Class 3, J. Collins, P. Gregory, K. Baker, M. Saunders, C. Saunders, V. Church. Relay: Classes 1 and 2, M. Hudd, P. Tomlinson, P. Rowe, P. Biggerstaff. Skipping and sack race: 9 years, 1 P. Rowe, 2 R. Singleton; 10 and 11 years, 1 T. Crocker, 2 P. Pritchard. Corner spry: Classes 1 and 2, S. Johnson T. Crocker, S. Ball, R. Singleton, P. Rowe.

Mothers' race: 1 Mrs. Tomlinson. Fathers' race: 1 Mr. Baldwin. Tots' race: 1 Trevor Church, 2 Nigel Singleton.

Council Will Prosecute

The Sarratt Parish Council, only last week, were faced with a host of empty beer cans and bottles in the Commonwood area—a charming spot—dumped by what they called the "late night brigade." They say that steps are to be taken to clear up the area and to prosecute where possible. A very good thing, I think, providing that the culprits can be brought to book.

The trouble is that to prosecute the Rural District Councils must have evidence of the actual dumping of litter; it must be witnessed and reported. Witnesses must also be prepared to give evidence if necessary, if convictions are to be expected.

Unfortunately there are few residents who are sufficiently public-spirited, to give the time or face the publicity of the local courts, which is a great pity.

£42 Raised For Cancer Fund

Sarratt, the village with a soft spot for good causes, upheld its reputation for generosity last Saturday when a further £42 was raised for the British Empire Cancer Campaign as the result of a dance and social evening in the Village Hall.

Organised by a committee of local ladies for the second successive year — last year's effort raised an initial £30—there were so many gifts donated for the draws and competitions that many of them had to be auctioned during the course of the evening, all the money helping to swell the final result.

"It was a tremendous success. I am very grateful to all those people who helped," Mrs. Rosemary Clack, the principal organiser, told the Langley Times after the cheque had been sent to the Cancer Fund, early this week.

Bouquets For The Council

THE cleaning-up of Commonwood Common is now well under way, it was reported at Monday's Sarratt Parish Council meeting.

Additional litter bins have now been provided for the open areas. Although they have brought about an improvement, the Council consider that larger bins are needed to cope with the amount of litter which collects on fine week-ends. Inquiries are to be made into larger types of bins.

The work of banking up the edges to prevent cars driving into the wooded areas is also under way, and kerbstones have been provided at the northern apex of the common to prevent further wearing away of the grass by turning vehicles.

Letters were read from residents commenting on the improved appearance and thanking the Council for its "prompt action" and "determined efforts" to prevent abuse.

CAR RALLY COMPLAINTS

Complaints have been received by Sarratt Parish Council of nuisance caused by car rallies on the village green.

At Monday's meeting councillors felt that this could become a serious problem if it remained unchecked, because others wanted to use the green in summer for quiet relaxation.

It was believed that the rallies in question were organised by clubs not affiliated or controlled by an official body.

The Council are to keep a close watch on the position.

TO MOVE WITHIN TWO YEARS

CARAVAN dwellers on the Silverlands site at Bucks Hill will have two years from now to find other accommodation before the site finally closes.

The order for closure has now been given by the Minister of Housing following a recent public inquiry held in the Town Hall, Watford.

The Minister's decision was announced by Cllr. T. Clutterbuck, Vice-Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, at the Council meeting on Monday. The long period of grace has been given to allow those now on the site to get alternative accommodation, explained Cllr. Clutterbuck.

OUT OF KEEPING

Sarratt Parish Council are reluctant to install any more kerbstones around the village green as a deterrent to "continuous" (overnight) parking of motor vehicles. The kerbstones, they consider, are out of keeping with the character of the green.

At the Council meeting on Monday it was agreed to erect a notice appealing to motorists to help retain the local beauty spot by preserving the green edges from unnecessary damage.

SARRATT'S SPRING BAZAAR—A RECORD

£155 Raised For Village Hall Building Fund

SARRATT was far from being the warmest place one could have been in at the week-end but nevertheless, the "thermometer" outside the Village Hall recording the progress of the building fund, was sent soaring to the extent of £155 as a result of Saturday's annual spring bazaar, the sixth which the Management Committee has promoted.

Despite the fact that the bazaar was held three weeks later this year, the organisers' hopes of securing weather more in keeping with the title were again dashed. But there was no despondency as far as the outcome was concerned, since the profit was a record, beating last year's figure by £31, and brings the rebuilding of the front part of the hall one step nearer reality.

Once again the bazaar closely followed the same successful pattern of previous years, with each village organisation responsible for stocking and managing its allocated stall.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The gay bunting fluttering in the stiff breeze outside left passers-by in no doubt that something meriting closer attention was taking place, a bazaar which could meet the claim of offering something of interest to suit all tastes and pockets. A great deal of care and thought had obviously gone into the preparation and lay-out of the bazaar, the garden stall providing a colourful centre-piece.

For the more energetic, popular sideshows on the lawn added a sporting touch, while in the front hall teas, including a wide variety of savouries and cakes, were on sale.

Following the usual custom there was no opening ceremony and business got under way without delay.

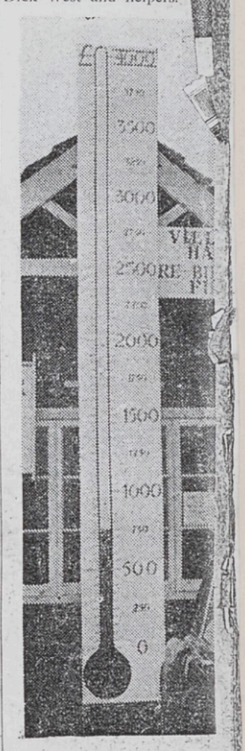
Mention must be made of one individual who made her own contribution—young Pauline Biggerstaff, who provided rides for children round the dell on Snowy, the pony.

The bazaar has obviously lost none of its appeal, for support was readily forthcoming from all quarters and at the end of the afternoon very little was left.

MORE THAN £750 RAISED

With Saturday's proceeds included, the village has now raised in excess of £750 towards the improvements, reports Treasurer Mr. R. C. Dawkins. This means that provided the Committee is successful in securing grants for about half the total cost of the work, which is in the region of £4,000, the village has raised more than a third of its own share.

The stallholders were: Garden stall, Holy Cross Church; cakes and sweets, Women's Institute; produce, Young Farmers' Club; white elephant, Village Hall Committee; mystery parcels, Baptist Church; Take your pick, Parents' Association; competitions, Clinic and helpers; button competition, Girl Guides; refreshments, Mothers' Union; darts, Scouts; bowling at the stump, Cricket Club; skittles, Mr. Percy Saunders and helpers; tombola, Dick West and helpers.



Sarratt's Village Hall Rebuilding Fund "thermometer" reached the £750 mark as a result of Saturday's record spring bazaar.

Sarratt W.I. Entertain Old Folk

IT was a matter of greeting old friends when elderly housebound men and women from the Westminster Old People's Welfare Association came to Sarratt on Thursday of last week to be entertained once again by the Sarratt Women's Institute.

The visitors arrived at 1 p.m. for a cold luncheon in the Village Hall, followed by a coach tour of the neighbourhood, for which they were joined by a coach party of elderly Sarratt residents.

Upon their return to the Village Hall tea was served, followed by competitions for which everyone eventually received a prize, and by bingo and community singing.

When they left each guest received a bouquet of garden flowers, and a bunch of watercress, the latter kindly presented by Mr. Frank Tyler.

The Committee of W.I. members who organised the party consisted of Mesdames Heck, Clack, Elbourne, Mason, Edna Smith, Petts, Thomas, Tyler, Walchli and Batchelor.

DAWES-LANE PETITION

A PETITION signed by 34 residents of Dawes-lane, Sarratt, protesting at the untidy condition of land at the rear of the Co-operative store was presented to the Parish Council at Monday's meeting. It was decided to pass on the complaint to the Committee of the Croxley Co-operative Society and refer it to Watford R.D.C. later if necessary.

In addition to the untidy state of the land the residents complained of the dangerous condition of a fence and of the unpleasant smell from chickens and hens.

The clerk, Mr. S. B. Harrold, said that the matter had already been raised when preparations for the Best Kept Village Competition had been in progress. He had contacted the store manager, who was not prepared to tidy the land himself. The District Manager had alleged that deliberate damage had been done to the fence to form a ground for complaint.

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Head boy John Mosedale, accompanied by head girl Felicity Dawkins receiving the scroll from the Archdeacon of St. Albans, The Venerable Charles Cockbill, at the Sarratt School Centenary on Saturday. Also in the picture are Headmaster, Mr. K. Green, and the Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. A. J. Tomlinson.



Sarratt youngsters in colourful and imaginative fancy dress organised as part of the Sarratt Village School centenary celebrations held over the week-end. (Report and further pictures, Page 6).



"I see no ships," says four-years-old Trevor Church as Lord Nelson, neither could one turn a blind eye to his sister, charming seven-years-old Valerie, who made a regal figure as Queen Elizabeth at the Sarratt School Centenary.

SARRATT SCHOOL'S CENTENARY

SCHOOLDAY memories for several hundred Sarratt residents came to life again last week-end when the village turned out in force to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the village school with a series of events, which included an exhibition in the school buildings, a centenary fete on Saturday afternoon, a dance in the Village Hall on Saturday evening, and a commemorative service in the Parish Church on Sunday morning.

Close on 400 people—many more than had been expected—packed into the schoolrooms on Friday and Saturday evening, to examine the unique display of photographs and mementoes recalling personalities and events connected with the school over most of its long, hundred years history.

FASCINATING

Specially fascinating for the visitors was the monumental scrap-book, begun by a former Rector, the Rev. Edward Riley, recording village events through many decades, continuing until 1945, which was on view to the public, probably for the first time. The present Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, gave a brief outline of the school history to the visitors on Friday evening.

Saturday's Fete, organised by the school Parents Association, was a colourful event which began with the arrival of the oldest ex-pupil, Mr. W. T. Wingfield aged 86, leading a decorated cart containing the school's youngest pupil, 5 years old Mary Anne Pratt.

THE SCROLL

A fancy-dress parade for the children, sports, country dancing, and a series of tableaux featuring "Sarratt School through the ages" led up to a climax when the Archdeacon of St. Albans, the Venerable C. E. Cockbill, presented the National Society scroll, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the school, commemorating the centenary.

The scroll was received by the head boy and head girl, John Mosedale and Felicity Dawkins. The County Education Authority was represented at the presentation by Mr. K. S. Spreadbury. The school headmaster, Mr. K. Green, was also among the speakers.

Before the presentation, the Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. Tomlinson, touched on some of the points of history of the school. He said that after the founding on May 23, 1862, there was "an absolute blank" in written records for 30 years, and he appealed for personal anecdotes which might still exist of this period. He spoke of the long period of stability under the Rev. Edward and the Rev. G. N. Riley who between them accounted for nearly 90 years of Sarratt history.

THE HEADMASTERS

Among the headmasters he recalled Mr. C. H. Odams (1900 to 1923), Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Simpson (1923 to 1951), Mr. Burchell, and Mr. K. Green who came in 1955 and was the present Head. Both Mr. and Mrs. Simpson were at Sarratt for part of the week-end and Mr. and Mrs. Odams were represented by their two sons.

The Rector explained that the idea of the school had grown from the Parish Church Sunday School of 120 years ago, and it had been a Church school from the beginning. "Since 1945 the status has changed to a 'controlled school'" said the Rev. Tomlinson, "but it is still a Church School."

The Sarratt Parents Association, who contribute to various school activities, have plans to provide a sound-projector for school use. Part of Saturday's profits are expected to be used for this fund.

STALLHOLDERS

Fete stallholders: Sweets, Mr. and Mrs. Nayler; hoopla, Mrs. Pritchard; mystery parcels, Mrs. Wilson; toys "The Secret Seven" (children's group); white elephant, Mrs. Batchelor, Mrs. Crocker, Mrs. Joan Lane; tin shy, Mr. Cox; skittles, Mr. Wilson; darts, Mr. Baldwin; fortunes, Mrs. Wilson; pic-a-straw, Mr. and Mrs. W. Sharp; model railway, Mr. Marks; donkey rides, Mr. C. Biggerstaff.

PLAYING FIELD OR VILLAGE HALL?

Langley Times — Sat. Nov. 17th '62

Where Should Lion's Share Of Grant Go?

THE children's corner in the King George V Playing Field at Sarratt is "a disgrace and a danger," said Cllr. Frank Tyler at Monday's Parish Council meeting. "Despite some hard work by the Cricket Club the field as a whole is in as bad a condition as it was many years ago," he added.

The council were considering how to divide Watford R.D.C.'s £300 grant for disbursement to the Village Hall Management Committee and the King George V Playing Field Committee, and decided to defer the matter until the next meeting after councillors had aired their views.

He said that it would be better to defer this matter until Cllr. Cox, Chairman of the Playing Field Committee, was present.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr. Tyler said that last year he moved that the Playing Field Committee should receive the larger share. This year he considered that the position should be reversed. "Unless the Playing Field Committee do something as a whole to improve the state of the field and the children's corner, I think that the major proportion should go to the Village Hall where there is modernisation in hand and where it will receive more appreciation," he said.

Asked Cllr. R. Walchli: "Can we hear how much the Playing Fields Committee have done with the money already accrued?"

Cllr. Jack Wood said that as far as he knew their only meeting this year had been the annual general meeting. The Chairman, Cllr. Reg Wood, said that no meeting had been called since then.

Cllr. Thomas Clutterbuck said that regardless of what had been said about the playing field he considered that the Village Hall deserved the bigger share because of its bigger plans.



Entering their car after their marriage at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Saturday, are Mr. Patrick Graham-Brown, of London, and his bride, the former Miss Philippa Hay, third daughter of Mrs. M. M. Hay, of Little Sarratt Hall.
Photo by Theodore Greville Studios, Watford.

200 GUESTS ATTEND SARRATT WEDDING

L. Times 2-11-62

Bride Given In Marriage By 15-years-old Brother

MISS Philippa Hay, third daughter of Mrs. M. M. Hay, of Little Sarratt Hall, and granddaughter of the late Lady Stabb, was a bride at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Saturday. She was married to Mr. Patrick Graham-Brown, only son of Mrs. M. Graham-Brown, of London.

Philippa, a State Registered nurse, who trained at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, was given in marriage by her brother, 15-years-old Andrew Hay, and wore a full-length white corded silk gown with a short train. Her headdress was a tulle veil with a single rose, and she carried a bouquet of stephanotis, lilies of the valley, gardenias and white roses.

Her pearl necklace was a gift from her mother.

She was attended by three child bridesmaids, Heather and Angela Newill, daughters of Dr. and Mrs. R. Newill, of Penmans End, Chipperfield, and her cousin, Harriet Highton. All wore full-length dresses of broderie anglaise with pink velvet sashes, and coronets of white flowers. They carried baskets of mixed flowers.

The bride's mother wore a matching mistletoe green dress and jacket with a velvet and net hat.

A friend of the bridegroom, Dr. Donald Duff-Miller, was the best man, and the ushers were Messrs. Daniel Corbett, David Phillips, Richard Mallinson and Stanley Alderman.

The Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. Arthur Tomlinson, officiated, and the service included the hymns "Praise My Soul," and "Love Divine," and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March."

The tiny church was filled to capacity for the service, and well over 200 guests attended the reception, which was held in a marquee in the grounds of the bride's home.

For going away she wore a red coat with fur collar and a fur hat. The honeymoon is being spent touring Spain.

SARRATT MUST RAISE £2,000 FOR VILLAGE HALL

L Times 17-11-62

Committee Chairman Calls For Full Support

MORE than £2,000 will have to be raised locally if the rebuilding scheme for the front section of Sarratt Village Hall is to go ahead, the Chairman, Mr. James Smith, told last week's annual meeting of the Management Committee. "If we are to succeed we must have the full support of the whole village," he said.

Plans for the rebuilding, which have been approved by Watford R.D.C., were on show at the well-attended meeting.

Mr. Smith said that the National Council of Social Service, who had already given great help, might give a grant of one-third of the total cost. There was a possibility of obtaining a further grant of about 15 per cent from the local education authorities.

ONLY MEETING PLACE

"Before giving a grant the National Council of Social Service would like to feel that the whole village is behind this project," he continued. "I can't really imagine that the village would not want it because the hall is its only meeting place."

A special sub-committee would be needed to co-ordinate the local effort. He hoped that village organisations would promote functions in aid of the building fund in addition to their own fund-raising activities and the sub-committee would prevent a clash of dates and ideas.

Mr. Smith concluded his remarks by thanking his fellow officers, the committee, and the caretaker for their help in running the hall over the past year.

Vice-Chairman Mr. C. C. Petts explained the rebuilding scheme in detail. It had been prompted by the fact that the present toilet facilities at the rear of he stage were inadequate, he said. The new section would contain toilet facilities, a kitchen twice the size, a slightly larger front hall, more storage space and an improved facade. At some future date a completely new hall could be built onto the front section. The designers had tried to phase the scheme in view of the fact that it might not be possible to find funds for the whole project.

WIDER STAGE

With the removal of the old toilets the stage could be widened across the full width of the present main hall and dressing rooms, reached by a covered way, prvided at the rear. It would be possible to continue letting the main hall while the rebuilding was in progress.

The Treasurer, Mr. R. Dawkins, said that the balance in the Reserve Account, £267, would form the basis of the building fund. Income from bookings, in the year ended September 30, was £341 (£353 last year) and expenses £343 (£293). The main factor in the rise in expenses was the cost of fuel, which had doubled to £68 because of the cold winter.

The cost of repairing the fire damage £126, had been claimed from the insurance company. A further £54 repaid at the meeting brings the loan repayment on the purchase of the hall from Watford Rural District Council to £315.

Elected to the Management Committee, who appoint their own officers, were Mr. James Smith (Chairman), Mr. C. C. Petts (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. A. M. Thomas (Secretary), Mr. R. Dawkins (Treasurer), and Messrs. R. West, K. Green, Roy Ward and Reg Wood. Each village organisation also appoints a representative on the committee.

1963

MEMORIAL FUND

The Rev. Gilbert Noel Ryley and Dr. Redfern Doyle

Dear Friends,

It is a matter for some regret and concern that no lasting tribute has yet been made by the Village in general to the memory of two well-loved and respected men who lived and moved amongst us for so many years.

All who knew them will remember with affection, the late Rev. Gilbert Ryley and Dr. Redfern Doyle and the great work they did in the Parish and the Sponsors of the above Fund are certain that it is not too late to make an appeal to you for a donation for a fitting Memorial.

It is suggested that the provision of public seats on our Village Green would be a lasting and very apt reminder of the great help given by both these men to the sick, the aged, the infirm and the needy in the Parish.

The Sponsors consider it also fitting that the names of these two men should be linked in one Memorial Fund and every contribution to the Fund, however little, will be welcome so that all who wish can participate. This should be a tribute from the whole of the Village which knew and owed so much to them so please do not hesitate if your contribution can only be small. It will be as much a token of your regard as all contributions will be, however large or small.

Donations can be sent or handed to any one of the undersigned or put into the envelope provided with this leaflet which will be called for before the closing date of the Fund. Cheques should be made payable to "The Ryley and Doyle Memorial Fund."

Should the Fund be oversubscribed for the provision of suitable seats, the balance will be sent to a deserving Charity, decided upon by the Sponsors, in the name of the Fund.

It will be appreciated that it will not be possible for donations to be individually acknowledged but a list of the names of all subscribers will be posted up in suitable public places together with the total of the amount subscribed.

The Sponsors are indebted to the Parish Council for its co-operation in regard to permission for siting the seats on the Green.

THE FUND WILL CLOSE ON THURSDAY, 28th FEB. 1963.

S. B. HARROLD
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INGRID CHARNOCK	MICHAEL SAUNDERS	SUSAN WALCHLI
PENELOPE HUNTAM	SUSAN BROWN	HILARY WILSON

on their confirmation on January 20th, and we welcome them into communicant membership of the Church in Sarratt.

JAN. 20th 1963.

Confirmations At Sarratt

Undaunted by bitter weather, 13 young candidates, with a large congregation of parents and friends, made their way from many parts of the district to Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, last Sunday evening, where at a special service the Bishop of St. Albans, the Right Rev. Gresford Jones, assisted by the Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, together performed the age-old ordinance of Confirmation, the solemn, time-honoured ceremony for admitting young people to full membership of the Church of England.

POLICE HOUSE FOR SARRATT

A new police house, office and garage on land at Holly Tree Farm, Sarratt Green, has been approved by Watford Rural District Council's Planning Committee under the building by-laws. 1963

1963

NEW GARAGE APPROVED

Mr. George Biggerstaff has been granted planning permission by Watford Rural District Council to erect a new garage and workshop in place of the existing buildings at his premises at Green End, Sarratt.

New Drama Group

A NEW amateur drama group for Sarratt, with the intriguing title, "The Greenwood Players," has been formed, I understand, during the past fortnight with a nucleus of ten enthusiastic members living in the village.

A tentative programme for early Autumn production has already been pencilled in, and when the news gets around, it is hoped that more would-be drama enthusiasts will be encouraged to team up, either as players or backroom assistants in charge of scenery, property, make-up and lighting.

The new group are fortunate in having as producer Watford's "Little Theatre" movement property mistress, Mrs. Henniker, who will be remembered for her work on the Watford Group's production of "Othello" last year. Mrs. Henniker told me earlier this week that it is hoped to produce "Murder Mistaken" on October 4 and 5 this year. "But," she added, "we are just one part short at the moment."

Profits from the first production will go towards the rebuilding fund for Sarratt's popular Village Hall, where the play will be performed.

Good luck to the group and long may they flourish.

1963

CALLING ALL ACTORS, ACTRESSES - AND OTHERS

In response to the interest in the village a DRAMA GROUP has been formed, which will be known as the GREENWOOD PLAYERS. It is planned to produce a three-act play in late September or early October of this year, part of the proceeds of which will be donated to the Village Hall Rebuilding Fund.

As we are a new society, we are urgently in need of more support, particularly from male members of the community - not only for acting but also for back stage activities; lighting and sound effects, set building, stage manager, etc.

Would anyone who is interested please contact one of the following members:- Mrs. Sheila Henniker, Faygate, Dimmocks Lane. (Tel: 3825), Mrs. E. Smith, Rushworth, Church Lane.
Mrs. P. Rowe, Crossrigs, Dimmocks Lane.
Mrs. Wilbee, Sarratt House, The Green.
Mrs. W. Sharpe, 1 Dell Cottages, The Green.

SARRATT—A PRECIOUS PLOT OF OLD ENGLAND



A bus moves on to busier parts; a horse canters by. Symbolic, perhaps, the immovable public house stands watch, the sentinel of the Green. It has seen change and doubtless will see more.

R. C. ELLIOTT IN THE VILLAGES OF HERTS

The designing loom of fate and the fortunes of war wove the picturesque tapestry which has determined the pattern of much of the rural scene today.

The village of Sarratt bears the unmistakable stamp of Anglo-Saxon design in the form it was when Offa, King of Mercia, granted the lands and manor into the fief of the Abbots of St. Albans some 1,200 years ago.

Only six miles north-west from the hurly-burly of Watford's mart and industry, and a few more from the ceaseless roar of traffic-laden M1, this hamlet remains remote, unspoiled, a precious plot of rustic England 400 ft. above the lush valley of the Chess, well-wooded and pastured.

The Civic Parish stretches wide over the rolling countryside to include Chandler's Cross, Buckshill, Commonwood and Micklefield Green, scattered farms and homesteads to muster some 3,000 inhabitants.

When the "Observer" published its first number in 1863 these were isolated communities with a total population of under 300, self-contained, almost self-supporting. The breadwinners worked on the land or at the Paper Mill on the Chess, their social centres the village inns and their excursions into the outside world an occasional long walk into Watford on Market day.

The two red-letter days of the year happened in May when the fairings took place down by the church. For two days the village was aswarm with showmen, booths and stalls, cheap-jack vendors and gypsies, exhibitions of bear and bull-baiting and cock-fighting. Way back in history it is from the latter that the **Cock Inn** standing opposite the church has its name.

Today the Fair is still a looked-for annual event, but is now held on the village green and under strict control.

Sarratt is vulnerable of approach by road and field track from almost every angle, train service to Chorleywood or Watford, 25 minutes bus run from Watford or by the family car. But if you would discover the real Sarratt and its attendant hamlets you will take the hardier way of walking; maybe through Chandler's Cross, Buckshill and Commonwood or along the valley of the Chess through Loudwater, Troutstream, Beechengrove Wood to Sarratt Mill. Quiet here flows the river where Izaak Walton came to seek his trout and "possess his soul with content."

A long climb up the hill and you will suddenly be aware of what looks like a Saxon Keep through the tracery of trees. Square, built of red brick and saddle-back roof, it stands a lone sentinel keeping watch and guard on the approaches, until you see the cruciform squat Church of the Holy Cross in its God's Acre. And then you will be looking on the tower that has stood here since before the Norman Conquest, one of the three saddle-backs left to us in this country.

Inside these old walls you will want to sit awhile, maybe dream or see visions of the past Abbots of St. Albans giving benediction, a feudal Knight keeping vigil before a crusade or a hunted fugitive seeking sanctuary. You will be aware of the past, as if herein has been distilled some of the spiritual essence of medieval England, and no modern artifice can ever rob these old stones of their eloquence of the ages.

Last of manor lords

Back into reality once more, and the rooks are giving querulous voice behind the Almshouses as we approach "Goldingtons" the home of Thomas Clutterbuck. The manorial rights were in the keeping of the Clutterbuck family for three generations, and it is only a few years ago that Thomas Clutterbuck handed over this title, honour and onus to the Parish Council of which he has been Chairman and is still an active member.



Thomas Clutterbuck, last of Sarratt's lords of the manor, surveys the pleasant acres over which his ancestors held sway. Of Sarratt today he says: It is a friendly, happy parish.

The Cock Inn was a Lancastrian cell during the Wars of the Roses, at the time being linked with Rosehall by a two-mile long underground passage.



The last of the manor lords may have forsworn his titles and rights, but a true squirely presence greeted us and made welcome with the innate courtesy of custom that made discussion and pertinent probing easy. "Sarratt today is a friendly, happy parish." But we had our reservations, for how does east meet west, the professional and business man on a high income mix happily with those born of the countryside?

They do, we have found, and it extends to more than a friendly toleration. To revive an old army term, "they muck-in together" yet keeping their separate entities.

If Thomas Clutterbuck has any secret regret at giving up the "Lairdship" he does not express it. He devotes the same time and energy to the local weal as before. In the early days of the "Observer" his forbears, according to manorial rights, collected the fines from owners of animals found straying on the common land and placed in the pound at the end of the village green by the constable.

But the pound is no more and the ex-lord is more concerned with the bringing-in of the main sewerage system which is so badly needed. The plan has passed certain stages and it is hoped that within the next two years Sarratt will be supplied. The cost of nearly a quarter of a million did not seem to daunt our squire.

Friendly

Retracing our steps to the **Cock Inn,** we receive a noble welcome in the warmth of low-ceilinged, black raftered snuggeries. A rustic setting, but no carter, ploughman or be-nighted travellers sit in inglenooks discussing pints of home-brewed.

Here might be the nineteenth hole of an exclusive golf club, the talk is of things men talk of in their clubs and the women of the choice things they delight in discussing.

Our pint looks amiss among the spirited concoctions, but as a stranger we are not excepted. In fact on Monday evenings one snug is attended by the bell-ringers, after practice at the church, with the Rector assuring us that a pint "is the thing." And so it should be from a hostelry that claims connection, historically and by underground passage, with Rosehall nearly two miles away, when these twin houses were Lancastrian cells in the Wars of the Roses, and when ale was the beverage of the soldier and the man.

Mr. Clutterbuck was right! It is a friendly village!

SOCIAL LIFE REMAINS

EVEN in this modern age it would not be correct to say that the social life has greatly altered in pattern over the last 100 years. The church, the village hall and the **Cock Inn** we have already visited. Along the green is the **Cricketers,** once a beerhouse and now fully licensed with a good table midday or evening, the **Boot** mellowed with age and repute which continues to serve with the same old English hospitality it did 300 years ago. The **Wheatsheaf** we regret to hear will soon be pulled down, but here again are centres of village life and communion, where east meets west in an evening drink and the townsman invades at weekends and holidays.

Agriculture lives on

The parish is still agricultural, but in these days of mechanisation one man can handle perhaps 50 or 70 acres whereas in the past it was 10 or 20, so that the farm worker is in a very small minority.

The main of those born and bred here, if not engaged in local services, are employed in nearby towns and industry, but perhaps the major population today are those professional and businessmen who commute to London or other centres, but prefer to enjoy all the amenities of a country life when daily work is ended.

Two different worlds maybe but they meet happily side by side, know and understand each other.

Medieval atmosphere

Travelling back to Watford, our mind still steeped in the medieval atmosphere of the Saxon period, we were not surprised to discover two Saxon serfs occupying 'bus seats. With low-cut fringe to the eyebrows, long tailing hair at the back giving them a menial cast of countenance, they might have stepped-out of a period painting. A snatch of conversation quickly shattered this pleasing illusion. The only Anglo-Saxon words that were being used are not for polite pages. But as the 'bus ambled along between high-arched hedges and the tender greens of wood, pasture and young corn, gay pheasants boldly strutting and a new generation of rabbits scuttling the hedgerows, we were happy to feel that the winds of change have scarcely touched this happy parish, leaving it for us to enjoy to live or visit here.

A VILLAGE WHICH IS SELF CONTAINED



THE part of Sarratt we have just left was the village centre a hundred years ago, and then the main-road traffic established itself through what has been left of the old common lands, now the village green and the pond, complete with houses along either side, the three old hostelries, **The Cricketers, The Boot** and **The Wheatsheaf,** and the shops. Butcher, baker, grocer, post office, general store and garage. Unlike some parishes, Sarratt is self-contained, although suppliers do send their vans out from Watford or Chorleywood.

At the south end of the green is the school and next door the Village Hall, at present in great need of expansion. Outside is a giant barometer indicating a target of £4,000. So far it has reached some £650, but we are assured that the total figure will be reached.

That the hall deserves a new and adequate housing I soon found out when I was welcomed into the temporary Rectory by the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson. He is new to the parish with only 12 months ministry, but the village have great hopes in him. His answer to our first question echoed that of everyone to whom I had already spoken.

"I find this a friendly village."

This is not coincidence, because I too found it friendly. In many parishes the village hall is nothing more than "has-been," but the Rector has other ideas. It now houses and supports the Women's Institute, Young Farmers Club, Parents Association, Horticultural Association, Red Cross, the Playing Fields, Scouts and Guides. What a galaxy of communal activities! And they are just waiting now to find a suitable leader for the youth club to make a real live village centre in the modern tempo, and not just an ancient, decaying monument to the past.

There is unquestionably a modern outlook here. Even the Parish Magazine is different. The "Sarratt Spotlight" for April with its front cover of Spring blossoms, with its eight-page typewritten facsimile inset beginning with the monthly letter from "Your Friend and Rector," to the programme of church and parish services and attractions, the local news and events both social and business.

This enterprise in parish journalism pays for its production by the support of local advertisers, once again confirming the impression that this is a self-contained parish.

Public service

Sarratt's own village shops can supply all the wants of even the most widely scattered homesteads and we heard no complaints of hardships suffered during the rigours of this year's arctic winter.

The underlying motif is a "help each other" spirit and kindly neighbours see to it that the old and housebound always have plentiful supplies.

The true English village would not be complete without the figure of the local constable, guardian and upholder of the law, maybe, but friend and adviser in addition. Sarratt Parish is happy in having had for the last 18 years Police-constable L. W. Scott. We found him off-duty at home, rubicund of face as befits a man who patrols a vast rural area by night and day in all weathers, well be-ribboned from the last war and shortly now to enjoy a retirement after 40 years service with the police.

His has been a happy service, for once again we hear the refrain that: "Sarratt is a friendly place!" There have been no major or capital crimes and the petty misdemeanours are mostly the irresponsibilities of hoodlums from the towns.

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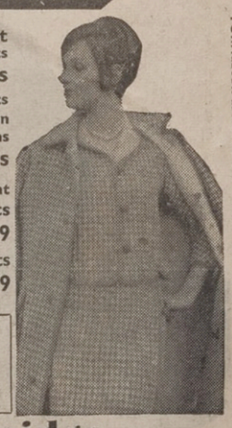

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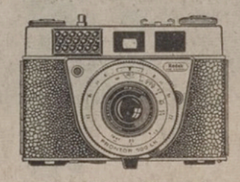

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1963

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'Scottie' of Sarratt . . .



SARRATT'S FAMILIAR FIGURE

IN picturesque Sarratt village these days they are saying that old policemen, like old soldiers, do not die; they only fade away. Reaching the end of the beat, after being part of the Sarratt scene for the past 18 years is Police-constable "Len" Scott—portly and genial, friend and counsellor of the villagers as an English village bobby should be.

"Scottie" is Hertfordshire's oldest serving policeman, with 40 years behind him. He thinks it is a national record too.

On Tuesday, when he retires, he could record in his diary—"Case closed. No further action contemplated."

He told the "Observer" this week that it is with mixed feelings that he approaches the end of the beat. Physically, despite the calendar, he is still a young man, surprisingly active for a man of his years and weight. He knows Sarratt, every nook and cranny of it, and the little region known as "Under-the-heavens" holds few secrets from him.

He is a great believer in the value of native knowledge. A bobby on foot or on a bike has closer contact with every-day events than the speed cop, whose only advantage is speed, he believes. He calls it "on the spot knowledge."

'I have murdered my wife . . .'

His first beat was in Watford, where he was taught the ropes, before going to Cole Green, Hertford, for a long stint of 15 years. There, he proudly recalls, he was often acting as security officer to members of the Royal Family on holiday at the local mansion.

The 40 years' pattern of service, he said, as he looked back down the years, had few highlights. The golden thread is the personal friendships which have resulted from his work among the villagers.

He mentioned casually the occasion at Watford in the early days when into King Street police station, now the Robert Peel public house, there walked a man who reported quite calmly that he had just murdered his wife.

Many a policeman would have dramatised that scene. But not "Scottie."

Such things did not excite him. Indeed the kind of thing which did excite him were football matches, and he was a keen and vociferous supporter of Watford F.C. for many years until he became a touchline fan of the Sarratt boys. Watford F.C. has never been much good since then, he claims.

1964

THE PARISH CHURCH HOLY CROSS
SARRATT

DEDICATION

of

THE ORGAN

to the beloved memory of

CHARLES JAMES GORDON SEDDON

by

The Rector

on

Saturday May 9th 1964
at 2.00 p.m.

The Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, M.A. Rector

Mr. John E. White, Organist and Choirmaster,
Parish Church St. Marys, Storrington
Sometime Organist and Choirmaster of Holy Cross, Sarratt

The Combined Choirs of
Holy Cross, Sarratt
and St. Mary's Storrington



Sarratt Young Tories' champion barrow-boys, Mike Greaves, Ron Higgs and Derek Cox, receive the trophy from constituency Chairman, Margaret Rosewell, after winning the race round the green for the second time. They beat 16 other teams from all over South West Herts.

SARRATT

A MOST enthralling account of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of W.I. held at the Albert Hall on June 2 and 3, with 6,000 members attending was recounted by Mrs. Mason, who had attended on the first day and Mrs. Batchelor on the second. Details of resolutions to H.M. Government stressed the urgency of routine smear tests for cervical cancer; deplored flooding of valuable agricultural land for reservoirs; contended that qualifications for jury service were outdated, and, finally, a most controversial one, urging restriction of smoking in public places! The total collected for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign amounted to £177,834, of which Hertfordshire members contributed £4,787.

Members were reminded of the Horticultural Show July meeting and an appeal for cakes, clothes, presents and flowers was made for the Old People's Party on June 25. A W.V.S. request asking for volunteers to visit elderly and lonely was made.

The meeting concluded with a very interesting description of W.I. activities in Mandeni, Zululand, given by Mrs. Orbin, mentioning the difficulties to be overcome in being dependent on their own resources and running a clinic and transfusion services plus a dried milk scheme for the Bantu with the nearest town 20 miles away.



The fairer sex was ably represented by this charming trio when teams of Young Tories from all parts of South West Herts met at Sarratt last week for another epic wheelbarrow race round the village green.

17 STARTERS FOR WHEELBARROW RACE

THREE fleet-footed "fairies" alleged to be Mike Greaves, Ron Higgs and Derek Cox pulled off a fantastic double at Sarratt last week when they upheld the sporting name of the local Young Tories by beating off all challengers to win the second epic race round the perimeter of the village green.

There was no deafening roar of supercharged engines as the comically-clad competitors jostled for position at the massed start outside the village hall—only the lusty roar of the crowds as last-minute adjustments were made to well-oiled wheelbarrows.

And after a brief silence while Sarratt Chairman Gillian Styles gave final instructions, 17 teams—six more than last year—put their best feet forward to tackle the mile-long course. The race, a popular addition to the Young Conservatives' social round, drew entries from almost all the branches in South West Herts.

INGENIOUS

It followed much the same lines as the last year's event, though even more ingenuity was displayed in the choice of costume and decoration of the barrows. There was even a streamlined effort with frontal fairing and twin chrome-plated exhausts.

But it was a tried and trusted common or garden model, slightly the worse for wear, which carried Sarratt's own champions to victory. Stamina at running was only part of the story for en route each team of three had to down foaming pints at the local hostelries to add power to their elbows. And anyone thinking he would get away with a smaller consumption through the closing of the "Wheatsheaf" was sadly mistaken. Pints were transported to the far end of the green to keep the number of "pit stops" up to last year's level.

What a fine sight it was as the "barrow boys"—and one charming female trio—struggled against the force of gravity to the "Boot" after taking on their first "fuel" at the "Cricketers." And lo and behold it was those three hairy fairies who were first to breast the brow of the hill on the homeward run.

INTO RETIREMENT

After romping home well clear of the pack they gave a solemn assurance that they had not been practising in the dead of night. "It's the way we drink the beer that does it" they said. And just to make sure that other branches don't give up hope the terrible trio announced their retirement. Besides, Ron Higgs is getting married today.

Among the large crowd which saw their final fling were Constituency Conservative Chairman Mr. Ken Baker and agent Mr. Frank Cogan.

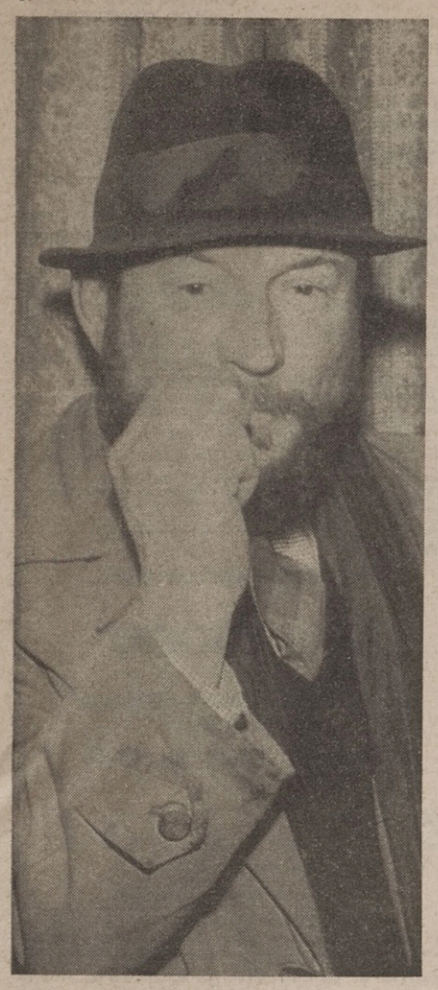
With the excitement over everyone adjourned to the village hall, where those with any energy left enjoyed themselves at a beat dance to the music of The Craxmen. At the dance the winners received their trophy—a shield with a barrel and a wheelbarrow on a field of true blue—from Constituency Young Conservatives' Chairman Miss Margaret Rosewell. The three also received packets of cigarettes.

At a pinch, these Belsize boys know their snuff!

BUT THEY NEVER TAKE IT WITH THEIR RIGHT HAND



● "Here, try a pinch of mine," says Joe Witek, as he offers his box to fellow snuff-takers Roger Livesey, Vincent Adams and George Biggerstaff.—JK14661.



● Polish-born Joe Witek came to England before the war, found the Plough — and decided to stay.

He's one of the regular snuff-taking clientele at the old Belsize inn.—JK14662.

They still observe age-old tradition

WHY does a snuff-taker always accept a proffered pinch with his left hand and never his right?

Because, if some dastardly villain makes a surprise attack, his right hand will then be free to draw his sword in self-defence (unless he happens to be naturally left-handed, of course). Well, ask a silly question . . .

Seriously, though, this is no joke. On the contrary, it's an age-old tradition associated with snuff-taking and one still religiously observed by connoisseurs of this specialised and highly personal art.

And where did I glean this fascinating titbit of information? Not, as you might suppose, from within the dignified cloisters of some exclusive club, peopled by white-haired old gentlemen . . . but from the homely, down-to-earth atmosphere of a country pub.

It's the Plough Inn, at Belsize—where the customers know their snuff, so to speak.

At most "locals" you'll find the regulars have their own pint pots in a permanent spot behind the bar and these are waiting, ready filled, almost before they step through the door. But at the Plough it's different . . .

Masterpieces

Here, the most interesting feature of this quaint old country inn is the splendid collection of snuff-boxes belonging to the regulars. The boxes are small, but intricate designs and various jewelled embellishments make them masterpieces of art in themselves.

There are silver ones and embossed ones —and one customer, Mr. Arthur Syndall, has a box that is coffin-shaped and used once to contain a miniature skeleton!

One thing all the snuff-boxes have in common, is that inside each one of them is a little bean, that looks like a dried gherkin, but it is in fact a Tonka bean, from Africa, which keeps the aroma of the snuff fresh, by keeping it moist.

The saloon bar of the pub is known to many as the Continental bar, because of the large number of foreign visitors it attracts. And many of the regular clientele come from far and wide, to be with their fellow snuff-takers.

Among the many faces to be seen at the bar is that of the well-known actor, Roger Livesey who, like most of the regular customers, is a knowledgeable snuff-taker.

Another local is 55-year-old Mark Smith, whose work at the Old Sarratt Fayre entitles him to his pint of beer, and his pinch of snuff.

The oldest of them all, is 81-year-old "Mac" McDiddles, who lives in Bushey, and comes to the Plough regularly for his "pinch." "Mac" remembers meeting the great Marie Lloyd, one day long ago in 1905.

Of the others who can be seen sitting around with beer glasses, and snuff boxes, there is Joe Witek, who is Polish, and who, after coming to this country before the war, and having found the Plough, has decided not to go back. There are also Vincent Adams, and 64-year-old George Biggerstaff, and many more who come to take their snuff.

Yet one more, who calls himself an "irregular" regular, is Bill Shaw, from Croxley Green. He used to live in Chipperfield, until about 15 months ago.

The younger set are also evident, notably in the form of Paul, of "Paul and his Disciples," who have recently appeared on "Ready-Steady-Go." Their record "Keep Clean My Grave" has already sold several thousand copies since its recent release.

The present landlord, "Bud" Gammon, and his wife Jo, have been there for nearly eight years, and are also well versed in their snuff expertise.

Says Jo, "I started taking snuff by accident, because one day, when I had a slight cold, I was offered a pinch of mentholated snuff, and since then, I have been taking it regularly, and have never really had a cold."

The building itself used at one time to be a farmhouse, and is well over 200 years old. In olden days, possibly going back as far as medieval times, it used to be one of the stopping places for the shepherds, with their flocks on their way to the livestock market in London, from Aylesbury.

A 'grassing-place'

It became known as a "grassing-place," for the sheep, and when, a 100 years back it became an Inn, it became more popular still.

The local hounds used to be kept in a small barn at the back, and the old copper plates that their food was served on, are still to be found.

In fact, there's a wealth of character and interest about this fine old inn—and its itchy-nosed patrons. Snuff said!

LIFE AT THE LOCAL

●

The Plough, Belsize

●

STORY: NEIL STEWART
PICTURES: JOHN KERR



● Landlord "Bud" Gowan lights a candle. Left burning on the bar, this gets rid of smoke in the room, he says. —JK14660.

1966



Actor and film star Roger Livesey, who presented the prizes at the Sarratt Horticultural Show on Saturday, pictured with the trophy winners. Left to right: Sir Reginald Hill, Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Clack and Mr. Maurice Parker.—L16478.

TARGET DOUBLED

WHEN four enterprising Sarratt housewives, Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. R. Clack and Mrs. L. Crocker, decided recently to try to raise a little money for the British Empire Cancer Campaign, they had in mind, as a guide, a target of something like £100.

To begin with, they invited donations from interested people in the neighbourhood and planned a number of competitions, hiring the Sarratt village hall last Saturday evening as a grand climax to their endeavours.

Now, with some money still to come in, the total amount raised has topped the £200 mark, twice the figure they originally hoped for, all of which will shortly be forwarded to the cancer fund.

Said Mrs. Reeves earlier this week: "We have all been really delighted to receive so many handsome donations from so many people."

An extremely worthy effort for an equally worthy cause, I feel, and deserving of the utmost praise.

1466



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Banting, formerly of Toms Lane, Kings Langley, have a word with Mr. C. Freeman at the Sarratt Horticultural Show on Saturday.



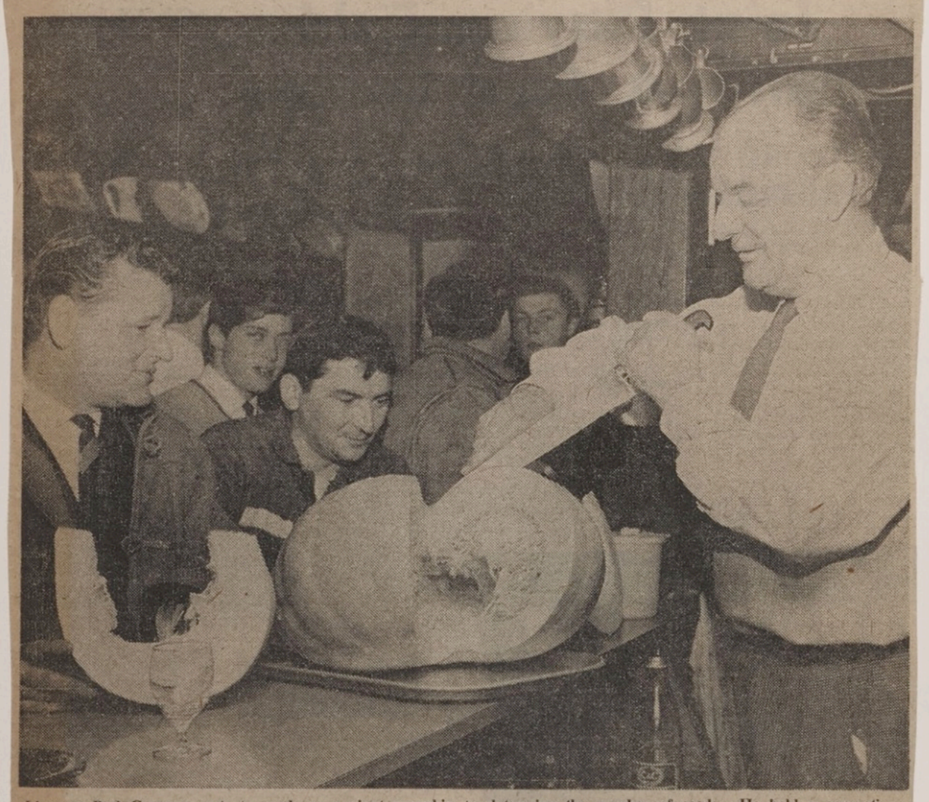
Tea among the blooms—the scene during the afternoon in Sarratt Village Hall, where the annual Autumn Show of the Sarratt Horticultural Society was held last Saturday afternoon.



Mrs. C. M. Barber wins the Clutterbuck Trophy—the championship award at the Sarratt Horticultural Show last Saturday. The presentation is being made by Sir Reginald Hill, CBKBE. The chairman of the Society, Mr. Alec Jenkinson, is also in the picture.



The gathering mist, the long-haired cattle, give a Highland flavour to our picture taken this week by "Times" photographer Martin Mayhow at Sarratt.—M19324/3.



Licensee Bud Gammon gets to work on a giant pumpkin to determine the number of seeds. He held a competition among his customers at "The Plough," Belsize, and raised over £17 for Sarratt's old folk.—P14263.

SARRATT'S GREEN AND NEW BY-LAWS

L. Times + Rec. 25-11-1965

Residents demand for public meeting

SIX local electors, led by village newsagent Mr. Keith Godman, have petitioned Sarratt Parish Council for an early parish meeting to discuss the council's reasons for introducing statutory by-laws covering the village green and commons. The petitioners say they believe the only reason for this action is "because one family will not conform to local traditions as to parking of vehicles on the village greens."

They add: "We feel this action of by-laws is unnecessary and will penalise—and indeed restrict — all known activities of village life, whereas pressure of village life would eventually control this one non-conformist and any other future offenders."

Instead of by-laws they suggest the formation of a committee of six parishioners and one councillor to promote and organise all social events on the greens, deal with maintenance, organise and operate car parking facilities for special events and be responsible for fund raising.

The draft by-laws have already been formally approved by the parish council and given preliminary approval by the Home Office.

Notice of the council's intention to seek confirmation of the by-laws was published on November 6, giving parishioners one calendar month to lodge objections with the Secretary of State, Home Office.

This week the petitioners were advised that at this stage requests for the by-laws to be postponed should be directed to the Secretary of State as the matter was now concluded at parish council level. Any representations would then be considered before the by-laws were confirmed or otherwise.

A letter from the council clerk, Mr. Arthur Ballard, written after consultation with the chairman, asked them to accept "that the by-laws have been made to give a general measure of control and not to penalise or restrict the proper use of the green by residents," and invited them to reconsider the request for a parish meeting.

The Chairman, Cllr. Norman Truscott, told the Langley Times on Tuesday: "We are not of course trying to stop them having a meeting, to which they have a right, but we felt it would be rather abortive at this stage and that we should tell them this before going ahead."

Mr. Godman, who received the letter on Wednesday, said the petitioners still wanted a meeting. A petition was in any case being circulated for submission to the Home Office.

Customers Got The Pip

CUSTOMERS at "The Plough," Belsize, literally got the pip on Monday evening last week—or rather 480 pips. But there were no complaints, for it was all part of an ingenious venture by licensee Bud Gammon and his regulars to raise some hard cash for the benefit of the old folk in Sarratt and district.

In previous years local nurseryman Vince Adams has given Mr. Gammon a Christmas tree as the prize for a draw. This year he returned from a trip to Norfolk with something rather different—a fine specimen of a pumpkin weighing no less than 34 lb.

It stood in all its glory on the counter in the public bar, where curious customers were invited to guess the number of pips inside at sixpence a time. Naturally Bud did a little bit of arm twisting—like extracting a 5s. "copyright fee" from the visitor who took a liking to one of his humorous notices.

A GOOD START

There was already £5 in the old folk's box before the guessing started and some 430 tickets were sold. The guesses ranged from a handful to several thousands.

Last week the pumpkin yielded its precious secret when it was cut open with due ceremony and the pips handed out among the regulars for counting. There were 480 of them—the exact guess of two patrons, a caller from Chesham and Mrs. Margaret Graff, of Plough-lane.

They were being contacted to decide the destination of the prize money. By the end of the evening a cash box was tinkling to the tune of £16, with three-quarters of the takings going to the old folk via the local Red Cross.

Furthermore, Mrs. Gammon played the role of fairy godmother and converted the pumpkin into pumpkin pie. Slices were sold to customers at 3d. a time and a further £2 was added to the fund.

Later in the week Mr. Adams arrived with a fine basket of fruit, the prize for a draw which raised another £11.

And with a little more arm-twisting the old folk's fund reached the fine total of £28 10s., beating last year's figure by 50s.

"THE RELUCTANT DEBUTANTE"

L. Times 20-11-1965

Interesting mixture by the Greenwood Players

THE GREENWOOD PLAYERS' production of "The Reluctant Debutante" was in keeping with the Sarratt Village Hall, in which they were performing—an interesting mixture of good and not so good.

This ten-year-old cocktail by William Douglas-Home describes the attempts by a pair of well meaning but harrassed mothers to enter their daughters in the Matrimonial Selling Plate over the length of a London Season.

Its characters belong to the closed shop of a wealthy, landed aristocracy whose end will be determined only when Eton and Roedean become comprehensives and the Guards receive the Territorial axe.

Apart from a gentle satirical undertone it demands only that the actors behave like real people in a real situation, giving the right touch of sophistication without broadening into farce.

TOO HESITANT

It is a weakness of the play that the actress playing Sheila Broadbent has to carry the responsibility for a large part of the first act. To succeed she has to be relaxed, confident and word-perfect. In the part, Audrey Bond had some excellent moments and the right degree of sophistication, but on the whole her approach was too hesitant. She appeared to be apologising for, rather than controlling the situation.

As a result, Robbie and Susan Walchli as Jane, her daughter, and Clarissa Crosthwaite, her friend, had to underplay to the extent that their characters almost disappeared. They added an exciting touch of glamour to the stage and both gave able performances, but they could have given greater range to their emotions.

Eddie Rollinson gave Jimmy Broadbent a confident Wilfrid Hyde-White manner. He kept things moving, showing an aptitude for improvisation when things departed from the written text.

THE RIGHT TOUCH

Jack Miller applied the right touch of "goofiness" to David Bulloch, but it is hoped he put his batman on a charge for not pressing his ceremonial tunic. As his rival suitor, David Hoylake-Johnson, John Adams needed a more vigorous approach, but his final scene with Jimmy Broadbent was the best of the evening.

Co-producer Elspeth Smith made the most of an unrewarding part as Mabel Crosthwaite, and Mollie Wilbee triumphed in a minute appearance.

The production by Sheila Henniker was adequate and well suited to the confines of a small stage, but in future she must insist on more intensive rehearsal and attention to detail. When a play is running below normal speed the audience has time to count the number of telephone digits dialled, to note that curtains should be pulled back in daylight and the "Times" carries no news on the back page.

In all, this production gave the impression not of a poor company doing their best, but of a competent group who can do very much better when they really try.—E.B.

L. Times 20-11-65

GRAVEL PIT PLAN HOLDUP

A PLANNING decision seems unlikely to be made for some months on the application made to Watford Rural Council by the Hall and Ham River Group to build a processing plant and extract nearly eight-and-a-half million tons of sand and gravel from 136 acres of Green Belt land on the Earl of Dudley's Great Westwood estate near Chandlers Cross.

But the council's planning committee has already indicated its opposition to the plan, receipt of which was reported at a meeting on October 19. The scheme is now the subject of close scrutiny by planning and mineral working experts at county council level.

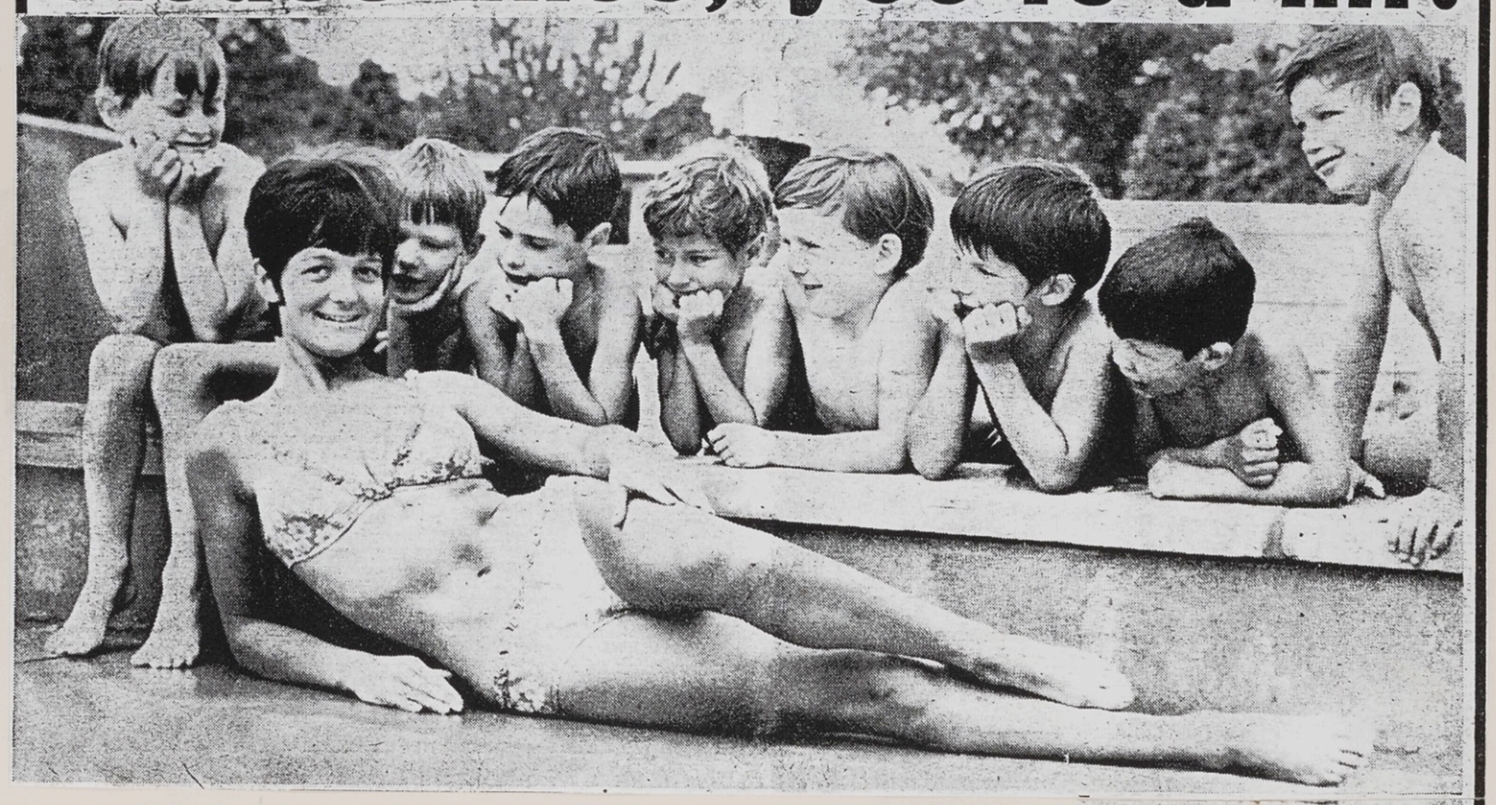
Cllr. Norman Truscott, Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, in whose area the application site lies, said his council had officially been given no information on the plan to date. The council is not due to meet again until January. Knowing the rural council's attitude and that an early decision was unlikely, there seemed to be no need to call a special meeting to discuss the plan.

Despite what the applicants had said about vehicular access, Cllr. Truscott said he was convinced the establishment of the site would result in more heavy traffic through narrow lanes in Sarratt parish.

"You cannot have any planning control over which roads lorries use and do not use," he pointed out.

Please Miss, you're a hit!

Daily Sketch 8th July 1966



IT'S obvious that schoolteacher Beverly Moore has no trouble getting the attention of the boys in Form Three.

For as one of her pupils, six-year-old Mark Grego, says: "She's a smasher. We all reckon she's the prettiest teacher in Britain."

Swimming is one of the subjects 24-year-old Beverly of Croxley Green, teaches at Sarratt Junior School, Herts.

She said yesterday: "I'm thrilled to bits to be able to teach the children to swim."

And the boys are thrilled, too . . .

Little Mark said: "I didn't used to like water much until she starting teaching us."

He gets full marks for keenness from headmaster Ken Greene who says: "Miss Moore is marvellous with children and she's just the girl to keep them interested."

1966

★ Model car racing at Sarratt ★

ALL THE THRILLS OF SILVERSTONE

Model car club in Sarratt barn

FERRARI, Lola, Lotus, Cobra . . . reduce your ideas by about 24 or 32 times and you are thinking on the same lines as a group of enthusiasts who meet three times a week in Sarratt to burn-up a hardboard track with electric racing cars.

For them it is motor-racing without the exhaust fumes. There are the smells of course; like the scorching

By Times reporter
RAY WILLIAMS

heat as iron contacts solder to make running repairs on the copper contact strip of the electric track, but they can stand that.

Thoroughbreds of the motor-racing world, enormously scaled down, flash by on numerous test runs as experienced eyes watchfully seek out defects or points for improvements.

These men are the drivers and the mechanics. From the very first moment they press down the control button to set their little "monsters" in motion they know exactly what will happen. And if something unforeseen does happen, then out comes the tool kit and matters are soon put right.

The spinning rubber tyres provide all the thrills of motor-racing without the noise. And this is the reason why a great deal of people do not even know of the existence of the track in the barn at the rear of Alf Downers' electrical shop on the Green.

But the track, now almost complete as far as auxiliary equipment goes, has been there since April. And membership of the "club"—for want of a better word—has been steadily growing since that time.

Now there are about 40 members on the books, and they travel to Sarratt as often as three times a week from places as far apart as Potters Bar, Harrow, Chesham and Hemel Hempstead.

These men are real enthusiasts. One man, who refused to give his name in case his wife found out, admits to having spent about £100 on his hobby over the last year.

Most members own to having "several" cars, and when pressed admit that several can mean between one or two dozen.

The cars, which zip round the 90 feet extended figure-eight track in an average 10 seconds, cost from 35 shillings up to £7-plus. And when these men get hold of them they are rarely satisfied with the manufacturer's effort. No, out comes the screw driver and the tweezers, and a motor is "tweaked" so that the car will be performing far in excess of the manufacturer's dreams.

Most of the members are well endowed with technical know-how, and those who are just beginning do not have to think twice about seeking advice from their more experienced colleagues.

Colleagues like David Young who tuned up the special car which won the club first place in a recent competition organised by Kodak.

He and many others worked for weeks erecting the track, which contains all the chicanes, blind spots and straights needed to satisfy any fanatic.

Economy was the word, and the basic job was finished at about £100 below any price given by manufacturers. Not only is the track capable of taking four high speed bits of machinery for long stretches, but it can time their laps electronically.

At the meetings, usually Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, there is always at least one competition event.

The starting grid is prepared for the off, the timing equipment is thrown open, and the cars are away. Now with plenty of experience, most members find their lap times pretty consistent — but there are always the occasional exceptional cars which defy all limits and sweep round the track at hitherto unexpected speeds.

The crashes are realistic too. "You've killed your driver" cries out a spectator as a Competition Lotus fails to brake enough at a sharp bend and spins over and over.

THEY CAN BRAKE

Oh yes, these remote-controlled cars can brake. By an ingenious system of current cut-off rather too difficult for the layman to understand, the cars' engines are actually made to turn in reverse fractionally — just enough to slow them down.

These competitions are used to see exactly what the cars can do. And it is surprising to see just how fast they do go. One only has to imagine a car 24 times larger on a comparable track leaping down the straight in the flicker of an eyelid to realise what their speed is.

Most members have cars in various stages of completion, and come along to work on them with the benefit of others' opinions — and to try them under competition conditions.

The National body for this sort of sport is the ERA — Electric Racing Association — but the Sarratt men find they have no need to join it's ranks. Instead, they satisfy themselves that they are complying with the Association's standards and know they will not meet any hitches when they visit other clubs.

FORMER WATFORD MEMBERS

Alf Downer and several other members were members of the Watford club, which dissolved about a year ago. At that time they were all wondering what they would do next — finding they were out of luck with other premises.

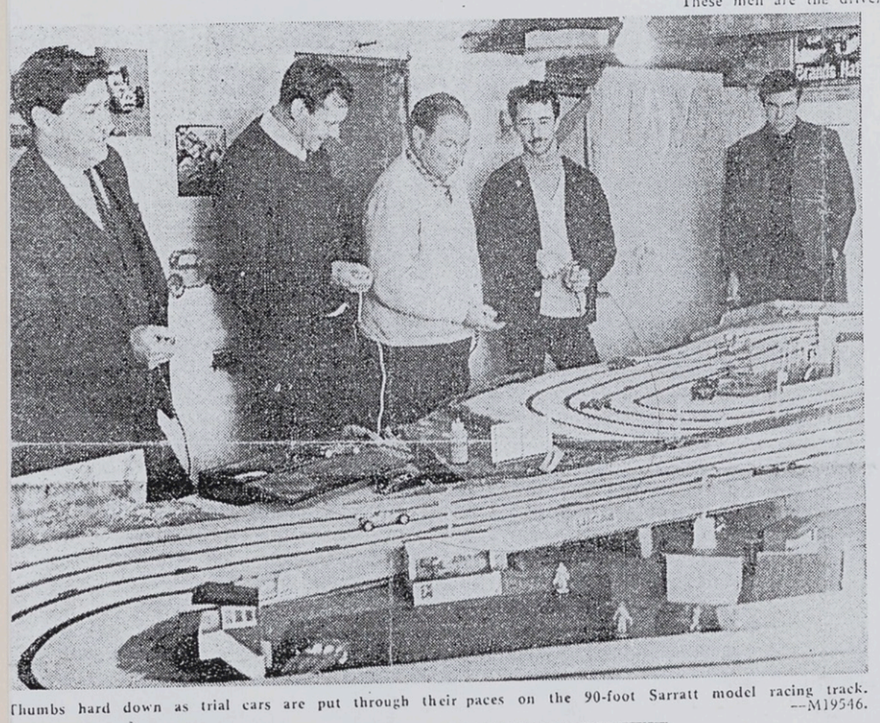
Then Alf Downer suggested the old barn at the rear of his shop might be suitable. No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a band of willing helpers were making ready for the conversions.

Their work is now near completion, and when in it's final state should make a scene fit for any country racing club catalogue.

One final word needs to be said about the tolerance of Alf's wife. She has put up with the comings and goings of all the members, and even puts on the coffee pot and entertains them in the lounge. So it is really not far from armchair racing, is it?



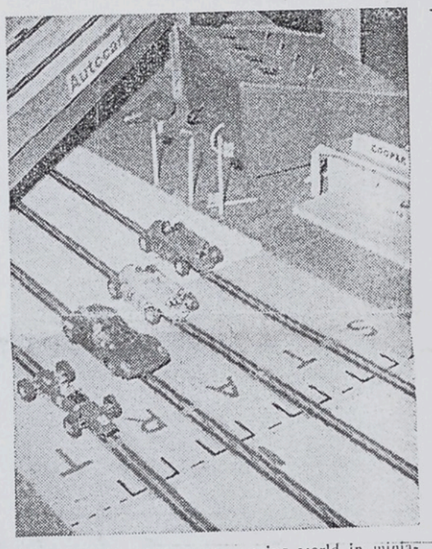
David Young gets ready to set the electronic timing equipment in motion for a grid start during an impromptu "race" at the Sarratt racing track.—M19547.



Thumbs hard down as trial cars are put through their paces on the 90-foot Sarratt model racing track. —M19546.



Head bent intently, Donald McClelland makes running repairs to his Cox Formula One Ferrari in preparation for another trial run for this new car on the Sarratt model racing track.—M19549.



The monarchs of the motor racing world in miniature line up for a grid start at the Sarratt track. Left to right they are: Ferrari, Lotus, Ferrari and Ferrari.—M19548.

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LANGLEY TIMES 31 DECEMBER 1966.

WELL KNOWN SARRATT COUPLE MARRIED

Mr. C. Huxley—Miss J. Smith

ONE of the happiest and prettiest in the village for many years—this was the verdict after the colourful wedding at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Friday afternoon of two members of well-known local families, Miss Jill Smith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Smith, of The Boot, Sarratt Green, and Mr. Clive Huxley, of The Wishing Well, Deadman's Ash Lane.

The ceremony was originally planned for the previous day but was rearranged because of the General Election. The bridegroom, an active worker for the local Conservative Association, was busy canvassing before polling day.

He is the only son of Mrs. Huxley and the late Mr. Huxley, and is a well-known cricketer, playing for Sarratt and his old school club, Old Merchant Taylors.

The Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. Jack Tomlinson, officiated and the tiny church was filled to capacity with over 100 guests.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and wore a full-length empire-line dress of broderie anglaise with a long train, a floral headdress and a short bouffant veil. Her bouquet was of red roses and mixed freesias.

She was attended by two child bridesmaids, seven-year-old Alison Smith, her second cousin, and seven-year-old Charlotte Huskisson, the bridegroom's niece.

They wore full-length dresses of deep blue silk with matching bonnets decorated with apple blossom, white ermine capes and white muffs.

A friend of the 'groom, Mr. Geoffrey Ascott, was the best man and the ushers were Lt. Peter Duncan, RN, a friend of the bride's family, Mr. John Smith, the bride's cousin, and Mr. Frederick Huskisson, the 'groom's brother-in-law.

The reception was held at Durrants, the Old Merchant Taylors' clubhouse at Croxley Green, and the couple afterwards left for their honeymoon at an undisclosed destination.

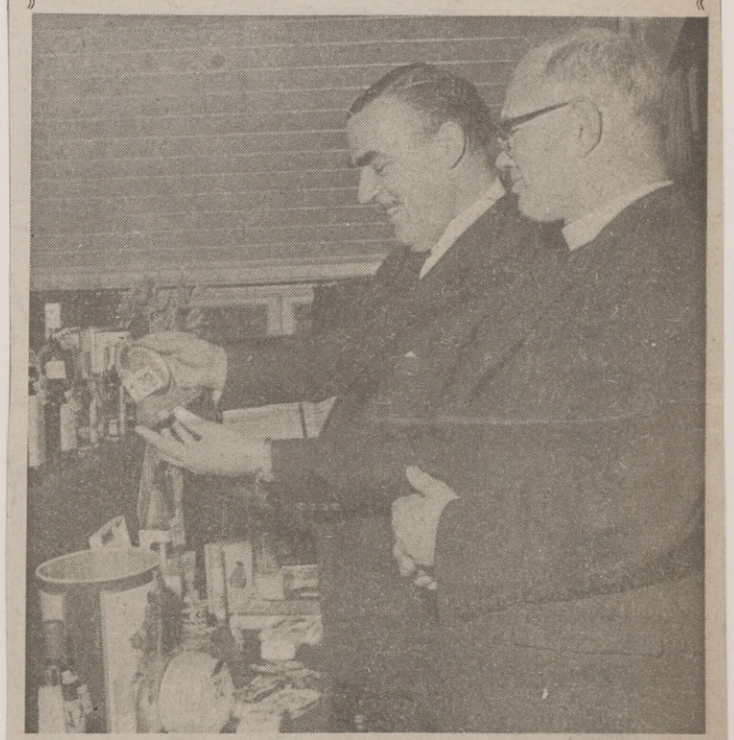
For going away the bride wore a grey two-piece worsted suit with a white collar, a black straw hat decorated with a red rose and black accessories.

MARRIED AT SARRATT



Friday afternoon's radiant bride at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, was Miss Jill Smith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Smith, "mine hosts" at The Boot, Sarratt Green. She is seen with her husband, Mr. Clive Huxley, of The Wishing Well, Deadman's Ash Lane, as they left for the reception at Croxley Green.
Photo by Greville Studios, Queens Road, Watford.

Bazaar time at Sarratt



BBC personality Franklin Engelmann came "Down your way" on Saturday when he performed the opening ceremony of the Sarratt Parish Church annual bazaar held in the Village Hall. Mr. Engelmann is pictured here with the Rector, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, inspecting some of the competition prizes.
—L17057.

BBC personality opens Sarratt bazaar

Franklin Engelmann opens church bazaar

WELL-KNOWN broadcaster Franklin Engelmann, whose voice is known to millions through his participation in many radio programmes, found himself facing a large and very friendly "live" audience when he visited Sarratt on Saturday afternoon to open Holy Cross Church's annual Christmas fair.

The effect of his presence was to draw an exceptionally large crowd to the village hall at an early stage of the proceedings.

With a promise to do no more than browse around until given the signal to spend, visitors of all ages surged into the main hall, out of the rain, to give their special guest a rousing Sarratt welcome.

A REMINDER

Mr. Engelmann, who was in the district to record a "Gardeners' Question Time" programme at nearby Croxley Green, edged his way through the assembly to the stage to give everyone a timely reminder of the purpose of the afternoon.

He was introduced by the Rector, the Rev. Jack Tomlinson, who made reference to one of the opener's radio programmes by commenting: "We are very glad that this afternoon he has been able to come 'Down Our Way'."

Mr. Engelmann reminded visitors that Holy Cross Church faced expenditure running into several thousand pounds over the next few years to meet the cost of extensive repairs to the east wall.

"It is going to be a hard job to raise that money, but there is no doubt that it will be found if every effort is like this," he commented, as he surveyed the packed hall.

But he hoped that visitors would be realistic in their spending, remembering that the church also had to contend with rising prices.

CHURCH GIVING

"Those of us from the thirties upwards are apt to think in terms of pre-war prices when it comes to church giving," he said. "What goes into the plate nowadays bears no relation to the rise in prices. We cheerfully pay five shillings for our cigarettes but still put sixpence in the plate."

Remembering his observations, visitors soon began to rid the stalls of their wares, after the brief formalities were over. Marshalled by church treasurer, Mr. Peter Hamblyn, all organisations and all sections of the congregation had combined to produce the usual popular seasonal selection of goods and ornaments, supplemented by sideshows and competitions.

This year the fair returned to its usual venue following completion of the hall rebuilding project, and teas were served from the spacious kitchen in the front section. Away from the stalls younger visitors found special interest in an electrically-operated model motor-racing circuit where prizes were offered for the fastest laps.

The result of the afternoon was a profit of over £300. A special restoration appeal is to be launched in the new year.

STALLHOLDERS

The stallholders were: Teas and cake stall, Mothers' Union and Mrs. Carr; toys, Mrs. Baxter; Christmas decorations, Mrs. Barber; draws, Mr. Collins; household goods, Mr. Dickens; fancy goods, Mrs. Clutterbuck; tombola, Mr. West; children's bran tub, Mr. Dawkins; Christmas hamper, Mr. Hamblyn; pick-a-straw, Mr. Smith; perfumery, Mrs. Banting; clothing, Mrs. Hamblyn.



...h no!—That's NOT the ticket office, M'am! Mrs. Elspeth Smith springs a surprise on other willing helpers ...g a stroll in the sunshine after the exhausting efforts of stallholding at Sarratt Village Hall Spring Bazaar last Saturday afternoon.

Sarratt spring fair

THE FINE weather on Saturday afternoon brought out about 120 people to the Sarratt Village Hall Spring Fair.

The Fair raised some £140 towards the Village Hall rebuilding fund. About £6,000 is still needed for the extensions to the Hall. But work on one stage can begin when £4,000 has been raised.

This extension will be built alongside the existing main body of the Hall and will add another 12 feet in width — providing a further 600 sq. feet floor area.

It is hoped that work will begin in the Summer and will be completed by late Autumn.

The stallholders for Saturday's Fair were, "Buy a Brick," Robin Sindall; raffle, Miss Steuart and helpers; white elephant, Village Hall Committee members; mystery parcels, Sarratt Baptist Church; sweets, Parents Association; tombola, Cricket Club; garden stall, Holy Cross Church and Horticultural Society; cosmetics, Greenwood Players; cakes, Women's Institute; refreshments, Mothers' Union; sideshows, Village Hall Entertainments Committee.

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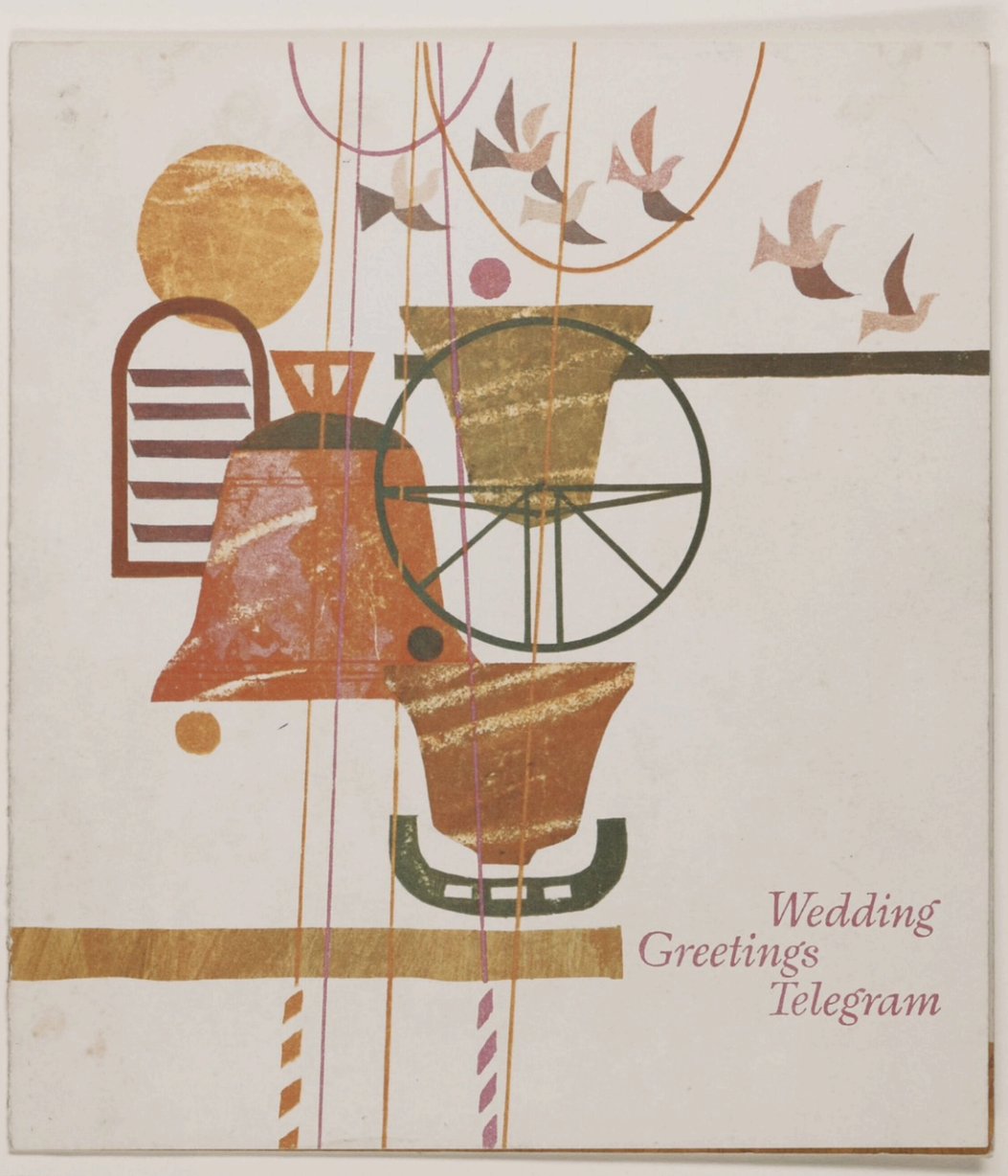

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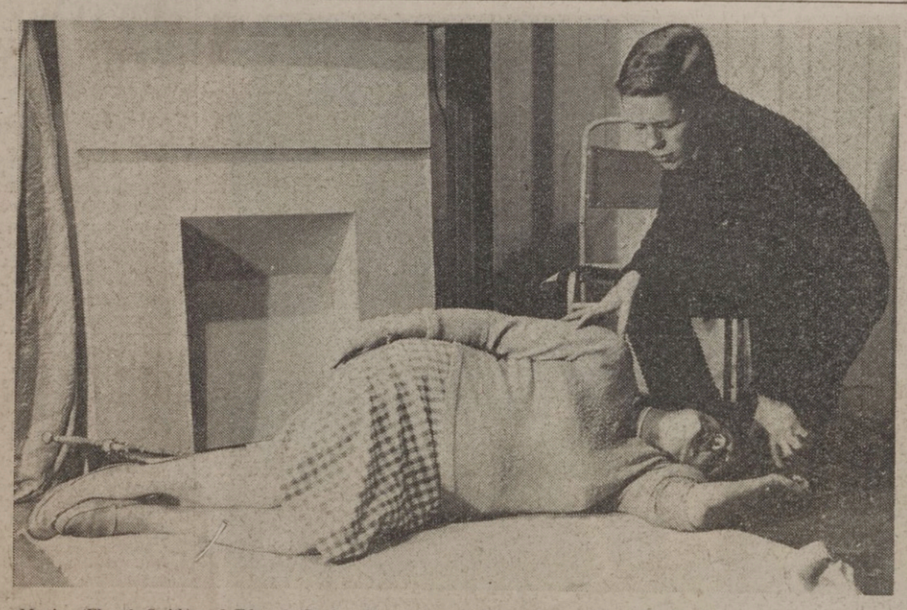


Monica (Elspeth Smith) and Edward (Stephen Buckley) in a dramatic moment in "Murder Mistaken," the first play to be produced by the new Greenwood Players at Sarratt. It was performed in the Village Hall last night and is being repeated tonight (Saturday).

GREENWOOD PLAYERS' SUCCESSFUL DEBUT

Sarratt Group Score With "Murder Mistaken"

WHATEVER the local audience may have expected from the first production of Sarratt's new drama group, the Greenwood Players, who presented Janet Green's brisk thriller "Murder Mistaken" in the Village Hall at the end of last week, they could certainly have had no cause for disappointment. For the Players, with their producer Sheila Henniker, had thought of just about everything to ensure an entertaining evening, from soft music at the beginning, through refreshments during the interval, right through to the real essential, an exciting climax on the stage.

From the very first "curtain up" it was clear that this was to be a workmanlike production with an interior set which looked—and remained—both solid and convincing. Just the place for the not-too-involved story of the paranoic (or was it schizophrenic?) character of Edward, who murdered his first doting wife for her money—mistakenly, as it turned out—and found more than his match in his second attachment, only to be unmasked as a villian by the sly scheming of his former wife's sister.

A GOOD TEAM

As Edward, Stephen Buckley took the role in his stride, being exceptionally well served by both "wives," Elspeth Smith, as the doting, complaisant Monica, contriving her own passing-out with conviction, hardly being allowed to move from her chair and Audrey Bond, as the second wife, Freda, having an altogether more active time of it, making use of many subtle touches to establish her sterling worth. They made an exceptionally good team, well supported by the redoubtable Emmie, played by Mollie Wilbee, who, true to type, hardly put a foot, or a word, out of place.

The cast was completed by Lilian Sharpe, as Charlotte, and Michael Singleton as Phillip, the staid and respectable lawyer.

The play moved at pace throughout, thanks, presumably, to the efforts of the producer (no stage manager being mentioned in the well made up programme). Speed, in fact, being almost too brisk in the final debacle of Act Two when "Charlotte" is revealed as the elusive sister-in-law who inherited the money.

Did all the audience catch this point . . . ? They probably did, even if it was only on their way home. And that, it must be admitted, is a far better state of affairs than knowing it all too soon and too long before the final curtain. Altogether a first-class start for an enthusiastic company, who plan to give another production in the spring.



A scene from the Greenwood Players' production of Janet Green's mystery thriller "Murder Mistaken." This new group made an impressive debut at Sarratt Village Hall on Friday and Saturday.—M11113.

PROGRAMME

THE GREENWOOD PLAYERS

present

"MURDER MISTAKEN"

by

JANET GREEN

6d.

Monica	Elspeth Smith
Edward	Stephen Buckley
Emmie	Mollie Wilbee
Phillip	Michael Singleton
Freda	Audrey Bond
Charlotte	Lillian Sharpe

Producer : Sheila Henniker

The action of the play takes place in the sitting room of Monica Bare's house at the top of Sunrise Hill, just outside a small market town in Kent.

ACT ONE

Scene 1 An afternoon in November
Scene 2 Afternoon a few days later.
Scene 3 Afternoon — eight weeks later

ACT TWO

Scene 1 Noon — Two months later
Scene 2 Noon — Ten days later
Scene 3 After tea, the same day.

There will be an interval between Acts 1 and 2 during which time coffee will be served.

"BEHIND THE SCENES"

Lighting	Trevor Groves
Sound Effects	Brian Cox
Scenery	John Smith and Colin Rowe
Properties	Irene Rowe and Gertrude Rowe
Prompt	Joan Lane
Front of House	Celia Cooper
Make-up	Nancy Beere

The Greenwood Players would like to thank everyone who has assisted us in the production of this play and also those people who have loaned various items of property.

Telephone equipment lent by the G.P.O.

Lighting on hire from the Chorleywood Players.



THE WHEATSHEAF
DORIS & EDDIE ROLLINSON | Nº3 MR & MRS. COLEMAN | Nº4 BARBARA & PHILIP BULLER | Nº5 JOICE & TEDDY TENHAM | PHOTO: MR COLEMAN

FIRST OWNERS AFTER RENOVATION BY PIMLOTTY PROPERTY CO. 1966/67

4—Langley Times, September 16, 1967

BUMPER YEAR FOR SARRATT SHOW

A BUMPER YEAR for Sarratt Horticultural Society gave added zest to the 7th Autumn Show held in the Sarratt Village Hall last Saturday afternoon. A substantial increase in the number of exhibits coincided with a particularly high standard of blooms, produce and domestic craft, an overflow of which had to be accommodated in the adjoining primary schoolroom.

The chairman, Mr. Alec Jenkinson, was obviously very delighted to announce to the large number of visitors that there was an increase of 31 per cent in the entries and an increase of 63 per cent in the number of exhibitors.

DELIGHTED

"We are entitled to feel delighted with all aspects of this wonderful show," said Mr. Jenkinson, speaking after the distribution of prizes and awards which had been carried out by the guest of honour, Sir Reginald Hill, CB, KBE, a former resident of the village.

A feature of the show was the considerable support given to the Floral Art and Cookery sections—the latter being an innovation this year — which together with the Children's Arts and Crafts were enhanced in no small degree by the extra space allotted to them in the school buildings.

"The committee are out to encourage the children in their arts and crafts," said Mr. Jenkinson, drawing attention to a new trophy, aptly named "The Goddess of Achievement," which has been presented to the Society by Mr. E. A. Cox, a former hon. treasurer of the Society, who is shortly leaving the district. The new trophy will be awarded annually to the champion in the section for schoolchildren. It was won for the first time this year by local schoolboy Nigel Singleton.

Next year the Society hope to extend the already popular domestic section to include needlework, a department in which a number of local people are already experienced, even to the high standards required by the large National Exhibitions.

Many vistors stayed to enjoy the attractive tea and refreshments set out against a colourful background of prize blooms in the main hall. It was arranged by Mrs. E'speth Smith and helpers. A final auction of show produce was conducted by Mr. J. W. Smith. There was brisk bidding from the large crowd who stayed to the end.

PRIZEWINNERS

The "Clutterbuck" Trophy for the Champion of all Sections was won by Mrs. C. M. Barber.

The "Frederick Barber" Trophy for Flowers was won by Mr. A. Jenkinson.

The "Arthur Pritchard" Trophy for Roses was won by Mrs. C. M. Barber.

The "Loader" Trophy for Floral Art was won by Mrs. C. M. Barber.

The "David Osborne" Trophy for Vegetables was won by Mr. E. Middleton.

The new "E. A. Cox" Trophy for Schoolchildren was won by Nigel Singleton.

The Award of Merit for the best arrangement in the Floral Art Section was won by Mrs. R. Clack.

The judges were Mr. F. Harbour and Mr. H. Hall for the flowers and vegetables section and Mrs. Forsyth and Miss Willis for Floral Art, domestic and schoolchildren's sections.

FLOWERS

Chrysanthemums: One variety, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 E. Parker, 3 H. Vasey; several varieties, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 E. Parker, 3 H. Vasey; specimen bloom, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 E. Parker, 3 J. Pratt; Korean or pom-pone, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 M. Clutterbuck; vase for effect, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 E. Parker, 3 H. Vasey.

Asters: Single, 1 E. Parker, 2 G. Fenton, 3 A. Jenkinson; double, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 C. Barber, 3 E. Parker.

Roses: Vase of six, 1 C. Barber, 2 Sir R. Hill; specimen, 1 E. Parker, 2 Sir R. Hill, 3 A. Jenkinson; floribunda, 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 Sir R. Hill, 3 C. Barber; bowl, 1 C. Barber, 2 E. Smith.

Dahlias: Cactus, 1 E. Parker, 2 M. Clutterbuck, 3 R. West; decorative, 1 M. Clutterbuck, 2 R. West, 3 Mrs. Baldwin; pom-pone, 1 R. West, 2 E. Parker, 3 C. Staughton; vase for effect, 1 E. Parker, 2 Mrs. Baldwin, 3 M. Clutterbuck.

Annuals: 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 Mrs. Pritchard, 3 C. Barber; herbaceous: 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 Mrs. Macgregor, 3 Mrs. Absolom; mixed: Mrs. Macgregor, 2 E. Smith, 3 C. Barber; gladioli: 1 C. Barber, 2 A. Jenkinson, 3 Miss Jenn; pot plant: 1 E. Parker, 2 M. Clutterbuck, 3 Miss Russell.

FLORAL ART

Holiday memories: 1 C. Barber, 3 R. Clack; green and white: 1 C. Barber, 2 G. Fenton, 3 R. Clack; autumn glory: 1 C. Barber, 2 Mrs. Archer, 3 R. Clack; miniature: 1 C. Barber, 2 J. Staughton, 3 Mrs. Loader; candlestick arrangement: 1 R. Clack, 2 C. Barber, 3 Mrs. Loader.

DOMESTIC

Fruit cake: 1 B. Mason, 2 E. Smith, 3 Miss Russell; Lemon meringue pie: 1 B. Mason, 2 Mrs. Archer, 3 Miss Singleton; Scones: 1 H. Neal; Tomato chutney: 1 S. Woodward, 2 Mrs. Jenkinson, 3 C. Barber; Jam: stone, 1 C. Barber, Mrs. Archer, 3 Miss Russell; soft, 1 Sir R. Hill, 2 Mrs. Adams, 3 Mrs. Pritchard; Bottle fruit: 1 C. Barber, 2 Mrs. Archer, 3 Mrs. Adams; Plums: 1 Mrs. Archer, 2 C. Barber.

VEGETABLES

Onions: 1 H. Vasey, 2 E. Middleton, 3 R. Mason; shallots: 1 E. Middleton, 2 Mrs. Absalom, 3 C. Biggerstaff; Potatoes: 1 E. Middleton, 2 R. West, 3 H. Neal; Runner beans: 1 Mrs. Absalom, 2 Mrs. Downer, 3 Miss Jenn; Carrots: 1 M. Clutterbuck, 2 E. Parker; Beetroot: 1 R. West, 2 M. Clutterbuck, 3 H. Neal; Cabbages: 1 J. Smith; Lettuce: 1 R. Dickens; Marrows: 1 C. Barber, 2 M. Clutterbuck, 3 R. West; Tomatoes: outdoor, 1 C. Barber, 2 H. Neal; indoor, 1 H. Vasey, 2. E. Parker, 3 J. Smith.

SCHOOLCHILDREN

Three dimensional art: 1 L. Lambert, 2 J. Garwell, 3 N. Singleton; Garden in a seed box: 1 C. Pratt, 2 I. Parker, 3 S. Wooten; Buttonhole: 1 N. Singleton, 2 N. Musk, 3 D. Wooten.

NOVICES

Three chrysanthemums: 1 J. Pratt, 2 R. Mason; Five chrysanthemums: 1 R. Mason, 2 C. Barber, 3 J. Pratt; Cactus dahlias: 1 Mrs. Vidion, 2 C. Staughton; Decorative dahlias: 1 Mrs. Vidion; Potatoes: 1 H. Neal, 2 P. Buller; Runner beans: 1 K. Dowse, 2 C. Barber, 3 P. Buller; Beetroot: 1 Mrs. Absalom 2 H. Neal; Tomatoes: 1 J. Pratt, 2 J. Biggerstaff.

HOW A DREAM CAME TRUE

Sarratt gardens bloom

SEVEN years ago, when he started Sarratt Horticultural Society, and became its chairman, Mr. A. Jenkinson, of Chevins, Sarratt, made a promise.

If ever there were enough competitors in the chrysanthemum classes at the Society's annual show, he would present a trophy to be awarded to the exhibitor with the highest number of points in this section.

On Saturday afternoon the promise was fulfilled, and Mr. E. Parker became the first holder of the Jenkinson trophy, a pretty silver candelabra.

Mr. Parker is not the only one to be influenced by Mr. Jenkinson's enthusiasm for this flower. Many Sarratt gardens now contain colourful cuttings from his stock—"some are now producing better blooms than mine," he says—and having dispersed both roots and information freely, he was able to see the "harvest" among the entries in the six chrysanthemum classes.

Mr. Jenkinson introduced Miss Margaret Clutterbuck, who presented the awards. Miss Carolyn Pratt, winner of the E. A. Cox trophy for schoolchildren, presented her with a bouquet. It was, very appropriately, a bouquet of chrysanthemums grown by Mr. Jenkinson—"by chance I came across a variety named 'Goldington Wonder,' and Miss Clutterbuck lives at 'Goldingtons.'"

Judges impressed

The judges, Mr. F. Harbour, head gardener for Hemel Hempstead Parks Dept., and Mr. H. Hall, propagator for Watford Rural Council, were so impressed with the children's classes that they dipped into their own pockets and left rewards. They also commented on the high standard of all the entries.

Mr. Jenkinson told those present that entries were 30 per cent up on last year, and last year's were 50 per cent up on the previous year, so interest had doubled in two years.

A handicrafts section was introduced this year, for the first time, and the cookery classes were particularly well supported.

Trophy winners were: Clutterbuck trophy, awarded to the champion of all sections, Mrs. C. M. Barber (show secretary); Jenkinson trophy, Mr. E. Parker: the Arthur Pritchard trophy, for the highest number of points in the rose section, a tie between Mr. Jenkinson and Mrs. Barber: the David Osborne trophy, for the highest number of points in the vegetable section, Mr. E. Middleton: the Loader trophy, for the highest number of points in the floral art section, Mrs. Barber; and the E. A. Cox trophy for schoolchildren, Carolyn Pratt.



Mrs. C. Barber with the handful of trophies she won at the Sarratt Horticultural Society Show, pictured with one of her winning exhibits. Graphic Photo 80921

PRIZES

Other winners were:

FRUIT

Plums.—1, Mrs. Barber.
Apples, dessert.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, H. M. Neal; 3, Mr. Tourmer.
Apples, cooking.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, H. M. Neal; 3, Mrs. Tourmer.
Pears.—1, H. M. Neal.

NOVICES

Chrysanthemums, one variety.—1, A. Scotcher.
Chrysanthemums, several varieties.—1, A. Scotcher, 2, G. Pratt; 3, Mrs. Barber.
Dahlias, cactus.—1, C. Staughton; 2, Mrs. Loader.
Dahlias, decorative. — 1, Mrs. Loader.
Runner beans.—1, I. Wooten; 2, K. Green; 3, A. Scotcher.
Beetroot.—1, I. Wooten; 2, K. Green; 3, A. Scotcher.

COOKERY

Fruit cake.—1, Mrs. E. Freeman; 2, Mrs. Vidion; 3, Mrs. Jeffs.
Shortbread finge. —1, Mrs. E. Smith; 2, Mrs. Jeffs, 3, Mrs. Singleton.
Victoria sponge.—1, Mrs. Singleton; 2, Mrs. Wooten; 3, Mrs. Staughton.
Meringues.—1, Mrs. Neal.
Tomato chutney—1, Mrs. Archer; 2, Mrs. Jenkinson; 3, Mrs. Barber.
Mayonnaise.—1, Mrs. Neal; 2, Mrs. Fenton; 3, Mrs. Loader.
Stone fruit jam.—1, Mrs Archer; 2, Mrs. Johnson; 3, Mrs. E. Freeman.
Soft fruit jam.—1, Mrs. Wooten; 2, Mrs. Archer; 3, Mrs. Jeffs.
Bottle fruit.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Mrs. Pritchard; 3, Mrs. Wooten.
Bottle plums.—1, Mrs. Wooten; 2, Mrs. Barber; 3, Mrs. Archer.

HANDICRAFTS

Hat—1, Mrs. Fenton; 2, Mrs. Huxley; 3, Mrs. E. Smith.
Lampshade.—1, Mrs Barber.
Matinee coat.—1, Mrs. Jeffs; 2, Mrs. Archer; 3, Mrs. Fenton.
Afternon apron.—1, Mrs. Barber.

SCHOOLCHILDREN

Miniature garden. — 1, Sally Wooten; 2, Carolyn Pratt; 3, Miss Woodward.
Fruit or vegetable, animal, etc.—1, Carolyn Pratt; 2, N. Singleton; 3, C. Staughton. Buttonhole.—1, Sally Wooten; 2, Carolyn Pratt; 3, C. Staughton.

FLOWERS

Chrysanthemums, three blooms, one variety, disbudded. — 1, R. Mason 2, E. Parker; 3, A. Jenkinson. Five blooms, several varieties, disbudded.—1, E. Parker; 2, R. Mason; 3, A. Jenkinson. Specimen bloom.—1, E. Parker; 2, R. Mason; 3, A Jenkinson. Five stems, one or more varieties, not disbudded.—1, Mr. Vasey; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, E. Parker. Five stems, Korean or Pompon.—1, A. Jenkinson; 2, E. Parker; 3, R. Dickens. Vase for effect.—1, A. Jenkinson; 2, Mrs. Barber; 3, E. Parker.
Roses, vase of six.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Sir R. Hill; 3, A. Jenkinson. Specimen.—1, A. Jenkinson; 2, Mrs. Fenton; 3, R. Dickens. Floribunda.—1, Mrs. Huxley; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, R. Dickens. Bowl.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Sir R. Hill.
Asters, single.—1, E. Parker; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, Mrs. E. Smith. Double.—1, C. Freeman; 2, R. Dickens; 3, Mrs. Fenton.
Dahlias, cactus.—1, E. Parker; 2, Mrs. E. Downer. Decorative.—1, E. Parker; 2, Mrs. E. Baldwin; 3, Mrs. E. Downer. Pompon.—1, E. Parker; 2, Mrs. E. Baldwin; 3, C. Staughton. Vase for effect.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, E. Parker.
Annuals.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, H. M. Neal.
Herbaceous.—1, Mr. Barber; 2, H. M. Neal; 3, J. Smith.
Mixed.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Mrs. MacGregor; 3, J. Smith.
Gladioli.—1, A. Jenkinson.
Pot plant.—1, E. Parker; 2, Mr. Tourmor; 3, R. Dickens.

VEGETABLES

Onions.—1, Mr. Middleton; 2, A. Scotcher; 3, E. Parker.
Shallots.—1, Mr. Middleton; 2, Mrs. Absalom; 3, Mrs. E. Downer.
Potatoes.—1, Mr. Middleton; 2, K. Green; 3, Mrs. Absalom.
Runner beans.—1, I. Wooten; 2, R. Dickens; 3, Mrs. Absalom.
Carrots.—1, Mr. Middleton; 2, I. Wooten; 3, K. Green.
Beetroot.—1, I. Wooten; 2, K. Green; 3, Mr. Middleton.
Cabbages.—1, K. Green; 2, E. Parker; 3, H. M. Neal.
Lettuce.—1, K. Green; 2, Mr. Vasey; 3, H. M. Neal.
Marrows.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Mr. Vasey; 3, K. Green.
Tomatoes.—1, J. Smith; 2, E. Parker; 3, G. Pratt.

FLORAL ART

Miniature.—1, Mrs. Neal; 2, Mrs. MacGregor; 3, Mrs. Archer.
Foliage arrangement. — 1, Mrs. Fenton; 2, Mrs. Archer; 3, Mrs. Loader.
Autumn glory.—1, Mrs. Barber.
Contemporary.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Mrs. Loader.
Victorian posy.—1, Mrs. Barber; 2, Mrs. E. Freeman.
Novices' dining-table arrangement.—1, Mrs. Neal.



Eight-year-old Carolyn Pratt with the "Endeavour" award she won at the Sarratt Horticultural Show.

Dawes Common

BRIGADIER FIGHTS AGAINST SARRATT PLANNING REFUSAL

SARRATT landowner, 73-year-old Brigadier G. E. Fenton, told a public inquiry at Watford on Wednesday that a warden's cottage was essential to his scheme for clearing and replanting about five acres of Dawes Common, Sarratt.

The inquiry was held at Watford Rural District Council's offices into Brigadier Fenton's appeal against planning refusal for the cottage on a site in the enclosed part of the common.

FIRES AND VANDALISM

He said serious fires, accidental or deliberate, had broken out. Cars had been dumped on the land. Posts, put up to stop cars entering, had been ripped out and thrown away. A notice, costing £5 to erect, had been stoned and thrown in the gorse.

Brigadier Fenton said he and the village policeman had tried in vain to find out who the vandals were.

If there were no protection and he planted young fir trees, vandals, probably from London, would swoop just before Christmas and take the lot.

The common was not common land in the old sense of the word but was in private ownership. Since about 1860 it had been the practice of successive owners to allow local people access. In recent years there had been progressive vandalism.

Brigadier Fenton said it had been his purpose, since retirement from public service in 1950, to secure control of the area to stop this vandalism and rehabilitate and preserve the area.

A 30-YEAR THREAT

For about 30 years there had been a threat that the common would be taken over as public open space.

He had tried, unsuccessfully, to find out the Rural District Council's intentions. Then, only the previous afternoon, a letter, stamped but unfranked, was dropped through his door, notifying him that the council had decided to make a further approach to him and the other owners with a view to purchasing the 12.3 acres as public open space.

25 years ago

From the Watford Observer, December 8, 1967

THE peaceful village of Sarratt has been providing the background to an exciting colour film called The Last Shot You Hear.

The film was made by Lipperd Films and produced by Miss Pat Green. Work was based around the headquarters at Great Sarratt Hall and the story, which stars Patricia Haynes and William Dysart, was of the usual triangle of characters. It includes scenes of lovers' meetings in the cosy bar of The Cock, opposite Holy Cross Church, shootings at Sarratt Millhouse and a river being dragged for a body at the bottom of Dawes Lane.

The chemist shop of Mr Roger Livesy also played a small part in the film which, it is understood, will be shown in America first and then on the Odeon circuit over here.

1967



The painting above was completed without hands by Mrs. Heather Strudwick, who is completely disabled by polio. When she does paint it is with the brush in her mouth. The picture was given by her mother, Mrs. Blundell, for a competition to raise funds at the Sarratt Spring Bazaar on Saturday.

£106 RAISED AT SARRATT SPRING BAZAAR

PRACTICAL support for Sarratt's hard-worked Village Hall Committee came from all the village organisations for last Saturday's annual Spring Bazaar, which raised £106 for general funds to keep the popular village centre in good trim for yet another year's varied activities.

A steady flow of customers around the crowded hall, where stalls of all kinds were fully stocked with attractive goods for sale, kept stallholders almost too busy to snatch a cup of tea from the popular buffet, run on this occasion by members of the Mothers' Union.

PROFITS DOWN

Although profits were a little down on last year, the result was regarded as highly satisfactory. "We are very grateful for the splendid effort from everyone," commented the Village Hall chairman, Mr. J. W. Smith, adding good-humouredly: "Especially as we clashed with the Cup Final on television."

One former resident of the village, Mrs. Blundell, had a special contribution to the afternoon's trading in the shape of an oil-painting, the work of her daughter, Mrs. Heather Ruffell-Strudwick, who after being completely disabled by polio, has learned to paint by holding the brush in her mouth.

The picture was put up for competition and was won by a Sarratt housewife, Mrs. Garwell, of Deadman's Ash Lane.

Needlework, Village Hall Committee; motor - mileage, Greenwood Players; competitions, Miss Steuart and helpers; cosmetics, Greenwood Players; white elephant, Village Hall Committee; tombola, Cricket Club and Catholic Church; garden plants, Horticultural Society; cakes and sweets, the WI; roll-a-penny, Parents' Association; 1s. parcel, the Baptist Church; push-box, Village Hall Committee. The buffet teas were organised by the Mothers' Union.



Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. Jack Tomlinson, leads a harvest hymn at Sunday evening's service at "The Boot."—JK13680.

LOCAL HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

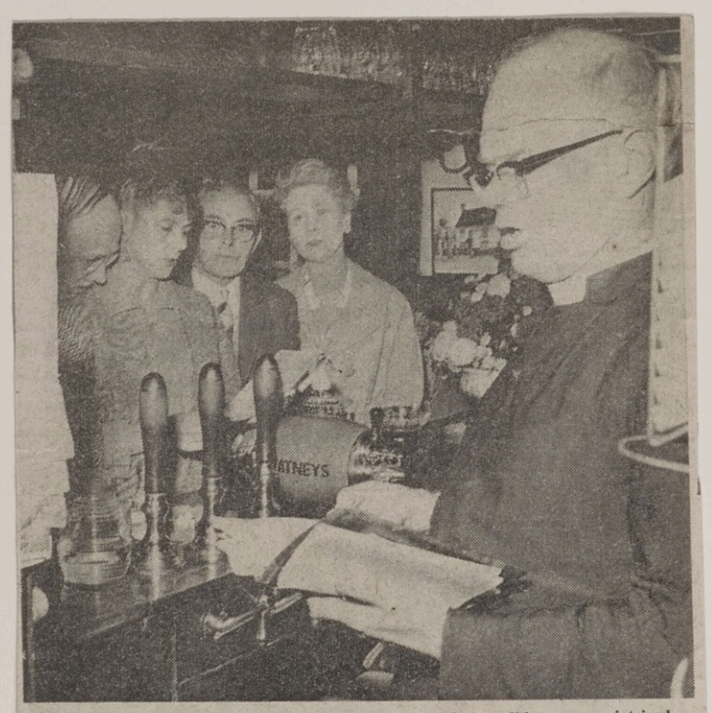
Service At Sarratt Filled "The Boot"

ANGLICAN and Free Churches throughout the district have been celebrating their harvest festivals during the past fortnight. Many of them have also held harvest suppers.

A crowded bar at "The Boot," Sarratt, was the setting for the district's most unusual service on Sunday evening. Now a well-established tradition in the village, it followed a full day of harvest services at Holy Cross Church.

After Evensong, the Rector, the Rev. Jack Tomlinson, and members of the congregation made their way to "The Boot" to join customers for harvest hymns, prayer and a brief address. As usual the house was filled to capacity and the Rector led the service from the only vacant space—behind the bar. Afterwards he dispens[ed] pints.

The Church's harv[est] open to all vi[sitors] held in the [Village Hall] previous W[eek].



It was a case of no room at the inn when an established tradition was maintained at Sarratt on Sunday evening. The Rector, the Rev. Arthur Tomlinson, leads the hymn singing at the annual harvest festival service at "The Boot."—M11134.

"NO ROOM AT THE INN" AT SARRATT

Harvest Festival Service Fills "The Boot"

IT was a case of "no room at the inn" on Sunday evening when the Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. Arthur Tomlinson, continued a tradition established by his predecessor by conducting a harvest festival service in the bar of "The Boot."

The house had been decorated with the regulars' produce by the licensee's wife, Mrs. A. W. Smith, and despite the fact that the night was so wet the bar was filled to capacity. Hymn sheets were distributed and the Rector conducted the short service from behind the pumps.

In his address he spoke of the harvest festival as an opportunity to remember those less blessed with the fruits of the harvest and as a time to remember man's utter dependence on God to provide for his needs.

This occasion followed a full day of harvest services at Holy Cross Church and on Monday evening over 100 parishioners sat down to a three-course harvest supper in the Village Hall prepared and served by the Mothers' Union members.

Sunday's church collections—£20 6s. 2d.—were taken for missionary work and the proceeds of the harvest supper and the offering at "The Boot" were divided between missionary work and the Freedom From Hunger Campaign—£38 to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and £19 to Freedom From Hunger.

The produce from the church was distributed among the elderly and invalids of the parish and the remainder forwarded to Rickmansworth W.V.S., which also received the produce from "The Boot."

Sunday was also the day of harvest festival services at many other churches in the district, including Abbots Langley, Kings Langley, Langleybury and Chipperfield parish churches and Kings Langley Methodist Church.

As a result many old people have this week received parcels of food and flowers.

Langleybury parishioners also enjoyed a harvest supper on Saturday evening in the Church Institute.

UNEASY LIES THE HEAD



You can rely on a bit of fun when the Young Conservatives are around. Twenty-one-year-old YC Miss Robbie Walchli spent most of Saturday afternoon being tipped out of bed for the express enjoyment of visitors to the Sarratt Conservative Fete.—P18603.

Sarratt Tory fete

THE local MP dropped in by air on Saturday to the Conservative Fete in Sarratt.

The fete was held in the grounds of Micklefield Green House, the home of Mr. Rowland Absalom—and his daughter, Gay, used the family's private two-seater helicopter to collect Mr. Gilbert Longden and bring him along to officially open the proceedings.

Mr. Longden briefly addressed the attendance on the position in Vietnam. He said the war there could be over tomorrow if the communists would only sit around the conference table.

After the formalities the various entertainments got under way, and none were so popular as the "tip the lady out of bed" stall where good pitchers could roll pretty Young Conservative Miss Robbie Walchli out of her bed for only a few coppers.

Robbie (21) who lives at Follies End, The Green, Sarratt, was kept busy for most of the afternoon half-in and half-out of the bed in a night-dress, but she said it was all in a good cause.

The rest of the sideshows also provided plenty of entertainment for the 500 or more people who came to the fete which was organised by the Sarratt Conservative Branch.

At the end of the day it was estimated that about £250 had been raised. This will go into the Party funds.

1967

"TONS OF MONEY"– A GREAT ROMP

WHAT to do with a windfall, or a sudden unexpected legacy may have given many people ample food for happy thought.

What not to do in the circumstances, was obviously the line pursued by Sarratt's Greenwood Players in "Tons of Money," the original Aldwych farce by Will Evans and Valentine, which the enthusiastic local players put on with great gusto and relish in Sarratt Village Hall on Friday and Saturday evening of last week.

Although dating from the early 'twenties, the situation is zanily timeless, in spite of devaluation, which may have sunk the prospect of "four hundred and seventy thousand dollars" to a new low level. That was the sun in anticipation—which seemed within the grasp of hapless John Adams ("Aubrey") and his nimble-minded spouse, Louise, played with customary aplomb by Audrey Bond.

SLICK OPENING

A commendably slick opening by the Sarratt company, well dressed, on a comfortably furnished set as always, whetted the appetite. A pity then, perhaps, that Act I sagged a bit thereafter for a time.

Of course it was quite a step from comparative sanity to persuade John Adam's faintly lugubrious "Aubrey" to consent to being "bumped-off" all in a good cause. But, like that well known monarch, he seemed an unconscionable time a-dying.

Act I, however, finished on a very real bang, which could not have been improved upon.

Eddie Rollinson's excellent direction never lost its touch after that. Eddie himself played a plump and well-aired Sprules, the butler, with anchor-like calm. Molly Wilbee had one of her best-yet parts with "Auntie Ben," preoccupied with her knitting and ecclesiastical reminiscences.

SPLENDID COHESION

As a team, the Greenwood players have a splendid cohesion, two newcomers, Alec Cross as Giles the gardener, and Marion Petts (who also did the first-rate make-up) as Simpson the maid, fitted in with two neat character parts.

Charm and animation have never yet deserted Susan Brown, who used both qualities to good effect as Jean Everard, while Terry Messett needed only brief-case and monocle—plus his ready command of dialogue—to make a shiny-elbowed solicitor Chesterman.

Shades of the present-day Whitehall farces came to life with a spate of Mexican relatives—the same one three times over — which might reasonably be expected to follow a Will of any sort. Two of them were played with varying effect by Robbie Sindall and Michael Singleton. The latter dodging round from the back where he did a competent job with the lighting.

Altogether an entertaining evening, well supported by excellent front - of - the - house arrangementst and welcome refreshments during the interval of Act I.



Sarratt's Greenwood Players in their highly entertaining production of the original Aldwych farce, "Tons of Money," which they produced with great success in the Sarratt Village Hall on Friday of last week.

Chipperfield ...
Mill End ...
Warners En...
Berk. Rangers ...
P'stone & Iv'he...
C'penders P. R. ...
Chaulden ... 6
Long Marston ... 4
Aldbury ... 7 3
OHA ... 5 1 1
Maple Cross ... 7 1 0
Ashley Green ... 7 1 0 6
Northchurch ... 6 0 0 6

L. Times 25-11-1967

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	
Berk. Wandrs.	9	8	0	1	33	15	1.
Gade Valley W.	8	6	1	1	33	13	13
Warners End R.	9	6	1	2	29	14	13
Mill End Sp. R.	10	4	3	3	23	20	11
Berk. R. Res. ..	8	2	3	3	27	29	7
Lt. Gaddesden	5	3	0	2	16	12	6
Potton End	5	3	0	2	17	13	6
Abbots Langley	7	1	3	3	25	27	5
Sarratt	5	1	2	2	16	21	4
Tring Ath.	8	1	2	5	17	29	4
Bellingdon	4	0	1	3	8	17	1
Sunnyside Rov.	8	0	0	8	10	44	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chipperfield R.	8	8	0	0	46	8	16
C'penders P. R.	6	4	1	1	32	10	9
Chaulden Res.	8	3	2	3	29	22	8
Warners End A.	9	4	0	5	22	28	8
Highfield SC ...	7	4	0	3	12	28	8
Vikings	5	3	0	2	15	11	6
OHA Res.	9	1	3	5	11	22	5
Northchurch R.	6	2	0	4	6	34	4
St. Leonards ...	5	1	2	2	5	6	3
L. Marston R.	7	0	2	5	7	16	2

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sarratt Res. ...	7	6	0	1	40	12	12
Copthorne	7	6	0	1	35	12	12
Highfield SC R.	7	5	1	1	28	12	11
Addmult	10	4	2	4	19	28	10
Aldbury Res. ...	9	4	1	4	20	19	9
Chesham YC ...	5	4	0	1	29	8	8
Avenue	6	2	1	3	16	17	5
L. Gaddesd'n R.	7	2	1	4	15	27	5
Kodak	7	2	0	5	14	24	4
Tring Ath. Res.	8	1	2	5	12	33	4
Chaulden 'A' ...	4	1	0	3	11	22	2
Ashley Green R.	5	0	0	5	9	23	0

PROGRAMME

THE GREENWOOD PLAYERS

present

"THE WHOLE TRUTH"

by

Philip Mackie

6d

CAST

Deenie	Mollie Wilbee
Lewis Paulton	Eddie Rollinson
Brenda Paulton	Audrey Bond
Carliss	John Adams
A Visitor	Robbie Walchi
Briggs	Tony Bond
Brett	Jack Miller
Petty	Michael Singleton

Producer: Elspeth Smith

The Action of the play takes place at the present time, in London, during a single evening.

ACT ONE

The Paulton's Living-Room, 7.30 p.m.

ACT TWO

The Paulton's Living-Room, 9.15 p.m.

ACT THREE

The Paulton's Living-Room, 11.45 p.m.

There will be an interval between Acts 1 and 2 during which time coffee will be served.

"BEHIND THE SCENES"

Lighting	Michael Singleton
Scenery	Peter Rowe
Properties	Julia Carr & Susan Walchi
Prompt	Sheila Henniker
Front of House	Irene Rowe, Marion Petts & Joan Lane
Make-up	Marion Petts
Refreshments	Violet Vasey, Phyllis Middleton & Susan Middleton

The Greenwood Players would like to thank everyone who has assisted us in the production of this play and also those people who have loaned various items of property.
New members are always welcome, any of the existing members mentioned in this programme will be pleased to give details of Membership.
Telephone equipment lent by the G.P.O.
Uniforms hired by the courtesy of Mr. J. Cracknell.

Under lighting hired from the Kings Langley Players.

Programmes Composed on VariTyper

PROGRAMME

The Greenwood Players

present

FOOLS RUSH IN

by

Kenneth Horne

6d

Cast

Millicent	Susan Brown
Mrs. Coot	Elspeth Smith
Mrs. Mandrake	Mollie Wilbee
Angela	Audrey Bond
Pam	Betty Stephens
Charles	John Adams
Paul	Terry Messett
Joe	Robin Sindall

Produced by Eddie Rollinson

* * * * * * *

ACT ONE

A lounge-hall of Angela Dickson's house.at Ilcombe in Kent. A summer morning.

* * * * * * *

ACT TWO

Scene 1. The same. After lunch.
Scene 2. The same. After supper.

* * * * * * *

ACT THREE

The same. A week later; after supper.

* * * * * * *

There will be a 15 minute interval between Acts 1 and 2 during which time coffee will be served.

* * * * * * *

BEHIND THE SCENES

Stage Manager	Jim Smith
Lighting	Michael Singleton
Sound Effects	Michael Brown
Scenery	Peter Rowe
Wardrobe	Doris Rollinson
Properties	Julie Carr
Prompt	Blanche Thatcher
Front of House	Marion Petts & Susan Walchli
Make-up	Marion Petts
Refreshments	Violet Vasey, Noreen Singleton & Sheila Wood

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Telephone equipment lent by the G.P.O.

Under lighting hired from the Kings Langley Players.

* * * * * * *

Programmes Composed on VariTyper.

PROGRAMME

The Greenwood Players

present

"DANGEROUS CORNER"

a play in Three Acts

by

J. B. Priestley

6d.

Cast

Freda Caplan	Betty Stephens
Miss Mockridge	Elspeth Smith
Betty Whitehouse	Susan Brown
Olwen Peel	Audrey Bond
Charles Stanton	Noel Rabbetts
Gordon Whitehouse	Robin Sindall
Robert Caplan	John Adams

The play Directed by Eddie Rollinson

* * * * *

SCENE

The Drawing room of Mr. Caplan's house at Chantbury Close, After Dinner.

* * * * *

TIME

The present.

The action of the play is continuous.

* * * * *

There will be a 15 minute interval between Acts 1 and 2 during which time coffee will be served.

* * * * * * *

BEHIND THE SCENES

Stage Manager	Jim Smith
Lighting	Michael Singleton
Sound Effects	Michael Brown
Scenery	Peter Rowe
Backdrop	Joan Sellwood
Wardrobe	Doris Rollinson
Properties	Julie Carr
Prompt	Mollie Wilbee
Front of House	Marion Petts & Susan Walchli
Make-up	Marion Petts
Refreshments	Violet Vasey, Noreen Singleton & Sheila Wood

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Telephone equipment lent by the G.P.O.

Lighting hired from the Kings Langley Players.

* * * * *

Programmes Composed on VariTyper.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

"MURDER MISTAKEN"	by	Janet Green
"YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT"	by	Diana Morgan
"THE RELUCTANT DEBUTANTE"	by	William Douglas-Home
"THE WHOLE TRUTH"	by	Philip Mackie
"FOOLS RUSH IN"	by	Kenneth Horne

* * * * * * * *

LIST OF PATRON MEMBERS as at 28th February, 1967.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Absalom
Miss G. Absalom
Mr. & Mrs. D. Brown
Miss M. Clutterbuck
Mrs. E. Collins
Mr. R. Dickens
Mrs. B. Ibbott
Mr. & Mrs. D. Jenks
Mr. & Mrs. R. Livesey
Group Captain & Mrs. G. Lowe
Mr. D. Moss
Mr. & Mrs. M. Neal
Mr. & Mrs. A. Sindall
Mr. & Mrs. M. Smith
Lady D. Spearman
Mrs. M. Walchli



How it used to be—these members of Holy Cross Parish Church, Sarratt, with their Rector, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, re-enact the moment of Communion for Christians some 1800 years ago. A scene in the Village Hall last Sunday afternoon.

Langley

COMMUNION SERVICE THROUGH THE AGES

THE congregation of Sarratt Parish Church was able not only to hear but to see how the service of Holy Communion began, in a dramatic presentation in Sarratt Village Hall on Sunday.

Entitled "Do This In Remembrance of Me," a cast of parishioners under the leadership of Mr. Eddie Rollinson dramatised first the Last Supper, and then the service of Holy Communion, as it took place in those early days when the sacrament first came to be set in a service of worship rather than in the course of a full meal.

Each dramatisation was introduced by a short explanatory talk from the Rector, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson.

VITAL AND CONTEMPORARY

Despite the fact that both the order of service, the words of the sermon, and the prayers all dated from second or third century sources, many people were surprised on Sunday to discover how vital and contemporary the early Eucharist was, compared to the traditional 17th century service that churchgoers are so accustomed to.

After a break for tea, served by members of the Mothers' Union, the afternoon concluded with a demonstration of the experimental 1967 Communion Service.

Inspired by a similar presentation last September by the St. Albans Diocese Liturgical Committee, the afternoon proved most enjoyable and instructive.

Langley Times, October 28, 1967—3

Approval for village hall rebuilding

A CROSS-SECTION of Sarratt villagers gave unanimous approval on Tuesday night to the Village Hall Management Committee's efforts to start the rebuilding scheme for the main hall.

Management Committee chairman, Mr. J. Smith, speaking at the Village Hall Annual Meeting, said that if the rebuilding was to take place the needs of future generations should be considered. The cost of the scheme, he said, could be between £12,000 and £15,000. However, if sufficient grants were received the village would then be left with about £5,000 to raise in hard cash.

"It is a gigantic plan. We must know if the village wants the scheme and if residents are prepared to back us to the hilt," said Mr. Smith. A show of hands by some 40 people who attended the meeting indicated support for a rebuilding scheme.

TO CATER FOR YOUTH

The chairman invited suggestions from the floor in connection with the idea for a new-look main hall. Several ideas were then put forward, including one request for provision to be made for a youth section in any rebuilding. The Committee will now consider the points raised at the meeting.

The meeting heard that the Department of Education and Science would not consider a grant until one year after their payment of the last grant, which amounted to £224 towards the rebuilding of the front part of the hall. This rebuilding has now taken place, at a cost close to the accepted tender of £6,822.

At the start of the meeting those present stood in a short, silent tribute to the late Mr. Thomas Clutterbuck. "We have lost a jolly good friend. Mr. Clutterbuck was perhaps the greatest benefactor this hall had. Quite apart from his generosity there was his great interest in everything we did," said the chairman.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

In his report the chairman stated that the annual bazaar in the Village Hall had not been up to the usual standard. "But this may have been because of Cup Final day," he added.

The Art Show had proved extremely popular with the extent of local talent surprising many people. However, the colour slide shows had not been well attended.

A valuable source of income is being derived from coffee mornings, but with a little more support the income could be doubled or even trebled, said the chairman.

It was reported at the meeting that there was now only £47 remaining on the loan repayment scheme and it is expected to clear this shortly.

Mr. J. Smith expressed his reluctance to continue as chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. He said that he had now been chairman for 14 years, and while regarding the position as an honour, he now felt it was time to have a new face who could introduce new ideas.

Mr. Smith was, however, elected a member of the committee along with Mr. Dawkins, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Ward, Mr. Higgs, Mr. Green, Mr. Petts and Mr. Gregory. Officers of the committee, such as the chairman, will be elected at a forthcoming committee meeting.

Representatives from various village organisations who have been nominated as committee members include: Miss Steuart (Red Cross), Mrs. Patmore (Women's Institute), Mr. C. Huxley (Cricket Club), Mrs. Miles (Mothers' Union), Mrs. Naylor (Parents Association), Mr. F. J. Cogan (Roman Catholic Church), Mr. E. Simmonds (Baptist Chapel), Mr. Rollinson (Parochial Church Council), and Mr. R. Cox (Parish Council).

The wheelbarrow brigade





FLYING START TO VILLAGE FUND-RAISING

PUSHING a wheelbarrow took on a whole new dimension when 36 energetic competitors set Sarratt's Christian Aid Week off to a flying start.

As a race this charge of the wheelbarrow brigade took some beating and nobody was quite sure who was getting the worst of the bargain — the person whisked along at breakneck speed in the barrow, the person pushing or the third one running alongside.

But they all had to swap around on the way and each member also had to drink a pint of beer.

Ten teams took part in the men's event. The winners, see right, were members of Sarratt Cricket Club, Tim Dunne, Dick Vasey and Jeff Downer from left to right. Another team is seen on the left.

The women's race — with two teams entered — was over a shortened course taking them only as far as The Boot. The winning team was led by Mrs Pat Allen, seen above pushing. During the race and Morris dancing by the Datchet Morris Men about £20 was collected.

The village's Christian Aid effort is continuing with bingo in the village hall tonight; an evening of light classical music at the Old Barn, Little Sarratt Hall on Thursday; old time music hall in the village hall on Friday and Saturday; and a children's film show in the village hall on Saturday.



Shades of the Savoy in village hall

Harrow Times 30 Nov 1962

G & S CONCERT HELPS SARRATT FUND RAISING

A GALLANT gesture to boost Sarratt Village Hall funds came from members of Pinner and Hatch End Operatic Society last Saturday, when some thirty of their singers volunteered, free of charge, to put on an evening's concert of Gilbert and Sullivan songs and choruses, taken from the famous Savoy Opera series, for the benefit of an appreciative local audience.

The idea of a Gilbert and Sullivan concert originated from some "off-duty" collaboration by two business colleagues, Mr. W. H. Cuttriss, who is the chairman of the Pinner Operatic Society, and Mr. J. W. Smith who is chairman of the Sarratt Village Hall Committee. The Operatic Society's enthusiastic support for the idea resulted in some £13 being raised for the Village Hall funds, by Saturday's tuneful concert.

SPIRITED SINGERS

Artistically, a Gilbert and Sullivan concert without costumes, scenery and action, must inevitably be something of a plate of roast turkey without the trimmings. Nonetheless, these spirited singers presented the "white meat" of the operatic menu with plenty of flavour. Notable was the male chorus who excelled in the two famous policemen's numbers from the Pirates of Penzance.

Some competent work was also presented by a number of soloists, who combined for trios, quartets, quintets and even one sextet. Except for the cheery compere, Harry Pitchforth's breezy reference to "Lionel, Mary, Betty, Eric, Chris, George and Daphne" the soloists remained anonymous. The whole concert was conducted in a neat and business-like style by Jean Elvidge.

The piano accompaniment for the evening was played by Miss E. Emlyn-Jones, and the librarian was Kathleen Baker.

The Pinner Society, which was founded in 1922, has always specialised in Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The present full company of some 60 members, will present their production of "Patience," in the early part of next year.

Mr. J. W. Smith, for the Village Hall Committee, accorded the company a warm vote of thanks at the conclusion of the concert.

1968/9

Langley Times, July 20, 1968—7

SARRATT SCHOOL'S PRIZEGIVING DAY

1970 an important year for junior pupils

BY January, 1970—if all goes well—pupils of Sarratt Church of England Junior Mixed Infants' School will all be housed under one roof with the completion of the second phase of the new school wing.

Presenting his annual report at the school's prizegiving in Sarratt Village Hall on Thursday last, headmaster, Mr. K. G. Green, said it was hoped that work on the final stage of the project would begin during the next financial year around April with a completion date at the end of the year.

The new wing will consist of two classrooms—which will bring the total in the new premises to four—a school hall and kitchen. It is hoped to use the old school building as an annexe.

SWIMMING POOL FUND

During the year, Mr. Green reported, there had been another exciting step forward with the launching by the Parents' Association of a Swimming Pool Fund to provide a pool at the school for the children.

"It would be rather nice if the two building projects could be complimentary, and we hope this will be possible, that with the completion of the school we will see the completion of the swimming pool," said Mr. Green.

He praised the Parents' Association and the individual efforts by pupils to raise funds for the pool.

After reporting on the various outings the children had made during the year, Mr. Green turned to the staffing situation at the school and mentioned a number of departures and arrivals among personnel.

The school would be sorry to lose after four years teacher Miss H. Scarborough. Her successor in September would be Miss Jones, reported Mr. Green.

Mrs. Dickinson had been appointed art and craft teacher following the departure of Mr. Knight. Among the kitchen staff Mr. Green said that Mrs. Dowse was leaving after six years. She would be replaced, he said, by Mrs. Dolamore. Mrs. Backhurst would be joining the welfare staff in the infants department, he reported.

THANKS TO MANAGERS

Mr. Green thanked the school managers for their support, the teachers for their loyalty, the school caretaker and kitchen staff. He also thanked Mrs. Clout, for assisting with the school swimming parties.

Thanks also went to Miss Patmore, who played the piano during the programme of songs—some featuring recorders and percussion—presented at the prizegiving by pupils.

The children also took part in choral speaking and Tessa Thorne and Jennifer Garwell appeared in a piano and recorder duet.

Class prizes and swimming certificates were presented by the chairman of the school managers, the Rev. A. J. Tomlinson, the Rector of Sarratt.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

In a brief speech, the Rev. Tomlinson spoke of the proposed reorganisation of secondary education in this part of South West Herts, and said that the parents of Sarratt primary schoolchildren were looking forward "some impatiently with pleasure, some a trifle apprehensively" to the changes.

He said that the majority of the village children went to Kings Langley Secondary School and there were plans for extensions that would see the school offering a full sixth form curriculum.

He said youngsters going to Kings Langley would have "absolutely every facility at their disposal."

Of the staffing situation he said that compared to other schools Sarratt was "wonderfully static."

PRIZEWINNERS

Prizewinners: class one, group one, 1 Christopher Tomlinson, 2 Trevor Church; group two, 1 Paul Whittamore, 2 Peter Clout; sustained effort, Mary Lambert; gardening, Eberhard Kretschmer and Martin Singleton; consistency, Jennifer Garwell; achievement, Peter Watber: English, Catherine Holloway; needlework, Jeanette Baker; progress, Christopher Payne.

Class two, group one, 1 Nicholas Wilson, 2 Mark Quartly: progress, Barry Godman; group 2, 1 Carolyn Pratt, 2 Jacqueline Higgins; progress, Alan Baker, sustained effort, Rebecca Chitty.

Class three, group one, 1 Sally Wootton, 2 Rosamond Singleton; group two, 1 Sarah Ward, 2 Nicola Musk; progress, Carol Taylor and Diane Biggerstaff; prize for consistency, Sonia Boon.

Class four, group one, 1 Deborah Bridle, 2 Yvonne Plant and Simon Russen; numbers prize, David Baker; group two, 1 Catherine Glass, 2 Carey Theed: special prize, Carina Chapman.

Swimming certificates: 25 yards, Eberhard Kretschmer, Barry Godman, Christopher Payne, Stuart Wilton, Carolyn Pratt, Jeanette Baker, Diane Birkett, James Richmond, Martin Falkner, Paul Tuthill, Julian Dopson, Jonathan Adams, Carol Woodward, Gail Truman, Rory Dockery, Peter Clout. 100 yards, Eberhard Kretschmer, Christopher Payne, Trevor Church, Ann Woodward, Martin Falkner, Gordon Boon, Stuart Wilton, Tessa Thorne.



Youngsters of Sarratt Church of England JMI School who took part in the programme of songs and music presented by pupils at the school prizegiving in Sarratt Village Hall on Thursday last.—G22621.



Percy Saunders

Ruth Blake (87) lived to 98



4d. SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1969 Best for LOCAL news PRICE FOURPENCE

Langley Times + Recorder

SAFE BLAST AT HOLY CROSS



The Rector, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, pictured with the wrecked safe at Holy Cross Church.—M24219.

CHURCH SILVER STOLEN

HOME OFFICE forensic scientists were on Wednesday examining materials used by raiders to blast open the safe of the Church of the Holy Cross, Sarratt, and steal the church's silver.

Two chalices, three patens, a wine flagon, a bread box and a sick Communion vessel were among the gang's £400 haul from the break-in, the second in two weeks at the church. On the first occasion intruders escaped with an alms box containing a small amount of money after causing considerable damage to church doors.

The latest theft occurred between Monday evening when the church was locked up and Tuesday morning when the discovery was made by Sexton Mr. A. Pratt. The bandits entered the church by smashing a window.

"ALMIGHTY MESS"

The Rector of Sarratt, the Rev. A. J. F. Tomlinson, told the Langley Times that the thieves made an "almighty mess" of the church vestry. The safe itself, he said, was a "write off."

There was, however, no question of church services being cancelled. For the present the church would have to use borrowed vessels to celebrate Communion, the Rector commented.

Parish records and registers were fortunately undamaged when the safe was blasted open.

A police spokesman at Watford said on Wednesday that inquiries into the raid were continuing.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

110 senior residents dine out at Sarratt

ONE HUNDRED AND TEN people—several over 90 years old—all of them guests of Sarratt Friendship Club, the village's thriving over-sixties, sat down to a hearty lunch in Sarratt Village Hall last Saturday.

But that was only the beginning of a bumper Christmas treat organised every year by the local Red Cross detachment, which went on to include a whole afternoon's varied entertainment, concluding in time-honoured manner with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the sounding of three hearty cheers for the chief organiser, Miss K. Steuart, the President of Red Cross Division 8, and Vice-president of the Sarratt Detachment, Herts 94.

Lunch, consisting of soup, cold chicken, ham, salad, trifle and mince-pies, was attractively laid out on tables which had the full service of smartly attired local Red Cross members. In the kitchen a small army of busy helpers laboured happily under the guidance of Mrs. E. Collins to supply a steady demand.

CLUB'S OWN DRAMA GROUP

The afternoon was enlivened by the activities of the Friendship Club's own drama group, who matched up valiantly to a short humorous piece on the "Joys of Christmas," a play produced with full effects on the stage by Mrs. K. Green. For the more sophisticated there followed a brisk brace of revue sketches given by members of the popular local Greenwood Players, who between them spared no pains to give a "lift" to the proceedings, adding for good measure a welcome touch of glamour to the scene.

Before they left for home, in cars driven by many local volunteer-owners, the guests were treated to a generous slice of iced and marzipanned Christmas cake, made specially for the occasion by Mrs. E. Archer.

THEIR THANKS

There was a vote of thanks for the Red Cross proposed by Miss M. Clutterbuck, another for the organisers and helpers proposed by Mr. J. W. Smith, and one each for the drama groups, proposed by Miss K. Steuart, and Mrs. June Rees, the Commandant of the Sarratt Detachment.

The guests responded warmly. Many of them thought that it had been one of the best events they had enjoyed since the Christmas treats started back in 1945. One guest who was specially appreciative was 92-year-old Miss Darcy, who lives at nearby Commonwood. She told the Langley Times cheerfully that she found few opportunities for getting away from home, but was kept very busy making soft toys for needy children on her one-hundred-year-old sewing machine which once belonged to her mother.

Miss Darcy's father, Thomas Arthur Darcy, was a prominent engineer of the last century, engaged on railway and sewage disposal projects both at home and abroad.



Sarratt Friendship Club's drama group, with helpers, acting out their play for Christmas on the stage at Sarratt Village Hall last Saturday afternoon.

1969?



Guests at Sarratt Friendship Club Christmas lunch and entertainment enjoy themselves in the Village Hall last Saturday afternoon. They are watching a humorous sketch put on for their benefit by the Sarratt Greenwood Players.

SARRATT 'MAYING'



SARRATT is a village where tradition dies hard, and the lovely old custom of "Maying" is still carried on by a few children, though fewer take part each year.

Eight-year-old Jaqueline Higgins, of Dead Man's Ash, took her posy of spring flowers and knocked on the door of Miss Ruth Bryant, of Ivy Cottage, The Green, to make her May Day call, and then found she had forgotten the words of the traditional "Maying" song.

But Miss Bryant, who used to go a-Maying herself in Sarratt 60 years ago, came to the rescue and sang the song to Jaqueline. "We used to have the day off school to do it," she explained. "It was the only way we could raise money to go to the fair."

May 3 1965



Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Anderson pause for the cameraman after their wedding at Sarratt Baptist Church on Saturday. The bride was formerly Miss Jill Poynter, of Church Lane, Sarratt. Photo by Capital Photos, Garston.

FORMER PASTOR'S SON MARRIES

20-9-1969

Mr. P. J. Anderson—Miss J. Poynter

A FORMER Pastor of Sarratt Baptist Church, Mr. Ronald Anderson returned to the church on Saturday to officiate at the wedding of his son Peter John Anderson to local girl Miss Jill Poynter.

Peter is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson whose home is at 13 Miswell Lane, Tring, The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Len Poynter, of 9 Church Lane, Sarratt.

The service was choral and the soloist was Mrs. Valerie Tomes the 'groom's sister and his uncle Mr. David Anderson was at the organ.

The bride given in marriage by her father wore a classic style white crepe dress with lace train and short veil held by a single rose headdress. She carried a bouquet of gold and cream roses, white carnations and stephanotis and Autumn Foliage.

Miss Kathleen Anderson, cousin of the 'groom and Miss Susan Poynter God-daughter of the bride, were in attendance. Their dresses were in antique gold satin with white trimming to match the headdresses. They carried Victorian posies of gold and white roses. Both wore necklaces of a single drop pearl, presents from the bridegroom.

The best man was the bridegroom's brother-in-law Mr. Kenneth Tomes and the groomsmen were Mr. Eric Childerstone and Mr. James Chalk, cousins of the 'groom and bride respectively.

The bridal couple have recently returned from Canada and the USA and three American friends travelled from Mitchigan, USA, to attend the wedding.

The couple left for a Cornish honeymoon following a reception at the Two Brewers Hotel, Chipperfield. For her going away outfit the bride chose a turquoise coat and dress with navy blue accessories.



Mr. H. M. Neal and Mr. A. Jenkinson admire some fine blooms at Sarratt Horticultural Society's show.
Graphic Photo 84386

Sept. 1969

Imaginative children

EXHIBITS at Sarratt Horticultural Society's autumn show on Saturday this year dropped to 314, against 343 last year.

Chairman Mr. A. Jenkinson said he was "rather disappointed" that this year four fewer than last year were competing, but he complimented competitors on the wonderful standard of the exhibits.

Mr. Jenkinson said he was concerned at the low membership of the society. Although there were 560 houses in the area, there were only just over 100 members in the society.

Probably the biggest attraction at this year's show was the children's section, with its 31 exhibits. Great imagination was evident in the production of miniature gardens in seed-boxes, and the winning garden, by nine-year-old Carolyn Pratt, was a masterpiece, in which everything grew. Crazy-paving, "moss" lawns, a tiny cold-frame complete with growing plants, and "runner beans" growing up strings, all added up to a very attractive garden.

Marrow dachshunds—and cucumber porcupines

Ten-year-old Rosemary Jenks, who came third, had contrived an intriguing greenhouse, with the aid of matchsticks and polythene, and other gardens boasted ponds, rustic arches and summerhouses.

Animals or objects made from fruit and vegetables resulted in a fantastic array of creatures, which included vegetable marrow dachshunds, orange and clove hedgehogs, a cucumber porcupine, and a crinoline lady made entirely of flowers.

The trophies were presented this year by Miss K. Steuart, Divisional President of the Red Cross.

TROPHIES

Clutterbuck trophy (champion of all sections): E. Parker.

Frederick Barber trophy (champion section "A"): E. Parker.

Jenkinson trophy (early-flowering chrysanthemums): E. Parker.

Arthur Pritchard trophy (roses): Mrs. C. Barber.

David Osborne trophy (vegetables): E. Middleton.

Loader trophy (floral art): Mrs. C. Barber.

E. A. Cox trophy (schoolchildren): Miss C. Pratt.

SECTION A
Early flowering chrysanths.

3 blooms, reflexed, one variety.—1, E. Parker; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, H. Vasey.

3 blooms, incurved or incurving, one variety.—1, H. Vasey; 2, A. Scotcher; 3, A. Jenkinson.

5 blooms, several varietys.—1, E. Parker; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, R. Mason.

Specimen bloom.—1, R. Mason; 2, H. Vasey; 3, E. Parker.

5 stems of sprays, one or more varieties not disbudded.—1, A. Jenkinson; 2, Miss M. Clutterbuck; 3, A. Jenkinson.

5 stems Korean or pompon.—1, A. Jenkinson; 2, E. Parker. Chrysanths, frontal effect, grasses or other foliage.—1, E. Parker; 2, M. Clutterbuck; 3, C. Barber.

SECTION A
Roses.

6 HT roses, own foliage, one or more varieties.—1, C. Barber; 2, A. Jenkinson.

One specimen HT rose.—1, C. Barber; 2, R. Dickins; 3, E. Smith.

3 stems floribunda roses one or more varieties.—1, A. Jenkinson; 2, B. Downer; 3, Huxley.

Roses in bowl, all-round effect. own foliage.—1, C. Staughton; 2, C. Barber.

SECTION A
Flowers.

6 Asters, single.—1, E. Smith; 2, E. Parker; 3, A. Jenkinson.

6 Asters, double.—1, E. Parker; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, C. Barber.

5 medium flowered cactus dahlias, one or more varieties.—1, E. Parker; 2, M. Clutterbuck; 3, E. Baldwin.

5 small flowered decorative dahlias, one or more varieties.—1, M. Clutterbuck; 2, A. Jenkinson; 3, E. Parker.

12 pompon dahlias, mixed.—1, E. Parker; 2, E. Clutterbuck.

Dahlias frontal effect — own foliage.—1, E. Baldwin; 2, C. Barber; 3. M. Clutterbuck.

SARRATT

Annuals—any foliage—all-round effect.— 1, R. Dickens; 2, C. Barber; 3, B. Downer.

Herbaceous flowers, 6 stems—distinct varieties.— 1, A. Jenkinson; 2, H. Neal; 3, E. Fenton.

Mixed flowers, all-round effect.—1, E. Fenton; 2, E. Smith; 3, A. Jenkinson.

Gladioli, large flowered, 3 spikes.—1, R. Dickens; 2, A. Scotcher; 3, A. Jenkinson.

Pot plant—not cacti.—1, E. Parker; 2, M. Clutterbuck; 3, M. Craig.

SECTION B
Vegetables.

6 Onions.—1, H. Neal; 2, J. Smith; 3, H. Poynter.

12 Shallots.—1, E. Middleton; 2, H. Poynter.

6 Potatoes, round or kidney, one variety.—1, H. Neal; 2, M. Clutterbuck; 3, E. Middleton.

12 pods runner beans.—1, R. Dickens; 2, B. Downer; 3, E. Middleton.

6 carrots.—1, E. Middleton; 2, E. Parker; 3, B. Downer.

6 beetroot.—1, E. Parker; 2, M. Clutterbuck; 3, J. Smith.

3 cabbages.—1, E. Parker.

3 lettuce, cabbage or cos.—1, R. Mason.

2 vegetable marrows (ht for table).—1, M. Clutterbuck; 2, H. Vasey; 3, E. Middleton.

6 tomatoes, indoor.—1, J. Smith; 2, B. Chalk; 3, R. Mason.

SECTION C
Floral art.

Miniature arrangement (not exceeding 4in. in diameter).—1, Mrs. Neal; 2, M. Macgregor; 3, Mrs. Archer.

Arrangement 5 flowers, (not exceeding 20in.).—1, Mrs. Mobsly; 2, Mrs. Archer; 3, E. Fenton.

Harvest Festival arrangement flowers, foliage and fruit.—1, C. Barber; 2, E. Fenton; 3, Mrs. Neal.

Monochromatic arrangement. Flowers in shades of one colour.—1, C. Barber; 2, Mrs. Staughton; 3, Mrs. Archer.

Dried arrangement. (Not exceeding 18in.).—1, C. Barber; 2, E. Fenton; 3, Mrs. Jenkinson.

For novices: Flowers for visitors room.—1, Mrs. Staughton; 2, Miss Illner; 3, E. Freeman.

NOVICES SECTION

Early flowering chrysanths. 5 blooms in several varieties.—1, C. Barber; 2, Mrs. Pratt.

3 medium flowered cactus dahlias —one or more varieties.—2, J. Huxley; 3, Mrs. Loader.

3 small flowered decorative dahlias—one or more varieties.—1, E. Baldwin.

12 pods runner beans.—1, B. Chalk.

6 tomatoes, indoor.—1, Jenks; 2, B. Chalk.

SECTION D
Fruit.

6 apples, dessert, one variety.—1, Mrs. Ogden; 2, C. Barber; 3, J. Smith.

6 apples, cooking, one variety.—1, E. Middleton; 2, H. Neal; 3, C. Barber.

SECTION E
Cookery.

Chocolate cake.—1, B. Downer; 2, Jenks; 3, Mrs. Staughton.

Cheese straws.—1, Mrs. Thomas; 2, Mrs. Singleton; 3, Mrs. Staughton.

3 scotch eggs.—1, Mrs. Jenkinson; 2, Mrs. Powell; 3, Mrs. Singleton.

Fruit flan.—1, Mrs Archer; 3, Mrs. Singleton.

1lb. jar apple chutney.—1, Mrs. Archer; 2, Mrs. Powell; 3, Mrs. Loader.

1lb. jar lemon curd.—1, E. Smith; 2, C. Barber; 3, Mrs. Neal.

1lb. jar jam (soft fruit).—1, Mrs. Thomas; 2, Mrs. Ogden; 3, Mrs. Archer.

1lb. jar jam (stone fruit).—1, Mrs. Archer; 2, E. Freeman; 3, C. Barber.

1 bottle plums.—1, Mrs. Archer; 2, C. Barber.

1 bottle fruit (any kind).—1, Mrs. Ogden; 2, C. Barber; 3, Mrs. Archer.

SECTION F
Handicraft

Knitting. Babies' bootees.—1, Jenn; 2, Mrs. Mobsly; 3, C. Barber.

Painting. Oils or watercolours.—1, J. Smith; 2, Mrs. Moss; 3, Carol Woodward (12)

Needlework. Child's dress in material.—1, Mrs. Staughton; 2, E. Baldwin; 3, A. Baldwin.

Miscellaneous handicraft

J. Huxley; 2, Mrs. Thomas; 3, E. Smith.

SECTION G
For schoolchildren

Miniature garden in seedbox.—1, C. Pratt; 2, C. Robson; 3, R. Jenks.

Animal, face or object made from fruit or vegetable.—1, Sarah Staughton; 2, Catherine Staughton; 3, Jenks.

Buttonhole suitable for lady.—1, C. Pratt; 2, N. West; 3, C. Robson.



Oh no!—That's NOT the ticket office, M'am! Mrs. Elspeth Smith springs a surprise on other willing helpers taking a stroll in the sunshine after the exhausting efforts of stallholding at Sarratt Village Hall Spring Bazaar last Saturday afternoon.

LANDLEY TIMES 23 MAY 1970

Horticultural Society AGM

1969

THE ANNUAL meeting of the Sarratt Horticultural Society was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, March 18, and attended by a representative and enthusiastic audience.

The members were delighted to learn from the chairman, Mr. A. Jenkinson, of the very successful year both financially and progressively, with increased exhibitors and exhibits at the Autumn Show in spite of the adverse climatic conditions during the most important part of the year.

It has long been realised that horticultural societies require the infusion of new interests to attract exhibitors and public alike and this policy has been responsible for the success of the society, which now not only attracts the village of Sarratt but also the other villages in the rural district together with their friends outside the area.

In this connection, over 500 letters were delivered to non-members in the area with invitations to membership and to share the benefits of the society.

The officers and committee were re-elected with the new secretary, Mrs. B. Downer, and the addition of Mr. J. Baldwin to the committee.

A lecture was given by Mr. F Harbour of the "Judge's Point of View" which proved to be a most interesting, helpful and enjoyable subject.

Sarratt spring fair

THE FINE weather on Saturday afternoon brought out about 120 people to the Sarratt Village Hall Spring Fair.

The Fair raised some £140 towards the Village Hall rebuilding fund. About £6,000 is still needed for the extensions to the Hall. But work on one stage can begin when £4,000 has been raised.

This extension will be built alongside the existing main body of the Hall and will add another 12 feet in width — providing a further 600 sq. feet floor area.

It is hoped that work will begin in the Summer and will be completed by late Autumn.

The stallholders for Saturday's Fair were, "Buy a Brick," Robin Sindall; raffle, Miss Steuart and helpers; white elephant, Village Hall Committee members; mystery parcels, Sarratt Baptist Church; sweets, Parents' Association; tombola, Cricket Club; garden stall, Holy Cross Church and Horticultural Society; cosmetics, Greenwood Players; cakes, Women's Institute; refreshments, Mothers' Union; sideshows, Village Hall Entertainments Committee.

1970

A RECORD DAY AT SARRATT SHOW

SEPT. 1970

IT was a record day for the Sarratt Horticultural Society's ninth annual autumn show held on Saturday in the Village Hall and School.

There was a 20 per cent increase in the number of exhibitors and the exhibits—100 more than last year—were up by some 25 per cent.

High praise was paid by the judges of the flower, fruit and vegetable sections, Messrs. S. Harborn and J. Jessiman. They said that the exhibits were of a remarkably high standard, particularly in the chrysanthemum classes in which four exhibitors became joint holders of the "Jenkinson" trophy.

There were some extremely attractive entries in the floral art section which was judged by Mrs. Payne, of Watford. There was also keen competition in the cookery section judged by Mrs. Wilcocks but entries in the handicrafts section could have done with a little more support. This section was judged by Mrs. Leek. Receiving a special word of commendation were the exhibits in the schoolchildren's section which were described by Society chairman, Mr. A. Jenkinson as "marvellous."

TROPHY WINNERS

Winners of the various trophies were as follows: The "Clutterbuck" trophy, for the highest overall total of points, was shared by Miss M. Clutterbuck and Mrs. C. M. Barber. The "Frederick Barber" trophy, for the highest points in the flower section, went to Miss M. Clutterbuck. The "Jenkinson" trophy for chrysanthemums was shared between Miss M. Clutterbuck and Messrs. A. Jenkinson, J. Scotcher and D. G. Steadman. The "Elsie Collins" trophy for cookery went to Mrs. Wooton, the "Loader" trophy for floral art was taken by Mrs. S. Carlier and the "Pritchard" trophy for roses went to Mrs. H. Neal. Mr. H. Vasey took the "David Osborne" trophy for vegetables and the "E. A. Cox" trophy for the schoolchildren went to Master David Wooton after some close competition.

Car parks urged for day-trippers

MJT. OHS

31-7-1970

CAR parks to cope with the increasing number of visitors to the Hertfordshire countryside, were urged by Councillor N. J. Truscott at the last meeting of Sarratt Parish Council.

Warning that "more and more people are going to come out here," Councillor Truscott said a scheme was needed to cope with the extra cars before they became a major problem.

It would be better to have car parks than have cars parked along every lane, he said.

But Councillor Mrs. G. Morison said people should park their cars at the end of a lane, and walk along it.

She said people should get out of their cars and walk down country lanes to appreciate the beauty of the countryside.

"You won't get wild life where there are hordes of people. Birds—the rare ones—disappear where there are people."

It was "a wild idea," she said, to widen roads so that motor cars could get to areas of outstanding beauty. Cars should be parked and people should walk.

At last month's meeting members began a campaign to get rid of telegraph and electricity poles on the green, and have now heard from the clerk, Mrs. B. W. Fordyce, that their efforts were meeting with some success.

As a contribution to European Conservation Year, the Electricity Board was prepared to put the overhead line underground, and the GPO is now ready to meet members of the council for a discussion on the subjct.

The council also discussed the problem of erosion on Sarratt Green.

Chairman Councillor Ron Cox suggested large stones painted white round the edge of the green might be the answer.

Victor Simmons AND COMPANY

Land & Estate Agents Surveyors & Valuers
23A ALDENHAM ROAD BUSHEY, WATFORD WD1 4AB TEL. WATFORD 21459



A superb 2-year-old detached house situated in Chiswell Green, with gas-fired central heating, 3 bedrooms, lounge/diner, bathroom, kitchen, garage and average garden. £9,250.

CARPENDERS PARK
£7,975.—An attractive 1-yesr-old town house with warm-air central heating; 3 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, diner, garage and neat garden.

CROXLEY GREEN
£5,950.—A modern semi-detached house, close to Croxley Met. Station and shops and schools; 3 bedrooms, 2 reception-rooms, bathroom, kitchen, garage and average garden.

SARRATT
£7,750.—A new house in course of erection, being built in Sarratt; 3 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garage and small garden.

BRICKET WOOD
£8,750.—A superb chalet bungalow, with gas-fired central heating, being close to Bricket Wood Station and shops; 3 bedrooms, 2 reception-rooms, bathroom, kitchen, 2 utility-rooms, detached garage and 100ft. rear garden.

OXHEY
£9,450.—A large detached house, close to Bushey and Oxhey Station and shops; 4 bedrooms, 2 reception-rooms, bathroom, kitchen, summerhouse, garage and space for other cars, good well-stocked garden.

BUSHEY HEATH
£16,950.—An attractive detached house with full gas-fired central heating; 4 bedrooms, 3 reception-rooms, bathroom, kitchen, garage and 180-200ft. rear garden.

WD July 31 1970

Members of the Watford and S.W. Herts Association of Estate Agents.

THE death occurred at her Commonwood home on Tuesday morning of Mrs. Brenda Mobbs, 48.

She was the wife of Mr. Peter Mobbs, Watford demolition contractor of Commonwood Cottage, Commonwood, Chipperfield.

Mrs. Mobbs, a former pupil of Watford Grammar School, had been ill for several months. Before her illness she was active in the South-West Herts Farmer's Union (ladies' section).

A service at Chipperfield Parish Church at 11.30 a.m. on Monday precedes cremation at West Herts Crematorium, Garston (12.30 p.m.).

W-ob. 31-7-70

★ ★ ★

Micklefield Green House

Sarratt
(Mr & Mrs R. R. Absalom)

Features lawns and fine herbaceous border. Helicopter was on view on 1969 open day.

One mile South of Sarratt on Watford Road. See map opposite.

1. The house and lawns.
2. Herbaceous border.



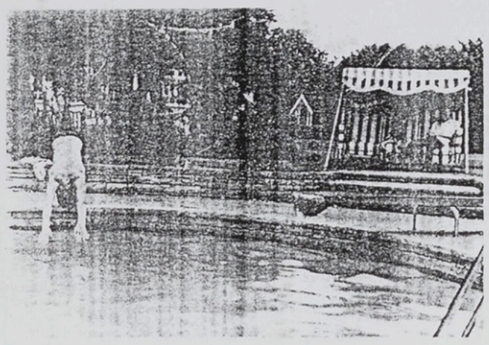


From Hertfordshire Gardens by Anthony Wigens 1970 Hurtwood Press

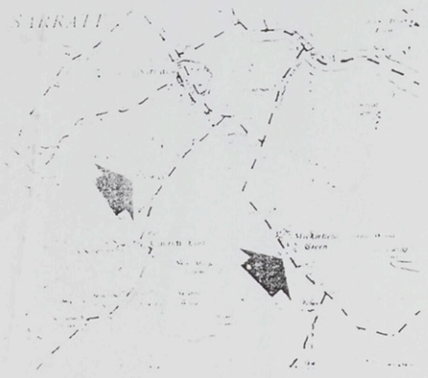
Nobles

Sarratt
(Mr & Mrs J. M. Robson)





1. Nobles.
2. Heated swimming pool.



Crown Copyright reserved

Little Nobles

Sarratt, near Watford
(Mr & Mrs C. M. Barker)

Timber

Mrs C. M. Barker writes: Little Nobles was the original coach house and cottage belonging to Nobles, built in 1905 for the use of the retiring clergy of Sarratt church. I had it made into a house 5 years ago, when I sold Nobles. With it is part of the garden and stables and paddock.

Little Nobles still has 5 loose boxes and four acres of grazing and three quarters of an acre of garden, surrounded by Beech woods. There are very many plants of interest to flower arrangers, as I myself show in floral art classes. There is also a herb garden, rose garden and many old shrub roses of interest.

Sarratt is on the road from Croxley Green to Chipperfield and Kings Langley. Map also shows location of Micklefield Green House.



70

From Hertfordshire Gardens by Anthony Wigens 1970 Hurtwood Press

Chevins

Sarratt
(Mr & Mrs A. Jenkinson)

Mr Alec Jenkinson writes about the landscaped garden at Chevins: there are irregular terraced lawns, a rockery in Westmorland stone planted chiefly in various varieties of heaths and heathers, in bloom throughout the year. Established perennial borders and close planted annual borders provide for extensive summer display. There are borders of roses, hybrid tea and floribunda.

About 600 show standard chrysanthemums are in bloom in early September – part under specially designed outdoor covers and part in the special 'Alec Jenkinson" Double Bloom Bags.



art of the rockery and heathers. A pool is front of the rockery and there is a very ice Maple behind it. On the right are steps ading to the top terraced lawn.

Rushworth

Sarratt
(Mr & Mrs J. H. Smith)

Two views of the home-constructed waterways in an attractive garden.





2

DOWN YOUR STREET

★

Words by FLORENCE KIRK

Pictures by MICK PALMER

THERE'S VARIETY IN CHURCH LANE

W.I.O.B.S. MARCH 1971

MISS AMY is a small woman with a big heart. Eighty years old, she lives alone in a little almshouse opposite Holy Cross Church in Sarratt. One night she found herself entertaining an unwelcome guest in the shape of an escaped convict. So Miss Amy made him a cup of tea and sent him on his way!

But just to show that she doesn't condone crime, she made a gesture: "I gave him a cup without a handle," she told me, with evident relish.

"Didn't he hurt you?" I asked. She looked surprised, as though the thought hadn't occurred to her. "No, why should he?" was her reply.

There are a number of interesting personalities living in Church Lane, Sarratt, but without exception everyone I spoke to there agreed that I must meet "Miss Amy."

Driven by curiosity, I had made my way to the far end of the lane to interview her. The door was opened by a tiny, bright-eyed lady who welcomed me into her small sitting-room before I had time to explain my mission. On the high mantelpiece above the old-fashioned coal range were a number of birthday cards. "It was my 80th birthday yesterday," she explained. The postmen were on strike, but she still got 30 cards.

She has very decided views about Church Lane. "It's a second heaven," she declared fervently. "It's a lovely place to live in. The people are so friendly and our houses have all been modernised for us, with bathrooms and suchlike."

An angel

Not a native of Sarratt, Miss Amy West came to live in the village during the war, after the house at Purley in Surrey, where she was housekeeper, was hit by a flying bomb, and while none of her neighbours go so far as to describe Church Lane as heaven, it is obvious that most of them regard Miss Amy as one of its "angels." The many birthday gifts from her large circle of friends, including a posy of flowers from a child, proved their regard.

It is not the easiest matter to find her at home, for her time is taken up with many interests. In charge of the knitting of blankets for the Red Cross, at the local Friendship Club, her full programme also includes baking cakes for other organisations, making clothes and gardening. Last year she won a "first" for her roses at the local horticultural show. In the nearby church samples of her fine crochet work may be seen on the altar, though Miss Amy, in fact, attends Chapel on the village green. "I look after the church when the sexton is away," she explained.

Every Friday Miss Amy may be seen walking the length of Church Lane with her baskets to catch the bus into Watford to do her week's shopping. It is not surprising that she never has time to find living alone with her budgie Georgina a lonely affair.

Caters for all tastes

CHURCH LANE might be said to cater for all tastes and age groups, beginning, as it does, with an infants' school and including in its length a variety of houses large and small, Scout and British Legion headquarters, several well-kept allotments, a pub, almshouses, the church, and, finally, the churchyard!

The church itself is a landmark for overseas visitors. Built in the twelfth century, it has a unique north-to-south saddleback roof and on the upper part of the east wall of the south transept thirteenth-century wall paintings can be seen. These were uncovered by a previous rector, the Rev. E. Riley, and treated by Professor E. W. Tristam in 1928. Further cleaning and restoration work on the paintings was undertaken about three years ago, and, despite severe fading, it is possible to recognise the scene of Bethlehem.

Almost opposite the church is the Cock Inn, believed to have once been a bailiff's cottage. A cosy place of dark oak, shining brasses, fascinating antiques and—in winter—glowing coal fires, the inn has been part of the village scene for centuries, though no one seems to know quite how old it is.

Mr Joe Moore, licensee for the past 15 years, feels it must be very old indeed, and comments: "Upstairs in the bedrooms the locks on the doors and the keys in them are made entirely of wood, if that's any indication."

The Cock also has its own secret tunnel, and in a 1936 edition of The Motor we learn that a former owner of Rosehall Farm Monastery was a Lancastrian, and that in the time of the War of the Roses he made a secret tunnel leading from his home to the Cock Inn. The Cock's entrance to this tunnel is in the cellar, and is now sealed with a heavy stone.

Looking out of the front windows of the inn, across the churchyard opposite, it is possible to see a long straight line where there are no graves, and this, says Mr Moore, is the supposed line of the tunnel.

Home of ex-MP

NOT far from the church, and on the same side, is the Old Rectory. Partly seventeenth and partly eighteenth century, it was not built as a rectory, but became one about 1850. It was then inhabited by a father and son by the name of Riley, who were rectors in Sarratt for a total of nearly 100 years.

Then came two different rectors before it passed into private ownership.

Since 1963 it has been the home of Sir Alexander Spearman, Conservative MP for Scarborough and Whitby from 1941 until 1966, and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the President of the Board of Trade from 1951-52.

The gracious Old Rectory is surrounded by rolling lawns, dotted at present with patches of miniature daffodils and snowdrops, and guarded by sentinel Wellingtonias and a fine cedar. Looking down the sweep of the hill to the River Chess, a magnificent view of Latimer and Chenies unfolds—a complete surprise to any stranger approaching from narrow Church Lane!

Oddly enough, while the rector of Holy Cross Church in Church Lane lives on Sarratt Green, the minister of the Baptist Church on The Green lives in Church Lane.

The Rev. Fred Price has been Sarratt's Baptist minister for the past six years. "I came here for semi-retirement," he explained. "But the retirement part is a complete myth. One becomes so involved in everything to do with the village, I'm glad to say."

Twenty members

His little church, built originally for about 200, has 20 members and a Sunday School of 12. Forty-five years in the Ministry, Mr Price took his MA degree at Glasgow University in 1930, then went on to Glasgow's Baptist Theological College.

Both he and his wife Jemima were born in Glasgow, despite their Welsh-sounding name. Two years ago they celebrated their golden wedding, and, instead of the usual party, their family (four children and nine grandchildren) sent them for a holiday to Rothesay in Scotland. The Prices now have one son—John—in the Baptist ministry at Kintore, Aberdeenshire, and a daughter—Eva—married to a Baptist minister.

Nearby is the home of Mr Reg Wood and his wife, who celebrates their golden wedding in November. Born in nearby Dawes Lane, Reg Wood was educated at the little school in Church Lane until he was 14 and was a sub-contracting carpenter until, after a spell in the army during the war, he established his own builder's business.

For 20 years a member of the parish council, he feels that the greatest thing he achieved in that time was mains drainage for the village.

Signs of a tunnel

ANOTHER Church Lane house that seems to have church connections is Nobles, home of Mrs J. Robson. Originally built for retired clergy in 1909, it was for some reason never used for this purpose.

It was formerly the home of Mrs C. Barber, who now lives next door at Little Nobles—a converted coach house and groom's quarters. Here again are indications of a tunnel. Mrs Barber told me: "There are one or two deep, sunken patches in a field nearby which seem to point to the existence of a tunnel."

One of the founders of Sarratt Horticultural Society, Mrs Barber explained that until the death of her husband 13 years ago she had never touched a garden.

On one point she is adamant. "There is no such thing as having 'green fingers.' It's just a case of constant hard work and a love of plants."

Mrs Barber ought to know, for since the horticultural society began she has, in her time, won every cup and trophy, and at present shares the championship cup with Miss E. Clutterbuck, of Goldingtons.

There are still children in the little Church School at the end of Church Lane, which was opened in 1862. Until 1945 it catered for children up to school-leaving age. Then the 54 children over 11 years of age were transferred to Durrants School at Croxley Green, leaving 46 juniors and infants.

In the early days, said headmaster Mr Kenneth Green, children walked to Sarratt School from Chenies, Chandlers Cross, and Bucks Hill. In 1949 it ceased to be an aided church school and assumed controlled status. The new school, near The Cricketers, opened in February 1958, and after the completion of phase two in 1969 all the children except the reception class (five-year-olds) left the old school and moved into the new, four-class building, with its assembly hall and, more recently, its own fine swimming pool.

The infants are now under the care of Miss Joyce Newton, deputy head, and local people, on the whole, are pleased to know that children still occupy the historic old building that served them and their parents before them.

Mr Green and his wife Irene, who is school secretary, live in Church Lane, and find the area very friendly. Despite a full programme, Mr Green finds time to serve on the Village Hall Management Committee and the committee of the Horticultural Society. He is also treasurer of the cricket club and a churchwarden.

He commented: "The biggest change over the years has been in the volume of traffic using the lane. At peak hours it is tremendously busy and quite heavy traffic passes through."

And this seems to be a deep-rooted fear in the minds of Church Lane dwellers — that their quiet backwater, with its claim to a rich, historic past, should, in the name of progress, ever become simply a road for traffic that passes through on its way to somewhere else!



A historic aspect of Sarratt — the fine twelfth-century church, now urgently in need of repair.
Graphic Photo 90522.



Mr Reg Wood, a parish councillor who feels his greatest achievement was getting mains drainage for the village.
Graphic Photo 90520



A popular and interesting place of refreshment is the Cock Inn which has a secret tunnel leading from it.
Graphic Photo 90521



Secretary-treasurer of the memorial fund, Mr S. B. Harrold, chairman Mr Frank Tyler, and parish council chairman Mr R. E. Cox chat over the proceedings.
W.O. Photo 93444

18-2-1971

IN MEMORY OF A PUBLIC SERVANT

THE chairman of Sarratt Parish Council appealed to villagers on Saturday to "be our watchdogs" and help the council to look after the handsome, four-sided cedarwood shelter, recently erected on Sarratt Green in memory of the late Mr Thomas Clutterbuck.

A crowd had gathered to witness the official handing-over of the shelter to the care of the parish council, by the chairman of the Clutterbuck Memorial Fund Committee, Mr Frank Tyler. Among those present were Miss Margaret Clutterbuck and Mr Jeremy Clutterbuck, first cousins of Mr Thomas Clutterbuck, and several past and present members of Sarratt Parish Council as well as the oldest man in the village, 93-year-old Mr Herbert Archer.

Mr Tyler said: "The committee felt it right this handing over ceremony should be held in public, and it is gratifying to see so many of you here."

Constant reminder

He told Mr Ron Cox—chairman of the council: "The committee of the Thomas Clutterbuck Memorial Fund is now privileged, through the generosity of many donors, to hand over the shelter to the care of the parish council."

The shelter, he said, was purchased from the fund as an additional token to the plaque already placed on the village hall. They hoped it would prove of great benefit to the village and be a constant reminder of the man who gave so much of his time and thought to the village's well-being.

Mr Cox thanked him on behalf of the parish council and said the council had been unanimous in wanting something of this kind. One reason for choosing that particular site, he said, was to provide shelter for schoolchildren waiting for their bus.

Some of the children were not treating it as they should, and he asked villagers to be watchdogs and help look after it.

The parish council had already had a donation towards the shelter's upkeep, he said, and added: "I hope it will always be treated with the respect that Thomas Clutterbuck showed to everyone and everything."



Oldest resident of Church Lane is Mr Herbert Archer, here seen sharing a confidence with another veteran, Miss Amy West. Graphic Photo 90524.

1971

SARRATT.—Enjoying southerly views over the village green, unique opportunity to acquire a tastefully converted ale house with full gas-fired central heating, 3 bedrooms (2 with wash basins), spacious tiled bathroom, 22ft. dining hall, lounge 22ft. x 14ft. with Claygate fireplace, well proportioned kitchen, large integral garage, small garden. £15,250.

THIS GIVES AN IDEA OF PROPERTY PRICES IN SARRATT. (THE OLD WHEATSHEAF)

1971

WATFORD OBSERVER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1971

Flowers help re-hang bells

A FLOWER festival drew nearly 2,000 to Sarratt's Holy Cross Church. Taking the Ten Commandments as this year's theme, Mrs Connie Barber and helpers designed ten arrangements set against the background of newly-decorated white walls.

Dark red carnations and gladioli, with a sword thrust into them represented Thou shalt not kill.

The fourth commandment, Six days shalt thou labour, was depicted by trades—baker, weaver, shoemaker—while floral rocking chairs, pipe, tobacco, and knitting, with an empty flower-decked cot under the belfrey, showed viewers that only a father and mother were missing and honour due to them.

The festival organiser, Mr John Barker, said later: "People said they had never seen floral arrangements like these. They were really impressed, and many asked for the date of next year's festival, for which the theme will be the parables and miracles."

The festival raised £221, which will go towards having the church bells rehung.





Judge Mr J. Jessiman examines one of the exhibits at Sarratt flower show.

Graphic Photo 92329

First loss for show

FOR the first time in its 11 years, Sarratt Horticultural Society annual show is expected to make a loss.

Although chairman Mr A. Jenkinson said on Saturday at Sarratt village hall it had been "fundamentally successful," entries in some sections were down on last year.

The previous success allowed the society to build up, so that for the first time there was a cottagers' section and an allotments prize.

No entries

Although Mr Jenkinson said he "bent over backwards" to interest allotment holders, there were no entries for this section.

The cottagers' section was "most gratifying," however.

The reason for lower entries —"the poor season"—did not affect the cookery, handicrafts and schoolchildren's sections, which had 110 entries. A fine display of floral art was composed of 30 entries.

Despite low entries judges praised the standard of flower and vegetable exhibits.

Mr Jenkinson opened the show and praised those who had helped organise it, and visitors were thanked for their attendance, although their total, he said afterwards, was "most disappointing."

RESULTS

Early flowering outdoor chrysanthemums:
Reflexed.—Mr A. Jenkinson.
Incurved or incurving.—Mr A. Jenkinson.
Five blooms, several varieties.—1 Mr A. Jenkinson; 2 Mrs C. Barber.
Specimen bloom.—Mr A. Jenkinson.
Five stems or sprays, not disbudded.—1 Mr A. Jenkinson; 2 Miss M. Clutterbuck.
Five stems Korean or Pompon.—1 Mr A. E. Scotcher; 2 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 3 Mr A. Jenkinson.
Chrysanthemums, frontal effect, grasses or other foliage.—1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mr A. Jenkinson.
Six H.T. roses.—1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mr A. Jenkinson.
Specimen H.T. rose.—1 Mr A. Jenkinson; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mr C. Staughton.
Three stems floribunda rose.—1 Mr A. Jenkinson; 2 Mrs C. Barber.
Bowl of roses.—1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mr C. Staughton.
Six asters, single. — Mr A. Jenkinson.
Six asters, double.—1 Mr Wootton; 2 Mr A. E. Scotcher; 3 Mrs C. Barber.
Five medium flowered cactus dahlias.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr C. Staughton; 3 Mrs C. Barber.
Five small flowered decorative dahlias.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr A. Jenkinson; 3 Mr C. Staughton.
Nine pompon dahlias.—1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mr C. Staughton.
Dahlias, frontal effect.—1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mr C. Staughton.
Annuals, any foliage, all round effect.—1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Miss M. Clutterbuck.
Herbaceous flowers.—1 Mr H. Neal; 2 Mr A. Jenkinson; 3 Mrs E. Absalom.
Mixed flowers. — 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Miss M. Clutterbuck.
Gladioli, large flowered.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mrs Fenton; 3 Mr H. T. Smith.
Pot plant.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mr H. Neal.

VEGETABLES

Onions.—1 Mrs E. Absalom; 2 Mr E. Middleton; 3 Mr H. Neal.
Shallots.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr H. Neal; 3 Mr E. Middleton.
Potatoes.—1 Mr E. Middleton; 2 Mr H. Neal; 3 Miss M. Clutterbuck.
Runner beans. — 1 Mrs E. Absalom; 2 Mr E. Middleton; 3 Mr A. Jenkinson.
Carrots.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr E. Middleton.
Beetroot.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr E. Middleton; 3 Mr H. Neal.
Cabbage.—Mr H. Neal.
Lettuce.—1 Mr H. Chalk; 2 Mr Wootton.
Vegetable marrows.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr H. Neal; 3 Mr C. Staughton.
Tomatoes.—1 Miss M. Clutterbuck; 2 Mr D. Jenks; 3 Mr A. Jenkinson.

FRUIT

Dessert apples.—1 Mr H. Neal; 2 Mrs C. Barber.
Cooking apples. — 1 Mr E. Middleton; 2 Mr H. Neal; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

COTTAGERS' SECTION FLOWERS

Early flowering chrysanthemums.—Mr A. E. Scotcher.
Early flowering chrysanthemums, five blooms, several varieties.—Mr A. E. Scotcher.
Specimen.—Mr A. E. Scotcher.
Three stems of sprays, not disbudded.—1 Mr A. E. Scotcher; 2 Mr K. Green.
Four H.T. roses.—Mr K. Green.
One specimen H.T. rose.—1 Mrs Carlier; 2 Mrs A. Bond.
Three floribunda roses.—Mrs E. Downer.
Six asters, single.—1 Mrs A. Pritchard; 2 Mr R. Mason.
Six asters, double.—1 Mrs E. Downer; 2 Mr A. E. Scotcher; 3 Mr R. Mason.
Three small flowered decorative dahlias.—Mrs Carlier.

VEGETABLES

Onions.—1 Mr H. Penrose; 2 Mr A. E. Scotcher; 3 Mr T. Biggerstaff.
Shallots.—1 Mrs E. Downer; 2 Mr T. Biggerstaff; 3 Mr H. Chalk.
Potatoes.—Mr K. Green.
Runner beans.—1 Mr T. Biggerstaff; 2 Mr R. Ogden; 3 Mr A. E. Scotcher.
Beetroot.—1 Mr R. Mason; 2 Mr H. Penrose; 3 Mrs E. Downer.
Cabbage.—Mr K. Green.
Outdoor cucumbers. — Mrs C. Barber.
Vegetable marrows. — Mr K. Green.
Tomatoes.—1 Mr J. Smith; 2 Mrs E. Downer; 3 Mr H. Chalk.

FRUIT

Dessert apples.—1 Mr R. Ogden; 2 Mrs Burgess; 3 Mr J. Smith.
Cooking apples.—1 Mrs Burgess; 2 Mr J. Smith; 3 Mr R. Ogden.

FLORAL ART

Fresh plant material in a candlestick.—1 Mrs Loader; 2 Mrs E. Smith; 3 Mrs Carlier.
Fresh plant material and wood.—1 Mrs Archer; 2 Mrs Loader; 3 Miss S. Robson.
Miniature arrangement.—1 Mrs Archer; 2 Mrs Carlier; 3 Miss S. Robson.
Fresh flowers and foliage.—1 Mrs Archer; 2 Mrs Carlier; 3 Mrs Thomas.
Arrangement for a buffet table.—1 Mrs Carlier; 2 Miss S. Robson.
Depicting a hobby.—1 Mrs E. Smith; 2 Mrs Carlier; 3 Miss S. Robson.

COOKERY

Madeira cake. — 1 Mrs A. Thomas; 2 Mrs E. Downer; 3 Mrs E. Pratt.
Chocolate sponge.—1 Mrs Kirkpatrick; 2 Mrs Wootton; 3 Mrs Archer.
Sausage rolls.—1 Mrs Archer; 2 Mrs Kirkpatrick; 3 Mrs E. Pratt.
Maids of Honour.—1 Mrs Kirkpatrick; 3 Mrs E. Pratt.
Lemon curd.—1 Mrs Wootton; 2 Mrs Archer; 3 Mrs Smith.
Fruit jam.—1 Mrs Wootton; 2 Mrs Thomas; 3 Mrs Archer.
Dried apricot jam.—1 Mrs B. Mason; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Wootton.
Bottle of fruit.—1 Mrs Wootton; 2 Mrs Archer; 3 Mrs Ogden.
Coconut ice.—1 Mrs E. Smith; 2 Mrs E. Pratt; 3 Mrs N. Singleton.

HANDICRAFT

Knitted matinee jacket.—1 Mrs Kirkpatrick; 2 Mrs Archer; 3 Miss Jenn.
Cushion.—1 Mrs C. Staughton; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Thomas.
Soft toy.—1 Mrs Carlier; 2 Miss C. Staughton; 3 Miss S. Staughton.
Miscellaneous. — 1 Mrs C. Staughton; 2 Mrs Archer, 3 Mrs Kirkpatrick.

FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Miniature garden in seed box.—1 Miss S. Wootton; 2 Master D. Wootton; 3 Miss R. Singleton.
Animal made from fruit or vegetable.—1 Miss C. Robson; 2 Miss N. West; 3 Master J. West.
Buttonhole suitable for lady.—1 Master D. Wootton; 2 Miss S. Wootton; 3 Miss C. Robson.
Petite arrangement.—1 Miss R. Singleton; 2 Master D. Wootton; 3 Miss S. Wootton.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Jenkinson trophy for chrysanthemums, Mr A. Jenkinson.
Arthur Pritchard trophy for roses, Mrs C. Barber.
Frederick Barber trophy for all flowers, Mr A. Jenkinson.
David Osborne trophy for vegetables, Miss M. Clutterbuck.
Cottagers' Bowl, Mr A. E. Scotcher.
Loader trophy for floral art, Mrs Carlier.
Elsie Collins trophy for cookery, Mrs Wootton.
E. A. Cox trophy for schoolchildren, Master D. Wootton.
Clutterbuck trophy for the champion of all sections, Mrs C. Barber.

SEPTEMBER 1971

A41 PLAN 'DISASTER' FEARS

Langleybury up in arms

Major revisions in the Hunton Bridge section of the planned A41(M) Kings Langley Bypass are proposed in a pamphlet prepared by Langleybury organisations.

They call for a new junction for the North Orbital extension and the bypass to the north of Chandlers Cross, away from the Hunton Bridge de-trunking area, which they wish to be simplified.

They describe the Department of the Environment's plans as an "expensive disaster to our locality."

The Langleybury organisations, including the Langleybury School Parent-Teachers' Association, the governors of Langleybury School, Hunton Bridge Women's Institute, and Friends of St. Paul's Primary School, have been fighting against the Department's plans for the six-lane motorway since they were published.

The Department's proposed route would split the two Langleybury schools and would meet the existing A41 and the North Orbital at a massive roundabout and flyover complex at Hunton Bridge.

A number of groups opposing this route have collaborated in commissioning former County Conservation Officer Mr Bruce Ing, of Gallows Hill, Hunton Bridge, to explore an alternative route. Full details of his route are expected soon.

Alternatives

The Langleybury pamphlet reveals that the conservationist route would take the road west of the Langleybury School.

The pamphlet's proposed alternative A41 (M)/North Orbital junction could be in three places—at the gravel workings north of Chandlers Cross, north east of this location to take the junction further from Chandlers Cross, or just west of Langleybury Lane.

If the conservationist route is rejected, the pamphlet outlines a second alternative, with the A41 (M) running about 100 metres to the west of Langleybury Lane.

If the A41 (M)/North Orbital junction is removed from the Hunton Bridge de-trunking complex, the pamphlet points out that a new line for the North Orbital could be used farther away from houses on the Watford side.

Only the North Orbital would cross the junction.

The objectors also point out that the "enormous" roundabout and flyover proposed by the Department of the Environment at Hunton Bridge would be directly in line with the runway of Leavesden Airport.

"Any confusion of lights or perhaps high pylons could cause a disaster in the housing areas around," warns the pamphlet.

'IGNORED,' SAY VILLAGES

W. OBS. 1-10-1971

A COUNCIL was accused on Monday of ignoring Chandlers Cross and Sarratt to the benefit of Abbots Langley.

When representatives met to discuss Hunton Bridge residents' printed objections to the A41(M) route, Watford Rural and Sarratt Parish councillor Mrs G. Morison claimed Watford Rural Council was representing Abbots Langley but ignoring Chandlers Cross and Sarratt.

"We'll have to pay for our own fight," she said, "and we're going to fight it, so you may as well know."

Coordination

The rural council have agreed to be coordinators for Abbots Langley, Hunton Bridge and Langleybury objectors, and have arranged to engage counsel for the public inquiry.

Mr A. Wilsher of the Trunk Road Action Committee in Hemel Hempstead put in a plea for postponing the public inquiry to allow time to see if the six-lane motorway was really necessary. It was agreed to press for deferment to allow further studies of alternative routes, but with the amendment that they should continue to prepare for the inquiry in case it could not be deferred.

Since the meeting the inquiry has been fixed for November 10.

Mr R. C. Finmore, secretary of Langleybury Parent Teachers' Association went through the printed report, and explained the three proposed alternatives, the third being a modification of the second.

They take the motorway from between Langleybury and St. Paul's Schools and place it west of Langleybury.

New junction

They call for a new junction for the North Orbital extension and the by-pass to the north of Chandlers Cross, away from the Hunton Bridge de-trunking area. The first, called the conservationist route, is a mile shorter than the official route, but the feeder roads are longer.

Dr R. Mawson, chairman of Kings Langley Protest Group, said his group supported the conservationist route, and added that consideration should be given to an 18-page document, with plan, drawn up by former county conservation officer, Mr Bruce Ing. One hundred copies will be distributed.

It was also agreed to form a working party of not more than ten representatives, to complete plans of attack at the inquiry and to discuss details of the alternative routes.

Representatives of Chandlers Cross Residents' Association, concerned that the suggested alternatives affect Chandlers Cross, said they would need time to consider whether to join the working party.

Sarratt worried

FRESH concern hit Sarratt this week with plans for an alternative A41(M) route which takes the motorway straight through the village.

Maps of the proposed route have been pushed through doors of people in Sarratt, Chandlers Cross and Belsize whose property is likely to be affected, together with a letter from the Eastern Road Construction Unit explaining that it was one of several suggestions for alternative routes that had been received.

According to the map, the road branches off a roundabout at Chandlers Cross to cut through the grounds of Potten Farm, The White House and Newhall Farm, across Deadman's Ash Lane demolishing Toby's, along the border of Commonwood Common, behind The Boot in Sarratt, through Dr S. Scorer's tennis courts, the grounds of Great Sarratt Hall and Rosehall Farm and on through Belsize towards Ashley Green.

It will be discussed at a special meeting in Sarratt village hall on Tuesday, October 5, and meanwhile villagers have been signing petitions against it.

BODY FOUND IN WOOD

SIX weeks after being reported missing by his wife, the badly decomposed body of 31-year-old Terence Johnson, of Alexandra Road, Sarratt, was found in thick undergrowth in a Sarratt wood, a Hemel Hempstead inquest was told on Thursday.

The state of the body made it impossible to establish fully how the husband had died, said Coroner Mr Richard Raikes.

"Although the evidence strongly suggests suicide, the actual cause of death was unascertainable," he said, recording an open verdict.

Pain-killers

Mrs Jacqueline Johnson explained how her husband had suffered severe pains in the back since an accident at work some years ago. He had been receiving hospital treatment and pain-killing drugs.

Before he went out of the house on June 6 and disappeared, he was upset. "He told me he could not go on much longer," she said.

Later, she noticed his sleeping tablets were not in their usual place.

Near the body when it was found were two containers, one empty, the other containing 24 white tablets. Also nearby were two empty beer cans. Police Constable Geoffrey Speed told the coroner.

6 WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1971

SARRATT IS TO BACK A41(M) ROUTE

SARRATT will support the official route of the A41(M) at the November public inquiry, and will object strongly to a proposed alternative through Chandlers Cross and Sarratt.

This was unanimously agreed at a special parish meeting held in the village hall on Tuesday, attended by over 400 people who packed the hall, aisles, foyer and kitchen.

The meeting was opened by parish council chairman Mr Ron Cox, who insisted on sticking to the agenda and dealing with two other matters first, with the result that Sarratt and the Grove wards of the civil parish became a burial authority with almost indecent haste, and the normally emotive business of Sarratt bonfire (to be or not to be) was left to the wisdom of the councillors, to settle as they thought best.

One purpose

Everyone was obviously there to discuss the business of the motorway, and without loss of time a Sarratt Defence Committee was formed, while everyone else in the hall was invited to join a supporters' club and pay a 50p subscription to give the committee some necessary working capital. This raised over £100 within minutes.

After explaining that the parish council had not been idle since the news of the proposed route through Sarratt had exploded, and that it intended to fight with every means at its disposal, Mr Cox invited Watford rural Councillor Mrs G. Morison to speak. She explained briefly the alternative routes put forward by Langleybury Protest Group at a recent meeting in Watford Rural Council chamber, pointing out that the route through Sarratt was not one of them.

Mr Cox then invited former parish council chairman Mr Frank Tyler to chair the meeting.

Mr Tyler called for nominations for the defence committee and explained the advisability of being represented by counsel at the inquiry. The defence committee, he said, would start fund-raising activities immediately and make all the necessary arrangements and inquiries, making contact with other protest groups, in the one month remaining to them.

A great deal of groundwork had obviously been done by Mr Norman Elam, of Deadmans Ash, who pointed out that they were not objecting to the Ministry route, but to the suggested alternative that ran through Sarratt. He understood there were eight alternatives in all.

County Councillor Frank Cogan also spoke briefly, and said that Mr Gilbert Longden, MP, who was taking a late holiday, sent apologies for his absence. He said he would see that the petition against the Sarratt route, signed by hundreds of villagers, reached Mr Peter Walker without delay.

Concerning Watford Rural Council's agreement to act as co-ordinator for the Langleybury Protest Group, Mr Cogan said: "I hope your representatives will make it clear to the rural council that they are acting wrongly if they brief council to put the views of the Langleybury group at the inquiry. Their duty is to put the views of all the rural parish."

Insane

He added: "I agree it is insane to put the motorway between two schools, but that is no justification bringing it out as far as this. I hope they'll know that Sarratt is speaking with a united voice."

It was agreed that cheques could be made out to Sarratt Fighting Fund and sent to the treasurer, and that collecting boxes and petition forms would be placed in local shops and public houses.

Many of those present were surprised to learn that the parish council had not been told of the alternative Sarratt route, and that the posters and stickers that appeared in Sarratt within hours of residents discovering the route, were the work of Dr M. J. S. Scorer.

Those nominated to the defence committee are Mr Norman Elam, Mr Frank Cogan, Mr Geoffrey Lowe, Dr Scorer, Mr D. Newman, Mr W. Clabon, and Mr M. Turner. The committee have power to co-opt other members.

● Sarratt Defence have opened a fighting fund and donations totalling £115 were handed in after the meeting. Further donations, it was stated, could be sent to Sarratt Defence treasurer Mr Norman Ellam, Oaktree House, Deadmans Ash Lane, Sarratt.

SUPPER WAS SELL-OUT

SARRATT harvest supper in the village hall on Monday was a sell-out. One hundred-and-twenty-five bought tickets for the event, organised by the Mothers' Union and other helpers of Holy Cross Church. Entertainment was by the Reason folk group. The festival service was held a week ago, with the usual epilogue at The Boot.

Record beaten

Sarratt scouts beat all their previous records on Saturday when they raised £130 at their annual jumble sale. The money will go towards the maintenance of the new headquarters.

I'm so embarrassed says show king Alec

ALEC JENKINSON, 77, won his own trophy for chrysanthemums for the fourth year running at the Sarratt Horticultural Show.

"I must admit I get a great deal of satisfaction out of knowing that my entries are the best, but I feel a bit embarrassed," he said.

Other results: Arthur Pritchard trophy for roses, Mrs H. Neal; David Osborne trophy for vegetables, Mr H. Neal and Mr and Mrs Q. Wakeham (joint winners); Dickins trophy for cottagers, Mr and Mrs Q. Wakeham; Loader trophy for floral art, Mrs C. Barber; Elsie Collins trophy for cookery, Mrs E. Morgan; E. A. Cox Trophy for schoolchildren, Carolyn Neal; Frederick Barber Trophy for all flower sections, Miss Clutterbuck; Clutterbuck Trophy for all sections, Mrs C. Barber.

Chrysanthemums: Reflexed, A. Jenkinson; incurved, A. Jenkinson; various, A. Jenkinson; specimen, A. Jenkinson; sprays, Miss Clutterbuck; pompon, A. Jenkinson; vase for effect, Mrs C. Barber.

Roses: Six HT, Mrs H. A. Neale; three HT Mrs H. A. Neale; specimen, Mrs H. A. Neale; floribunda, Mrs H. A. Neale; bowl, Mrs H. A. Neale.

Asters: Single, Mrs E. Morgan; double, Mrs H. T. Smith.

Dahlias: Cactus, Miss Clutterbuck; decorative, Miss Clutterbuck; Pompon, C. Straughton; vase for effect, Mrs C. Barber.

Annuals: Miss Clutterbuck.

Herbaceous: A. Jenkinson; mixed, Mrs C. Barber.

Vegetables: Onions, H. M. Neal; shallots, H. M. Neal; potatoes, H. M. Neal; runner beans, R. S. Dickins; carrots, Q. Wakeham; beetroot, Q. Wakeham; cabbage, Q. Wakeham; lettuce, H. M. Neal; marrows, Mrs C. Barber; tomatoes, A. Jenkinson.

Fruit: Apples Dessert, H. M. Neal; apple cooking, Mrs C. Barber.

Cottagers Section: Chrysanthemums, H. Vasey; one variety, H. Vasey; several varieties, H. Vasey; specimen, H. Vasey; sprays, J. Oliver.

Roses: Four HT, H. B. Penrose; specimen, Mrs E. M. Smith.

Asters: Single, H. T. Smith; double, H. T. Smith; Dahlias cactus, Q. Wakeham; dahlias decorative, Q. Wakeham; mixed flowers, Mrs E. M. Smith.

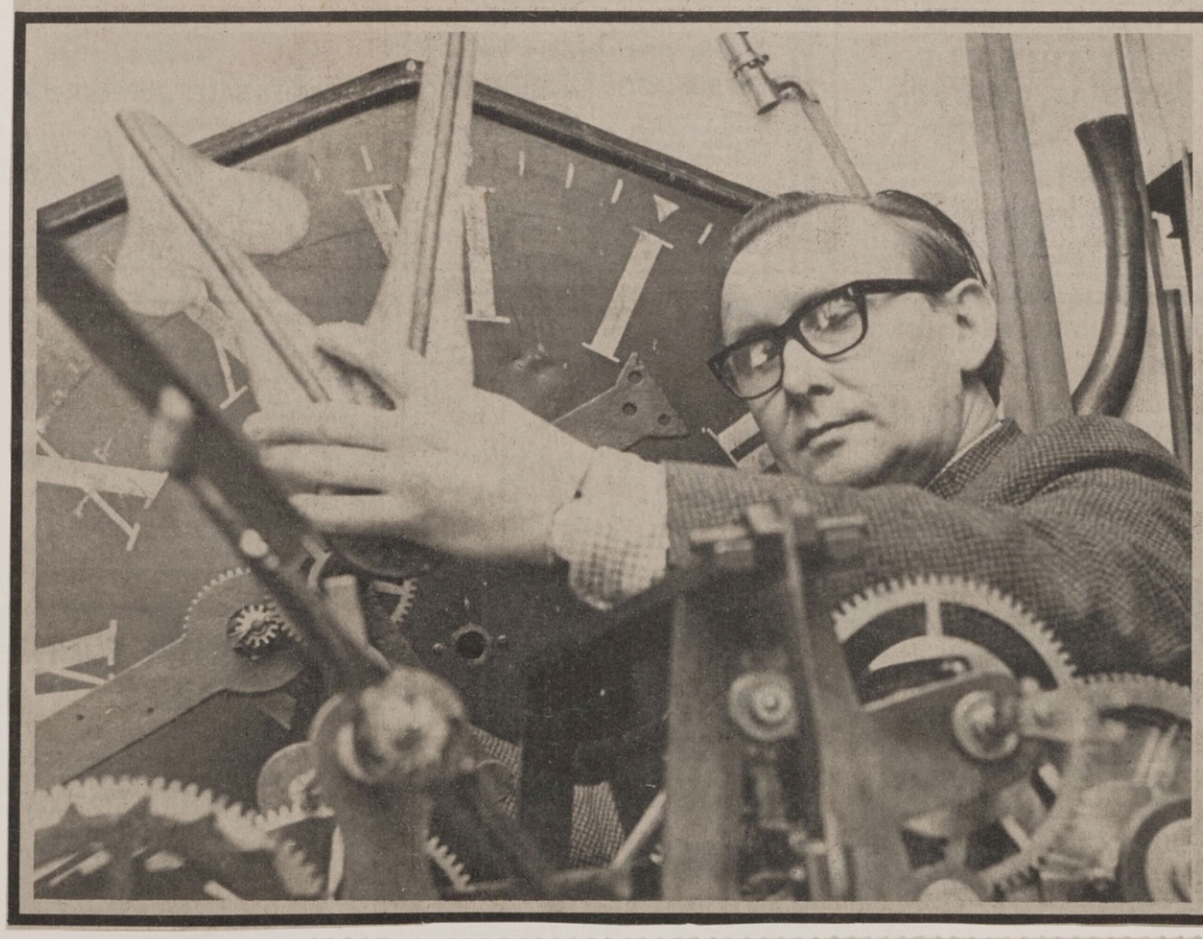
Vegetables: Onions, D. Biggerstaff; shallots, D. Biggerstaff; potatoes, H. L. Chalk; runner beans, Q. Wakeham; carrots, Q. Wakeham; beetroot, H. B. Penrose; cabbage, J. Oliver; lettuce, H. L. Chalk; marrow, J. Oliver; tomatoes, D. Biggerstaff; apples cooking, Mrs E. Archer.

Floral Art: Wood and Roses, Mrs C. Barber; flowerless beauty, Mrs C. Barber; arrangement in a box, Mrs H. M. Neal; water scene, Mrs C. Barber; kitchen magic, Mrs C. Barber; little jewels, Mrs H. M. Neal.

Cookery: Cherry Cake, Mrs E. Pratt; sandwich, Mrs E. Morgan; pinwheel tart, Mrs E. Pratt; supper savoury, Mrs E. Morgan; biscuits, Mrs E. Pratt; jam, Mrs E. Archer; jelly, Mrs E. Morgan; bottled fruit, Mrs E. Archer; mayonaise, Mrs C. Barber.

Handicraft: Knitting, Mrs E. J. Thomas; crochet, Mrs E. Archer; embroidery, Mrs C. Barber; soft toy, Mrs E. Morgan.

Schoolchildren: Mosaic Picture, Carolyn Neal; any handicraft, Sarah Straughton; pressed wild flowers, Carolyn Neal; rock cakes, Carolyn Neal.



Geoffrey saves a puzzling piece of time

CLOCKMAKER Geoffrey Clout is a man with a large slice of time on his hands — and it's weighing heavily on his mind.

For Geoffrey, 46, is now the proud owner of a 100-year-old Queen Victoria Jubilee Clock, but he's puzzled by the identity of its maker.

The clock, weighing three-hundredweight, has towered over the village of Sarratt for the past century at the top of the Co-op on the village green.

But last October, the shop was demolished so horologist Geoffrey handed the demolition firm £30 for the clock.

"She's a real beauty," he said at his home in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt. "I've certainly never owned one so big before."

For the past six months he has spent every spare minute restoring the timepiece, which now has pride of place in the antique department of Jackson the Jewellers in Watford, where Geoffrey is a manager.

"I've got a lot of clocks," he said. "But I suppose one day I will have to sell this one because of her size. To tell you the truth, though, I can't imagine anyone would be interested in buying such a large one, despite her romantic history.

"I would love to know who built her — just out of interest. I believe she is connected with Hemel Hempstead."

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Where the rat race is left behind

DRIVE into Chipperfield and you immediately feel the rat-race has been left behind. This quaint, quiet little village oozes peace — some achievement for the villagers when one remembers that it is just 15 minutes drive from busy Hemel Hempstead.

by KEVIN MURPHY



The signpost tells the story of the quiet countryside, some of the most beautiful in Hertfordshire. It points the way to peaceful rural villages.

A couple of miles away is Chipperfield's sister village, Sarratt, where again the air of peacefulness prevails. In the opposite direction is that other similar, but larger, village Bovingdon.

Chipperfield is a place where the noise of a tractor could be drowned by the twittering of birds; a place where community life centres round pub, village hall and parish church; and a place where Sunday cricket on The Common is part of normal summer life.

One feature of the village is the number of public houses per head of population. It is such a small place that most of the older residents are on Christian name terms with a "neighbour" on the far side of the village, but within this small area there are four pubs.

The shops are almost outnumbered. There is a newsagent, butcher, radio and television dealer, hairdresser and two general stores. That, say the villagers, is all. Nevertheless, these few shops manage to supply the villagers with most of their day-to-day requirements.

Nestling on the edge of The Common is the Two Brewers seventeenth-century inn. Here 21-year-old assistant manager, Roger Marceau has an apt nickname for the area — "the gin and jag belt".

London is less than an hour away, whether you travel by bus, private car, or bus and train. So this rural setting with its large rambling houses in their own grounds, spacious bungalows and pleasant new houses is a stockbroker's paradise.

But there are also the older villagers living in more modest homes, while just around the corner is a small council house estate.

□□

It is a village where a High Court judge and a titled lady could rub shoulders with farmers, and a chief constable rub shoulders with a car-worker or paper mill hand.

One man who has watched the village develop is 70-year-old Bob Cutler, a resident for nearly 50 years. He is happy to see new houses being built.

"I like to see improvements. We can't live in the past," he said.

Unfortunately too many people have sampled the rural delights of this village, and they keep coming back for more.

Again Mr Marceau found the right description: "During the summer half The Common is cars and the other half is people."

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HELPED CHARITY

SUNDAY'S informal horse show at Potten Farm, Chandlers Cross, raised £20 for the Red Cross.

Judging was by Mrs Jeanette Hughes.

LOCAL JUMPING
1 Gay Holden on Nimrod; 2 Shelley Dunn on Santinella; 3 Shelley Dunn on Silver.

JUMPING
Riders 10 and under
1 Geoffrey Hale on Dallas Apache; 2 Jane Clabon on Tarquin; 3 Suzanne Ling on W. Armitage.

Riders 12 and under
1 Beverley Loadsman on Pepsi-Cola; 2 Debbie Nairnsey on Star; 3 Debbie Nairnsey on Killarney Kate; 4 Amanda Clabon on Smokey.

Riders 16 and under
1 Shelley Dunn on Santinella; 2 Karen Jeffreys on Sienne; 3 Debbie Nairnsey on Killarney Kate; 4 Gisella Gillet on Deklin.

BEGINNERS' JUMPING
1 Jane McDonald on Joyce; 2 Elaine Murray-West on Palloey; 3 Suzanne Ling on W. Armitage; 4 Julie Phillips on Democrat and Julie Bigland on Little Fella.

NOVICE JUMPING
Gay Holden on Nimrod; 2 Shelley Dunn on Santinella; 3 Gisella Gillet on Deklin; 4 Debbie Nairnsey on Star.

OPEN JUMPING
1 Leslie Longbottom on Captain Morgan; 2 Mandy Holden on The Little Bloke; 3 Gay Holden on Nimrod and Shelley Dunn on Santinella.

CHASE-ME-CHARLIE
13 hands and under
1 Gisella Gillet on Deklin; 2 Joanna Rope on Paddy; 3 Debbie Nairnsey on Killarney Kate.

Over 13.2 hands
1 Shelley Dunn on Santinella; 2 Anne Haynes on Cream Cracker; 3 Alison Arnott on Aztek and Karen Jeffreys on Sienne.

SARRATT ROUTE DROPPED

THE proposed alternative A41(M) route through Sarratt has been withdrawn by the man who thought of it.

Chairman Mr Ron Cox told Sarratt Parish Council he had heard Mr D. G. Frogatt had withdrawn his idea.

For this reason, he said, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth representatives, who were to have supported their fight against the route, were absent.

Mr Cox believed Mr Frogatt intended to put his withdrawal in writing, and that his letter would be read at the public meeting in Chandlers Cross on Wednesday.

Carry on

"But in case he has had a change of mind today, we had better carry on with this meeting." Mr Cox told the meeting —which included the chairman and some members of Chipperfield parish council.

He pointed out that another alternative route—the so-called Conservation route — affected part of Chipperfield and Chandlers Cross, and commented: "The Ministry route runs between two schools and they are all trying to push it out."

Mr Couch considered the Ministry route the lesser evil. "No one wants a motorway like this on their doorstep, but someone must have it," he said.

Mr Cox said it would be easier to decide on action after the Chandlers Cross meeting.

Will continue

One councillor heard that Sarratt Defence Committee would continue until after the inquiry. "In any case," said Mr Cox, "I am sure it will continue to fight for Chandlers Cross."

Mr Hoad proposed that the council liaise with the Defence Committee, and when appropriate write to the Ministry supporting their route and objecting to any more westerly alternative, but agreed to defer until after the Chandlers Cross meeting.

If Chandlers Cross decided to oppose bringing the motorway nearer them, they fully support them.

Mrs Bobby Judge, Chipperfield Parish Council chairman, said her village conveyed its support.

Survey worried them



ALARM spread in Sarratt on Tuesday when surprised residents were stopped at Sarratt Green for a traffic survey.

But concern died when they heard there was no connection with the proposed A41(M) route through the village.

It was organsed by the Greater London Council — a repeat of one carried out in 1962—who drew a cordon at a 20-mile radius of London, wherever it crossed a road of some substance, a survey was held.

Car drivers travelling towards London were interviewed from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. During the night, interviews were discontinued but cars were counted.

Although the survey is not related to the controversial A41(M), it will help planning motorways and main road road improvements within the GLC area.

W OBS 23-6-1972

His hobby is restoration



THE dainty wine wagon was a wreck when it was found in a Watford sign-writer's yard by Bob Tillott, of Dimmocks, Lane in Sarratt. But Bob's unusual hobby is collecting and restoring old carts and antique agricultural implements, and he regards broken-down, dilapidated ones as a challenge to his considerable skill.

Six weeks of loving labour went into restoring the graceful little wine wagon, which came originally from the Horse and Jockey in Wendover Street, Aylesbury.

He explains: "It had been allowed to deteriorate badly. When I got it, it was in a state of collapse—riddled with wood-worm and dry rot. There were spokes missing, and it was a real wreck. First I treated the wood, then respoked the wheels and replaced rotted parts. I painted it in the original Benskin's colours—that is, dark green with gold lettering, and maroon and black wheels. I understand it was used exclusively for delivering bottles of wine to the homes of the pub's customers."

The wagon now graces the Tillott's back lawn, and Bob views it with immense satisfaction every time he looks out of his kitchen window.

Nearby stands a restored antique seed-sower. When it was delivered Bob's wife, Carol, called out: "There's a load of sawdust outside and a wheel." She was not exaggerating. The seed sower had disintegrated into an unhappy heap. But Bob was in his element. "I had to completely rebuild it," he relates happily. "It was actually made by a local firm—J. Davis and Bailley of Hemel Hempstead—goodness knows how many years ago, and I found it in a woodyard in Dawes Lane, Sarratt. I had to make the shafts by hand, and the wooden spokes. All I had to work with were a small vice, a chisel and a spokeshave."

Already bought by an eager customer is the old Boy Scouts' lumber cart, which graces another corner of the garden.

"I rescued that from Poynters, the builders," Bob explains. "It is early 1920's. I had to completely rebuild the chassis."

Bob is also extremely interested in restoring antique furniture—a hobby he shares with Carol, who is a skilled upholsterer.

W.O. Photo 95100

Guiding Echo
4-4-1973

The seven-year wait is over



After the service architect Mr John Philips, churchwarden Mr P. Saunders, the Bishop of Hertford, churchwarden Mr K. Green, the rector, and restoration committee chairman Mr J. Robson, stand outside the church

OLD CHURCH IS RESTORED

THE £7,500 face-lift of Sarratt's 12th Century parish church is complete.

And more than 80 people gathered to give thanks at Holy Cross church at the climax of the seven year fund-raising effort.

They were attending a special service devised by the Rector of Sarratt, the Rev Jack Tomlinson.

Restoration of the church was a mammoth task which meant almost totally rebuilding the east wall of the chancel and repairing pillars which had become dangerous.

The walls and much of the roof was treated and 13th Century wall paintings were cleaned. An ageing central heating boiler was replaced with an oil-fired one.

During the service the Bishop of Hertford, the Right Rev Victor Whitsey, criticised the modern view that beautiful buildings were of no significance to the church.

It was as wrong as saying that beautiful buildings were the only thing that concerned the church, he said.

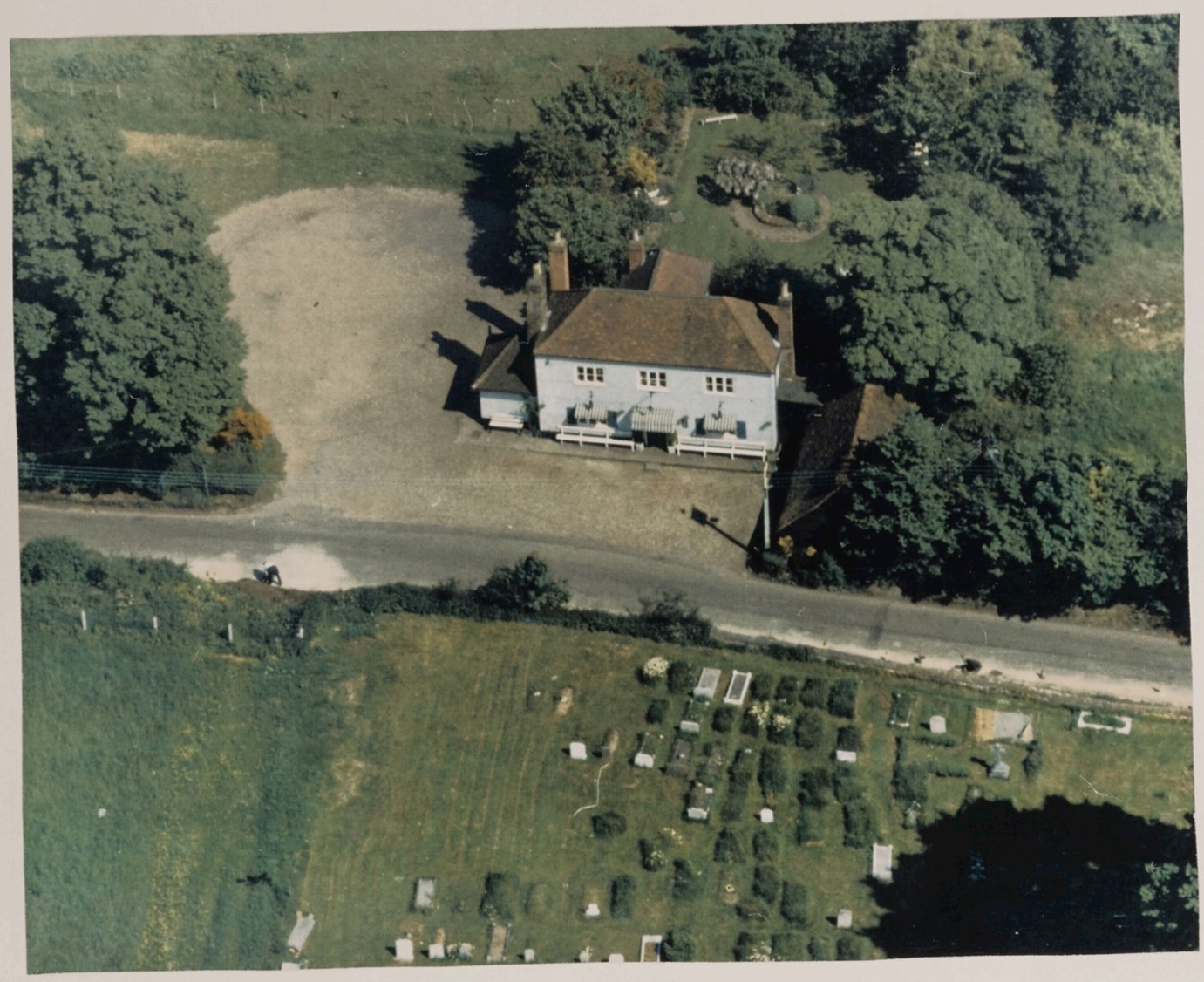


PHOTO: 4TH. JUNE 1973

1974

Gone are the links with Dick Turpin

W. OBS. 5-7-1974

WHEN the 300-year-old cottages at Bedmond were pulled down for road widening and private development a few years ago, many local people felt sad.

I suppose we were becoming uneasily aware that this was happening too often, that in many towns and villages we were bulldozing our heritage, and our children's heritage, right out of the 20th centruy in the doubtful name of progress.

The Porridge Hill cottages (that had, sadly been allowed to deteriorate) went the same way as the King William IV Inn at Waterside in Kings Langley; the way of Sharp's cottages, so rich in local history, at Abbots Langley; or, on a grander scale the way of Abbots Langley Manor House itself.

With the demolition of the Porridge Hill cottages Bedmond's legendary link with notorious Dick Turpin was well and truly severed.

That gentlemen was said to have used one of the cottages, the former Travllers' Rest Inn, as a hideout in time of trouble. It appears that he travelled via Bedmond to avoid Gallows Hill, near Kings Langley, which had an understandably depressing effect upon him.

Perhaps the story is not true, but while those cottages stood it was at least credible. Nobody, I am sure, will weave legends round the houses that have sprung up in their place.

As if the demolition of the cottages were not enough, the former Watford Rural Council decided to quite literally remove Porridge Hill from the face of the map, in favour of the more respectable sounding (and so dull) Church Hill, despite the fact that it was known as Porridge Hill long before any church was built there.

Sadly, we concede the need for new roads, essential to the pattern of 20th century living, and likewise we concede the need for widening some of our winding country lanes, even for the demolition (where it is inevitable) of our ancient buildings. But a rose by any other name smells as sweet, so why, in the name of all that is quaint and intriguing, could they not have left us Porridge Hill?

Yet all is not lost! Recently I was surprised and delighted to find, not far from Belsize, a cottage with a sizeable extension built almost entirely of massive oak beams, bricks, tiles, etc., rescued from Porridge Hill, from the William IV Inn, from old cottages pulled down in the middle of Chesham to make way for a supermarket, and others at Tring.

Philip and Barbara Buller, both employed at the Building Research Station at Garston, moved into their 300-year-old cottage, Little Bragmans, seven years ago. Since then they have haunted every demolition site in the area, searching for sutiable beams, old hinges, doors and bricks — in fact anything that could be incorporated into their cottage and its extension.

. . . but FLORENCE KIRK finds a couple preserving our past

Says Philip: "We even have some staddle stones (used to prevent rats from gaining access to stacks) which we found in the basement of one of the Porridge Hill cottages. The roof tiles are from an antique barn, and the front door (of solid oak) we found in a demolition contractor's yard."

Now it is difficult to distinguish the new extension from the original cottage.

The extension completed, it was not long before the Bullers turned their attention to some antique barns at Shepherd's Farm, Rickmansworth, that were due for demolition. The barns belonged to Dairy Farms Ltd., and Philip learned that they were to be bulldozed down and burnt, so asked if he might have one.

His request was granted, and a long-cherished ambition to build a private museum to house ancient farm implements was well on the way to being realised.

"Originally this barn, a timber-framed construction with a tiled roof, measured 40ft. x 20ft., but I will make it 30ft. x 20ft." he explained. "We have planning permission to erect it, but it still has to comply with building regulations and I am supposed to supply structural calculations that it will stand up. Well, I reckon as it has stood up without any trouble for 300 years that is a bit unnnecessary, so I am applying for exemption."

According to Mr G. Cornwall, of Rickmansworth Historical Society, the barn has probably been in existence since 1586.

"One was mentioned in a will, and he thinks it was this one," Philip said.

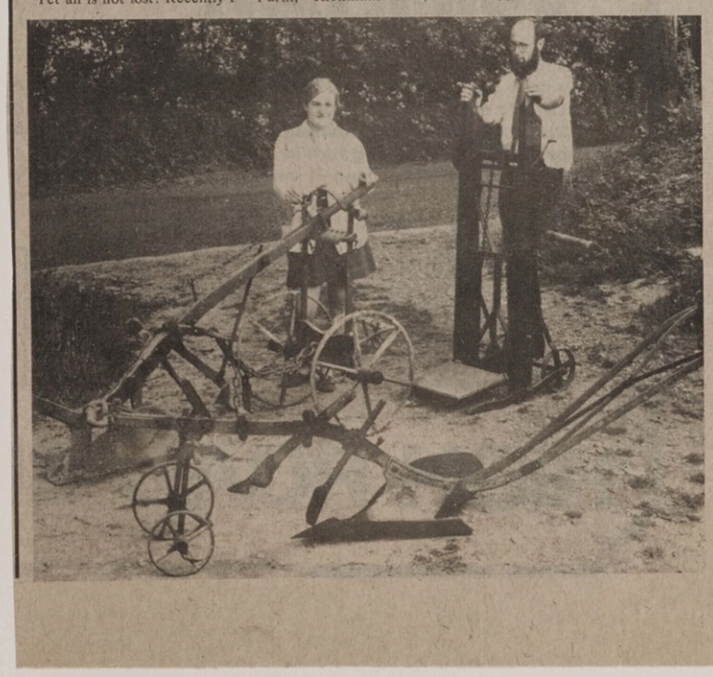
"It seems the descendants of the family that owned the barns live in America and I understand that some of the timbers, or articles made from the timbers, have been sent to them there."

The Bullers think it may be at least three years before the barn/museum is erected, and meanwhile their two vintage cars, and one "post-vintage thoroughbred" share the garage with a growing collection of ancient farm machinery, including two horse-ploughs, miller's scales and a sack-lift.

"In our spare time we work on the cars — two Austin Sevens and a Delage," Philip explained. "One Austin Seven is now done up, and the others are still waiting. Barbara and I both belong to a Vintage Sports Car club."

One way and another, it could be said that the Bullers' main hobby is conservation — with a capital "C"!

Note: Mr Buller has now learned that he must submit structural calculations to prove the barn would stand after all, as the Department of the Environment have turned down his application for exemption.



974 WAT. OBSERVER. FRI. 8 NOV. 1974

Disgusted by apathy

THE committee of Sarratt Village Hall were "disgusted" at the extremely poor attendance at their recent annual meeting.

Says Village Hall secretary, Mrs Alice Thomas: "It was the poorest attendance ever. It seems to be an indication of public apathy, except when they need the hall for their own use.

"We found it disappointing and discouraging. We like to feel people are interested enough to come along and make suggestions. They are ready enough to criticise, but not to come along and do something constructive."

The meeting, she says, was well advertised, with posters in the village. The Village Hall was considerably improved and extended recently, but some trouble is being experienced with the plaster used on the inside walls.

It's still soft

Says Mrs Thomas: "Even after all these months this plaster is still so soft that it won't take any fixtures. We plan to contact the builders."

The committee agreed to discuss at their next meeting whether to send a donation to Sarratt's King George V development appeal.

They also discussed the problem of careless use of the hall, with subsequent damage to chairs, tables and windows, allegedly by a club.

The Village Hall's monthly markets have been proving helpful financially to the committee. These are held on the last Saturday of each month.

CAN YOU HELP?

MORE volunteer car drivers are needed by Kings Langley Good Neighbours' Association now that arrangements for the Neighbours to take over the organisation and administration of the Kings Langley Meals on Wheels service are almost complete.

The management of A. E. Wander Ltd. have agreed to provide the meals at the Ovaltine canteen each Wednesday and Friday, and the association's volunteer drivers will collect and deliver them.

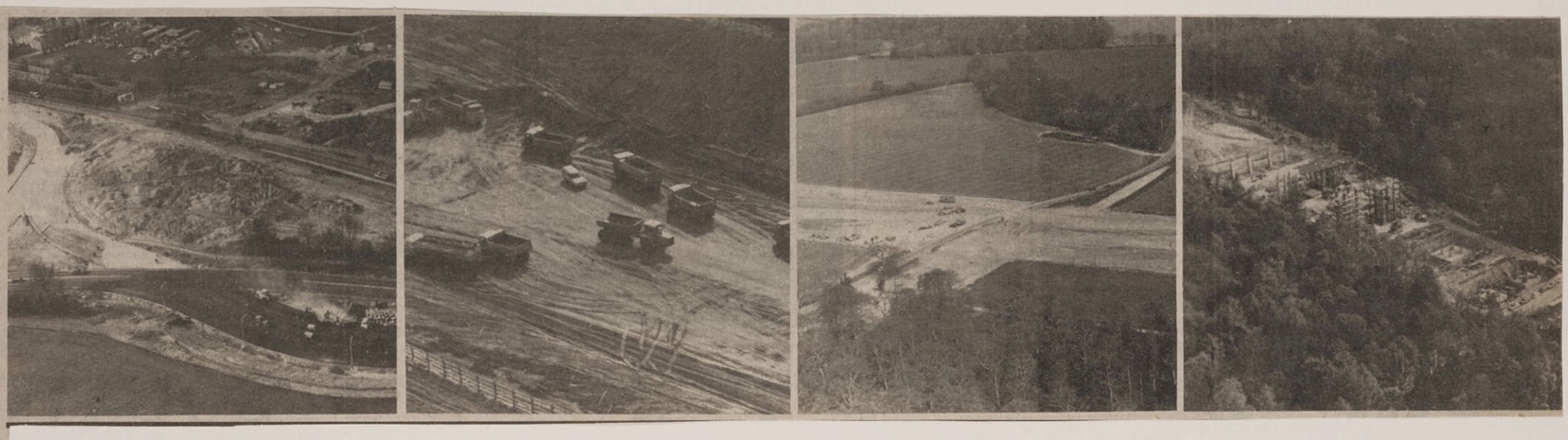
The association already have a willing team of car drivers, but more volunteers are now needed. Anyone interested in helping should contact Mrs Rosemary Bull — telephone Kings Langley 62423.

Each Tuesday for the past nine years the Neighbours have provided a hot luncheon for the elderly housebound of the village at the Baptist Hall. Volunteer drivers have transported them there and back. This luncheon will continue so that in future the association will be involved in supplying meals on three days each week.

The Good Neighbours' annual meeting will be held at the Community Centre on Thursday, November 14.

W.O. 26-4-1974

NOW— MEET THE M25



UP in the skies in a Point to Point helicopter went the Watford Observer chief photographer MALCOLM ORVIS to check on the progress of the construction team working on the new North Orbital mini-motorway between Hunton Bridge and Maple Cross.

He traced it from the junction near the Blue Star garage at Hunton Bridge, photographing the lorries like Dinky Toys at Sarratt and the road leading to Langleybury, to the scar gouged out of a wood at Chorleywood, and where the road will rise on giant stilts across the valley.

The Watford area could become the centre of a major motorway network by the end of the decade.

This week, a plan to link the North Orbital road with the M25 at Egham has come to light, and can be added to the North Orbital — A41 (M) junction at Hunton Bridge, now under construction.

Already the North Orbital between Hunton Bridge and Maple Cross has been labelled "M25" on the revised maps.



Father and son made a good team of judges — Mr David Hatchett and Mr Herbert Hatchett.
WO Photo 27797.

WATFORD OBSERVER

The drought cut show entries

5-9-1975

PROLONGED dry weather resulted in a sharp drop in the number of entries and exhibits at Sarratt Horticultural Society's autumn show, held at the Village Hall on Saturday.

There were 260 entries, as against 371 last year, and exhibits dropped from 55 to 36.

But despite this an unusually large number of visitors were attracted to what the judges described as "a wonderful show."

Scouting personality "Flight" Cracknell, the society's treasurer, shamed the ladies by winning first prize for his Cornish pasties and his chocolate cake — a far cry from the jelly and bread trifle he once made for Lord Baden Powell as a young cub!

Before the show the society's committee had copies of their schedule delivered to every house in the parish. Says chairman Mr A. Jenkinson: "We hope this may lead to some new members."

For the sixth year running Mr Jenkinson won his own trophy for his chrysanthemums, while Mrs Connie Barber carried off four of the nine trophies.

OPEN SECTION

Early flowering chrysanthemums

Relfexed: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 H. M. Neal.

Incurved: 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 G. Wakeham.

Several varieties: 1 H. Vasey; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 G. Wakeham.

Specimen bloom: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 H. M. Neal; 3 H. Vasey.

One or more variety, not disbudded: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 R. Dickens.

Korean or pompon: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 G. Wakeham.

Vase, Frontal effect: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Roses: Six HT. One or more varieties: 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Three HT. One variety: 1 Mrs C. Barber.

Specimen HT.: 1 A. Jenkinson, 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Floribunda. One or more varieties: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 A. Jenkinson.

Bowl of roses: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 C. Straughton.

FLOWERS

Six asters. Single: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 Miss M. Clutterbuck.

Six asters. Double: 1 H. M. Neal; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Five medium flowered cactus: 1 Miss Clutterbuck; 2 C. Straughton; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Five small flowered decorative dahlias: 1 Miss Clutterbuck; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 G. Wakeham.

Nine pompon dahlias. Mixed: 1 C. Straughton; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 G. Wakeham.

Vase dahlias. Frontal effect: 1 Miss Clutterbuck; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 C. Straughton.

Vase annuals: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Vase herbaceous flowers: 1 H. M. Neal; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 A. Jenkinson.

Vase mixed flowers: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Macgregor.

VEGETABLES

Six onions: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. M. Neal; 3 R. Dickens.

12 Shallots: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. M. Neal; 3 H. Vasey.

Six potatoes. Round or kidney: 1 Mrs Absalom; 2 E. Middleton; 3 H. M. Neal.

12 Pods runner beans: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. M. Neal; 3 Mrs Absalom.

TROPHIES

The Clutterbuck trophy, Mrs C. Barber. Frederick Barber trophy, Mrs C. Barber. Jenkinson trophy, A. Jenkinson. Arthur Pritchard trophy, Mrs C. Barber. David Osborne trophy, H. M. Neal. Dickens trophy, G. Wakeham. Loader trophy, Mrs C. Barber. Elsie Collins trophy, Mrs N. Singleton. E. A. Cox trophy, Sarah Marr.

Six carrots: 2 E. Middleton; 3 H. M. Neal.

Six beetroot: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. M. Neal; 3 R. Dickens.

Cabbage: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. M. Neal.

Lettuce. Cabbage of cos: 1 R. Dickens; 2 H. M. Neal; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Marrow: 1 H. M. Neal; 2 E. Middleton; 3 G. Wakeham.

Tomatoes. Indoor: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 H. Vasey; 3 J. Smith.

FRUIT

Apples. Dessert: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 J. Cracknell; 3 H. M. Neal.

Apples. Cooking: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 E. Middleton; 3 H. M. Neal.

COTTAGERS' SECTION

Flowers

Early flowering chrysanthemums. One variety: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 G. Wakeham.

Several varieties: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 R. Mason.

Specimen bloom: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 R. Mason.

Not disbudded. One or more varieties: 2 A. Jenkinson.

One specimen HT rose: 1 Mrs J. Smith; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Six asters. Single: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Archer; 3 R. Mason.

Six asters. Double: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Medium flowered cactus dahlias. One or more varieties: 1 Mrs C. Barbner; 3 G. W. Wakeham.

Small flowered decorative dahlias. One or more varieties: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Mixed flowers: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 G. Wakeham.

Vegetables and fruit

Six onions: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 R. Mason.

12 shallots: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs Downer; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Potatoes. Round or kidney: 1 G. Wakeham.

Nine pods runner beans: 1 Mrs Downer; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 R. Mason.

Six carrots: 2 Mrs Downer; 3 H. Penrose.

Six beetroots: 1 R. Mason; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Cabbage: 1 G. Wakeham.

Lettuce. Cabbage or cos: 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Marrow: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Six tomatoes: 1 J. Smith; 2 Mrs Downer; 3 R. Mason.

Apples. Dessert: 1 Mrs Burgess; 2 H. Penrose; 3 Mrs Barber.

Apples. Cooking: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Archer; 3 H. Penrose.

Floral art

Autumn basket: 1 Mrs Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs E. Smith.

Victorian posy: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Wakeham; 3 Mrs Skingley.

Arrangement five flowers: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Wakeham; 3 Mrs Skingley.

Green and white arrangement: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Neal; 3 Mrs Wakeham.

Holiday design: 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Smith.

Candlestick arrangement: 1 Mrs Skingley; 2 Mrs E. Smith; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Cookery

Chocolate cake: 1 J. Cracknell; 2 Mrs N. Singleton; 3 Mrs Neal.

Supper tray for invalid: 1 Mrs Straughton; 2 Mrs R. Singleton.

Cornish pasties: 1 J. Cracknell; 2 Miss C. Straughton; 3 Mrs Singleton.

Decorated sponge sandwich: 1 Mrs R. Singleton; 2 Mrs Thomas.

Wholemeal loaf: 1 Mrs E. Smith; 2 Mrs Straughton.

Jam: 1 Mrs Archer.

Bottle of fruit: 1 Mrs Archer; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Bottle tomato sauce: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Bond.

Handicrafts

Crotcheted matinee coat: 1 Mrs Harpley.

Handsewn article: 1 Mrs C. Barber.

Needlework: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Straughton; 3 Miss C. Straughton.

FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Animal of liquorice allsorts: 1 S. Marr; 2 David Wootton; 3 Jill Wootton.

Flower arrangement: 1 David Wootton; 2 C. Straughton; 3 S. Marr.

Six jam tarts: 1 C. Straughton; 2 S. Marr; 3 C. Straughton.

BBC FILMED HIS GARDEN

WHEN BBC2 television cameramen arrived to film the elegant 1920s staircase in the Sarratt Green home of Mr A. Jenkinson, for their programme The Spirit of the Age, director David Haycock took one look at the back-garden and decided to film that instead.

Says Mr Jenkinson, who is chairman of Sarratt Horticultural Society: "They had arranged to come and film my staircase. This house was built by one of Hertfordshire's top-notch builders — Jesse Mead, who put the staircase in. How the BBC found out about it I have no idea.

"But when I took them through to the sitting room they took one look at the garden, and said they would like to film that instead. They are coming back to do the staircase. I believe the film will be shown in early December."

Three Rivers 2

Sarratt was a hive of industry back in the twenties

THE General Strike of 1926 may have brought much of Britain to a halt.

But in Sarratt, transport at least continued, with George Biggerstaff's bus — an open-topped Straker Squire with solid wheels and oil lamps — continuing to ply between the village and Watford, regardless.

Laughter and cries of "blackleg" greeted this information, confirmed by Mr Doug Biggerstaff, at the lecture on historic Sarratt given by Mr Stephen Statham as part of the village's Christian Aid Week programme. The lecture was backed by an exhibition of old photographs and maps.

The audience, who nearly filled the village hall, eagerly took part, helping to identify people and buildings and embroidering stark facts with local knowledge.

Introducing Mr Statham, Mr Eddie Rollinson, the village's Christian Aid organiser, also paid tribute to the rector, the Rev. Jack Tomlinson, Mr Fred Ward, Mr George Biggerstaff, and the local historical group for their help in compiling information.

The famous bus appeared in a slide of a 1925 coach party setting out for a day's outing to Southend. Mrs Gladys Bishop, who recognised herself as one of the passengers, said it took from 6 a.m. till noon to get there, and they had to start on the return journey not all that long after arriving.

Hive of industry

Older members of the audience could remember Sarratt as a hive of industry, with many more shops and businesses round the Green than there are today. For instance, the village used to boast three bakers and three butchers in days gone by.

In addition there were seven pubs in the vicinity, The Cricketers, The Boot, The Wheatsheaf and the Jolly Gardener on the Green and The Cock in Church Lane; The Plough at Belsize; and the Cart and Horses at Sarratt Bottom.

An asset of earlier days, one villager suggested, was old Anna Ford who lived in The Old Cottage near the former Jolly Gardener in 1650, and who was famous for her black puddings!

A little confusion arose at one point over whose grandmother or great-grandmother was who, grandmothers looking pretty much alike in those days, but the matter was settled amicably.

On the whole, the village's younger generation left the hall with a distinct impression that Sarratt of old was somehow livelier and more vital than it is today.

GREENWOOD PLAYERS SCORE ANOTHER HIT



SARRATT'S Greenwood Players chalked up another success with their production of Cinderella last week. The players had a full house for each performance, and their audiences left them in no doubt that they had enjoyed the pantomime.

□ □

It was written by Tony Bond, who also wrote last year's pantomime, Snow White, and was produced by Audrey Bond.

□ □

Cinderella was played by Karen Delderfield, Dandini by Erica St. Ledger, and Buttons by Robin Sindall, who was also responsible for set design.

The Ugly Sisters were played by Barry Barnes and Tony Cadby (see picture). Although some of the costumes were hired, many were made by Pauline Biggerstaff.

WO Photo 29386

1976

ON MONDAY NEXT

At the Village Hall Sarratt at 8pm

Seat

On

Price

CUTTING OUT CAR PARKERS

Picnickers who park their cars under the windows of Commonwood House at Commonwood and play transistor radios, and others who park further along the lane near the old chalk pit and even sleep there overnight, were the subject of a complaint by residents to Sarratt Parish Council this week.

The council agreed to the chairman's suggestion that the by-law board forbidding parking should be moved to a more effective point, and that a notice be erected indicating access for residents only.

Protest at pub parking

THE police are to be asked to take action about car parking round Sarratt Green near The Boot public house, the parish council agreed on Monday. They also agreed to write to the brewery about the problem.

Chairman Mr Harold Metson said cars were parked around the Green when there was not a single car in the pub's car park. Mr Gerry Sharman wanted to know whether the landlord displayed notices inside the pub asking people to use the car park, and not the green.

Pledges for trustees at KGV

IN AN all-out effort to raise another £700 for the new pavilion on King George's Field at Sarratt, the trustees have planned a series of money-raising events to take place between now and the new year.

These include a sponsored walk for children and adults on October 3; a Hallowe'en dance at the Village Hall on October 30; a Christmas draw to be held at bingo on December 17, and a New Year's dance in the Village Hall.

Mr Roger Boon told Monday's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council that the trustees were making every effort to become self-sufficient, but they would like the parish council to confirm that if necessary they would back repairs with up to £200.

WAT. OBS. 17-9-1976

ROGER LIVESEY LIVED IN COTTAGE NEXT TO 'OLD PLOUGH HOUSE' PLOUGH LANE SARRATT HERTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS

EVENING ECHO, Friday 6 February 1976

Livesey, man of many parts, is dead



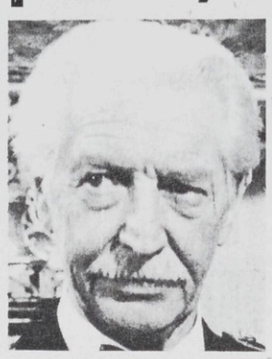
As a 1950s pin-up



In 1948 comedy Vice Versa



In a 1960 TV play



TV guest appearance



As himself last year

THESE are five of the many faces of actor Roger Livesey, who has died at 69.

Mr Livesey, who lived at Penrose, The Green, at Sarratt, near Watford, had been in the theatre since he was 11. He was also a star of TV and films.

His wife Ursula Jeans, died three years ago.

He died in Watford hospital on Wednesday after being taken ill. An inquest may be held.

Mr Livesey was planning a comeback with a TV play after a three-year break.

The couple were married for 40 years and lived for many of them in a cottage in Plough Lane, Sarratt called Under The Heavens.

They were one of the country's best known husband and wife acting teams — both international film stars in the 40s and 50s.

They were also leading stage actors and were last seen together in 1965 in the play An Ideal Husband, at the Strand Theatre.

Mr Livesey's last appearance was in the long-running BBC television series The Pallisers, in which he played the Duke of St Bungay.

The play he had been rehearsing — with Sir John Gielgud — was a BBC production of The Picture of Dorian Gray.

□□

Mr Livesey belonged to a well-known theatrical family. His two brothers, Barrie and Jack, made the theatre their career, following their father, Sam Livesey, who died in 1936.

Roger was educated at Westminster City School and first appeared on stage at 11.

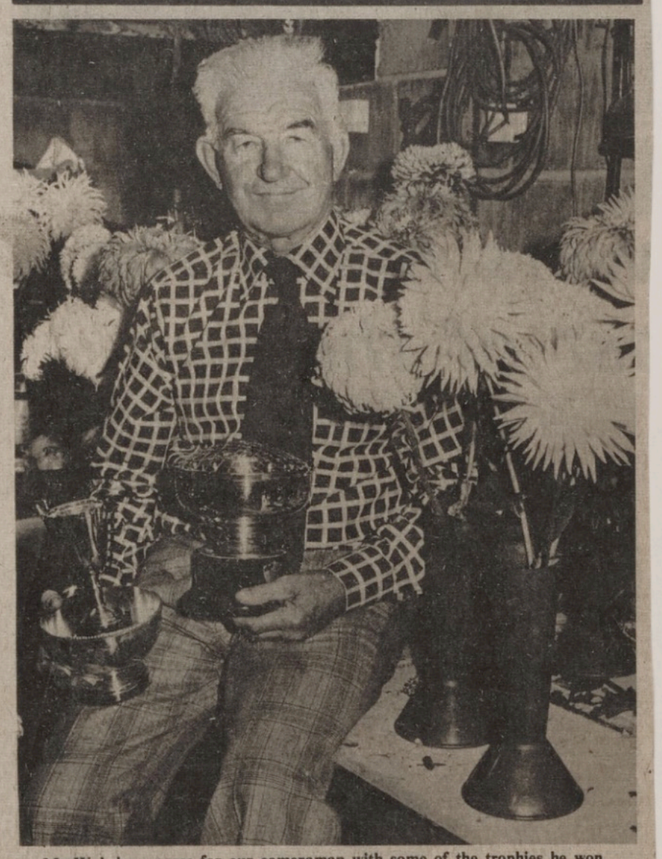
One of his best-known film roles was the title part in The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp.

In the Coronation Week television programme All Our Yesterdays he linked the scenes from Victorian days to the 50s.

Mr Livesey married Miss Jeans in 1937. She was the widow of actor Robert Irvine who died in 1933.

In Who's Who In The Theatre Mr Livesey's hobby was described as "tinkering".

Sarratt Autumn Show



Mr Wakeham poses for our cameraman with some of the trophies he won. WO Photo 31878

WAT. OBS. 17-9-1976

'New boy' hits the trophies

A RELATIVE newcomer to Sarratt Horticultural Society carried off three of the trophies and won a third share in a fourth Trophy at Saturday's Autumn Show, held at the village hall.

Geoffrey Wakeham, of Little Windmill Hill, Chipperfield, who gained 30 firsts, ten seconds and four thirds, took the Clutterbuck, Frederick Barber and Dickins trophies. He shares the Jenkinson Trophy with Mr H. Vasey and Mr A. Jenkinson (who donated the cup). For the past seven years Mr Jenkinson has won his own cup for chrysanthemums, so this year there is a break with tradition.

Mr Wakeham joined the society a few years ago on moving to the area.

Drought conditions did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of competitors, and entries, well up on last year, included 40 children. The organisers were surprised at the number and quality of exhibits. There were fewer flowers but a big increase in the entries for needlework, cookery and floral art exhibits. A poster competition for children advertising the show attracted 40 entrants, and was won by ten-year-old Sara Marr, who also got a first for her seedbox miniature garden, and carried off the E. A. Cox children's trophy.

Some very imaginative animals made out of vegetables attracted a lot of attention, including a fearsome Loch Ness monster. The best flower arrangement in the show was, not surprisingly, entered by Mrs Connie Barber. The judges commented on the very high standard of the show, despite the drought, and described some of the exhibits as "superb."

Trophies were presented by Mrs Elspeth Smith. Results were:

TROPHIES

Clutterbuck Trophy: G. Wakeham.

Frederick Barber Trophy: G. Wakeham.

Jenkinson Trophy: H. Vasey, G. Wakeham and A. Jenkinson.

Arthur Pritchard Trophy: Mrs C. Barber.

David Osbourne Trophy: H. Neal.

Dickins Trophy: G. Wakeham.

Loader Trophy: Mrs C. Barber.

Elsie Collins Trophy: Mrs Singleton and Mrs Wakeham.

E. A. Cox Trophy: Sarah Marr.

Outdoor Chrysanthemums

Reflexed: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. Vasey; 3 A. Jenkinson.

Incurved: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 H. Vasey.

Several Varieties: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. Vasey; 3 H. Neal.

Specimen Bloom: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 H. Vasey.

Stems of Sprays not disbudded: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 H. Vasey.

Korean or Pompon: 1 H. Vasey; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 R. Mason.

Vase of Chrysanthemums: 1 A. Jenkinson; 2 H. Vasey; 3 G. Wakeham.

Roses

Six H.T. Roses: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 G. Wakeham.

Three H.T. Roses: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 C. Staughton; 3 V. Russel-Roberts.

Floribunda: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 V. Russel-Roberts.

Specimen H. T. Rose: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Bowl of Roses: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 C. Staughton.

Flowers

Asters — Single: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber.

Asters — Double: 1 G. Wakeham.

Medium Flowered Cactus Dahlias: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 V. Russel-Roberts.

Small flowered Decorative Dahlias: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 C. Staughton; 3 V. Russel-Roberts.

Pompon Dahlias — Mixed: 1 G. Wakeham.

Vase of Dahlias: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 C. Staughton.

Vase of Annuals: 1 G. Wakeham.

Herbaceous Flowers: 1 H. Neal.

Mixed Flowers: 1 Mrs Macgregor.

Pot Plant (not cacti): 1 Mrs Hyson; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 G. Wakeham.

Vegetables

Six Onions from seed: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. Neal.

Six Onions from Sets: 1 H. Neal; 2 E. Middleton; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Shallots — Culinary: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. Neal.

Shallots — Pickling: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 E. Middleton; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Potatoes — round or kidney: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. Neal; 3 E. Middleton.

Runner Beans: 1 Mrs Absalom; 2 E. Middleton; 3 H. Neal.

Carrots: 2 G. Wakeham; 3 H. Neal.

Beetroot: 1 H. Neal; 2 A. Jenkinson; 3 E. Middleton.

Cabbage: 1 H. Neal; 2 G. Wakeham.

Lettuce—Cabbage or Cos: 1 H. Neal; 2 Mrs Absalom; 3 E. Middleton.

Vegetable Marrows: 1 H. Vasey; 2 E. Middleton; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Tomatoes: 1 C. Alexander; 2 H. Neal; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Fruit

Apples — Desert: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 H. Neal.

Apples — Cooking: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 H. Neal; 3 Mrs Absalom.

Cottagers' Section

Flowers

Chrysanthemums — one variety: 1 G. Wakeham.

Chrysanthemums — several varieties: 1 G. Wakeham.

Specimen Bloom: 1 G. Wakeham.

Sprays — not disbudded: 1 Mrs E. Smith.

Four H.T. Roses: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mrs Downer.

Specimen H. T. Rose: 1 Mrs Downer; 2 Mrs A. Thomas; 3 Mrs Carlier.

Floribunda Rose: No entries.

Asters — single: 1 G. Wakeham.

Asters — double: 1 G. Wakeham.

Flowered Cactus Dahlias: 1 G. Wakeham.

Flowered Decorative Dahlias: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs E. Smith.

Mixed Flowers: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs E. Smith.

Vegetables and Fruit

Six Onions from Seed: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs Downer.

Six Onions from Sets: 1 C. Petts; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 R. Mason.

Shallots — Culinary: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs Downer.

Shallots — Pickling: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 C. Petts.

Potatoes—Round or Kidney: 1 G. Wakeham; 2 Mrs Downer; 3 Miss Biggs.

Runner Beans: 1 Mrs Downer; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mr Coles.

Carrots: 2 G. Wakeham.

Beetroot: 1 R. Mason; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mrs Downer.

Cabbage: 1 G. Wakeham.

Vegetable Marrows: 1 R. Mason; 2 Mr Coles; 3 J. Turner.

Tomatoes: 1 J. Smith; 2 R. Mason; 3 C. Alexandra.

Apples — Dessert: 1 Mrs Burgess; 2 G. Wakeham; 3 Mrs Downer.

Apples — Cooking: 1 Mrs Burgess; 2 J. Cracknell; 3 G. Wakeham.

Floral Art

Basket of Roses: 1 Mrs Carlier; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Wakeham.

Exhibit in Grey and Pink: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Wakeham; 3 Mrs Staughton.

Exhibit five flowers: 1 Mrs Carlier; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Wakeham.

Exhibit in Wine Glass: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Neal; 3 Mrs Wakeham.

Exhibit depicting book: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Carlier; 3 Mrs E. Smith.

Cookery

Fruit Loaf: 1 Mrs Coles; 2 Mrs N. Singleton; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Sponge Fruit Flan: 1 Mrs N. Singleton; 2 J. Cracknell; 3 Mrs Wakeham.

Treacle Tart: 1 Mrs Wakeham; 2 J. Cracknell; 3 Mrs Downer.

Cheese Scones: 1 Mrs Dorrett; 2 Mrs Wakeham; 3 Mrs Mason.

Peppermint Creams: 1 Mrs N. Singleton; 2 Mrs Wakeham; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Bottle of Fruit: 1 Mrs Petts; 2 Mrs N. Singleton; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Pate: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Staughton; 3 Mrs Neal.

Chutney: 1 C. Alexander; 2 J. Cracknell; 3 Mrs C. Barber.

Jam: 1 Miss Biggs; 2 Mrs Wakeham; 3 Mrs Downer.

Handicrafts

Articles of Needlework: 1 Mrs C. Barber; 2 Mrs Staughton; 3 J. Higgins.

Patchwork: 1 Mrs I. Buller; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Miss Biggs.

Crocheted Article: 1 Mrs Wakeham; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 J. Higgins.

Knitted Article: 1 H. Higgins; 2 Mrs C. Barber; 3 Mrs Carlier.

For Schoolchildren

Vegetable Animal: 1 S. E. Wakeham; 2 A. Brown; 3 T. Harvey.

Poster for Show: 1 Sarah Marr; 2 M. Greggor; 3 N. Warner.

Seed Tray Garden: 1 Sarah Marr; 2 S. Poynter.

Crayon Drawing: 1 A. Higgs; 2 L. Brook; 3 C. Sharman.

Fudge or Toffee: 1 S. Poynter; 2 P. Turnley; 3 Turner.



Supper makes £50 for funds

MORE than 120 people sat down to a turkey and ham harvest supper in the village hall at Sarratt on Wednesday. Organised by the Mothers' Union of Holy Cross Church and friends, the supper was in aid of Christian Aid and the Save the Children Fund, and raised over £50. The supper was followed by games and a film show by Mrs Jenny Dimond of The Green.

WO Photo 32025

SARRATT JUBILEE APPEAL FUND

MARCH 1977

Dear Friend and Neighbour,

As you know, the Queen's Silver Jubilee is to be celebrated nationwide on Tuesday the 7th June. The Parish Council, acting upon advice from the National Jubilee body that celebrations should not be funded by a charge on the rates and in response to village feelings that Sarratt as a whole community should play its part, convened a meeting on Wednesday, 9th of March, to hear views on this subject from representatives of all local organisations and parishioners.

As a result of that meeting a Jubilee Action Committee was formed to promote and organise a Village Day of celebration, joining with those voluntary groups who have already done so much to ensure that the children enjoy a day to remember.

The purpose of this letter is not only to inform, but to request your generous help to provide sufficient money to promote a programme of sports and other activities, provide prizes and ensure that every child and senior citizen attend a party and receive a Jubilee Souvenir.

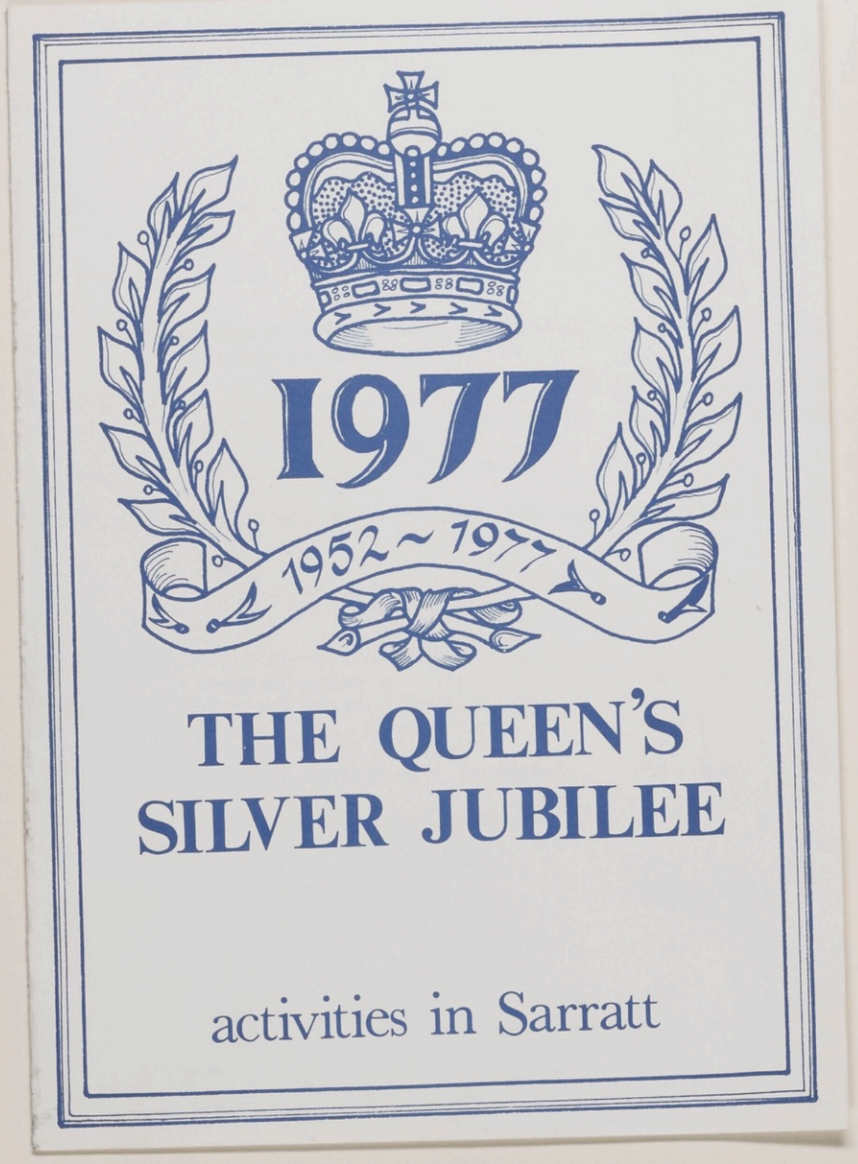
Contributions should be placed and sealed in the attached envelope which will be collected by a voluntary helper. Cheques should be made payable to Sarratt Jubilee Appeal Fund.

Please be generous.

Yours sincerely,

F.W. Downing

F.W. Downing
Chairman of Appeal Fund



Jubilee party 'splits village down middle'

WAT Library Obs. April 1977

ANGRY parents from outlying parts of Sarratt claim their children have been ostracised because they have been left out of plans for a Silver Jubilee party on June 7. Others say the proposed charge of £1.50 per child will be more than some children can afford.

At a public meeting in the village hall called by the parish council to discuss the jubilee celebrations, feelings ran high and the group of parents organising the party were dismayed that their plan had misfired, splitting the village down the middle!

Mrs Anne Allen of Alexandra Road and her committee of parents were criticised for jumping the gun and making arrangements for a party before a public meeting had been held to discover people's wishes. Former parish councillor Mr Reg Wood said the village children had never been asked to pay for celebration parties before. He blamed the parish council, he said, for failing to call an early public meeting and forming a committee to act, as had been done in the past. Mr Wood wanted to know if the parish council had tried to raise money for the festivities.

Parish council chairman Harold Metson said they had not. He also said it would have been inappropriate to call a meeting earlier.

Other people at the meetings agreed that the parish council should have been "on the ball" much earlier, and accused them of having been asleep.

The public meeting, they said, should have been called before Christmas.

Second party

Councillor Mrs Mary Chitty, in the chair, said another group of parents were organising a second children's party at the King George V Pavilion for all the children not included in Mrs Allen's party. The charge for this was understood to be the same.

Later Mrs Allen commented: "I, too, blame the parish council. If they had called the meeting much earlier we certainly wouldn't have gone ahead on our own.

"As it was we checked with the parish council months ago to see if they had anything planned. They said they had not, and gave us their blessing to go ahead and arrange a party."

She said they had to limit the number of children to meet with the fire regulations, and added: "I hope a public subscription will raise enough money for us to return what we have so far collected to the parents."

Council moves to tie-in the festivities

PLANS for Sarratt's Silver Jubilee celebrations include a bonfire on the green, a barbecue, children's sports and fancy dress, a tree planting ceremony and parties for the children and the old folk. At a public meeting called by the parish council to discuss the celebrations, it was agreed that a central committee should be set up to coordinate existing committees already doing their own fund-raising for children's parties.

The parish council was criticised for leaving things so late, but after an initial lively start, the meeting got down to some constructive planning.

Urged by Mrs Val Cummings, a committee was set up to organise festivities for Sarratt's over-60s and to arrange a public subscription to finance them.

A suggestion that the old people might enjoy an outing to London to see the festivities on Jubilee Day was firmly sat upon by the secretary of the local over-60's club, Mrs Jeannie Haynes, who said they did not want to leave the village on that day and miss the local festivities.

The public subscription will be organised by Mr Fred Downing, who has just been elected to the parish council, and Mr Johnny Walker.

Boxes

In addition, collection boxes will be left in local shops. The school had not yet finalised its Jubilee plans, the meeting heard, but these included an open day and festivities on the Green.

Councillor Mrs Mary Chitty, who chaired the meeting, said the women's institute had offered to provide teas and cakes for any local activities. "This is the right attitude," she said.



TEMPLEMAN STUDIOS. REF: H F

Rev. Jack Tomlinson — Eddie Robinson



TEMPLEMAN STUDIOS REF: C 76 6

NORCOT HOUSE
COMMONWOOD
CHIPPERFIELD
HERTFORDSHIRE
KINGS LANGLEY 62865

Dear Peter - Val,

I should like to thank you both very much indeed for all you have done to make our Jubilee Day such a success. It was very kind of you to allow us to meet in your house, it made a much more related atmosphere in which to plan the programme.

I think the public address system on the day made all the difference between an unorganised shambles and the smooth flowing of events during the day. Your help behind the scenes has been invaluable and I am most grateful for all you have done.

Yours very sincerely,

Midge.

1977

Sarratt Horticultural Society

please reply to:- J. Cracknell Esq., Greenacres. Dimmocks Lane.

February 1977

Dear Member,

The Annual Subscription to the above mentioned Society is now due (20p) and we are inviting you to renew your membership for 1977. For your convenience, an envelope is enclosed with this letter, and will be delivered by a member of our committee. In the event of you being out it will be placed through your door. Miss Joan Wood at Joan's Shop on the Green had kindly offered to accept these subscriptions, or they may be handed to any member of the Committee mentioned below.

AUTUMN SHOW The Autumn show will be held in the Village Hall, Sarratt on Saturday 10th September, and for the benefit of anyone wishing to prepare for the HANDICRAFT section details for this as follows:-

HANDICRAFT

1. A Crocheted Article.
2. A Knitted Article.
3. A Dressed Doll.
4. A Miscellaneous Article of Handicraft (excluding woodwork & painting)

The schedule of all events will be issued at a later date to all members of the Society, and notifications will be given in the village "Spotlight".

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President A. Jenkinson Esq. "Chevins" The Green.
Secretary Mrs. P. Petts. "Pinnaroo" Dimmocks Lane.
Mrs. C. Barber. "Little Nobles" Church Lane.
W. P. Clabon Esq. Potten Farm Chandlers Cross.
Mrs. B. Downer. "Lynbern" The Green.
H. B. Penrose Esq. "Tanglewood" Church Lane.
C. Staughton Esq. Sarratt Hall.
Mrs. M. Singleton. 3 Downer Way.
G. E. Wakeham Esq. & Mrs. H. Wakeham. "The Hut" Winmill Hill.
Mrs. B. Mason. "Oak Beam" The Green.

If you know of any person interested in joining the Horticultural Society please put them in touch with any member of the Society to enrol.

The undermentioned Nurseries have agreed to give to Members of the Sarratt Horticultural Society on presentation of their current Membership card a discount.
WARDS NURSERIES (SARRATT) LTD. Dawes Lane, Sarratt.
SIMMONDS NURSERIES LTD. CHIPPERFIELD.
Seeds, tools, roses, garden equipment, trees, container grown plants etc.

MOTTO 1977 :- GROW IT - SHOW IT

DANGEROUS TREES ON GREEN

POTENTIALLY dangerous dead trees, some of them 70 feet high, will have to remain a threat on Penmans Green at Sarratt for some time, because the volunteer labour force is far too small to cope.

Mr Joe Biggerstaff told the parish council that his force of 30 to 40 men had dwindled to one or two over the last three weeks, and at this rate it would take two months to finish work at Commonwood.

Continued threat

In the meantime the dead elms will be a continued threat, in one place to a cottage and garage, and in other parts to the road.

The parish council discussed the possibility of recruiting more help.

Senior scouts were suggested, but ruled out, and to put the work out to contract was considered too costly.

It was decided that some help might be gained by putting notices in public houses.

Two councillors also offered to help.

The matter will be taken up again at the next meeting.

W.O. 29-4-1977

Leave it to Nature!

ALLOTMENT holders in Sarratt do not want a water supply.

A slightly surprised parish council learnt this week that the response to a questionaire circulated to allotment holders showed, two to one, that this service was not wanted.

Only 14 people, out of 42 questioned, were in favour of the installation, which would cost allotment holders £2 each.

Mr Fred Downing commented: "Some of the older people feel that God has provided the water for years. Why pay to have it imported now?"

W.O. 10-6-1977



The Queen and Sherpa Tensing beat over 20 other competitors to win Sarratt's Jubilee fancy dress contest on the village green. An impressively dressed Paul Lefrere, 5, took the boys' title with his interpretation of Everest '53, with a steak beater serving him for an ice pick! Paul lives at The Plough, Belsize. Julie Randall, 12, of Alexandra Road, Sarratt, won the girls' title with her regal attire, topped by a home-made crown. The contest was judged by Mr and Mrs Alan Grant, of The Boot, Sarratt.
WO Photo 34506



VILLAGES HAVE BUSY TIME IN 1977 . . .

WO 25-5-77

ONLY three local villages have entered for the Hertfordshire Society Best Kept Village Competition this year. They are Letchmore Heath and Sarratt in the small village section, and Flaunden in the hamlet section.

The society say the response has been poor this year, with 67 entries, nine less than last year, and believe people have become more occupied with preparing Jubilee celebrations.

A dozen shot in Sarratt...



WREST. 5-8-1977

TWELVE people were shot in Sarratt Village Hall on Monday, but not to worry — Patrick McNee of the New Avengers dealt personally with the villain, a rascally Russian soldier found hiding in the village church.

He also found time to sign a few autographs.

But the latest sequence of the New Avengers — just returned from scenes in Paris for a spot of filming in Sarratt — will not be seen until next year.

A spokesman for the Rank Organisation commented: "Sarratt is a typical English village and action takes place in the beautiful old Holy Cross Church, in the Village Hall, and round the village generally. Patrick McNee is the only star in this particular part of the story."

WO Photo 35163

Amanda Chamberlain. (Daughter of Daphne Tyler).

Floral art at church

WO. 15-7-77

ANYONE who thought the Jubilee spirit died with Jubilee Day would have been amazed at a visit to the Holy Cross Church in Sarratt over the weekend.

Jubilee was the theme chosen for the fifth flower festival arranged in the ancient church.

With the overall effect of red, white and blue, there was an occasional touch of gold as elaborate and dainty displays were set in the almost 800-year-old village church.

Throughout Saturday and Sunday, visitors in a steady stream admired the festival, organised jointly by Mrs Ann Robson and Mrs Connie Barber.

It was difficult at times to get a glimpse of the special display in the belfry where Mrs Rosemary Saunders and Mrs Lena Saunders had arranged a bishop's chair acting as throne.

A floral sceptre and orb, perfectly coloured Union Jacks, and God Save the Queen, lettered in corn flowers round the pulpit were also admired.

Teas were served in the garden of nearby Gray Stokes, and a total of £350 was raised for the church in donations.

● In our picture, Sarah Smith and Elizabeth D'Arcy are seen admiring a display.
WO Photo 34908

Museum workers give new lease of life to ancient barn

Pegs FcHo 21-8-1977



A SARRATT couple are giving a centuries-old barn a new lease of life as an exhibit in an open-air museum.

The historic barn, originally on land at Arborfield, Berkshire has been claimed by the Chiltern Open Air Museum and will be put up in Newlands Park, Chalfont St Giles.

The work is expected to take three weeks and is being carried out by museum official Mr Philip Buller, his wife Barbara and a party of volunteers.

Mr and Mrs Buller of Little Brayмans, Belsize, Sarratt, and the volunteers have so far rescued 25 historic buildings that were to be demolished. They will carry out the restoration work at weekends.

The barn, built about 1500, has been condemned as unsafe for modern farming and dismantling work began a week ago. Each timber part has to be numbered from the roof down and then all the pieces will be fitted together again so the barn should be as it was more than 400 years ago.

Mr Buller said the musuem would only move old buildings earmarked for demolition. "It is a last resort to put them in a museum," he said. "We would much rather the buildings stayed where they were first built."

'VILLAGE IS GETTING A RAW DEAL'

Watt. Obs. 23-12-1977

SARRATT Parish Council claim the village is not getting a fair deal from Three Rivers Council. A document released this week claims that the commons are neglected and unkempt, the King George V Playing Field Trust in danger of bankruptcy, and the village hall urgently in need of refurbishing and decorating.

It is clear, say the parish council, from a review of the value of a 1p rate for each parish that Sarratt fares badly from the present rate revenue system, yet commitments are not dissimilar.

The 850 to 900 dwellings in Sarratt parish yield nearly £6,000 in rates, yet little finds its way back to Sarratt, say the council.

Ratepayers rely heavily on the parish precept rate, local fund-raising events and grants of money or labour, to provide and maintain the parish's amenities.

In other parts of the district, all-community assets and provisions are wholly or partly paid for by Three Rivers.

Policy

There are good reasons, they feel, for reviewing the system of recovery of expenditure by parish councils. They question the financial policy they have been following for the past few years whereby Sarratt ratepayers are getting a meagre income, a meagre expenditure and a meagre recovery from the general rate.

It should be possible, the parish council says, for a grant of money from Three Rivers based on an estimate of the annual cost of maintaining the common land of Sarratt, to be provided out of the general rate for Sarratt to administer, thereby returning part of the £6,000 provided by the parishioners for this purpose.

Community grants

The precept rate could then be used to better purpose by providing improved maintenance grants for their community assets.

The parish council conclude: "Sarratt ratepayers are being asked to pay rates to provide and maintain services in other parts of the community that they have to charitably support and provide for themselves."

A spokesman for Three Rivers Council said: "The Chief Executive is aware of this document. We understand that it may have gone to several of the district councillors, but this rests entirely with the parish council and we have no more information."

Assistance

The chairman of King George V Playing Field Trust, Mr Ron Cox, said: "I don't know where the idea of bankruptcy comes from. In June we were up against it, but we are paying our way now. We have had further assistance in maintenance from the parish council for which we are very grateful."

The village hall also had its maintenance grant from the parish council more than doubled. Mr J. Smith of the village hall committee said: "Councillor F. Downing, the parish council representative on our committee, said that maintenance did not just mean decorating, but meant maintenance of a service to the village, and included help with heating and rates. We were given a £150 grant, then the parish council gave us another £200."

SARRATT
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Christmas BAZAAR

will be held in the

VILLAGE HALL

on

SAT. DEC. 3rd, 1977

at 2.30 p.m.

Father Christmas
arrives by Helicopter
at 2.20 p.m.

Printed by G. Young & Son Ltd. 34 Yorke Road, Crouch Green.

WHITE DELL FARM

SARRATT, NR. BOVINGDON, HERTS.

(Lying between Hoy, Pits Bottom, Bovingdon and Belsize, Sarratt)

DISPERSAL SALE

of

56 FRIESIAN CROSS CATTLE
Including Milking Cows and Followers

THREE TRACTORS
Including 1958,1962 and 1965 Fordsons.

IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINES
Including Cultivating and Haymaking Equipment and Trailers.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1971 RENAULT 6TL SALOON

which

B U C K L A N D & S O N S

Will offer for sale on the premises for Mr. I. Wootton, who is retiring from Farming, as above:

on

THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER 1977

at 10.30 a.m.

Catalogues from the Auctioneers: 44 High Street, Slough, (Tel: 21307) also Gerrards Cross, Windsor and Reading.

1978

THEIR PRIDE AND JOY



Putting their expert skills to the test are judges, Mr. F. Ward, of Sarratt, and Mr. J. Cox, of Kings Langley.

9 SEPT. 1978

MEMBERS of the fast-growing Sarratt Horticultural Society showed the pride of this year's garden-grown crop at their annual Autumn Show, on Saturday.

In fact, there was a record number of 306 entries for judges to choose from, at the village hall, and experts were agreed that the general standard was extremely good despite poor summer weather.

Society membership is going from strength to strength at the moment, which meant keen competition for the trophies.

But top prizes were eventually awarded to Mrs. C. Barber, who won the Clutterbuck Trophy, the Loader Trophy and the Elsie Collins Trophy.

The Frederick Barber Trophy went to Mrs. Beament, the Jenkinson Trophy went to Mr. A. Jenkinson and the Arthur Pritchard Trophy was won by Mr. T. Hill.

The David Osborne Trophy was won by Mr. E. Middleton and the Dickins Trophy went to Mrs. N. Huson. In the children's section, Gail Dorrett, captured the E. A. Cox Trophy after winning three of the four classes.

OPEN SECTION

Chrysanthemums. Reflexed: 1 Mr. A. Jenkinson. 2 Mr. G. Wakeham. Incurved: Several varieties: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mr. A. Jenkinson. Specimen: 1 Mr. A. Jenkinson, 2 Mr. G. Wakeham. Korean or pompon: 1 Mr. A. Jenkinson. With foliage: 2 Mrs. Barber.

Roses. HT one or more varieties: 1 Mr. T. Hill, 2 Mrs. Beament, 3 Mr. C. Staughton. HT one variety: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mr. T. Hill, 3 Mrs. Beament. Specimen: 1 Mr. C. Straughton, 2 Mrs. Beament, 3 Mr. T. Hill. Floribunda: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. T. Hill, 3 Mr. A. Jenkinson. Bowl: 1 Mr. T. Hill; 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Beament.

Single asters: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mrs. Barber. Double asters: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. H. Smith, 3 Mr. T. Hill. Cactus dahlias: 1 Mr. T. Hill, 2 Mrs. Beament, 3 Mr. A. Jenkinson. Decorative dahlias: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. A. Jenkinson, 3 Mr. C. Staughton. Pompon dahlias: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mr. C. Staughton, 3 Mr. C. Alexander. Vase dahlias: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. H. Smith, 3 Mrs. Barber.

Vase annuals: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Absalom. Herbaceous: 1 Mrs. Absalom, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Huson. Mixed: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mrs. MacGregor, 3 Mrs. Barber. Pot plant: 1 Mrs. Huson, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Beament.

VEGETABLES

Seed onions: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. J. Oliver, 3 Mr. G. Wakeham. Onions: 1 Mr. E. Middleton, 2 Mrs. Absolom; 3 Mr. H. Neal. Culinary shallots: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mr. E. Middleton. Pickling shallots: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mr. E. Middleton, 3 Mr. H. Neal. Potatoes: 1 Mr. E. Middleton, 2 Mr. G. Wakeham, 3 Mrs. Absalom. Runner beans: 1 Mrs. Absalom, 2 Mr. E. Middleton, 3 Mr. C. Alexander.

Carrots: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mr. E. Middleton, 3 Mrs. Beament. Beetroot: 1 Mr. E. Middleton, 2 Mrs. Beament, 3 Mr. A. Jenkinson.

Cabbage: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. H. Neal, 3 Mr. E. Middleton. Lettuce: 1 Mrs. Beament, 2 Mr. H. Neal. Marrows: 1 Mr. H. Neal, 2 Mr. E. Middleton, 3 Mrs. Absalom. Tomatoes: 1 Mr. J. Smith, 2 Mr. A. Jenkinson, 3 Mr. C. Purchast.

FRUIT

Dessert apples: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mr. H. Neal. Cooking apples: 1 Mr. E. Middleton, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mr. H. Neal.

COTTAGERS' SECTION

FLOWERS

Early chrysanthemums: 1 Mrs. Huson. Specimen: 1 Mrs. Huson. HT Roses: 1 Mrs. Barber. Specimen HT rose: 1 Mr. H. Smith, 2 Mr. C. Petts, 3 Mrs. Smith. Floribunda: 1 Mrs. Barber. Asters: 1 Mr. H. Smith, 2 Mrs. Downer, 3 Mr. H. Chalk. Cactus dahlias: 1 Mr. H. Smith, 2 Mrs. Beament. Decorative dahlias: 1 Mrs. Beament; 2 Mrs. Smith, 3 Mrs. Huson. Mixed: 1 Mrs. Smith, 2 Mr. C. Alexander.

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

Seed onions: 1 Mr. J. Oliver, 2 Mr. G. Wakeham. Onions: 1 Mr. J. Oliver, 2 Mrs. Huson, 3 Mrs. Barber. Culinary shallots: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mrs. Barber. Pickling shallots; 1 Mrs. Downer, 2 Mr. G. Wakeham, 3 Mrs. Barber. Potatoes: 1 Mr. H. Chalk, 2 Mr. G. Wakeham, 3 Mrs. Downer. Runner beans: 1 Mrs. Downer, 2 Mr. H. Chalk, 3 Mrs. Huson. Carrots: 1 Mr. G. Wakeham, 2 Mrs. Downer, 3 Mr. H. Chalk. Beetroot: 1 Mrs. Huson, 2 Mr. H. Smith, 3 Mr. H. Chalk.

Cabbage: 1 Mrs. Huson. Lettuce: 1 Mr. C. Alexander. Marrows: 1 Mrs. Huson, 2 Mr. G. Coles. Tomatoes: 1 Mrs. Downer, 2 Mr. J. Smith, 3 Mr. H. Penrose. Dessert apples: 1 Mr. H. Penrose, 2 Mrs. Downer, 3 Mrs. Barber. Cooking apples: 1 Mr. J. Cracknell, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Downer.

FLORAL ART

Five flower arrangement: 1 Mrs. Barber. Green and white arrangement: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Wakeham, 3 Mrs. Neal. Table arrangement: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Smith, 3 Mrs. Staughton. Arrangement in a glass: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Downer, 3 Mrs. Staughton. Foliage, arrangement: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Wakeham.

COOKERY

Sausage rolls: 1 Mr. J. Cracknell, 2 Mrs. Alexander, 3 Miss Simon. Ginger biscuits: 3 Mrs. Juson and Mrs. Barber. Sultana scones: 1 Mrs. Petts, 2 Mrs. Juson, 3 Miss Simon. Starter: 1 Mrs. Alexander, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Staughton. Sponge: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Alexander. Bottled fruit: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Petts, 3 Mr. J. Cracknell. Jar of jam: 1 Mr. J. Cracknell, 2 Mrs. Huson, 3 Mrs. Barber and Mrs. Thomas. Jar of jelly: 1 Mrs. Barber, 2 Mrs. Purchas. Coconut ice: 1 Mrs. Smith, 2 Miss Simon, 3 Mrs. Barber.

HANDICRAFTS

Crocheted article: 1 Mrs. Fuller, 2 Mrs. Barber. Knitted article: 1 Mrs. Fuller, 2 Mrs. Barber, 3 Mrs. Juson. Painting: 1 Mrs. Photiades, 2 Mrs. Barber. Miscellaneous: 1 Mrs. Staughton, 2 Mrs. Barber.

SCHOOLCHILDREN

Rag doll: 1 Gail Dorrett, 2 C. Clack, 3 S. Alexander. Biscuits: 1 G. Dorrett, 2 S. Marr, 3 S. Alexander. Creature: 1 G. Dorett, 2 C. Clack, 3 S. Marr. Collage: 1 S. Marr, 2 C. Clack, 3 G. Dorrett.

WO 10-2-1978

Lorry ban on lanes?

A SIX-MILE detour could be in store for heavy vehicles going to Sarratt from Chorleywood and Amersham.

Sarratt Road from Croxley Green will be the alternative if the police give permission to put weight restrictions on North Hill, Solesbridge Lane and Loudwater Lane, all narrow country lanes with no footpaths.

At the meeting of Three Rivers Highways Committee last week, Councillor Harold Metson said that Sarratt Road is considered the main road to Sarratt anyway.

But some members were concerned about the dangerous crossing with Loudwater Lane and Baldwins Lane where former councillor Ted Harris was killed recently. It was agreed that officers should look at possible improvements to this junction.

Councillor Paul Robinson felt the committee was taking traffic from one lot of unsuitable roads and putting it on another. He also thought six miles a tremendous detour.

The committee decided to apply for weight restrictions to be introduced for an experimental period, pending approval from the police.

Sarratt 'perfect'

WELL DONE, Sarratt! That is the message from parish councillors to local residents following news of success in the Hertfordshire Best Kept Village competition.

Members had nothing but warm praise for chairman of the village committee, Mr. Steve Statham, of "Penrose", The Green, Sarratt, and his helpers.

Top position in the first round and overall fourth place out of all the county's small villages were the results of much hard work — and an exact repeat of last year's showing.

A record-size working party turned out to deal with parts of the churchyard, in June, while a smaller group dealt with the pond. Others were active individually or in small clusters at other parts of the village.

Their sweating brows and aching backs were all in a good cause though, for the judges described the church and its surrounding area as "perfect."

Their reward is a special prize of three trees for the village to have made the greatest improvement in the past year.

Councillors decided to have them planted in the churchyard.

Sarratt gained a total of 91 points in their group — eight more than the nearest rival.

The winner of each group from each area went into the county final where Sarratt managed a super 71 points for fourth place.

Kings Langley Herald 21.7.78

NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL? NOT FOR SARRATT!

SARRATT village wants to hold on to its parish council. It is not interested in the idea of a neighbourhood council. This came across loud and clear at the first of a series of public meetings on the review of parish boundaries, held at Sarratt Village Hall on Monday.

About 80 people attended the meeting, organised by Three Rivers Council, who have set up a working party to review parish boundaries.

Chief Executive Mr Alan Deans was in the chair, and should have shared the platform with two members of the working party and two members of Sarratt Parish Council. But the working party representatives — Councillors Roberts and Robinson — failed to show up. Neither did they send apologies for absence!

Mr Deans opened the meeting by saying it would be a great advantage, when putting any proposals to the Boundaries Commission, if there was unanimity between the district and parish councils.

Three Rivers' prime consideration, he said, was to learn the wishes of local people. Administrative convenience was not the only consideration to be taken into account.

Mr Deans was asked to explain about neighbourhood councils, mentioned in a leaflet issued on the boundary reviews. But the meeting then made it clear they wanted to hang on to the parish council.

One woman told Mr Deans: "The parish council knows what local people want. We don't want a neighbourhood council. We are quite happy as we are."

County Councillor Frank Cogan said: "This meeting can send you back to your working party with a very clear answer. Neighbourhood councils have no powers. We hope no consideration will be given to a neighbourhood council. Sarratt requires a parish council."

Concerning proposed boundary changes, Mr Deans said two places for consideration were the Bucks Hill and Grove areas, and Durrants Ward.

It was suggested, he said, that the former be transferred from Abbots Langley Parish to Sarratt Parish, and that Durrants Ward be transferred to Croxley Green. It was also considered that the North Orbital Road would be the ideal boundary for the parish.

There was some concern that losing Durrants Ward would mean financial and electoral loss to the parish, and would almost certainly mean the loss of one of Sarratt's two district councillors.

The facts and figures

Finance Director Mr J. Dunkley said the parish would lose about 20 per cent of its electorate, and the financial shift would be about the same. About 540 electors would be lost to the parish and only 50 would be coming in.

The loss of 20 per cent of the total rateable value of £337,000 was £67,000. The estimated penny rate product for Sarratt Parish at present is £3,200. Of that, Mr Dunkley said, they would lose £650.

Former parish council chairman Mr Frank Tyler wanted to know if Sarratt Parish could in some way be protected economically, and Mr Deans said the working party was looking into the question of finance.

A unique village

It was clear that most people present regarded Sarratt as a unique village community in Three Rivers, where most other areas are urban. Its rural nature, they said, should be protected.

They pointed to the "urbanisation" of Croxley Green, and one woman said: "We'd hate anything like that to happen to Sarratt. To urbanise this village would be unforgivable."

Mr Deans concluded by saying their views would be taken back to the working party for due consideration. He said the next public meeting would be at Abbots Langley on Wednesday, and parish councillor Mrs Mary Chitty said: "I would like to suggest that the other members of the working party have the courtesy — not extended to us — to turn up at the meeting."

Drowning tragedy

A HAPPY time at a party ended in tragedy when five-year-old Rowena Kirwood returned home, and was later found drowned in her family's swimming pool.

Rowena, of The Briars, Sarratt, was still wearing her party dress when she was discovered lying in the water by her sister.

At an inquest into her death at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge, on Friday, Rowena's father, Mr Peter Kirwood, said the swimming pool was not even finished at the time of the accident.

Building work was still in process, but as it was a fine day, the family had started to fill the pool.

"We had told the children about the dangers of the swimming pool, and we were going to give them jackets," said Mr Kirwood. "But while it was filling up, it didn't dawn on me there was any danger present. It's one of those dreadful things."

Mr Kirwood said Rowena had come in to see him after the party, and had discussed it with him.

"We had a little cuddle, and she gave me a sweet," he said.

His eldest daughter was away for the weekend, and he then thought Rowena went to watch television with her other sister and brother. His wife was making a cup of tea, and it was not until some time later that they realised Rowena was missing.

The coroner, Dr John Burton, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

WO 7/7/78

Sarratt Tory fete

A ROUSING rendering of Rule Britannia welcomed visitors to Sarratt Conservative Fete on Saturday. Usually held in the pleasant garden of Micklefield Green House, the fete was, after much deliberation, held in Sarratt Village Hall, because of the uncertain weather.

It proved to be a good idea, for more people turned up, and the fete made a profit of almost £900 — £250 more than last year.

Organised by Mrs Val Cummings and Mr Fred Downing, the fete featured all the usual stalls, and one new one — a china stall — which was very popular indeed.

The car park, closed to cars, was given over to children's sideshows, toy car racing, coconut shies and a treasure hunt. For three lucky raffle winners — Mrs Brewer, her son, and Mr Joe Childs — the sky was the limit, for their prizes were a trip in Mr Absalom's helicopter. Meanwhile Mrs Anne Dorrett of Deadmans Ash could forget the cooking for once. Her prize was a dinner for two!

STALWARTS OF VILLAGE HALL

THE hub of village life is its village hall — and Sarratt is no exception. This week three people who have helped Sarratt Village Hall run smoothly for a total of 67 years were presented with gifts in recognition of their long service.

For Mr Jim Smith (centre), who has served on the Village Hall Committee for 25 years, and for several years as chairman, there was an inscribed silver tankard. Mrs Alice Thomas secretary for 21 years (on his left, holding flowers), received a crystal vase, and for Mrs Vi Vasey (on his right), the hall's caretaker for 21 years, there was a piece of Spanish pottery.

The presentations were made by the new chairman, Mr Joe Childs, who thanked them for all they had done for the Village Hall and for the village in general, over the years.

Mrs Thomas was also presented with a sheaf of flowers, and Mrs Vasey with a potted plant. Formalities over, the committee then enjoyed a pre-Christmas drink, with refreshments.

WO Photo 39511



WATFORD OBSERVER FRI. 22 DEC. 1978

Church forging stronger links with residents

KLG 3-4-1979

SARRATT parish church is launching a scheme to build better links with the people of the village.

During the past few months, the parochial church council has given a great deal of thought to ways of carrying out the aim.

This has included a bid to give more effective help to the local community.

The parish magazine explains: "Requests for help can of course always be made to the rector on his rounds, or by calling at the rectory, or phoning Kings Langley 64377.

"However, it is not always possible to do any of these things. Not everyone is on the phone, and some may be reluctant to ring the rectory doorbell.

"In view of this, the church is establishing a series of contact points throughout the village."

POSTERS

The contact points will be homes, with a small blue poster in the front window or on the gate post, where the families will pass on requests for information or help to the rector.

And in future, all new residents will receive a leaflet with facts about Sarratt, including the contact point scheme.

The parish magazine adds: "At the same time, the contact points will be for the use of everyone, not just newcomers. And we hope that they will help the church be of more help to the village as a whole."

1979

W.O. 23/2/79

Sarratt snow-mobile!

NOT a fur trapper in Hudson Bay — just Mrs Brenda Lines bringing home the weekend shopping in Siberian Sarratt! During repeated heavy snowfalls Mrs Lines, of Red Lion Lane, and her toboggan-towing Alsatian, Tessa, have become a familiar sight in Sarratt's snowy wastes.

"It all started because I have had an operation and can't carry things," said Mrs Lines. "When the snow came and I couldn't use my trolley I thought of hitching Tessa to the toboggan. At first she was a bit puzzled, but once she got the idea she loved it. She loves being useful. In fact I'm wondering what we are going to do when the snow melts. Hitch her to a shopping trolley perhaps?"

Tessa is nine years old, which just goes to prove that you can teach an old dog new tricks!

WO Photo 39993





Michael Clarke David Barnes Chris Alexander
Ian Lawrence Malcolm Box
Helen Wilson Kathleen Clough Jim Clark Trish Clements Amanda Chiles David Rees
Sarah Alexander
John Wyatt Maddie Tatham Elspeth Smith Jenny Dimmer Jason Clark Linda Clark Fiona Clark
Henry Wyatt
Elaine Harold Ursula Tatham Jonathan Rees Ruth Harold

1979.

1980

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1980
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller, FRMetS

I began taking weather readings in my garden in a limited way during May 1980. During the next few months I increased the scope of my observations.
Details of met. site: grid ref, TL 0275 0065
height above sea level; 400 feet [122m]
description of site; facing SE on the northward slope of a shallow valley

	air temp [°C]		min ground		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]		
June	4th / 27.0	27th / 6.0			
July	25th / 26.0	22nd / 8.0			
August	15th / 26.0	---- / 8.0			
September	3rd / 23.0	26th / 7.0			
October	1,27 / 17.0	10,31/ 0.0			1st ground frost, 10th.
November	---- / 14.0	27th / -1.0	27th / -6.1		1st snow, 7th. 1st air frost, 27th.
December	23rd / 13.0	8th / -5.0	8th / -9.7		



Villagers' golden days

A SARRATT couple who met in 1923 when they were both members of the same London church, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday.

Jim and Elspeth Smith, of Dimmocks Lane, were 17 and 16 respectively when they first noticed each other at St. Luke's Church in Kentish Town.

Said Jim: "We grew up together really. I was a King's scout and Elspeth was very involved with the church."

In those days people saved up to get married, and a five-year engagement followed. But when they did get married, in 1931, they started married life in their own home in Sudbury, near Wembley.

They moved to Sarratt 32 years ago, living first in the bungalow opposite, then in Church Lane, before settling for their present bungalow in Dimmocks Lane eight years ago.

Formerly chief cashier at Rolls-Royce in Leavesden, Jim began his career as a clerk in the French Bank in London, but that folded during World War One, and he went to work as a cashier for de Havillands at Edgware, which was taken over by Bristol Siddeley, which in turn was taken over by Rolls-Royce, where he became chief cashier.

During the last war Jim was a district ARP warden, in charge of 500 other wardens, and he later trained as an incidents officer.

Since moving to Sarratt both have become much involved in village affairs.

Organise

Committed Christians, they are very active in Holy Cross Church. They believe the Christian influence is a very important thing in marriage.

Both are in the choir, and both served on the parochial church council. Elspeth has been the Enrolling Member of the Mothers' Union for the past 20 years, and always helps to organise the harvest suppers and flower festivals.

She also belongs to the WI and was its president for three years, and used to serve on the committee of the Sarratt Branch of South-West Hertfordshire Conservative Association.

For 15 years she was also known to the village schoolchildren as a "dinner lady."

In her "spare" time she sells poppies and helps run the Red Cross Friendship Club for the Over Sixties.

Jim was chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee for 25 years, and is vice-chairman of the Sarratt and District Horticultural Society, at which he regularly exhibits.

WO Photo 52264



FARM helpers Gareth Chapman, 15, and Nick Fronzoni, 16, found themselves on a hot seat at Sarratt on Friday morning.

They were riding on top of bales of barley straw on a trailer which was being towed in Sarratt Road when a car behind started tooting.

"At first we thought he simply wanted to pass but on turning round we saw flames leaping from the rear of our load," said Nick later.

The lads shouted to the tractor driver, Alan Voles, to stop and jumped down unharmed.

The driver attempted to back the load in the hope of getting it off the highway, but moments later it was engulfed in flames and he had no option but to unhitch the tractor and call the fire brigade.

The road was blocked for some time while firemen, hampered by the lack of a convenient water supply, tackled the 200 blazing bales which had come from Micklefield Farm. The trailer was badly damaged.

WO Photo 52206

Bazaar to aid research

A BAZAAR in aid of kidney research will be held in Sarratt School Hall on Saturday, September 26.

It is being organised by a small group of Sarratt people who want to raise money for the St. Peter's Research Trust, which is concerned with both kidney disease and diabetes.

Based in London, this work is aimed to benefit patients at Watford, particularly children and young people.

The idea came to Mrs Eileen Holloway after watching a television programme on kidney disease, and her original idea was to buy a kidney machine for Sarratt to benefit kidney sufferers within the village itself.

Prevent

But further investigation proved this was not the answer for all or even most types of kidney diseases. Machines need very expensive back-up service with qualified technicians and facilities to make them a feasible proposition.

More money was really needed for research to prevent people reaching the stage of needing machines.

It is within the St. Peter's group of hospitals that one of Sarratt's own kidney sufferers, Mrs Jean Saunders, has received care during the past five months of her illness, and over £400 has already been raised for the Trust by a jumble sale at Bovingdon, organised by her sisters.

Minister injured

SARRATT's Baptist minister, the Rev. Walter Mackie, was seriously injured last week during a visit to the United States.

Mr Mackie, who with his wife Phyllis, exchanged house and church for the month of September with the Rev. Wade McKinley of Calvary Southern Baptist Church in San Diego, was crushed by a manoeuvring car as he loaded things into his own car on September 9.

Mr Mackie's leg was broken and an artery and vein were severed. He spent four days in intensive care and is expected to remain in hospital for three weeks.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE APRIL 1982

1283

The great Sarratt scrapbook



Holy Cross church, Sarratt from which the Sarratt scrapbook originated.

by Stephen Statham

WHEN so many people seem to find more pleasure in looking backwards than forwards, it is inevitable that a vogue has developed for collecting, old newspapers, postcards, posters and scrapbooks — in fact anything that recalls the past.

Old scrapbooks, the joy of the Victorian nursery and also a way of keeping small children out of harm's way for hours on end, still provide great pleasure for the serious collector. Not all scrapbooks are the products of tiny fingers, scissors, and flour and water paste. Many were compiled as a record of local events by people who wished that future generations would have some knowledge of the way of life in a village or local community.

Such a volume is the great book known as the "Sarratt Scrapbook", based on the village of Sarratt in Hertfordshire.

This book, measuring 25in by 18in and weighing 38lb, was begun by the Rev G. N. Ryley as a memorial to his father the Rev Edward Ryley, the former rector of the parish. The frontispiece inscribed in his own hand reads:

Presented to the Incumbent of Holy Cross
SARRATT Herts
(for the time being)
By Rev Gilbert N. Ryley MA
Curate of Sarratt 1908. Rector 1912
In Affectionate and Grateful Remembrance
of his father
Incumbent 1859-1912
Rector and Vicar 1859-1866; Rector 1866-1912
And of his life
And work in the parish
Gilbert N. Ryley
May 20th 1912

After this follows a veritable treasure trove of newspaper cuttings, maps and photographs covering 128 years of local history.

As the book was compiled by the then rector, it is inevitable that a large proportion of the entries refer to the church of The Holy Cross and events connected with the church; but village events are not neglected.

Early photographs include a view of the rear of the old Sarratt Paper Mill, now Sarratt Mill House, taken about 1870 and also one of the Sarratt National School, taken in 1873 when the school, built in 1862, boasted an average of eighty scholars.

Pages 5 to 17 cover an important period in the history of Holy Cross. By the 1850s the church had fallen into a state of disrepair and the interior had been much altered from the original Norman design.

The twelve pages cover the raising of the funds for the restoration and enlargement of the church.

At this point the drawings for the work are inserted in the scrapbook, signed by the architect G. G. Scott. Mr Scott was the famous Victorian architect, knighted in 1872 to be known to history as Sir Gilbert Scott. Among his many famous works are the Albert Memorial, St Pancras Station and St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, but strangely enough his first job was the church of St Mary Magdelaine at Flaunden, Hertfordshire, built in 1826.

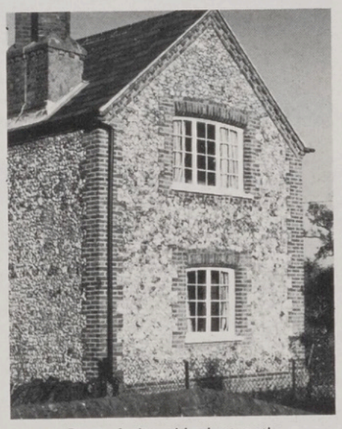
Notes by the Rev Edward Ryley on his finds during the building work refer to Roman relics, coins from the time of Charles I and a stone coffin belonging to the thirteenth century. The rector also describes the uncovering of the thirteenth century wall paintings which can be seen today on the east wall of the south transept.

In May 1866 the church was reopened and the bill presented. The total expenditure was £1,358 3s, including the architect's fees of £70 2s 11d. Funds raised to date were £1,285 9s 9d. Life was certainly simpler in those days!

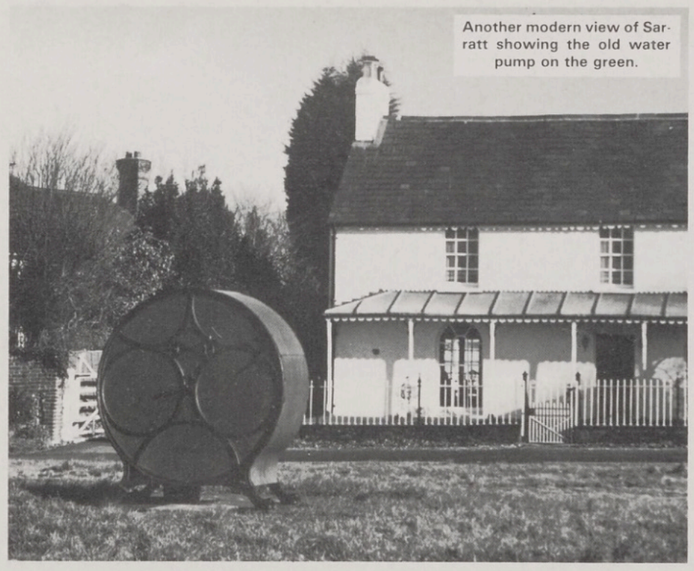
The next thirty years slip by with cuttings on village matters, descriptions of church teas, details of local cricket matches, births, marriages and deaths and as always, appeals for money.

This period of comparative calm is however broken in 1908. At Christmas time of that year cuttings from the *West Herts and Watford Observer* and the *Watford Herald,* describe a village row of true Dickensian proportions. Headlines such as "The Ferment at Sarratt", "Sarratt Ferment", "How the Examination came to be made" are followed by thousands upon thousands of closely printed words describing a pathetic little situation which might have been lifted straight from *Nicholas Nickleby* or *Jane Eyre.*

In those days children from the work houses and the poorer parts of London were boarded out with foster parents by the Local Board of Guardians. This praiseworthy idea was to give the children the benefit of country air and the opportunity to attend the local school and Sunday school.



Part of the old nineteenth century schoolhouse at Sarratt as it is today.



Another modern view of Sarratt showing the old water pump on the green.

The "Sarratt Ferment" appears to have begun by complaints about the personal hygiene of some of these children. The children were shuttled backwards and forwards from one school to another and some even back to the work house. This followed a public examination by a local doctor in front of over a hundred pupils at the Sunday school when "nits were found in their hair". The affair, which one reporter stated "has created a stir in the village greater than anything in the memory of the oldest inhabitant", dragged on for months with everyone taking sides. One correspondent even suggested that the hat pegs in the school, for the boarded children's caps, should be placed at greater distances away from those of the village children. The church became involved. A banner headline read, "The Rev Ryley Breaks Silence", but after that there are no more cuttings for us to learn how the unhappy affair was finally resolved.

The Rector celebrated his jubilee in 1909 and the sad death of this much loved man occurred in 1912.

Some excellent photographs taken in 1913 show the removal of the church bells for renovation and the replacement of the old wooden framework with a steel structure, which exists to this day. The bells and the new framework were returned to the church on September 8, 1913. Photographs taken then show a steam traction engine belonging to Messrs L. W. Rudd of Poplar, E.14, who were responsible for the long haul from the bell founders, Messrs Warners of Whitechapel, to the church.

The scrapbook devotes fourteen pages to the holocaust of World War One as it affected the village of Sarratt. Posters for a magic lantern lecture on "The Palestine Front" are followed by government leaflets on "Air Raid Precautions for Places of Public Worship". Unhappily, though, most of the pages contain the obituaries of those who died in action, with photographs of the uniformed figures to whom they refer.

The war is over, it is back to births, marriages and deaths. One special wedding reported in the *Daily Graphic,* June 1919 is entitled "The up-to-date Wedding: An Airplane Honeymoon", the bride and groom flying to Cornwall for their honeymoon. The reporter of sixty years ago writes: "We shall see many airplane weddings — we shall see bridal couples reach New York before the end of the day!"

Events in the village continue to attract the attention of the local and sometimes national press, through the 1920s and 1930s. There are photographs of the lych gate to the church, constructed from some of the old timbers saved from the bell tower, and the war memorial placed in the church to honour the fallen in World War One.

The development of the Metropolitan railway was responsible for a glut of articles on walks and rambles in the Chess valley, and from a cutting in *The Bucks Examiner,* June 1921, headed "A June day Jaunt" we go to "Fieldfare's" popular pieces in the *London Evening News* which usually included Sarratt, Chenies and Chipperfield in the recommended walks.

Electricity came to Sarratt and Chenies in February 1932.

The next major event recorded is the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1937 and several souvenir programmes are inserted at this point.

World War Two does not receive as much attention in the scrapbook as the first, and the cuttings become less frequent, perhaps because the Rev G. N. Ryley retired in 1943.

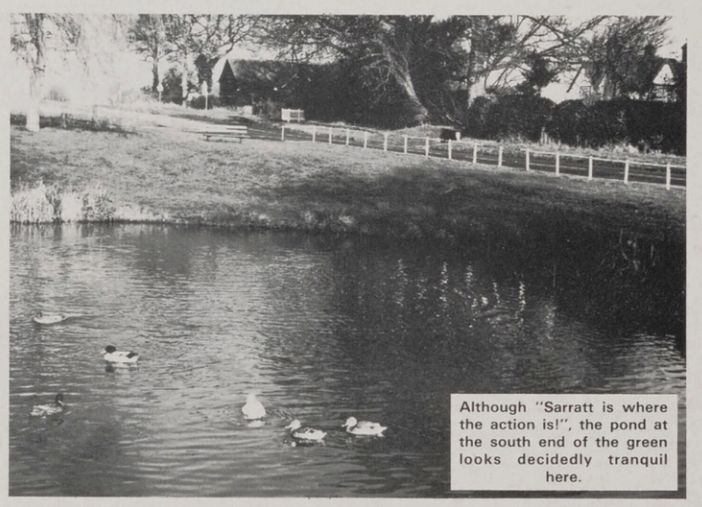
Photographs by J. Whitelaw

One interesting document is included, which one would assume was "Top Secret" at the time. This is the Air Raid Incidents Report of the Watford Rural District Council and is now available for anyone to see and to settle which bomb fell where and when and what damage was done. Fortunately most of those that fell in Sarratt failed to explode.

The remainder of the scrap book up to the present day consists mainly of old photographs of Sarratt presented by the late Fred Ward. However, there are cuttings and photographs of the Jubilee celebrations in 1977 with the present rector, the Rev Jack Tomlinson conducting the commemorative service. There is also a well researched article from *The Watford Observer* by Oliver Phillips on the history of Sarratt Cricket Club.

Happily the scrapbook, with the help of local enthusiasts, is still kept up-to-date in a much restricted form. As one turns again to the 180 or so pages, it is intriguing to think that a small Hertfordshire village which, in the 1860s had a population of not much over 900, could produce so much news worthy of publication. Perhaps the answer lies in a local joke — "Sarratt is where the action is!"

1283H



Although "Sarratt is where the action is!", the pond at the south end of the green looks decidedly tranquil here.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1981

taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller, FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	11.0	-2.0	16th / -4.1	16th / 9.3	44.2	
February	6th / 13.0	14th / -5.0	15th / -11.8	27th / 7.3	24.0	
March	28th / 17.0	18th / 0.0	17th / -5.2	10th / 12.8	100.1	
April	10th / 20.0	23,28/0.0	23rd / -4.7	25th / 25.2	55.9	last snow, 26th
May	20th / 21.0	3,5th/0.0	5th / -4.5	3rd / 12.4	84.2	last g'd frost, 5th.
June	14th / 25.0	18,29/6.0	29th / 1.5	------	43.6	
July	8th / 27.0	2,18 / 7.0	2nd / 2.8	31st / 30.6	49.7	
August	5th / 28.0	3,17th/6.0	17th / 3.3	6th / 21.6	29.8	
September	8,9,10/23.0	29th / 5.0	29th / 0.9	19th / 25.5	113.4	
October	1st / 19.0	16,17/-1.0	16,17/-3.5	------	76.3	1 st g'd frost, 14th. 1st air frost, 16th.
November	1st / 16.0	/ 0.0	19th / -4.0	19th / 18.1	50.9	first snow, 25th.
December	3,30 / 9.0	13th / -15.0	13th/ -19.5	7th / 14.9	64.2	max snow depth; 203cms, 12th

Emergency Repairs Appeal

Patron
The Rt. Hon. the Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone

The Rectory,
The Green, Sarratt,
Rickmansworth,
Herts.

Appeal Committee:
The Rector: The Rev. Jack Tomlinson
Churchwardens: Michael Clark, Charles Dee
Members: Michael Baker, John Guy,
Michael Neal, Barton Penrose

URGENT work of restoration

must be commenced immediately

to prevent our Parish Church

falling into disrepair. This will cost

£7,500 over the next five years.

We need

YOUR HELP

WINDOWS



QUOINS



FLINTWORK





1982

WATFORD OBS 31-12-1982

Village history across 400 years of wills

A BOOK of Sarratt wills and inventories from 1435 to 1832, with the intriguing title Pots, Platters and Ploughs, has just been published by Philip and Barbara Buller of Belsize, Sarratt. The book crowns six years of work by the couple, who had the idea while attending a Kings Langley WEA class on local history, including a medieval handwriting course.

Other students decided to produce a similar publication for the Kings Langley Local History and Museum Society, and as Sarratt's sole representatives at this course the Bullers followed suit. Most of the documents they transcribed are deposited at the Hertfordshire Record Office, but others are at the Public Record Office in London.

The Bullers say they have analysed the wills and inventories to give a picture of life in the village, showing the type and size of houses, furniture, cooking utensils and the type of farming.

In the preface WEA tutor Lionel Munby says wills and inventories from earlier centuries are an invaluable source of information for family historians.

Indexing

The book, of which 100 copies have been printed, costs £5. The Bullers, of Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, work at the Building Research Station, Garston.

Sarratt's rector, the Rev Jack Tomlinson, said: "The book will be a great help to me, as I am card-indexing all the names mentioned in the church register through the ages, in an attempt to tie families together."

Bright idea for fund



A CAR wash and valet service raised £77 towards the Holy Cross Emergency Repairs Appeal, in Sarratt, on Saturday.

A happy band of people washed about 40 cars outside the village hall and helped take the appeal total over £2,000.

Another £5,000 is needed for repairs to be carried out to the church, which suffered badly last winter.

The car wash was chiefly organised by Mr. Richard Walters and was the second of the special events arranged for the benefit of Holy Cross.

Early in the New Year a folk jazz concert and an exhibition by a local artist are planned.

The Holy Cross Bazaar, which will be held at the village hall on December 4, will be raising money for the day-to-day running of the church.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1982
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller, FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /minimum	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	7,29 / 12.0	14th /-17.0	14th /-18.6	8th / 10.3	51.3	max snow depth; 178cms, 10th
February	9,28 / 12.0	23rd / -3.0	27th / -8.5	------	39.7	
March	27th / 16.0	8th / -5.0	8th / -8.0	9th / 16.0	76.2	
April	5th / 19.0	13,20,30/0.0	13th / -4.5	6th / 12.5	29.9	
May	31st / 26.0	5th / -2.0	5th / -4.5	26th / 18.1	65.3	last air frost, 5th. last grd frost, 11th.
June	4th / 29.0	14,15/ 7.0	15th / 3.9	------	121.1	last snow, 6th May
July	8,9th/ 27.0	11th / 7.0	27th / 4.1	15th / 4.8	24.7	
August	3rd / 27.0	29th / 5.0	29th / 1.0	13th / 10.1	45.1	
September	18th / 26.0	22nd / 3.0	22nd / -1.1	24th / 9.7	52.7	1st ground frost, 22nd.
October	1st / 17.0	24,28/ 1.0	28th / -2.6	2nd / 29.3	131.9	
November	1st / 16.0	30th / -3.0	30th / -7.0	23rd / 21.2	107.4	1st air frost, 26th.
December	many/12.0	23rd / -3.0	23rd / -7.5	9th / 19.4	78.0	1st snow of winter, 18th.

The pub that doubled as a chapel of rest . . .

Spirits of a bygone age!

IT WASN'T always quite so jolly in the public bar of the Cock at Sarratt, near Rickmansworth. In fact the room has probably seen more than its fair share of sadness.

It is said that the wide door that leads from the bar to Sheila Coe's kitchen was made that way to accommodate a coffin and bearers. The room could be cut off from the rest of the pub by closing the sash windows over the bar for the privacy of family mourners.

Behind bars



by DELIA JONES

Local antiques man Steve Statham, who is sometimes to be found in the Cock taking an interest in the spirits, says the bar used to be a kind of chapel of rest for the church over the road.

In the old days, coffins were carried to the church from the village. When they got there, the public bar was shut off to house the coffin and mourners — sometimes for up to a week.

Although the pub is known as the Cock and has a cockerel on its sign, it is likely that it wasn't named after that kind of cock at all.

Steve says it is much more likely to have been named for the nursery rhyme cock in Ride-a-Cock Horse. This is because the old barn at the side was used as a resting place for horses that dragged paper up the steep incline from the old papermill at Sarratt Bottom.

The tiny pub is a 17th century building with only one bedroom and was an alehouse in the early 1800s.

One of the improvements made by the present tenants, Ray and Sheila Coe, has been the opening up of a huge inglenook fireplace. When the 1930s-type brickwork was torn down, they were delighted to find an old bread oven complete with dampers — balls of hard wood used as valves to regulate the heat from the fire.

Sheila had another good find hidden away in the floor of the barn — some handsome brass fire tongs, shovel and poker.

Sheila did start making her own bread when she and Ray first took over the pub, but not in the old oven. She gave it up because it meant she had to get up too early.



As it is, she is up most days at eight cleaning the pub or making the kipper pate and quiches which is making the pub famous.

"You have to like cooking to do it well," she says cheerfully. And obviously she does because the pub has a mention in the Which Good Pub Guide and the Egon Ronay Guide, with nice things said in both about her cooking, which is described as "simple and honest."

Ray was an industrial engineer with Kodak in Hemel Hempstead before he and Sheila took the pub. He got fed up with the wrangles between management and unions, he says, and needed a change.

Sheila says there's talk of tunnels leading from the cellar of the pub to the old manor house, Goldringtons, and a nearby farm.



■ **RESTING PLACE . . . The Cock at Sarratt (above) with landlady Sheila Coe (left) and regular Steve Statham (right)**



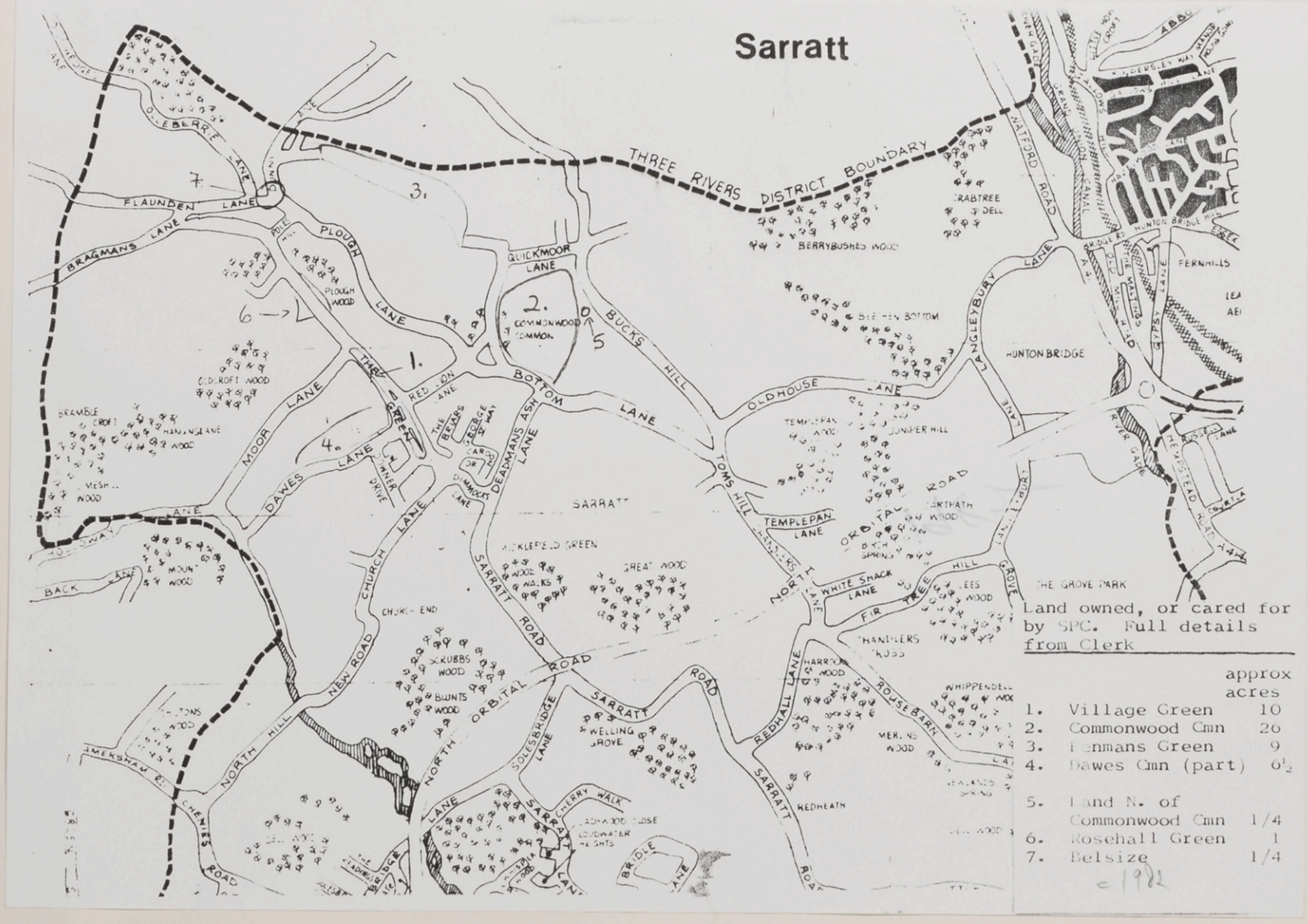
■ **DEPARTED . . . the now-demolished paper mill at Sarratt, in about 1870**



But Steve says that's a bit debatable. He doesn't think people were capable of digging tunnels that long in those days. But as Sheila says, there is a blocked-up archway in the cellar and some odd formations in the floor.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the Cock was a great place for walkers and naturalists. Another regular, Joan Moore, remembers serving in the pub garden as a girl. Someone else says the saloon bar was once a barn, brought into the pub itself before the war. Where the pub garden is now, an ancient barn was demolished and you can still see the foundations.

1983



Land owned, or cared for by SPC. Full details from Clerk

		approx acres
1.	Village Green	10
2.	Commonwood Cmn	26
3.	Fenmans Green	9
4.	Dawes Cmn (part)	6½
5.	Land N. of Commonwood Cmn	1/4
6.	Rosehall Green	1
7.	Belsize	1/4

c 1982

£3,300 raised so far for church fund

THE half-way mark for an appeal to restore the ancient parish church in Sarratt may be reached over Easter.

So far £3,300 has been raised for emergency work already carried out at Holy Cross Church. The appeal target is £7,000.

On Sunday a concert in the church should push up the cash barometer outside just a little bit further.

Holy Cross's choir performs John Steiner's The Crucifixion — with village school headmaster Mr Chris Alexander and St. Albans Cathedral chorister Mr Malcolm Box as soloists.

There is no charge for the concert but a collection will be taken at the end.

Between that and a car wash in the village hall car park on Saturday, April 9, appeal promoter Mr John Guy jopes to see fund-raising pass the magic half-way mark.

A quiz night at Sarratt Village Hall recently raised £250 for the appeal and the next major event is the church flower festival in June.

Clay shoot compromise possible

A COMPROMISE could soon be reached over the controversial clay pigeon shoots that take place every other Sunday near Harrocks Wood at Chandlers Cross.

Three Rivers councillors have heard about a new type of cartridge that makes less noise, and one councillor said he had heard both types, and the reduction in noise was remarkable.

Councillor John Homewood, chairman of the Leisure Services Committee, said the shoot organisers had come up with the suggestion that the new type of cartridge could be used, and that the shoot could possibly be held on Saturdays instead of Sundays. He said: "We are negotiating with both parties."

Mr Frank Keene, director of works and services, said he had received a letter from the Chandlers Cross Residents' and Ratepayers' Association which suggested compromise.

He said: "Many residents feel the council should serve a notice to stop the shoot, but in the spirit of compromise they have put forward certain proposals."

Councillor John Gell said the continual noise was getting "unbearable." He said it would get worse because the shoot envisaged an attendance of 100, and concluded: "Something should be done now."

Councillor Brian Bateman agreed. He said: "We have got to adopt a hard attitude. It does seem frightening to have 100 people banging off guns on a Sunday."

The committee agreed that there was scope for one more meeting, and possible agreement.

Pictorial Herts



Typifying the rural charm of Hertfordshire is this appealing picture of the village green at Sarratt, long regarded as one of the beauty spots of the county.

W.O. 83

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1983 3

Hypocrisy is shot down in pigeon row

A CHARITY shoot to be held at Potten Farm on September 18 is adding to the controversy about clay pigeon shooting in Chandlers Cross.

The shoot is being held by Sarratt Parents' Association. It is hoped to raise £200 towards the cost of a children's playscheme.

Mr Paul Gregory, of the Harrocks Wood Clay Pigeon Shooting Club, has said however, that holding the shoot is hypocritical.

His own club has been ordered to stop meeting by Three Rivers Council because of complaints about noise from local residents, and its future is to be decided at Watford Magistrates Court in October.

He said: "We were told nobody in Chandlers Cross wanted shooting, but this week is being advertised for anyone to come. Also it is on a Sunday and people complained that our meetings were held on Sundays.

"The advertisement for the shoot in Shooting Times magazine says nothing about using sub-sonic cartridges, which we use in our club to keep the noise down."

Parish Councillor Charles Wood, of Chandlers Cross, dismissed the allegations of hypocrisy.

He said: "This is a charity event which has been held annually for the past 15 or 20 years. There is a difference between one charity shoot a year and 26 club meetings."

Mr John Homer, chairman of the Sarratt Parents' Association commented that in the four years he had been involved with the association's shoot, there had been no complaints from locals.

There's something about Sarratt...

SARRATT has always held a special attraction for me. When I was very young it marked, together with Chipperfield, part of the outermost ring of my local world.

Beyond that was a vague and unexplored territory only to be traversed by trains to other worlds, such as Cornwall. It was perched at the brink of mystery above the magical valley of the River Chess.

Adult years bring a different view. Yet mysteries remain and Sarratt cries out for historical research to explain, for instance, why the Church of the Holy Cross and the old village became separated, or how the parish came to have so many tiny fields in the 19th century, or how the common land of Dawes Common got its curious name. Some of those fields had curious names too: such as Honey Deans, Nobbs Glebe, Junipers and Little Kiln Field.

Sarratt is a small parish and one might need to search for some evidence from nearby. Perhaps Penman's Green provides one clue. Penman's Green was until recently a village green with no houses. Is it the site of a deserted village whose fate was linked to that of the possible early



Sarratt Green

village of Sarratt which might have been near the church? That is pure fancy, of course, and bad history—but it is such imaginative ideas that spur the historian to search deeply to find out what really happened.

Meanwhile, leaving these greater matters on one side, let me offer two bits of nicely inconsequential history relating to Sarratt.

Two accounts provide glimpses into the charm of Sarratt c1900-1914. The first is quite short and is from a number of postcards sent by Miss S. Keen of Sarratt to my grandmother. One was sent by my mother, aunt and uncle—then small children—when they were staying with her in June 1905. The illustrations are all from these cards. The message from the children reads:

> "The Kiddies are sending this card, only I am writing it because they would never get all the news on it. We all arrived safely at Sarratt Green rather cold, so they had a cup of hot cocoa and something to eat and then to bed. They have just had their breakfast and are most anxious to get out and make friends with the children. Harry has just gone to ask Hubert to come to tea. I think the tea party will have to be in my kitchen on the floor. We all hope you will have a nice holiday."



The Ford, Sarratt Bottom.

The second account is extracted from a journal of August 1914. The writer is staying at Bucks Hill.

Saturday, August 1:

> "Tizzy, finding no supplies could be got till Tuesday, set off with me to Sarratt across Commonwood and through the fields. A straggling village on a long common. We went to a funny old grocer, who thought himself above the common villagers. Then we called on Dr Field . . ."

Tuesday, August 4:

> ". . . we learnt Germany had violated Belgian territory and we had declared war . . .
> . . . such a glorious sunset glow turning the corn ablaze."

Wednesday, August 5:

> "Butcher told us fearsome stories of all the horses being commandeered and how Sarratt Militia had been called out and wouldn't go and had been taken by policemen . . ."

Sarratt Green

Sunday, August 16:

> ". . . set out via Sarratt and Daws Common for the Chess Valley. Along by the water's edge on the way to Chenies till we come to a ford. Turned back and went to a cottage for tea. While it was getting ready . . . we sat on the bridge watching trout and trying to catch a big crawfish. Then we went back to the cottage and sat round a well laden tea table in a hot little room with a blazing oven. On the walls were photogroups, Ma in chair with baby on lap, Tommy leaning against her, and Pa in his Sunday best leaning on Ma's chairback and all looking the photographer straight in the eye. Sham flowers and gaudy china on the mantle shelf and, overhead, two strings of drying childrens' clothes. . . . we had delicious gooseberry jam and raspberry and currant jam, with dripping cake and currant scones, all home made. Also 3 plates of fresh bread and butter and radishes. The little cottage woman told us her family lived in Chenies, that was a photo of her grandmother at 82. She had 5 boys, made all their clothes herself, made cakes and jam, did the washing and provided teas. . . . We hurried home across Daws Common in a glorious gold barred sunset by 8."



Sarratt—Church of the Holy Cross

Tuesday, August 18:

> "Annette and I go to Sarratt for sulphur to burn, as, just as we were going to bed last night, we found a thin centipede on the ceiling. Annette squashed him with a shoe and it gleamed phosphorescent . . ."

Wednesday, August 19:

> "After dinner Annette walked down with me to help carry my basket. . . . We sat on Hunton Bridge form and watched the pickets and sentries for nearly an hour. We bussed home. The Royal Field Artillery in Watford."

****

So ended another holiday in Sarratt.

—GRANT LONGMAN

The Avenue, Micklefield Hall, Sarratt.

A giant step

A MEMBER of the congregation at the Holy Cross Church, in Sarratt, plans to tread a well-worn path in raising £1,000 for the building's emergency appeal fund.

Mr. Peter Clements, who lives in Chandlers Cross, will be walking from London to Brighton during the first weekend in July.

He is hoping to raise £1,000 if he completes the 55-mile course, more traditionally negotiated by vingage cars.

Mr. Clements, who is well-known in Sarratt as a member of various village groups, has already walked the route twice for charity.

He has now gone into regular training for this latest attempt and knows exactly what to expect.

The starting point is outside Buckingham Palace and Mr. Clements, who is a 40-year-old evidence photographer, thinks he can make it a real solo run, or walk.

"I do it completely on my own —although obviously there will be one or two people along the route to make sure that I am picked up if I fall by the wayside," he said.

Mr. Clements would still welcome any sponsors who care to contribute to a good cause.

"It's all for charity, and I would like to encourage as many people as possible to help," he said.

The walk starts on July 2 and is expected to take two days to complete. Mr. Clements will be stopping over at Gatwick airport.

Sarratt Church members are trying to raise £7,000 for urgent repair work to be carried out.



Peter Clements

KLG 20.5.83



KLG. 28-10-1983

Artist's busy year

THIS year has been a very busy one for local artist, Gillian Burrows.

For Gillian, of "The Briars House," Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, has completed a number of interesting commissions and has had several exhibitions.

To celebrate Windsor Royal Horse Show Week, Harrods commissioned 41-year-old Gillian to paint the frontboards of two new pianos with Windsor scenes.

Another top London store, Liberty, commissioned a painting of the store's Tudor facade which is being reproduced on 5,000 postcards for sale at all Liberty outlets.

Gillian's work will also be seen on a variety of Christmas cards. Royle cards are reproducing three of her landscapes in their 1984 Graphic Christmas Card range. She has also carried out Christmas card commissions for Barclays Bank, of 160 Piccadilly and Bluthner Pianos, of Conduit Street.

During the year Gillian has had exhibitions at the Scribes Cellar and the Mall Galleries in London and at Windsor, Gerrards Cross and Chesham.

She currently has an exhibition at the Midland Bank in Rickmansworth High Street illustrating the way her work has diversified during the past 12 months. The exhibition is on until November 11.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1983
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller, FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /minimum	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	4,5th/ 13.0	20th / -5.0	20th / -8.4	3rd / 18.6	74.8	
February	26th / 11.0	4th / -7.0	4th /-11.0	------	42.4	
March	17th / 15.0	5,8,15,16,28/-1.0	15th / -5.1	21st / 7.0	40.9	
April	16th / 17.0	9,13 / -2.0	9th / -4.8	18th / 13.6	103.5	last snow, 4th. Last air frost, 20th.
May	31st / 21.0	many/ 4.0	4th / -0.5	31st / 18.8	91.1	last grd frost, 4th.
June	7,8th/ 24.0	13th / 5.0	16th / 2.0	2nd / 4.9	10.1	
July	15,16/32.0	3,21 / 7.0	1st / 3.0	31st / 9.6	33.0	
August	6th / 30.0	30th / 5.0	30th / 1.6	21st / 26.2	32.6	
September	26th / 23.5	-----/ 3.5	-----/ 0.5	-------	67.6	
October	4th / 20.5	30th / -4.0	30th / -6.6	15th / 16.6	49.2	1st grd frost, 20th. 1st air frost, 29th
November	8th / 16.0	23rd / -8.0	23rd /-10.0	26th / 23.3	55.2	
December	----- / 12.0	7th / -5.5	7,11 / -7.8	20th / 12.7	76.9	1st snow of winter, 12th.

Autumn windfall

Nov 1983

AN AUTUMN exhibition of country crafts, paintings and sculptures by professionals at Sarratt Village Hall on Saturday raised around £800 for the Cancer Research Campaign.

It was organised by the Rickmansworth area branch of the campaign, with a private viewing on Friday evening. Cancer Research got 25 per cent of the selling prices. The branch has already raised over £4,000 this year.

The crafts displayed included woodcarvings, ceramics, silk Batik, etchings jewellery, pottery, calligraphy, lace-making, bookbinding, Bonsai trees, and paintings by artists from Sarratt, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth.

The Rickmansworth area branch of the Cancer Research Campaign has already raised almost £4,000 this year, apart from the exhibition.

Our picture shows Mrs Mariet Bramall, Mrs Margaret Norton, Mrs Val Cummings, Mrs Jan Clutterbuck, South West Hertfordshire MP Mr Richard Page and stallholder Mrs Meira Cummings, admiring some of Meira Cummings' work.

WO Photo A7226

1984

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1984

Chained to conservation



WD. 27-1-1984

Women's Institutes

SARRATT

HOW do you feel when you have made and sold nearly 6,000 peg dolls? Mrs Norma Stubbington is in no doubt — she is still fascinated by her chosen craft and was happy to explain its intricate detail to the ladies of Sarratt WI at their January meeting.

From curiosity after buying a peg doll several years ago Mrs Stubbington experimented with small pieces of material, glue and a felt tipped pen and fashioned some charming work-a-day dolls in old fashioned costume.

For historical accuracy she consulted books and old photographs. These dolls she sold to admiring friends. Still enthusiastic over her new-found skill, she made more peg dolls and then wondered if they had any commercial value, tentatively approaching craft shops and museums she received a few small orders.

That was several years ago — recently she had an order for 1,000 dolls, and orders continue to come in.

Mrs Stubbington has 24 different dolls that she now makes, but one type still eludes her — a bargee of the last century. The intricate lace bonnet which these ladies wore is still beyond her, but Mrs Stubbington says that one day she will find a way to do it.

At the meeting dates of various activities during the coming year were noted down. Also, the monthly whist drive, recently discontinued, was discussed. Several members thought that this deprived the few regulars who did attend of a pleasant social evening. The president suggested that this should be discussed again later in the year.

Publican nabs thief who went back for more

4/7/84 Mid-Week Watford Observer

LICENCEE Alan Grant caught two youths red handed as they tried to steal a microwave oven from his Sarratt pub, Watford Magistrates heard last week.

The youths had already broken into The Boot pub earlier that night and made-off with alcohol. When they returned in the early hours to repeat the raid, Mr Grant interrupted them.

He grabbed 17-year-old Gregory Wood and a scuffle broke out, carrying on into the pub's gravel car park. Mr Grant suffered cuts to his feet and bruising to his legs as he tried to stop him from escaping, Inspector Robert Padget said.

Wood's friend and accomplice Jason Jones, also 17, had already escaped. But when police arrested them both, a series of burglaries and thefts came to light, the Inspector added.

Unemployed Wood, of Church Lane, Sarratt, admitted three burglaries and one charge of assault against Mr Grant. Jones, of Alexandra Road, Sarratt, admitted three burglaries, taking a car and driving it whilst disqualified and without insurance.

Magistrates sentenced Jones to 150 hours community service. He was fined £75 for having no insurance, his licence was endorsed and he was ordered to pay £415 compensation with £8 police costs.

Wood was sentenced to 110 hours community service and ordered to pay compensation and costs totalling £510.

Chairman of the bench, Mr Edward Kennett warned both Wood and Jones: "If you had been older you would have got a custodial sentence."

The youths had already felt the wrath of the close-knit Sarratt community, the court heard. Jones's sister had been taunted at school about her brother's arrest and Wood was embarrassed at having to carry on living in the village.

News had spread around the village and there had been hostility, said counsel Mr David Pearl, representing Jones.

The youths faced a burglary charge after breaking in to Howard's Grocers shop in Chipperfield in April. Inside they stole food worth £109.

Jones alone admitted to a charge of taking a BMW car from outside a Sarratt home in July last year. He caused damage to the car worth more than £1,000, the Inspector claimed.

Both youths were drunk when they broke into the Sarratt pub, said Mr Pearl. Now Jones was going to make a fresh start and live with his grandfather in Weymouth.

Mr Bill Ramsey, for Wood, said the youth started stealing after he ran away from home and became short of money. His life of crime had a "snowball effect", the solicitor said.

Cash threat to Sarratt

Watford Observer 20/1/84

SARRATT Parish Council claims it will lose 20 to 30 per cent of its income if Durrants Ward is taken away as a result of the Boundary Commission's proposals.

The proposals, which have now gone to the Secretary of State for the Environment, include setting up a new parish council for Croxley Green, including "the former Durrants Ward of Sarratt Parish Council."

The council is writing to the Minister opposing the loss of Durrants Ward and arranging a meeting with Three Rivers Council chief executive Mr Alan Deans.

Sarratt parish councillors will discuss with him ways of overcoming the "financial problems" which they claim will arise if the proposals are implemented.

Mr Simon Beck, Sarratt Parish Councillor, who filled the vacancy left by Mrs Jackie Stringer, would also have to re-stand in new elections if Croxley Green Parish Council is set up.

ord 42211, Classified 22323

Watford Mid-weeks Observer 12/9/84

Post boxes not under threat - Post Office

WATFORD'S head postmaster has given a pledge that three post boxes in Sarratt do not face immediate closure even though he feels they are too little used to justify retention.

The postboxes at Church End, Moor Lane and Deadman's Ash Lane came under review last May after some of the boxes in the village were vandalised on a Bank Holiday.

The Post Office took the opportunity to assess how much they were used as part of a general survey carried out since moving to its new headquarters in Ascot Road, West Watford.

The Post Office found that on average four letters were posted each day from the Deadman's Ash Lane box, three from the Moor Lane one, and just two from the box at Church End. The last of these is a Victorian box located in the walls of almshouses occupied by the elderly.

The average figures were gained by the postman collecting the letters counting them on a couple of occasions during the year.

Sarratt Parish Council wrote to the Post Office to complain about the vandalised boxes not being replaced. In his reply to the council, Watford's head postmaster, Mr Bob Staines, wrote: "I consider these boxes to be insufficiently used to justify retention."

"Every time a postman stops to open a box on his evening round it delays him," he added.

But the parish council believes that the boxes at Moor Lane and Church End, in particular, would be missed.

Members felt amused by the idea that the postman should not stop to open the boxes because to do so would hold him up! "People at Church End will be affected because they are elderly and it is a good leg up to the Post Office," said Mrs Barbara Fordyce, clerk to the council.

"We have written as a parish council to say that it would be far better for the people of Sarratt if these letterboxes were retained because of the hardship that would be imposed," she added.

Mr Staines emphasised that the Post Office had not used the vandalism of Sarratt's post boxes as an opportunity to close them.

But the need to replace them provided an opportunity to consider whether they were worth retaining: "The vandalisation of these boxes was purely coincidental. We had no idea that it was going to happen and had it not happened I doubt whether we should have considered them," said Mr Staines.

"There is no immediate threat to these boxes. Any representations made by the parish council in regard to the retention of these post boxes will be given careful attention," he added.

Even if the Victorian box in the almshouses wall were closed, it would remain where it is.

Village call



WHO needs reindeer and a sleigh when Santa Claus can arrive in a pony and trap?

This was the thinking behind Saturday's Christmas bazaar at Sarratt village hall.

Father Christmas was greeted by characters from Toyland and driven to the festive fun where he was safely ensconsed in his grotto.

Around him the usual variety of stalls offered something for all the family. Nearly £1,200 was raised from the afternoon which is the main fund-raising event for the parish church, Holy Cross.

The Rev Jack Tomlinson said of the day: "It was a very happy and satisfactory afternoon." Our picture shows Santa on his way with seven-year-old Jane Bunting.

WO Photo A14586

WO 7.12.84

Bazaar success for church

AN estimated £1,180 was raised at a Christmas bazaar held in aid of the Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Saturday.

It was the church's main fund-raising event of the year and organisers were delighted with the sum raised.

The money will go into the church's general fund to pay for day-to-day expenses, the upkeep of the church and donations to charities.

Father Christmas made a special trip to Sarratt for the event. Unfortunately he was not able to come by reindeer, but travelled in a trap drawn by a Welsh cob pony called Dolly. He was greeted by Sarratt brownies, disguised as characters from Toyland, who sang carols.

Father Christmas then made his way to his grotto in the village hall where the bazaar was held.

Many stalls sold goods ranging from sweets and toys to handicrafts, cakes and produce. There was also a tombola and a raffle.

KLS 7.12.84

Peter Robson

NORTHWOOD
(65) 24398/24118

AB 1984



SARRATT overlooking the Green. Charming period property at present operating as antique business. 3 recep, kitchen, cellar, 3 beds, bath. Detached barn. Courtyard garden. Parking. **£127,500.**



New institute is formed

AN EVENING women's institute has been formed in Sarratt.

It is quite separate from the afternoon institute which already exists in the village.

In fact it was formed when some women in the village expressed interest in joining an institute during a recent national publicity drive but could not attend day time meetings.

But enough showed interest in forming an evening institute for a committee to be formed.

In all 16 joined and last week they had their first fully fledged institute meeting at the village hall.

The institute is open to women aged 14 and over. It meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the village hall and new members are welcome.

Those interested can attend as a visitor with no obligation to join. Visitors pay 40p and a year's membership is £4. The next meeting will include a talk on the history of English nursery rhymes.

The committee are: President, Miss Margaret Kent; Vice President, Mrs. M. Bond and Mrs. E. Johnson; Secretary, Mrs. L. Dandy; Treasurer, Mrs. June Rees; Committee members, Mrs. K. Federico, Mrs. G. Compton, Mrs. J. Mitchell and Mrs. M. Rickett.

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 2.11.84

Misses Bond

June Rees

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1984 11

ngley, South Oxhey, Croxley Green.



IT WAS a case of the dolly and the ivy at the weekend when children joined together for a Christmas toy service in Sarratt.

The annual United service took place at the village Baptist church and children brought along all those toys they had outgrown for the benefit of others.

The gifts will now be donated to the Blackfriars Settlement for Handicapped Children in London and our picture shows some of the junior Santas arriving on Sunday. WO Photo A14716

Children show Christmas spirit

Nicola Clough

Paul or Mark Clough

Jonathon & Rebecca Bonwick

Focus 22.12.84

The Big Day



ONE profession which naturally regards Christmas Day as a climax of its work rather than of leisure is of course the Clergy.

But as the Rector of Sarratt, a picturesque Green Belt hamlet near Watford much-loved by film makers' explained, his work on Christmas Day is neither a chore nor a nuisance.

The Rev. Jack Tomlinson said: "Although it is work in the sense that I have to be in church at many times and have to be giving of myself in the services, and cannot go away for Christmas, that is all nothing compared with the rewards.

"Not only being able to share in the joy of what Christmas is all about in my own church, but also to help the people and families of Sarratt to set their own celebrations on the foundations of those events more than 1,900 years ago."

But what does it mean for the family life of a church minister?

"There is no problem at all fitting everything in. When our children were young I used to miss the stockings because of the early services, but then they would come to the morning Family Communion. The services are all over in time for Christmas lunch and the presents in the afternoon. I wasn't really missing anything — except all the hard work in the kitchen which was left to my wife!

"There may be a lot of services, but it is a pattern one knows and expects and it dovetails into family life."

After the usual morning service tomorrow (Sunday), the Christmas week starts with a village carol service in the evening. Christmas Eve sees the church of the Holy Cross decorated and then it's off to the Royal British Legion for the ex-servicemen's carols.

Then at 11.30pm there's the Midnight Communion, when the family will come too. Then on the return home at about 1.30am on Christmas morning the family celebration can start.

But this can't be for long, because after a short sleep it's up early again for services at 8am, 10am and 11.30am. "It's a pretty intensive run of services. As the years go by, I find that a short snooze after Christmas dinner is called for!"

Mr and Mrs Tomlinson hope to be joined by two of their four children, but one son, Christopher, 28, will be far from home. He'll be celebrating Christmas in Tanzania where he's working as a vet with the church missionary society.

But Mr Tomlinson had one more serious word to add: about the loneliness of some isolated older people at Christmas. "We are very fortunate in this village in that almost everyone has got some family nearby, and people are good about remembering those who haven't.

"But it is true in every community that for those on their own, Christmas emphasises their loneliness. It is important that we make sure that these people are not left by themselves for the whole Christmas period."

KG 28-12-84 SARRATT STAMP

CHEERFUL RON SWEEPS CLEAN!

FEW of Mr. Ron Shepherd's customers ever saw their cheerful chimney sweep looking quite like this.

But Mr. Shepherd decided to make a "clean sweep" of things when he posed at his home in Montgomery Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, for photographer, John Child.



Mr. Shepherd has decided to hand over his brushes this Christmas, a few months ahead of retirement age, after 35 years' work as local chimney sweep, and more recently the town's only man in the job.

An ex-Marine and former local bus driver, Mr. Shepherd, who has lived locally nearly all his life, attended the old Piccotts End School until he was 14 and started chimney sweeping part-time.

"People used to ask 'can you come and do mine?'," he recalled.

And that was why he bought himself his first set of brushes and went into business.

Since then he has been sweeping chimneys at the rate of an average 70 per week. In the early days it cost the equivalent of 17½p a time, or, if people preferred to have the vacuum system, 32½p.

"I always prided myself on doing a clean job and being punctual. Over the years I made many friends and met many personalities," said Mr. Shepherd.

He and his wife, Joan had been worried about finding someone to take over the business. But an advertisement in the Gazette resulted in several replies, and Mr. Tim Whelton, of Apsley, a jobbing builder, is taking over, with Mr. Shepherd's business telephone number.

Mr. Shepherd can now sit back and fulfil his ambition "just to take life easy."

History goes on sale

c 1984

CHAIRMAN of Watford and South-West Herts Cancer Relief Committee, and until last year a member of that organisation's general council, Mrs Elisbeth Absalom, of Micklefield Green House, Sarratt, is moving but hopes to stay in the area if a suitable property can be found.



She and her husband, Roland, a retired company director and vice-president of the Helicopter Club of Great Britain, have put their Georgian house on the market.

Agents Knight Frank and Rutley, of Hanover Square, London, are seeking offers in excess of £220,000 for the property, part of which pre-dates 1589.

Mrs Absalom, who was a member of the Red Cross for 25 years and retired as divisional director eight or nine years ago, was for 14 years chairman of the Management Committee of the old Waford Group of Hospitals. She was also chairman of the Clithero Old People's Home, South Oxhey, from 1951-7.

Mr and Mrs Absalom said this week they were flexible about their future plans. They had considered moving to the south coast and to Warwickshire to be within easier reach of their daughter Gay, who was, and probably still is, the only woman with a commercial pilot's licence.

But, said Mrs Absalom, they had lived in the area a long time and would like to stay.

The house, set in five acres, has three reception-rooms, six bedrooms, three bathrooms and extensive cellars which can hold about 1,000 bottles as well as stillage for beer and wine barrels. The grounds include a walled garden.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1984 taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	11th / 12.0	25th / -6.5	25th / -9.2	16th / 16.6	109.1	
February	3rd / 11.0	13th / -6.0	13th / -9.5	22nd / 12.4	51.9	
March	1st / 11.5	30th / -2.0	19th / -4.9	------	68.7	
April	21st / 23.0	3rd / -4.5	3rd / -8.0	6th / 1.8	4.4	last snow, 2nd.
May	24th / 21.0	9th / -2.0	9th / -4.0	26th / 25.3	86.2	last air frost, 9th. Last grd frost, 19th
June	19,20/27.0	4th / 2.5	4th / 0.7	17th / 43.3	90.9	
July	28th / 30.0	1,5th/ 6.0	3rd / 3.5	22nd / 16.1	30.4	
August	19-21/27.0	11th / 4.5	11th / 3.0	4th / 19.6	44.5	
September	2nd / 24.0	27th / 5.0	25th / 1.0	------	104.3	
October	8,12,14/18.0	27th / -2.0	27th / -5.3	24th / 28.1	93.2	1st grd frost, 7th. 1st air frost, 27th
November	1st /16.5	20th / -2.0	20th / -4.6	23rd / 14.6	103.3	
December	1st / 12.0	29th / -4.0	26th / -7.0	5th / 12.7	77.4	

1985

8.2.85 WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY,

s Langley, South Oxhey, Croxley G

Box train trio



TOPPING the £50,000 target is the aim this year of people in the Rickmansworth area who raise money for cancer research.

The Rickmansworth Cancer Research Campaign Committee has raised more than £44,000 in the last 11 years since the campaign was started and members are now planning an all-out drive for 1985 to bring them to the £50,000 mark.

Nearly £8,000 was raised last year, £900 more than in 1983, from a series of fund-raising events.

They included the traditional house-to-house collection, sale of Christmas cards, a stall at the Watersmeet charity fair and a donation from the Mill End Sports and Social Club after two men took part in a 24-hour darts marathon.

Chairman of the local committee, Mrs Val Cumming, said: "These are only a few of the events which ranged from the large to the small. We are so grateful to the public whose generosity and care makes them want to help."

The committee has also been involved in publicising the campaign with the help of the "box train" which is an exhibition of decorated boxes which tours the country.

This week the appeals secretary for the campaign in the Hertfordshire area, went along to Sarratt School to present the prizes to three children who won the local box train competition.

Meanwhile collectors are needed to take part in this year's house-to-house which starts on February 24 until flag-day on March 2.

Anyone interested in helping can phone Mrs Mariet Bramall on Kings Langley 62521.

● Above: Three Sarratt schoolgirls are hoping for success when their decorated boxes take part in the national box competition organised by the Cancer Research Campaign. They are (from left): Lucy Phillips, Lucinda Jenner, and Sally Bunting.

WO Photo B621

'Starter homes not needed'

KLG 1-3-85

TWO proposed starter homes will not be built at Sarratt Green because there is no local need for them.

That is the opinion of a government inspector appointed to determine an appeal by McInerney Homes Limited against Three Rivers District Council's refusal to allow the homes to be built on land next to Oak View at Sarratt Green.

The inspector noted that McInerney Homes had recently built six starter homes near to the proposed site, which lies within the Green Belt.

One of the reasons permission was given for those homes to be built was McInerney Homes's action in conducting a market survey to assess local demand.

The district council felt then that homes for young people locally could be defined as an essential need within the Green Belt.

McInerney Homes agreed to give priority to local buyers.

But although all the homes were bought by first-time buyers only three were sold to local residents.

On those sales the inspector felt that it did not appear that local demand for starter homes in the area was particularly high.

He accepted that the design submitted for the proposed homes was acceptable and had been planned sensitively to relate to the site and its setting, and would not detract from the environmental quality of that part of the Conservation Area in Sarratt.

The inspector also felt that although the site was in the Green Belt its location in the village centre, surrounded on three sides by development meant, it could be developed as an infill site, providing that it met all the criteria in the Hertfordshire Structure Plan and did not conflict with the District Plan.

But he concluded that McInerney Homes had not shown there was a special need for this type of housing in the area to justify the building of two more houses at this time.

Attacker hit out at pubgoer

FREE OBSERVER 6.2.85

MOTOR mechanic David Truman struck an insurance broker who he thought was making fun of him, Watford magistrates heard.

Both men had been in The Boot pub, in Sarratt, where Truman, 19, thought insurance broker Mr Simon Rennie and his friends were poking fun at him. He decided to confront Mr Rennie outside the pub when it closed, said defending solicitor Mr Stephen Bennett.

But outside the pub Truman prodded Mr Rennie in the chest. When Mr Rennie raised his hand to fend-off the mechanic his finger accidently brushed across Truman's face. Truman saw red and forced Mr Rennie to the ground where he kicked him about the body, said Inspector Robert Padget, prosecuting.

Truman, of Church Lane, Sarratt, admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr Rennie, who needed eight stitches for a head wound after the attack.

He was ordered to do 80 hours community service and pay Mr Rennie £75 in compensation with £6 police costs.

Inspector Padget said the pub's landlord called the police and Truman was arrested soon after the attack. At the police station Truman admitted striking Mr Rennie with his fist but denied that he kicked him.

Mr Bennett told the court that Truman thought Mr Rennie was going to hit him after he brushed his fingers against the youth's face. The brushing of his cheek was misinterpreted, he said.

Truman had drunk eight pints of bitter. He was not drunk but alcohol did play a part in what happened, said Mr Bennett.

Mr Rennie had been bragging and caused Truman to think that they were of different social classes, the solicitor said.

"There was a certain amount of resentment and jealousy on Mr Truman's part," added Mr Bennett.

2 WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1985

Medal for 'Action Man'



ACTION MAN could be the way to describe teenager Peter Moore who has listed an exhausting number of achievements to win a top Scouting award!

Peter, of Rosehill Green, Sarratt, who is a member of the village's 1st Scout troop, was presented with the Chief Scout's Award this week.

Mountaineering, canoeing, cycling and training in first-aid and car maintenance are just some of the activities 14-year-old Peter undertook.

He was also involved in the troop's work with handicapped Scouts and he helped to train a group in photography during a one-week camp. Peter was presented with his award, which our picture shows him holding, by Ted Ansell, the coun' 's Scouts adviser for handicapped Scouts.

Before the presentation, fellow Scouts enjoyed a ten-minute cine film with soundtrack which Peter was involved in making to help show the troop's work with handicapped Scouts.

Mr David Bridges, Scout leader of 1st Sarratt Scout Troop, said of Peter's Award: "It is very good for the troop because we are a small village, and we are anxious to show everyone we can achieve as much as the larger troops. It shows that young people do follow worthwhile pursuits and Scouting is flourishing in our village."

WO Photo B614

VILLAGE IS A DUMPING GROUND

SARRATT is becoming a dumping ground.

People drive to the village to deposit their rubbish including old mattresses, claimed the Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, Councillor Charles Wood.

He was speaking at the council's annual parish meeting held in the village hall last week.

Councillor Wood told the 22 residents who attended the meeting that when the bonfire was held on the Village Green in November, people from outside the parish saw it as an ideal opportunity to use the village as a dumping ground.

"Thanks to the vigilance of the ranger and the village policeman, people were stopped from dumping rubbish. But it has been going on for quite a few years now. People from well outside the area are dumping things on the village green," said Councillor Wood.

He explained that village policeman, Constable Philip Wynes had been very active in following the matter up and the offenders had been taken to court.

Councillor Wood urged residents: "If you see someone dumping rubbish, get their car number and give it to the police or the parish council clerk and they will take action.

Still on the subject of the green, Councillor Wood explained that the ranger was resigning at the end of March because of other business commitments.

He added that it would give the council an opportunity to cut its costs. "We'll have to go to private contractors for the green and for maintenance work," he said.

OPPOSE

Councillor Wood told residents that there had been a considerable increase in the number of planning applications to build new properties and for extensions to old ones.

He said that the council's decision to oppose some applications had caused ill feeling but explained that the council had to work within the guidelines laid down in Green Belt policy.

He added that Three Rivers District Council had in fact gone against some of the parish council's recommendations.

Councillor Wood had harsh things to say about the two major traffic developments affecting the area, the M25 and the A41 by-pass.

He said that now that the M25 works were in full swing the noise even reached people in Sarratt. "The Department of Transport says that they are trying to take sound levels but are waiting. They've been saying that for three-and-a-half months. What are they waiting for? Levels taken by Three Rivers and by independant sources show that the noise is well above the normal level of safety."

He added that because of the M25 works many vehicles were being diverted through the country lanes around Sarratt, making the place more dangerous. "I hope that when the A41 by-pass is completed and the M25 is finished, this may alleviate the problem, but I don't think so — not once people have got used to using it as a short cut."

● Sarratt will not enter this year's Hertfordshire Society's Best Kept Village Competition. The village also did not take part last year.

KLG 29.3.85

WATFORD OBSERVER 22.3.85

FOOTBALL NOSTALGIA



1947-9

STAN CHALK is a member of the Chalk family who made quite an impression on local football before and after the war. His career started in Sarratt in 1928. "There were always 30 youngsters playing in the evenings on the green in those days. We had a team of youngsters who went on to win the Herts Minor Cup for Under-18 and nearly all of them came from the village. The team was started up by Len Ward, whose son Fred started up the Nurseries," said Stan who played alongside cousin Billy, Harry Lambert, Stan Childs, Horace Vasey and Gerry Turner.

Joined Sarratt, had half a season with Hitchin and then played for Watford Spartans in the Spartan League, whose home ground was in North Watford, near the present-day Garston Fields. Gerry Wicks, Ray Jefford and Sid Proctor were in that team. After the war Stan and Billy Chalk returned to Sarratt. "One of the last games I played was on the Vicarage Road ground, beating St Helens in the Watford FC Medal Competition Final. They were one of the best teams in Watford. The Chalk name continued to feature in local football through our younger cousin Eddie who was a really good player although a bit controversial at times. I don't know where Eddie is now."

KLG 1-3-85

Two resign from council

TWO Sarratt Parish Councillors have resigned.

Mr. Steven Statham, formerly of "Penrose," The Green, Sarratt, has quit the council following his move to Chesham.

And Mr. Brian Stagg, of Links Way, Croxley Green, has resigned because of his commitments as a Three Rivers District Councillor.

If 10 residents do not call for an election by March 14 then the parish council can co-opt.

Mr. Statham joined the council following an uncontested by-election in October, 1982.

His main interests as a councillor were conservation and preservation of rural areas.

He organised the village's entry into the annual Best Kept Village Competition for two years.

Mr. Statham lived in the village for nearly 20 years and ran Penrose Antiques.



Mr. Statham.

Mr. Stagg joined Sarratt Parish Council two years ago.

● A minutes silence was observed at Monday's meeting of the parish council in memory of former councillor Mr. Jim Smith, who died recently.

Garden blooms wanted

SARRATT is once again preparing for its annual flower festival, when the village's Holy Cross Church will be decorated throughout in local blooms.

The event takes place next weekend, June 29 and 30, and visitors are expected to come from miles around. But organisers are appealing for help to make sure the colourful event lives up to the high standard of previous years.

Offers of flowers from gardens, preferably blooms not fully opened, are welcomed, but organisers will need to know at least a week before the festival. If the flowers are not needed for the decorating they will be made up into bunches and sold during the weekend.

Cakes, coffee, chutneys and salad ingredients will be needed for the catering on both days at Goldingtons. Anyone who can help is urged to contact Anne Robson at Kings Langley 62728.

KLG 21.7.85

W.O 15.3.85 Members of Holy Cross



Charity queen says farewell

A RICKMANSWORTH woman has retired as organiser of the annual Arthritis Care bazaar held at Watford.

Thea Elton, of Bridle Lane, has seen the bazaar net £12,000 in her four years as organiser.

One of the last events that Mrs Elton helped to organise was the concert given by the Metropolitan Police Band at Watersmeet last week in aid of Arthritis Care. This made nearly £700.

Mrs Elton has stepped down because she wants to spend more time with her husband, Dr George elton, a scientist with the Ministry of Agriculture, who retired two weeks ago, and her six-month-old grandson, Andrew, at Wokingham. There is a second grandchild on the way.

She followed Mrs Joan Whyte as the bazaar organiser. Mrs Elton said: "My mother died and where I had been doing quite a few things with her, I felt at rather a loss somehow and wanted to help in some way. So I took on a little and then found myself doing more as time went on."

She has now spent 11 years helping in the Watford branch, which includes the Rickmansworth and Chorleywood group. Although she no longer has an official title, she will still help where she can and "cheer from the sidelines."

For a year Mrs Elton helped the Bushey group on the entertainments side. At their Christmas party they presented her with a pretty container for pot plants. It was, said Mrs Elton, a lovely surprise.

WO Photo B1323

Patricia pays the full price for Folly's End

WO 17.5.85

BEFORE she moved to Sarratt 11 years ago, Patricia Downing knew nothing about Women's Institutes. Today she is county vice-chairman.

Now facing her third year in the office, Mrs Downing is a leader of nearly 7,000 women in 147 Women's Institutes throughout Hertfordshire.

It all began when Mrs Downing and her husband bought their house, Folly's End, from a founder member of Sarratt WI, Mrs Baryl Walchi.

"If you have the house, you must join the WI," Mrs Walchi told Mrs Downing.

Reluctantly, Mrs Downing went along but didn't think the WI was for her. "Then I went to one of the courses on public speaking they organise at London University and I was most impressed by the lovely atmosphere," she said.

Nine years ago she served on the public (now community) asffairs committee of the Hertfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes. Four years ago she was elected to the executive committee of the Federation. She is also Press and publicity officer.

Even so she finds time to be president of Sarratt WI, an office she filled for the first time seven years ago.

Looking back to the days before she arrived in Sarratt, Mrs Downing said she had led a very busy business life. The WI did not mean a thing to her at that time but she went on to find there was more to it than a monthly meeting for people who want a chat, a cup of tea and a speaker.

The WI has its own college, Denman College, where members can "take any course under the sun" from some of the "best tutors in the land."

Mrs Downing's husband is Councillor Freddie Downing, a member of Three Rivers District Council.



IF YOU want to live here at Folly's End, then you must join Sarratt WI, Mrs Patricia Downing was told 11 years ago. She does not regret the instruction for one moment.

Village caravan dispute

WATFORD OBSERVER 24.5.85

A FLOWER-GROWER at the centre of a long-running row with his neighbours has sparked off a new dispute by holding a caravan rally on his land.

Residents of Church Lane, Sarratt, petitioned Sarratt Parish Council over the Middlesex Caravan Club rally recently hosted by Mr Ray Adams.

They protested that the field behind Mr Adams' home was too small for the caravans, which drew up too close to neighbouring houses.

But Councillor Freddie Downing told this week's meeting of the council that the caravans were legally entitled to be there for up to 28 days each year. Only health considerations could prevent them.

Church Lane resident Mrs Henrietta Simons said following the meeting: "The caravans decended on us over a weekend. There were about 28 of them. They were at the bottom of our gardens.

"They have a right to be there but I don't consider that particular piece of land is big enough for them," she said.

Three Rivers Council has already taken enforcement powers against Mr Adams over his business of raising potted plants shipped in which the council views a non-agricultural use of Green Belt land.

Battle of Britain hero is honoured

1985

A WARM welcome for the new Freeman . . City Chamberlain Mr Bernard Harty exchanges a greeting with Sqn. Ldr. "Flight" Cracknell after admitting him to the Freedom of the City of London.



The picture was taken outside the Guildhall where the ceremony took place on Thursday.

As recalled in our November 25 issue, Flight, as he is affectionately known by many of his friends, is one of the stalwarts and most colourful characters in the Scout Movement in South-West Hertfordshire.

During the war he served first as a Battle of Britain pilot and then at the Air Ministry in charge of RAF entertainents.

The documents of his admission to the Freedom will now take their place among his many other treasured possessions at his home at Greenacres, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt. He produced the South-West Herts Gang Show staged, for many years, at the Palace Theatre.

Plaque for civic award winners

A COUPLE who supervised conversion of a derelict barn into living quarters to their own design are the first people ever to be awarded a plaque by Three Rivers Council under its civic awards scheme for architecture.

The awards scheme started in 1982 and this year judges decided to give the winning couple a plaque to display on their home.

The barn conversion at Bucks Hill Bottom House, Sarratt, tops the list of winners that also includes certificates of high commendation for the conversion of Moor Park Farm into Northwood Preparatory School, the conversion of dilapidated premises into an unusual dentist's surgery in Rickmansworth, and the conversion of the Ovaltine Dairy Farm into homes at Abbots Langley.

Apart from the awards all being for conversions they display a marked preference for the combination of old timbering and modern whitewash and all that is best in modern living.

At Bucks Hill House film cameraman Mr Mike Garfath and his wife Jenny have carried out the conversion of the three-bay former threshing barn that adjoins the main farmhouse into which they moved the five years ago.

They have raised the floor level to provide foundation support for a small gallery that echoes the minstrel galleries of great halls. At the end of the second bay they have built up a wall with a tall central brick chimney piece, traditional in style.

In the third bay they have installed a floor and built in a bathroom and above that a bedroom, lit by means of pairs of windows on each sloping side.

The new "raft" foundations avoided having to disturb the original ones. And despite the barn structure the effect is light although the Garfaths say they have added no new windows or doors.

The conversion involves some considerable feats of engineering such as steel plates fixed by means of bolts driven through the original beams that have been retained and unobtrusively added to. The roof has been re-laid yet retains all the original tiles.

Handsomely furnished in a mixture of traditional and modern fixtures and fittings, the Garfaths are undeniably pleased with the extension, large enough to hold a fair-sized reception, but they are shy about showing it off.

"It was a virtually derelict farm building. We have turned it into what is part of our home now," they said.

"We have employed archtitects to do the main house and when all is said and done, what have I got for it? Not much really," said Mr Garfath.

Certificates have also been awarded to the builders employed on the scheme, Abbiss and Hale Ltd, and the structural engineers, John Newton and partners.

By coincidence one of the certificates of commendation winning designs is also for the conversion of what is thought once to have been a barn. And it was again conceived by the occupier, this time a tenant of one Rickmansworth property owner Gordon Grant and Co, who also receives a certificate.

The woman who carried through the scheme is a dentist but cannot be identified because of British Dental Association rules.

The freeholder wanted to convert the premises, thought to date back in part to the fourteenth century, into offices, but Three Rivers Council squashed that. The council then gave permission for a dental surgery with the condition that residential facilities be included.

The result is a bedroom and lounge-cum-study reached from stairs leading off the late nineteenth-century waiting room, now a mixture of old timbering and white plaster work, and a collection of shaped rooms with unusual angles and uneven floors.

But the high spot is the surgery that combines all the apparatus of high technology dentisty and olde tyme timbering.

"I designed it all by feel, which is the only way I feel you could do it. My brother did the work. He is a builder. We did it all on a shoe-string," said the dentist. The scheme incorporated fixtures from other old houses and cost just £16,000. The dentist's brother also receives a certificate.

The second certificate of commendation has been awarded to the Northwood Preparatory School for its conversion of the former farm buildings at Moor Farm, Rickmansworth, into school premises.

Most of the buildings, into which the school moved three years ago, are thought to be late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. The basic structure comprises two barns linked by what is reputed to be the longest cow shed in Hertfordshire.

The West Barn now comprises a classroom, demonstration area, study, medical room, offices and staff common room. "It is in this part that we are going to go further and convert what is a changing room into an arts centre. That will follow on the conversion of what is known as the calf shed into a sports pavilion," said the headmaster, Mr John Sudbury.

The East Barn provides one of the principal glories of the conversion, the school hall, the old timber work restored and contrasting with the modern wood-block floor and gamut of electrical equipment, the hall being put to multiple use.

The scheme was produced by Mr Julian Thompson of Rickmansworth practice. The builders employed were again Abbiss and Hale Ltd. Both received certificates.

The final certificate of commendation has gone to Cooper Brothers, a civil engineering firm from St Albans, for its conversion of the well-known Ovaltine Farm, Abbots Langley, into new homes selling at between £74,000 and £103,000.

The scheme, under architect Mr Derek Whittaker of Wheathampstead, was the firm's first excursion into property development and involved re-thatching the roof and installing dormer windows.



After . . . the barn at Bucks Hill Bottom House following restoration and conversion.



Before . . . the barn at Bucks Hill Bottom House prior to conversion.

WO 20/9/85

Village wants more money

THREE RIVERS Council has agreed to look at a claim for an increased grant for Sarratt Parish Council.

The increased grant would probably be in the order of £2,000 to meet the maintenance of the King George V playing field. The grant would cover the past and present financial years.

The request has been made to the district council's Community and Leisure Services Committee with boundary changes expected to reduce thee parish's rateable value in mind.

The reduction will occur with the loss of the Durrants ward to the parish of Croxley Green which is to be established next year.

Among the other areas of the parish's expenditure, to which Three Rivers already contributes, are the village hall and commons.

The Community and Leisure Services Committee discussion began with chairman Councillor Brian Stagg conceding that he both understood the financial problem, because he was formerly chairman of the parish's finance committee, and that he had campaigned for the transfer of the Durrants ward.

Councillor Charles Stewart said he was puzzled at the grant claim going before the committee. He understood that the whole issue of concurrent expenses was going to be considered by the council's Finance and Resources Committee.

Liberal, Councillor Colin Whillier said he thought the committee ought to help Sarratt.

But the committee heard that the grant for the playing field was a matter for Community and Leisure Services.

A member meeting is now expected to be held with Sarratt Parish Council.

Women's Institutes

SARRATT

COMPUTERS, better driving, ancient Egypt, the up-dated Domesday Book, monthly six-mile rambles — these are just a few of the things Sarratt WI has been involved in during the last year, secretary Mrs Barbara Eady told members in her report at the annual general meeting on Wednesday, November 13. Most of her listeners were amazed at just how much could be fitted into a lively and eventful year.

The president thanked the committee for their hard work and support, especially the three members retiring from office this year, and welcomed those forming the new committee. The treasurer, Mrs Jennings, presented a healthy financial statement, and Mrs Pat Downing was re-elected as president for next year.

Mrs Gilchrist gave an account of the autumn council meeting at St Albans which she had enjoyed as delegate. Bursaries for courses at Denman College were drawn, Mrs Bond and Mrs Dolamore being the lucky recipients. Mrs Barbara Brookbanks from the County Executive Committee then gave a short talk, telling members of the work of the community affairs sub-committee.

Christmas celebrations are next on the programme. Members were reminded of carol singing at Kings Langley on December 5, the Christmas lunch on December 11, and the Christmas whist drive on December 17.

W.O. 22.11.85

W.O. 4/10/85

Sarratt funds bid comes under fire

SUGGESTIONS that Sarratt Parish Council should receive an extra £2,000 from Three Rivers Council to make up for the loss of funds posed by the transfer of the Durrants Ward to the new parish of Croxley Green next year, came under fire at the Finances and Resources Committee.

Councillors said that people in the ward had got little out of Sarratt Parish Council, and others siad that the playing field was run by a voluntary body, not the parish council.

Councillor Mrs Susan Eyre led the attack. She thought that the request for £2,000 was a large sum: "In view of the loss of the Durrants ward, I just wonder what Durrants people ever got out of Sarratt Parish Council," she said.

Yet Councillor Freddie Downing said that the cost of maintaining the field remained constant however many people used it.

Councillor Brian Stegg said: "The King George V maintenance is undertaken bu voluntary labour. If at some stage it disappears, then there will be either an expense to the parish council who may then be in the position of having to pay somebody on a part-time basis, or we shall have to take it on ourselves.

"Either way, we will have to spend a considerable sum of money. This is a special amount to Sarratt Parish Council who have had special problems, to allow them to provide an amenity for the people of the area."

But Councillor Downing responded: "This is a voluntary body that is spending money in providing and running its own facilities."

Councillor Mrs Margaret Jewson said that if the playing field obtained a lunchtime licence it could be of benefit to funds.

The committee agreed to set up a special working party to meet all four parish councils within the dustruct to discuss the issue of concurrent expenses — expenses for services that may be borne either by parish or district authorities.

The commiiteee also agreed that the working party should look at the whole matter if increased funding for Sarratt, in view of the longer term problems posed by the reduction in its precept due to the parish boundary changes.



WO 1.12.85

A DAZZLING array of Morris Men danced the night away in Sarratt Village Hall at the weekend, taking part in the traditional ale evening.

The hosts were Watford's own Morris Men Woodside who entertained fellow groups from all over the country.

They danced, sang and drank their way through the evening which is designed to fill the cold winter nights when Morris Men are busy practising for their busiest time — the summer.

Woodside enjoyed a very successful 1984 playing up to 70 venues which ranged from greeting the dawn on Mayday to Westminister Abbey. But until the warmer nights are here, they will be travelling to other ale evenings and letting their hair down, just as our picture shows them doing in Sarratt!

WO Photo B446

Wat. Obs. Fri. 8 Nov. 1985

Decision time for tiny church



FEWER parishioners is the reasons put forward by the Rector of Sarratt for the uncertainty over whether he will be replaced when he bows out on Sunday.

Next Wednesday the Rev Jack Tomlinson and his wife Joan move to Norfolk to spend their retirement close to the only one of their five children who, as Mr Tomlinson puts it, "is reasonably settled."

His retirement follows 22 years in the village. Mr Tomlinson's final service will be a family communion at 6.30 pm on Sunday.

Yet uncertainty exists over whether a new rector will be appointed to succeed him. Mr Tomlinson says that a priest-in-charge, who would divide his duties with others outside the parish, may be appointed instead.

"The whole think is very much in the melting pot at the moment," said Mr Tomlinson.

"The number of clergy throughout the country has been steadily shrinking throughout the last 20 years," he added. In possibly selecting a successor the diocese had to apply the principles enshrined in the Sheffield Report which allocates a certain number of clergy to the Diocese.

"When the Bishop decides there is a need for a longer look at the question of a replacement he would apply for a suspension of benefices a measure which means that as long as that measure is in force no appointment of rector or priest is made," said Mr Tomlinson.

That would mean the appointment of the priest-in-charge, he said. For the parishioners that might not make too great a difference providing he did not have too many duties outside the parish, but for the man himself, while he would live in the rectory he would not enjoy security of tenure.

There will be a delay before even the appointment of the priest-in-charge is made. Neighbouring clergy will share Mr Tomlinson's duties in the meantime. The Rev Richard Blamire-Brown has been given a watching brief over Sarratt until decisions are made.

1985

'Greenacres'
Dimmocks Lane
Sarratt

Dear Member

Sarratt Horticultural Society 1985

The annual subscription to the above mentioned Society is now due at 25p per member. We are inviting you to renew your membership for 1985.

If you are not at home when our collector calls, you can contact me at the above address, or you may pay your subscription and obtain your membership card from Meg's Shop (on the village green).

Your committee members are:

President	- H M Neal, Great Sarratt Hall
Vice President	- Mrs C Barber, Little Nobles, Church Lane
Chairman	- S/Ldr J Cracknell (ret'd), Greenacres, Dimmocks Lane
Vice Chairman	- J Lyons, 9 Church Lane
Hon Secretary	- Mrs P Petts, Pinnaroo, Dimmocks Lane
Hon Treasurer	- Neil Shave, 16 Maynard Road, Hemel Hempstead
Members	- Mrs B Downer, Lynburn, The Green
	- Mrs M Singleton, 3 Downer Way
	- Sir C Staughton, Sarratt Hall
	- Geoff Speed, 44 Sherbourne Way, Croxley Green
	- Mrs H Wakeham, Windmill Hill, Chipperfield
	- G Wakeham, (as above)
	- Mrs J Lyons, 9 Church Lane

The Committee is very keen to invite any member to make an effort to enter something in the Annual Autumn Show. Can you 'Have A Go'? . . . of course you can!

The Autumn Show will this year be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 7th September.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Society, please put them in touch with me.

Yours sincerely

Ivy Green.

Ivy Green
Membership Secretary
(Tel: Kings Langley 64200)

PS: Don't forget that generous discounts are given to members by:

Ward's Nurseries - Sarratt
Simmond's Nurseries - Chipperfield
Chandler's Cross Nurseries - Chandler's Cross (Not Sat or Sun)
Blacketts Nurseries - Chandler's Cross

Goodbye Song to Jack and Joan.

We're saying Goodbye to our Rector,
Goodbye to our parish priest,
And we come at the end
To salute our friend
With a typical Sarratt feast.
(Hic! — with cheese,
Hic, hic! — and wine,
Hic, hic! — a Sarratt feast)
And for us we're sad,
But for him we're very glad
That he's getting a well-earned rest.

His years have been three and twenty,
Well, well, how the time has flown;
But throughout these days
We can now give praise
That we've had our Jack and Joan
And Penny and Claire
And Michael and Chris,
We have followed them as they've grown

All through the Seventies
and later Sixties too;
And now its Eighty Five
and still we're indebted to you
Faithfully working
at the Church of Holy Cross;
And what can we do
Wanting to
Express our sense of loss?
We are going to miss our Boss!

"I have an important notice to give out,
But I seem to have lost it;
So just to remind you before its the Grace,
For the Junior Church - usual time, usual place?
That's telling 'em"

We may have been unruly
and driven you to despair
What we thank you for
Is a score or more
Of your years of loving care
Jack - to you!
And Joan — to you!
We've had a lot to share

With the School and the Scouts
and the Mothers and the lot
And the times of the services
you some-times forgot,
And the careful counselling too.....

For many years of service - thank you

Holy Cross Church Sarratt.
November 1985

27

SAVINGS WORKER RETIRES

CLERICAL officer in the National Savings district office at Watford for the past 27 years Mrs. Evelyn Downer has retired.

And at a savings function at Watford Town Hall she was presented with two decanters, sherry and chocolates as a token of appreciation of her services.

West Herts District Members Mr. Alan Brooks, said it was generally accepted that the success of a leader often depended upon the work of folk in the background who seldom recieved thanks for their efforts. To many in the local savings movement Mrs. Downer was just a voice on the phone, but she had always been most helpful and a good friend to the local committee scertaries.

The presentation was made by Watford Local Committee Secretary Mr. Jack Bishop, who said he had known Mrs. Downer for some 20 years.

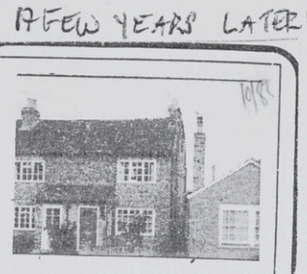
Mrs. Downer, who lives at Sorratt, and is affectionatley known as Dee, confessed that it was a sad monment for her — to be leaving national savings after 27½ years. "I have made some good freinds in the movement." she said.

RUBY WEDDINGS

DOWNER. — Congratulations Aunty Toots and Uncle Bernard on your Ruby Wedding. — Love Ian and Gary.
DOWNER. — Congratulations Toots and Bernard on your Ruby Wedding, June 9. — Love from Edie, Gemma and John.
DOWNER. — Congratulations Too's and Bernard on your Ruby wedding. — Love from Rex, Cath, Stuart, Allison.

JUNE 1985

A FEW YEARS LATER!



SARRATT
£139,950

A picturesque 2-bedroomed semi-detached cottage overlooking The Green of this most desirable village; modern fitted kitchen, small garden and garage, gas-fired central heating system and excellent standard of decor throughout.

SARRATT 1983
Fronting the Green



Just available in this much sought-after village location an old stock and flint semi-detached cottage with GARAGE. Recently completely refurbished and full gas c.h. installed. Small entrance hall, lounge communicating with dining-room, kitchen, bathroom, 2 good-sized bedrooms, cellar, small garden.
£49,250

KATH + WIN'S COTTAGE ?
NO 2 WINDSMOOR COTTAGES

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1985
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	31st / 11.0	17th /-14.5	17th / -16.3	21st / 13.5	61.9	1st snow of winter, 2nd.
February	27th / 12.5	14th /-11.0	14th / -14.8	8th / 13.4	26.5	
March	31st / 14.0	20th / -5.5	20th / -9.4	26th / 7.5	40.9	
April	19th / 20.5	26th / -5.0	26th / -7.8	7th / 9.6	39.1	last snow,17th. Last air & grd frost28th
May	18th / 21.0	16th / 1.5	4th / -1.2	14th / 22.2	41.1	1st cuckoo, 18th April
June	30th / 22.5	17th / 3.0	17th / 1.1	11th / 10.2	136.9	
July	5th / 27.0	15th / 6.0	21st / 3.3	28th / 18.9	62.1	
August	30th / 23.5	27th / 5.0	27th / 2.8	4th / 21.2	74.1	
September	11th / 22.5	7th / 2.0	7th / -0.4	4th / 5.2	18.6	1st ground frost, 7th.
October	1st / 24.0	31st / 0.5	31st / -2.1	6th / 11.8	28.2	
November	4th / 13.5	14th / -8.0	14th / -10.5	7th / 9.2	60.0	1st snow of winter, 11th.
December	2,3,14,15/13.0	28th / -8.0	28th / -11.3	25th / 26.4	120.6	1st air frost, 28th.

Watford Observer 20/9/85

Family welcomes visitors to . . .

The good life down on the organic farm

SARAH the Large Black sow from Royston and several hundred Rhode Island Red cross bred chickens followed at our heels with rather more contentedness than many a household pet.

Nearby Swallow the Jersey cow fed two calves, one a Hereford she was fostering. Flopsie and Fanny the lop-eared rabbits lay lazily in their sun-soaked pen, overseen by tail-wagging Labradors and a wheezing pug.

By SIMON BERLYN

Shire horses are on the way at Cherry Tree Farm. So, progressively, are more organically grown feed, organically grown crops, a tea-room, a shop and a museum of farming implements.

On the way out are chemical sprays and fertilisers, most of the tractors, the farrowing boxes now likened to Buchenwald and Belsen, and all the old ways of intensive farming.

The ideals of the good life, self-sufficiency and ecological harmony seem all very well. The Bells, who farm at Olleberrie Lane, Belsize, Sarratt, say that the venture has got to pay.

"It has to be economic. We have a family of six to feed. We are scraping through. We are approaching it totally practically," they say.

They have set about conversion of the 35-acre farm, mostly owned, in the belief that intensive farming methods are as inhumane to the animals as they are bad for humanity, and that "you are what you eat".

Most of the old intensive farming buildings will be demolished. They intend, however, to keep the old farrowing sheds as a memorial to that method.

These look like becoming more permanent than their current house, an adjoining pair of mobile units which they will replace with a traditional house of brick and flint.

"We used to have a pig farm here at one stage but the whole thing became very obnoxious to us. Economics were getting more obnoxious — growth promoters, hormones, anti-biotics in the pig food," said Michael. "And the desperate conditions in which these animals were kept," said Mary.

Now they have said goodbye to all that in favour of an organic form of farming that they hope will prove self-sustaining.

Chickens are allowed to roam around. They pick up beetles harmful to crops. The chickens fertilise the soil which can then be used for crops.

The crops themselves are not fed any artificial fertilisers, and while recent press pictures appeared showing corn devastated by heavy rain, the Bell's crop was bolt upright.

"The grain is not weighed down by excessive weight and height because of the nitrogen. Now ours is responding fantastically to the rain, it is just what is needed," they said.

Michael, though from a local farming family, was the first of a long line to find himself without any land and had to acquire it.

He said that part of the reason for him rejecting the methods of chemical farming was about of organophosphorous poisoning that landed him in hospital with symptoms of dehydration.

Mary was raised locally. Her parents lived at the Manor Estate on the hill above Apsley near Hemel Hempstead.

Mary went down to Dorset where she ran a health food shop in Shaftesbury. There were already children and there now four — Beth, 13, Edwin, 10, Emily, 5, and William, 17 months.

"When I came back here to Michael when we decided to get married I decided I could not live with the conditions of these animals."

She clearly feels passionately about them: "Each sow is an individual, very much so. She will soon tell you what she likes. They are very intelligent. From this they will soon develop their own personalities," said Mary, as Sarah the black sow buried her head in a bucket.

The business is currently mainly dependent on egg production. One thousand chickens run free and the eggs they produce supply shops locally and in London.

The couple have an egg delivery round but wish more people would visit the farm.

That dovetails with their hope that the farm will have an educative purpose teaching children how animals live, even if that is only from following a shire horse plough.

"I think from the public reaction we have had so far, that people are very interested in what we are doing. I think we would like to see it as an educational centre for children learning about organic farming. We are learning ourselves. It is hard work. I would like to get children here to learn about it, even if it is to hold reins behind a horse to get them back to reality," said Mary.

She added: "I would not say that we are working all hours of the day but we will be."

At the moment they are perhaps proudest of the eggs, guaranteed tartrazine free, tartrazine being the substance fed to battery chickens — and many free range ones — to strengthen the colour of the egg yolks they produce.

Mary says that tartrazine affects asthma and says that scarcely a day passes when she does not meet someone who is allergic to something.

"I question whether it is the food they are allergic to or the additives in the food," she said.

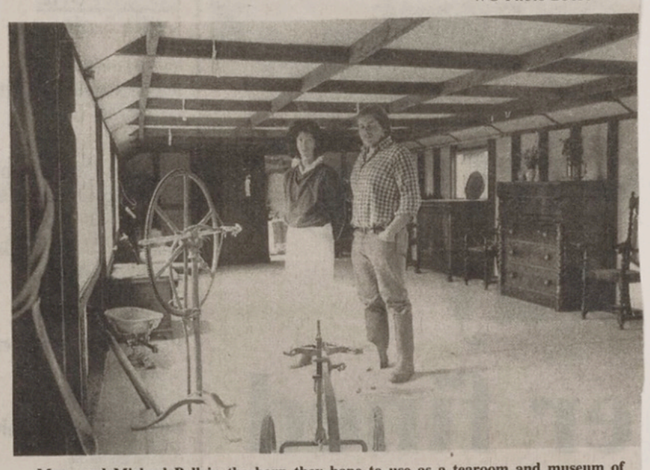
"Every so often another chemical is banned," adds Michael.

The Bells' conviction that chemicals, artificial fertilisers and additives are things that can be dispensed with, along with intensive methods of meat production, is in the hearts and mouths of this happy farming family.



Mary and Michael Bell with children, friends and Sarah the sow.

WO Photo B5635



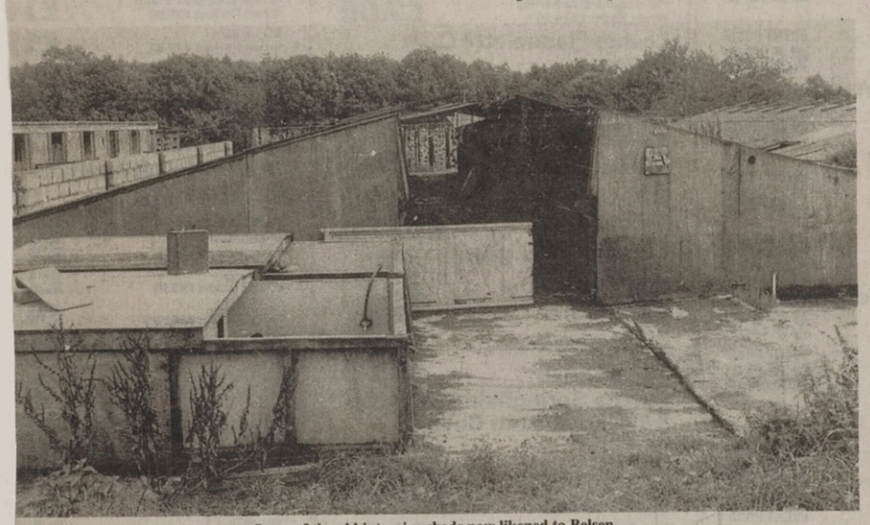
Mary and Michael Bell in the barn they hope to use as a tearoom and museum of implements.

WO Photo B5637



Michael Bell with young son William and one of the machines that will feature in the museum of implements.

WO Photo B5636



Some of the old intensive sheds now likened to Belsen.

WO Photo B5638



Seventeen-month-old William Bell with a few of his friends at Cherry Trees Organic Farm.

SEPT 6th 1986

Results from village show

Sarratt Horticultural Society had a record number of entries at the annual show recently when 228 people competed for the trophies which were presented by Zoey Lyons, the little daughter of society chairman, Mr John Lyons.

The winners were: Clutterbuck Trophy, Mr Geoff Wakeham; Three Rivers District Council Trophy, Mr Harold Family; Frederick Barber Trophy, Mr Geoff Wakeham; Jenkinson Trophy, Mr Geoff Wakeham; Arthur Pritchard Trophy, Sir Christopher Staughton; David Osborne Trophy, Mr Geoff Wakeham; Dickins Trophy, Mr Cyril Petts; Loader Trophy, Mrs Hilda Wakeham; Elsie Collins Trophy, Mrs Noreen Singleton; A.E. Cox Trophy, Mr Douglas Finlay.

ROSES.

Early flowering crysanthemums: 1. Mr G. Wakeham, 2. Mrs C. Barber. Roses: vase of six, 1. Mrs C. Barber, 2. Sir C. Staughton. One specimen, 1. Sir C. Staughton, 2. Mrs M. Stratford. Flowers: vase of six, 1.Mr G. Wakeham; vase of six double, 1.Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mr G. Wakeham. Vase of five, 1. Sir C. Staughton. Vase of Dahlias, 1. Mrs S. MacGregor, 2. Sir C. Staughton. Vase of herbaceous, 1. Mrs C. Barber, 2. Mr G. Wakeham, 3. Mrs B. Matfield. Vase of annuals, 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mr G. Wakeham, 3. Mrs B. Harold. Vase of mixed: 1.Mrs C. Barber, 2. Mrs Griffith-Jones, 3. Mrs L. Petts. Specimen: 1. Mr G. Wakeham. Vase of three: 1. Mrs V. Cumming, 2. Mr G. Wakeham.

VEGETABLES.

Collection of five: 1. Mr G. Wakeham. Onions from seeds: 1. Mr G. Wakeham. Onions from sets: 1. Mr G. Wakeham, 2. Mr E. Middleton. These two entrants also won first and second places respectively in the following sections: shallots, carrots, leeks and beetroot. Runner beans: 1. Mr G. Wakeman, 2. Mr E. Middleton, 3. Mrs M. Stratford. Marrows: 1. Mr E. Middleton, 2. Mrs M. Stratford and Mr G. Wakeman, 3. Mrs V. Cumming. Tomatoes: 1. Mr E. Middleton, 2. Mrs C. Barber. Cooking apples: 1. Sir C. Staughton, 2. Mr E. Middleton. Dish of stoned fruit: 1. Mrs M. Stratford.

COTTAGERS' SECTION. Flowers. Vase of four roses: 2. Mrs B. Harold. One specimen: 1. Mr C. Petts, 2. Mrs A. Bantock, 3. Mrs B. Harold. Vase of three: 2. Mrs E. Chalk. Vase of six: 1. Mrs E. Chalk. Vase of three: 3. Mrs D. Tuck. Vase of mixed: 1. Mrs S. MacGregor.

Vegetables and fruit. Onions from seed: 1. Mr G. Sambrook. Onions from sets: 1. Mr C. Petts, 2. Mr J. Lyons. Shallots(culinary): 1. Mr J. Lyons, 2. Mrs E. Downer. Shallots(pickling): 1. Mrs E. Downer. Runner beans: 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mr C. Petts, 3. Mrs D. Tuck. Carrots: 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mr J. Lyons, 3. Mr C. Petts. Beetroot: 1. Mr J. Lyons, 2. Mrs A. Bantock. Cucumbers: 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mr J. Lyons. Any other vegetable: 1. Mrs B. Harold. Six tomatoes: 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mr C. Petts, 3. Mr J. Lyons. Two vegetable marrows: 1. Mr C. Petts. Dessert apples: 1. Mrs E. Downer. Soft fruit: 1. Mrs A. Bantock. Stoned fruit: 1. Mr C. Petts.

FLORAL ART. My hobby exhibit: 1. Mr H. Wakeham, 2. Mrs E. Downer. Candlestick arrangement: 1. Mrs H. Wakeham, 2. Mrs E. Downer. Autumn flower arrangement: 1. Mrs H. Wakeham, 2. Mrs E. Downer. Miniature arrangement: 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mrs H. Wakeham, 3. Mrs S. Lyons.

NOVICE CLASSES. Foliage arrangement: 1. Mrs M. Stratford, 2. Mrs N. Singlelton. Five flower arrangement: 1. Mrs M. Stratford, 2. Mrs N. Singlelton.

COOKERY. Cherry cake: 1. Mrs E. Pratt, 2. Mrs W. Singlelton, 3. Mrs E. Downer. Victoria Sponge: 1. Mrs L. Petts, 2. Mrs B. Harold, 3. Mrs E. Downer. Gingerbread: 1. Mrs B. Harold, 2. Mrs E. Downer, 3. Mrs N. Singlelton. Cheese scones: 1. Mrs H. Wakeham, 2. Mrs N. Singlelton, 3. Mrs E. Pratt. Apple pie: 1. Mrs H. Wakeham, 2.Mrs L. Petts, 3. Mrs B. Harold. Biscuits: 1. Mrs N. Singlelton, 2. Mrs H. Wakeham, 3. Miss Z. Lyons. Soft fruit jam: 1. Mrs E. Downer, 2. Mrs L. Petts, 3. Mrs N. Singlelton. Stoned fruit jam: 1. Mrs B. Matfield, 2. Mrs N. Singlelton , 3. Sir C. Staughton. Chutney: 1. Mrs L. Petts, 2. Mrs N. Singlelton .

HANDICRAFTS. Crocheted article: 1. Mrs C. Barber, 2. Mrs B. Matfield, 3. Mrs P. Rees. Knitted article: 1. Mrs C. Barber, 2. Mrs P. Rees, 3. Mrs J. Thomas. Oil painting: 1. Mrs P. Baker, 2. Mrs E. Photiades, 3. Mrs A. Bantock. Miscellaneous: 1. Mrs C. Barber, 2. Miss Margaret Machin, 3. Miss Ruth Harold.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES. Animals: 1. Douglas Finlay, 2. Elaine Harold, 3. Mary Machin. Pottery: 1. Gemma Haynes, 2. Margaret Machin, 3. Mary Machin. Marigold: 1. David Harrison, 2. Emma Cooper, 3. Gemma Haynes. Greetings card: 1. Elaine Hc ld, 2. Emma Cooper, 3. Douglas Finlay. Coconut Ice: 1. Elaine Harold, 2. Douglas Finlay, 3. Emma Cooper. Nursery rhyme: 1. Douglas Finlay, 2. Mollie Machin, 3. Emma Cooper. Any working model: 1. Douglas Finlay.

NOVELTY CLASS. The heaviest vegetable marrow: 1. Mr G. Wakeham. The longest runner bean: 1. Mr G. Wakeham. The heaviest carrot: 1. Mr G. Wakeham.

Playwall to stop damage

25/8/86

AN idea to build a playwall to stop children damaging property in Sarratt is being looked into by the parish council.

Mr. John Guy, who lives at Byways, The Green, Sarratt, has written to the council suggesting that village jubilee funds could finance the building of a wall which would be ideal for climbing, recreation and ball games. "Children use other people's property when there is no wall and they do damage trying to retrieve their balls. I think a playwall would be of lasting benefit to children and residents alike.

SNOWBALL

He says the idea is snowballing and that a scheme to design the wall is already being discussed at the school with a competition and prize for the best ideas. But the most exciting part of the scheme, according to Mr. Guy, is the opportunity to turn it into a youth training scheme in the village.

Young people could learn building skills while constructing it under supervision. Mr. Guy says: "It would give every child in the village a part to play whether in designing, constructing or just playing with it."

A suitable site has to be found before any decision can be taken and trustees of King George's playing fields are to consider whether the play area would be acceptable.

A suggestion of erecting a playwall at Downer Drive met with opposition from the parish councillors.

COMPLAINTS

Councillor Ron Cox said: "I am very sympathetic with the chap who wrote this letter, but you can't put it near to houses or you'll get complaints about the noise and if it goes on the playing fields no-one will ever bother to go and play on it. That leaves the green which is obviously out of the question."

Chairman Mrs. Val Cumming pointed out that a suggestion of a similar kind had been discussed some years ago. "But for one reason or another nothing ever came of it. It seems a good idea to me and we'll have to see if a suitable spot can be found. The jubilee fund was raised for the children of Sarratt and I don't see why this shouldn't be used for it."

W.O. 20.6.86

Village play wall suggested

PEOPLE in Sarratt still want to erect a play wall in the village as the solution to children playing games against the walls of houses.

But now the residents of Downer Drive where it was suggested the playwall should be situated are said to be gathering steam against the proposal. A petition opposed to the scheme is being circulated in the street.

The proposal was first put to the parish council, which said the idea had been considered before and would have to be considered by a parish committee as well as Three Rivers Council.

1986

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

MRS. B. W. FORDYCE
Clerk to the Council

FIRTREE COTTAGE,
DOG KENNEL LANE,
CHORLEYWOOD,
RICKMANSWORTH, HERTS.
WD3 5EE

Telephone: CHORLEYWOOD 2385

Your Ref:

POLICY ON ADVERTISING ON COMMONLAND - 1986

It is the policy of Sarratt Parish Council not to give permission for commercial undertakings to advertise on common land, and if signs are put out, they will be removed by the Parish Council and kept safely until collected by the owners.

Local charitable fund raising events must stop the recent practice of using boards supplied by Estate Agents etc., which also serve to advertise their practices as well as the local event.

Thomas's Elegy-written in a country Pub.

Oh!it was a very sad day
When our sign they took away
For we came third,you see
And to keep it,the winner you must be

Well,there is always another year
But more effort will be needed,you'll be loath to hear,
If we are to regain the sign
A lot more people must fall in line.

To all who did help,my thanks I extend
Those who to grass,hedge and litter did tend
And although we're not winners we are lucky to be
In a beautiful village in this delightful county

Shelagh Thomas
Abigails cottage,
Dawes Lane,
SARRATT.

RCG 4.7.86

No 'common' achievement

SARRATT mother-of-two, Gillain Burrows, is to have her painting of Big Ben as the cover picture on the House of Commons' magazine.

Gillian is so thrilled with this honour that she has donated the original pen and wash picture to be auctioned at Sotherbys next month in aid of the Westminster Appeal Fund.

Gillian took a break from preparations for a fortnight's trip to America, where she is to give an exhibition of her water colours and pen and ink paintings, to tell the Gazette how she came to get into the House of Commons to paint the now famous picture. She explained: "I met Mr. Richard Page MP at an art gallery exhibition and he kindly arranged for me to enter the House for a day from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.



"It was an awe inspiring experience to go inside and I was amazed to discover what a busy place it is."

Gillian lives with her husband, David, and two sons, Marc, 11, and Ben, 10, at Briars House, Sarratt.

She chose an unusual aspect of the Clock Tower before setting to work on skethes and photographs and then spent some weeks doing the painting at home.

Her artistic career began at Watford's College of Technology and Art where Gillian gained a national diploma in design. She has since lectured at art colleges and designed posters, greeting cards and record sleeves as well as holding exhibitions in London and West Germany.

Both Harrods and Libertys have commissioned her work and Gillian says: "I've been very, very lucky. There are a lot of talented people around but I've had a few very lucky breaks."

Did monks drop their groats as they fled?

Gazette 29/8/86

By Julie McCord

EVIDENCE has been unearthed that terrified monks may have used a secret tunnel in Sarratt as an escape route over 400 years ago.

Silver coins dating back to the early 16th Century were found by metal detector enthusiasts in the corner of a field at Rosehall Farm, Sarratt. They have been authenticated by the British Museum as medieval coins and one of the finders, Mr. Anthony Gill, believes that they were dropped or hidden by monks at the time of the dissolution of the monastries.

BATTERED

An inquest was held into the discovery of the bent and battered coins to determine if they were treasure trove and therefore the property of the Queen. But a jury in Hemel Hempstead on Wednesday decided that they were just a casual loss and should belong to the men who discovered them.

There was an inquest into a similar find by the same people two years ago when the jury also decided that the coins should belong to the finders.

Mr. Gill, a technical manager, formerly of Puller Road, Boxmoor, and Mr. Alan Weller, a maintenance fitter, of Newhall Farm, Sarratt, went out on searches with metal detectors in the Rosehall field.

Mr. Gill, who has recently moved to Sussex, told the inquest that they chose Rosehall Farm for their quest because historical records point to the likelihood of a manor house and a monastery having once stood on the site.

He said: "I believe that there was a secret tunnel from the old hall to the monastery and that this was an escape route used by the monks."

COLLECTOR

Mr. Gill and Mr. Weller have sold the coins they found in 1984 to a local collector for £200 but they plan to keep the ones discovered in January this year.

Watford's museum curator, Mr. David Setford, appeared at the inquest on behalf of the British Museum and explained that the coins are groats, half groats and a double patard which would be worth two or three days work for a labourer. A groat was worth 4d and labourers earned about 4d-6d a day in those times.

DISPLAY

He already has a find of Mr. Gill's on display at Watford museum but said that he will not be putting the Sarratt coins on show to the public because they were not found within the boundaries of the town. Instead they may have to wait until a museum is opened in the Dacorum district before they can be exhibited.

But Mr. Gill says he plans to go on searching at the Sarratt farm because he is convinced that there are many more ancient relics to be found beneath the ploughed fields.

He told the Gazette: "I first started using a metal detector when I was at university and my interest has increased. We didn't just pick Rosehall Farm by chance, I did a lot of local research first. I'd be surprised if we didn't turn up a lot of other interesting coins around there."

W.O 25/8/86

Parish in quandary over allotment shed

SARRATT Parish Council is to take legal advice from the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils over the possibility of installing a single additional shed on the parish allotments.

This is considered necessary because the original bequest of the allotment land prevents the parish keeping more than one shed on the site. But Monday's meeting heard that the volume of tools and modern horticultural machinery had grown.

The parish is also considering what to do over the case of a single errant allotment holder who has not paid his rent. The meeting heard that the legal costs of recovering the rent would be greater than the amount owed.

Council chairman Mr Tony Bond told the meeting that legislation on the subject envisaged a different situation than the one faced.

Councillor Freddie Downing said: "I think you should always remember that the allotments were originally in the gift of the Clutterbucks.

Mrs Val Cumming asked if there were people waiting for the plot on which rent is unpaid. Mr Bond said that there were but that the allotment was being tended.

Councillor Ron Cox then moved on to the question of the additional sheds saying that there were 30 on plots in Three Rivers and 40 on others in Watford.. "Why can't we have another shed on our allotments?"

Parish clerk Mrs Barbara Fordyce replied: "We have taken legal advice on this. We can't change it without going back to the executors of the original will. I know in Chipperfield we had the same problem. The stipulation is that the land shall be for allotments and shall not be covered by sheds.

Mr Charles Wood suggested a tin shed extension should be added to the existing one.

Mrs Cumming said that had been no change in district planning laws. People were allowed to put up sheds so the council should be alowed to.

The council agreed to look at the cost of seeking advice on altering the provisions of the Cluttervbuck will and Mrs Fordyce said she would seek free advice from the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils.

Anger over a letter brings an apology

SARRATT'S parish clerk has publicy apologised for a mistake described as "an abuse of courtesy".

A letter about road safety in the village was sent to the parish council by Mrs. Lynda Bond, an SDP member of Three Rivers District Council.

It was presented to Monday's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council as an official report, a move which angered several members.

Mrs. Bond said she was "horrified" to discover that Sarratt was not covered by a road safety committee and in the letter suggested setting up such a group.

She added that she had contacted the chairman of the county Road Safety Committee who had agreed to look at the best ways of covering the needs of Sarratt.

The letter also called for councillors to give their views.

Its inclusion among the reports on the agenda caused a storm among the parish councillors.

An angry Councillor Freddie Downing demanded that the report be "exponged" from the agenda.

"It should not be in the minutes. This is an abuse of the courtesy this council offers to the district council. That courtesy is not offered to any other political party."

Councillor Mrs. Val Cumming agreed, pointing out that the council was non-political. "It is wrong to use ratepayers money on this," she said.

Councillor Harold Metson said he could see no reference to any political party.

But Mr. Downing added: "This allows free political publicity. The whole principal is wrong."

He demanded to know who had authorised its inclusion as a report, adding that the council's clerk should know better.

Sarratt's clerk, Mrs. Barbara Fordyce said she had taken advice from the Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils.

"I was in error in numbering it as a report and I apologise. I was advised by the Herts Association that it was perfectly in order. I would not mislead the council."

It was agreed to remove the letter from the reports but the council's chairman Mr. Tony Bond, husband of Lynda Bond, asked what form it should take.

The councillors decided to treat it as a letter and discuss it at the end of the meeting. It was then that a letter from Frank Cogan of the South West Herts Conservative Association was read. He said that the inclusion of Mrs. Bond's letter as a report was "improper if not illegal."

Councillors agreed there was no need to establish a road safety committee, with Councillor Downing stating that road safety was: "part of the parish council's function."

The subject will be discussed at a later date.

K.L.G 5.9.86

NEWS

Historic tree cut down for traffic

UPSET residents in Sarratt were mourning the loss of a historic landmark from the village this week.

The 150-year-old horse chestnut tree, which marks the entrance to Sarratt, was chopped down on Friday after it was found to be diseased and hazardous to passing drivers.

It took only a matter of minutes to bring the tree down, revealing a rotten and almost hollow centre.

Tree surgeon Andy Maynard of Loudwater, Rickmansworth, who organised the felling said: "It was a very sad day for me and all the residents who gathered to watch.

"Out of all the jobs I have had to do, this was by far the most upsetting. The tree has been here longer than anyone in the village can remember and it is last one anyone would ever want to see cut down.

"But because it was unsound it was a threat to everyone that passed by."

The tree had taken a battering over the last few years from strong winds. The final straw came three weeks ago when it was wrenched out of the ground, splitting it in two.

The tree will be moved on Saturday but the parish council has announced plans to replace it with another horse chestnut as soon as it can be arranged.

Jane Griffin, clerk to the parish council, said: "Everyone was very upset at the loss of the tree so the council thought it best to replace it. We will be seeking professional advice to find out when the best place to plant it, but hopefully it will be in place by the autumn."

'I have resigned'

MAY I, through the courtesy of your columns, advise the residents of the Sarratt ward of Three Rivers District, that I have resigned as their Conservative district councillor. The ward includes Sarratt, Grove, and part of Croxley Green North — and, due to a change in my responsibilities at work, I have reluctantly decided that I cannot give proper time to my duties in representing the people of the ward.

I would like to thank those who voted for me and also those, residents, councillors, and council staff, who encouraged and assisted me during my time as a councillor. I am glad to say that Councillor Charles Stewart, of Chorleywood, has kindly undertaken to handle any Three Rivers matters arising in the interval between now and the May local elections. I am most grateful to them.—**Peter Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm, The Green, Sarratt.**

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1986
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	10,18/11.0	26th / -8.5	26th / -11.0	7th / 14.5	117.4	
February	5th / 4.0	10th /-16.0	10th /-18.8	5th / 7.3	19.1	
March	27th / 13.5	3rd / -5.5	3rd / -10.0	23rd / 12.5	71.1	
April	30th / 16.5	13th / -4.0	13th / -6.5	19th / 9.6	85.2	
May	2nd / 21.0	16th / -0.5	16th / -3.0	20th / 18.5	77.2	1st cuckoo, 2nd. Last air/grd frosts,16th
June	18th / 29.0	12th / 3.5	12th / 0.0	------	14.1	
July	15th / 28.0	18th / 6.0	27th / 3.1	4th / 17.8	44.7	
August	6,10 / 23.5	21st / 4.5	29th / 1.7	25th / 38.1	95.6	
September	2,28 / 20.5	9th / 1.5	21st / -1.5	13th / 20.0	29.5	1st ground frost, 9th.
October	7th / 20.5	17,24/ 1.0	16th / -3.2	21st / 18.8	85.1	17 Sep - 10 Oct, 23 days & no rain
November	10th / 14.5	12th / -1.0	12th / -4.0	18th / 18.6	100.2	1st air frost, 6th.
December	4th / 13.5	15th / -4.5	15th / -8.1	15th / 15.6	96.7	1st snow of winter, 20th.

W.O 14/3/86

Loyalty rewarded



Mrs Thatcher talks to Mr Clarry Sciville as MP Richard Page looks on.

FOUR long-serving members of the South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association went to the House of Commons last Thursday where they met Mrs Thatcher.

The Prime Minister commended their devotion to the Tory Party and presented each opf them with a framed and signed diploma recording their contribution to the Tory cause.

They were Miss Freda Johnson, secretary of the Chorleywood branch of the Association for more than 40 years; Mr Clarry Sciville, secretary of the Langleybury branch for more than 30 years; Mr John P. Reed, treasurer of the Oxhey Rural branch for 25 years; Mrs Gertrude Barker, membership secretary of the Berkhamsted Shrublands branch.

Miss Johnson recalled a previous meeting with Mrs Thatcher when she came to South West Hertfordshire as a speaker at a public meeting — chaired by Miss Johnson — when she was the unsuccessful candidate for Dartford in 1950-51.

The quartet was accompanied by Mr Richard Page, MP for South West Hertfordshire, and Mrs Page, Three Rivers Councillors John Oakley-Smith and Derek Barden, chairman and treasurer of the Association, Mrs Valerie Cumming, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council and the new chairman of the Association's Ladies' Copmmittee, and Mr Frank Cogan, Tory agent for South West Hertfordshire.



SARRATT
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY)

SCHEDULE
OF
AUTUMN SHOW 1986

to be held in
THE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday, 6th September 1986

Staging of Exhibits 8 am to 11.30am

Judging	11.30am
Doors Open	2.30pm
Presentation of Trophies	4.00pm
Auction	4.15pm

OFFICERS 1986

President:	H M Neal, Great Sarratt Hall
Vice President:	Mrs C M Barber, Little Nobles
Vice President:	S/Ldr J Cracknell, Greenacres, Dimmocks Lane
Chairman:	J Lyons, 9 Church Lane
Deputy Chairman:	G Speed, 44 Sherbourne Way, Croxley Green
Show Secretary:	C Petts, Pinnaroo, Dimmocks Lane
Society Secretary:	Mrs P Petts, Pinnaroo, Dimmocks Lane
Treasurer:	N Shave, 16 Maynard Road, Hemel Hempstead
Membership Secretary:	Miss I Green, Greenacres, Dimmocks Lane

COMMITTEE

Mrs B Downer, Mrs R Singleton, Sir C Staughton, G E Wakeman, Mrs H Wakeman, Mrs S Lyons, Mrs D Tuck

Price of Schedule: 5p

RECIPE FOR SECTION E.

ORANGE AND COCONUT BISCUIT

3ozs Butter or margarine
2ozs Caster sugar
2ozs Plain flour
1oz Cornflour
Pinch salt
Rind of one Orange
Orange juice
Desiccated coconut

METHOD Cream fat and sugar, beat in grated orange rind. Add flour, cornflour and salt.
Makes about 15 small balls. Brush each with orange juice and roll in coconut.
Bake for 18 minutes in a moderate oven 350f.

****

Generous discounts are given to current Members by:

WARDS NURSERIES (SARRATT) LTD.
Dawes Lane, Sarratt.

SIMMONDS NURSERIES LTD., Chipperfield.

CHANDLERS CROSS NURSERIES, Chandlers Cross - Show your current membership card and join their gardening club. (Not Saturdays or Sundays).

BLACKETTS NURSERIES, Chandlers Cross.

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Wind in the tale!

WMT. 085. 2 JAN. 1987



PHILIP Buller is the driving force behind an illustrated review of gale damage to buildings in the United Kingdom.

Philip, of Rickmansworth, is a higher scientific officer with the Building Research Establishment and his review is the result of a 20-year survey based on press cuttings. He became involved in the survey 10 years ago when a particularly fierce gale swept the country.

Although several reports were made based on the survey, the idea for an illustrated review came from a builder friend of Philip's. It's aimed mainly at builders, engineers, designers and architects in an effort to reduce the damage from gales.

"There is an awful lot of damage to roofing as it is an exposed part of any building," said Philip. "A lot of buildings are very old and on the other hand some just pack up because they are not constructed correctly."

Britain is not particularly known for its fierce gales yet about 200,000 buildings are damaged each year at a cost of £35 million. Most incidents of wind damage are minor with a few major incidents accounting for most of the annual costs. The survey conducted by BRE has shown that much of the damage could have been avoided at little extra cost.

The review features several buildings in Hertfordshire including a cottage on the corner of the Sarratt Green and Alexandra Road. Mortar provided the only bond between two skins of the flint wall which succumbed to wind suction during a gale several years ago.

Most of the photographs in the review were collected from a press cutting agency during the survey.

"We don't generally look at the damage ourselves," said Philip. "Occasionally we go out when there are tornadoes."

Philip has been with BRE since 1960 and for the last few years has been in charge of the structure testing laboratories.

He's pictured comparing the repaired wall of a cottage in Sarratt with the damaged one which is featured in his gale damage review.

WO C9334

1987

Diocese of St. Albans

THE LICENSING
by the
LORD BISHOP OF ST. ALBANS
AND INSTALLATION
by the
ARCHDEACON OF ST. ALBANS
of
THE REVEREND MARTIN PHILLIP CULVERWELL
as
PARISH PRIEST
of
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SARRATT
on
21st JANUARY, 1987
at 8.00 p.m.

THE LICENSING OF THE REVEREND MARTIN CULVERWELL

ROBING, PROCESSION, SEATING OF VISITING CLERGY, TIMING AND SUPPORTING PERSONNEL

ROBING

Almshouse 6

Mr. A. Price-Davies
Revd. P. Flynn
Revd. J. Sutton
Revd. D. Cantwell
Revd. J. Young
Revd. J. Cherry

Almshouse 3

Mr. W. Mackie
Revd. R. Buckner
Revd. I. Roberts
Revd. M. King
Revd. I. Robson

AFTER ROBING, PROCESSION ASSEMBLES IN PORCH AND ENTERS CHURCH IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER, TAKING UP SEATS AS INDICATED

Procession Left		Procession Right	
1. Mr. A. Price-Davies	(Choir Left)	1. Mr. W. Mackie	(Choir Right)
2. Revd. P. Flynn	(Choir Left)	2. Revd. R. Buckner	(Choir Right)
3. Revd. J. Sutton	(Choir Left)	3. Revd. I. Roberts	(Choir Right)
4. Revd. D. Cantwell	(Sanctuary Left)	4. Revd. M. King	(Sanctuary Right)
5. Revd. J. Young	(Sanctuary Left)	5. Revd. I. Robson	(Sanctuary Right)
6. Revd. M. Cherry	(Sanctuary Left)		

TIMING

7.54	Bell Ringers cease and arrange bell tower chairs
7.54	Organ plays
7.55	Bishop's Chaplain conducted to North Transept by Churchwardens for prayer with Choir
7.56	Chaplain returns to Vestry
7.56	Choir process to Baptistry
7.57	Latecomers on hold
7.57	Visiting Clergy assemble in Porch
7.58	Bishop's party leave Vestry by outside door
7.59	Procession complete
	Organist plays opening bars of Processional Hymn
8.00	Precisely! Choir process singing "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

SUPPORTING PERSONNEL

CAR PARKING - Geoff Reese and Jim Mason

CHURCHWARDENS - Geoff Bond and Charles Dee

SIDESMEN - Denis Jenks, Graham Peiser (Foreman), Colin Plummer, Eddie Rollinson and Percy Saunders

28/1/87



Thorpe Arnold Hall near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, is a fine Georgian house standing in four acres in the village of Thorpe Arnold, surrounded by Belvoir Hunt country and bordering on the Quorn and Cottesmore Hunts. The original features include an Adam carved fireplace in the drawing room. The house has three reception rooms, four bedrooms and three bathrooms and the outbuildings include garaging and stabling. One outbuilding offers a self-contained two-bedroom flat. There is also an indoor heated swimming pool with changing rooms. Humberts' Stamford office is seeking offers of more than £195,000

The Georgian investment

When John and Julie Brown bought Micklefield Green House, near the pretty Hertfordshire village of Sarratt three years ago, it was in a sorry state. The previous owners had been in the house for about 30 years, during which time many of the rooms in the formerly huge property, including the ballroom, had been knocked down. A lot of hard work was needed.

The Browns embarked on the work – the fact that Mrs Brown is an interior decorator by profession helped – and carried out an extensive programme of restoration and modernization to make the house comfortable. They stripped much of the house back to its basic shape, finding evidence of early 16th-century timber, though this imposing Georgian building, dating mainly from about 1740, is constructed of brick with sash windows under a slate roof.

The roof was removed and replaced with a mixture of existing and new slate tiles. The panelling in the reception rooms was taken off and restored. The drawing room marble fireplace, thought to be original to the house, was found in pieces outside and put together again, and a new foot carved to complete its restoration.

Other work included rewiring, replumbing and the installation of a twin heating system, which enables the house to be heated by zone and boosts the system in the coldest weather.

The house has an entrance hall, a sitting room heated by a wood-burning stove, a dining room, a study, four main bedrooms and two bathrooms. The second floor contains five further bedrooms and two more bathrooms. The outbuilding includes a garage, which was once the billiard room, complete with fireplace, and there is a heated swimming pool on the terrace.

The floodlit grounds of more than six acres include lawns, a large walled kitchen garden and woodland, and Knight Frank & Rutley is asking for offers of more than £750,000 for a property which, incidentally, has helicopter landing rights. Compare the price with the £195,000 for the Georgian house in four acres of Leicestershire above.

It is not in deepest rural Hertfordshire but it has other advantages. It is about two miles from the M25, giving access to the M40 or M4 into London, and is only 20 minutes from Heathrow. A visitor gets the impression that the owners are reluctant to be leaving the place – not a bad indication of its attraction.

Christopher Warman

Property Correspondent



A Hertfordshire haven at £750,000: Micklefield Green House in Sarratt

KLG 23.1.87

Rector saw Falklands action

A BOY chorister, who grew up to see action in the Falklands, has come to Sarratt to settle down with his wife and family.

Martin Culverwell was aboard HMS Glamorgan when it was hit by an Exocet missile in the Falklands campaign but luckily he escaped unhurt. A few minutes later and the Navy chaplain would have been blown to pieces while he queued for breakfast in the mess. But Martin believes in the will of God and he has come to Sarratt to preach the gospel at Holy Cross Church.

The new village Rector has brought his wife, Jacqueline, and two young children, to the newly-renovated Rectory on The Green. They have moved from Yeovil in Somerset, where Martin was a team vicar, and say that they "fell in love" with Sarratt as soon as they first saw it.

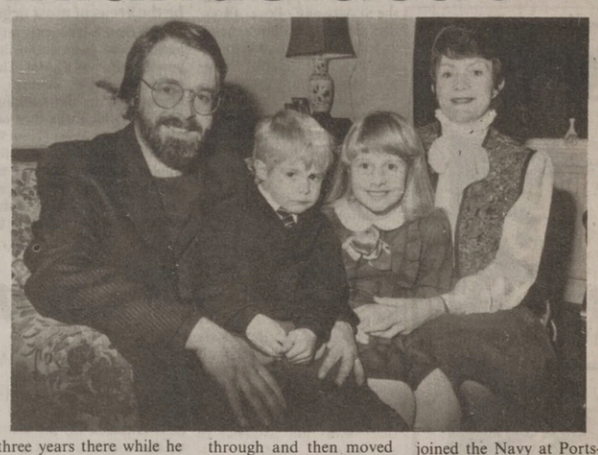
They certainly haven't been disappointed since they arrived for the Culverwells are overwhelmed by the tremendous welcome they have received from the villagers.

The children, nine-year-old Rachel and six-year-old James, have started at the village primary school and their parents say they have settled down quickly and are already becoming set in Sarratt ways. As for their parents they are overjoyed to find such a delightful Rectory and will be out and about meeting all their new parishoners in the coming weeks.

Martin never doubted that he would enter the church, and as the son of a diocesan choir master at Bath and the grandson of a church server, he used to dress up as a bishop when he was a small boy. At the age of seven he won a scholarship to Wells Cathedral, where he was a chorister, for three years and then he went to Taunton School.

Before studying at Salisbury and Wells theological college Martin worked on the staff of Lloyds Bank and it was while he lived in Somerset that he met Jacqueline. She was working as a nurse in Taunton and they married before he started to study theology.

Jacqueline says: "I knew he was going into the church before we married. In fact, he had his interview for college during our honeymoon. We spent



three years there while he studied and I worked as a nurse to keep us. That is the hardest part - having no income while he is at college. But we got through and then moved to Ashford, Middlesex, where Martin was curate."

They later moved to Chelsea, where Martin was also a curate, before he joined the Navy at Portsmouth. After the Falklands campaign he took up the chaplaincy at the Polaris submarine base in Scotland.



Green has new seat

A NEW seat for Sarratt Green has been given to the village by the local branch of the Women's Institute which celebrates its 30th birthday this year. Mrs Pat Downing, president of Sarratt W.I. formally presented the seat to Councillor Tony Bond, parish council chairman, on Saturday, last week. The seat will be placed near the bus stop, opposite the village hall.

1988/7

VILLAGERS MUST GIVE MORE TO CHURCH

RECTOR TELLS PARISH TO 'COUGH UP'

16/9/87

Story by Julie McCord

A village church is barely making ends meet in one of the richest areas of the country.

Sarratt's new Rector, the Rev. Martin Culverwell, wants his wealthy parishoners to cough up to keep the Holy Cross Church going. He says that churchgoers in deprived districts, where unemployment is high, give far more generously than those in his stockbroker belt.

The Rector claims that Sarratt's worshippers give just an average of 76p a head each week to their church in a village where a little two-up, two-down house can cost up to £120,000. He is asking for an increase in the collection plate, as well as in covenanted subscriptions, if the village church is to survive.

Mr Culverwell, who recently moved to Sarratt with his wife, Jacqueline, and two children, points out that it will not benefit him personally as his £8,300 salary is a fixed stipend from the diocese. But he hopes that in a village where he estimates the average wage is around £500 a week that his parishioners will fork out just £2.50 a week each to pay for the rising cost of the church and vicarage.

He told the Gazette: "These things have to be said and our village church is surviving on the proceeds from jumble sales and bazaars which is far from satisfactory. The villagers are just going to have to pull their finger out and get on with it if we are to make ends meet."

The Rev. Culverwell says that prosperous Americans give more than £200 a year to their church and that he knows of one instance when the Rector there was disappointed the average sum wasn't nearer £300 a head. "We are way out of touch here with our church giving and I decided this is the time to try to sort it out."

The former Navy chaplain, who was aboard HMS Glamorgan when it received a direct hit from an Exocet missile during the Falklands campaign, says that people often tell him that the Church of England is extremely rich. He agrees that in terms of assets it has property worth countless millions — "But what is the use of buildings if you cannot afford to maintain them?" He claims that it will cost more than £5,000 to run the Holy Cross Church this year and the diocesan charge to the parish will be a further £5,406 toward clergy pay and pensions and other expenses.

All of which means that Sarratt will have to find £205 a week this year but at the moment the church only receives £161 a week. The difference is usually made up with the proceeds from bazaars and jumble sales but the Rev. Culverwell says "This is a treasurer's nightmare because it means that bills cannot be paid when they should and so the church finances become unreliable."

He fears that if there is no improvement soon Sarratt might have to share a parish priest with another village and the vicarage could end up on the property market.

Vicar hits out at miserly villagers

SKINFLINT yuppies in Sarratt are forcing the local church to live on the breadline.

Penny-pinching professionals in the village earn £500 a week on average, but the collection each Sunday at Holy Cross Church adds up to just 76 pence per head.

Now the Rev. Martin Culverwell wants his wealthy parishoners to cough up at least £205 per week to keep its head above water and its income is a pitiful £161.

But the hard-hitting vicar has a solution up his cassock sleeves. He wants to sting Sarratt's newest and richest residents.

"People round here now are very well off, but they are giving less than in far poorer areas. They have good jobs, nice cars and big

"The price of of two-bedroomed cottage in the village is now £100,000 plus. It is crazy but people are buying them. There is a lot of money around here but when it comes to giving to the church people are just not doing it," he said.

If the cash crisis at Holy Cross continues Mr Culverwell fears the village could have to give up its own vicar. At the moment the

after a recommendation from the Church Commimissioners.

"If everyone on the electoral role paid that we would have an income of £525 a week. We must make every effort to pay our quota because we are being supported by other Parishes.

"Just imagine what the cost would be if Holy Cross had to pay for itself in total like the rest of the Anglican Communion has to do," he

Anger over the vicar's remarks

9/10/87

I READ with incredulity and increasing anger the comments of the Rev. (I want more Oliver Twist) Culverwell in the Watford Observer (September 25).

How dare Mr Culverwell suggest that professional elements of the village are forcing the church to live on the bread line. The supposed "yuppies," I am sure, like the rest of us, scraped and saved to buy their properties, unlike Mr Culverwell whom, I believe, gets his desirable residence with the job - which is probably worth in excess of £250,000. Also the miserly villagers he so scathingly refers to, are the very same people who paid for central heating to be installed in his home. Maybe this should have gone directly to Holy Cross.

Not everyone in Sarratt is so well off Mr Culverwell. Some of us, quite a few in fact, work long hard hours to ensure our children are brought up in a small, rural, safe, caring community. If these "yuppies" don't move into the area, and in time have their families, there will be no community. It will die with all the old people in their inherited cottages.

A lot of people in Sarratt already take on "real roles in the community" and we use our houses as homes not "country retreats." I have got news for Mr Culverell. It doesn't necessarily mean getting involved with the church to belong to the community. Virtually all groups within this community are in some way affiliated to the church — the Scouts; Guides; WI; Toddlers Club and Sarratt Parents Association.

Maybe you should put yourself out to raise funds like the groups mentioned above by actually doing, making or organising sufficient events to cover the expenses of Holy Cross and not expect hand outs from what you consider to be the richer section of Sarratt society.

Still if things get really tough, Mr Culverwell, may I suggest that you recommend to the Church Commissioners the possible sale of that magnificent dwelling on The Green in which you live. **Sheila Homer, Church Lane, Sarratt.**

Exception to the criticism

IN company, I am sure, with other Sarratt residents, I take exception to the Reverend Martin Culverwell's criticism of the village, as reported in your issue of September 25.

As a relatively new member of the village, I have been impressed by the kindness, consideration and friendly community spirit of both old-established residents and newcomers. Everyone has time to stop for a chat, which is important when one lives alone.

So far as buses are concerned, does he know something we don't? The local buses including the twice-weekly shoppers' bus to Rickmansworth seem to be pretty well patronised by villagers who, like myself, haven't one car, let alone two or three.

If the Reverend Martin Culverwell would discard his derogatory labels and come round and talk to some of the "yuppies", and some of the older folk, he might get a different impression. To all of us who don't attend church he is virtually invisible. — **Mrs Margaret Wright, The Green, Sarratt.**

Sarratt Vicar puts his point of view

OCTOBER 1987 - W.O.

IT IS a pity that the points I made on two separate occasions were published in a confused and aggressive way in your paper (September 25) and in such a way as to cause distress and misunderstanding to me, my family and the people of Sarratt. Indeed, in the headline of your article only one word is correct and that is Vicar!

It remains for me to clarify to the readers of your paper the points I made.

1. It is essential that Sarratt Parish Church (and other parish churches), covers its day-to-day running expenses without having to rely on bazaars, jumble sales, etc. This does not include exceptional expenses (for example, a new roof should one be needed).
2. That the Church of England in general has been living off its historic resources (ie legacies, endowments, etc) for centuries and the income from these historic resources has meant that congregations have not had to meet the total cost of running the Church of England. This situation is now changing because costs (especially for ministry, theological colleges and in-service training of the clergy) are rising faster than the financial returns on these resources. In other words, if we wish to retain the ministry of the church in the way we have known it in the past then the members of the Church of England should be prepared to pay for it financially, and by giving of their time and abilities.
3. Although this particular point was not covered in my original statements, in view of the letters to your paper (October 9), it may be worth mentioning that clergy tend to live in relatively large houses because it is understood that the clergy house is to be used as a parish office and a place where regular meetings take place. This particularly applies to Sarratt where there is no church hall. The clergy is a "tied" house belonging to the diocese, not to the vicar, and in the event of a clergyman's death his wife and family must vacate the property to make way for a new parish priest. Whilst the clergy house might appear a "desirable residence," the parish priest has to heat and light the property and maintain the garden on his stipend. This is not paid for by the parish and any giving to the church collection plate does not benefit the vicar or his family in any way.
4. There is a change taking place in the pattern of village life, especially noticeable near motorway link routes (for example, the M25). Therefore, by definition, this includes Sarratt.
5. It is important for any village that everyone who moves in involves themselves in a village activity or organisation. Not all activities but at least one, and not necessarily the Church as your article suggested because some people may be of other faiths and others of no faith at all. However, it is important that practising Christians involve themselves in the life of their parish church or chapel because this is also part of the village and its life.

I hope this letter, which I have kept as brief as possible regarding the wide issues implied by your report, will help to clarify what I said to your reporter.

Your article's aggressive tone was entirely due to language I did not use, described by your reader's letter (October 9) as "derogatory labels" and I would appreciate an apology to myself, my family and the people of Sarratt to restore both my own and your newspaper's reputation in this village. — **Martin Culverwell (Vicar), The Rectory, The Green, Sarratt.**

Thankful to vicar

WE REFER to the recent articles in the Watford Observer regarding statements supposedly made by the vicar to your reporter in Sarratt and the reactionary letters which you have also published.

There are two separate issues which have arisen. Firstly, the need for all members of the church in Sarratt, and those who support Holy Cross, to donate towards its upkeep and the wider work of the Church in the diocese, the country and the world, according to each individual's ability to give. We are thankful to our vicar, Martin Culverwell, for bringing this to our notice.

Secondly, the need for all who live in the community to recognise the changing pattern of village life by welcoming newcomers, understanding their needs and helping them integrate with older families, many of whom have lived here for generations. Martin has highlighted this need for change because he cares about the village and its future.

The way you have reported his comments is a sad distortion of the truth, phrased in critical language towards the people of Sarratt, language which is not that of Martin but of your reporter.

Such journalistic practice is what we expect from the tabloid press, deliberately creating divisions within a community where none exist in an attempt to increase circulation but not from a reputable paper which we have taken for 23 years.

We ask that you print this letter and an apology to Martin and his family to redress some of the damage you have caused by the misrepresentation of his words or, we shall have to cancel our order with your paper. **Mrs E. Rollinson, The Old Wheatsheaf, The Green, Sarratt.**

A priest's duty

IT IS A priest's duty to remind us all, and especially his parishioners, of an obligation to God, to others and to our heritage in as effective a way as possible. This is what the Rev. Martin Culverwell of Sarratt has done.

Surely he is to be followed not misrepresented and then criticised. — Maurice J. Tyerman, Cassiobury Drive, Watford.

Dangers

WAS it a young reporter or a mischevious sub-editor who was responsible for the astonishing report (anonymous, to boot) which so mangled what our vicar actually said and has angered and upset Sarratt villagers?

Martin Culverwell has set out in full the discussion he had with your reporter, in an insert to Sarratt Spotlight this month; you might trouble to re-print some of his explanation. No way was he referring to villagers in such terms (Headline: Vicar hit out at miserly villagers). He was talking about the giving to the parish church by church members on the church electoral roll and remininding those of us who use the church that we should consider what we give to support it.

What else the vicar had to say about villages close to large cities was absolutely true and is happening already in places — thankfully not yet in Sarratt. But we, like other villages, are threatened and in recent years have lost two of our village shops. And in ten years' time . . . who knows? We ought to be alert to the dangers of too rapid change altering our communities to prevent them from becoming picturesque dormitories.

Mr Culverwell's remarks could have come as a timely jolt.

The report has done some damage in the village of Sarratt, and has caused much bitterness among villagers, and the Watford Observer has gone down in the esteem of some of your old readers. — **Mrs Noreen Tatham, Red Lion Cottage, Sarratt.**

KLG 11.12.87

SNOWMEN GREET SANTA



SARRATT brownies dressed up as snowmen to greet Father Christmas when he arrived at the Green on Saturday to open the Holy Cross Church annual bazaar which raised £1,350 for church funds.

Santa was driven to the church in a 1927 Austin 'Chummy' open tourer and had a team of outriders on boneshakers and penny farthings from the Southern Veteran Cycle Club.

The bazaar was packed all afternoon with visitors crowding round the stalls selling gifts, games, produce, bric-a-brac and good-as-new clothes.

Sarratt and Chipperfield

Locals fight to retain village status

9.1987

By CHRIS BLYTHE

RICH kid's retreat and village paradise, sleepy Sarratt is fast becoming Hertfordshire's most upwardly mobile hamlet — but locals are fighting to keep its old country character.

Since the opening of the M25 they have witnessed an amazing change in the beautiful backwater.

BMWs and superfast suburban status symbols have replaced tractors as transport in the Green Belt haven.

House prices have shot up since last October when wagons finally rolled on the long-awaited London Orbital.

Yuppies from far and wide have been clamouring to get their hands on cosy cottages overlooking the Green.

Auction is the only way to buy. Now a two bedroomed terraced house in the village will fetch more than £100,000 and more deluxe dwellings have reached the quarter of a million mark.

They are the homes of city slickers — a far cry from those days when the same chic cottages were tiny hovels that provided shelter for farm labourers from the estates of nearby gentry.

The Clutterbucks farm and agricultural service trades were a major source of employment in the village.

Now blacksmiths and breweries have given way to antiques.

Country crafts exist largley to please weekend visitors and sightseers.

Long-entrenched locals say Sarratt has become less of a community since its new found affluence.

Neighbours exchange curt 'How do you do's' as they wash their executive chariots on a Sunday afternoon — but little more.

Even Holy Cross Church, once the bustling centre of the village, is suffering from the influx of the country loving commuters.

The new vicar, the Rev. Martin Culverwell is keen to see the old character of Sarratt return.

"The place is becoming a rather quaint suburban estate.

People have a battle on their hands to keep the village as it was.

"The new residents are all people on high earnings. They are two, three and four car families so the first thing to go is, of course, the bus service and that is a great shame.

"People are looking on their houses as investments rather than homes.

"We have a fight on our hands to make sure that Sarratt maintains its village status," he said.

He is worried that if yuppies in the area do not become more involved in the church the parish will not be able to pay its way.

"Average earnings must be £500 a week yet the average collection per head is 76 pence — less than in many poorer places," he said.

But the picture is not as black as it seems for many.

Pensioner William Weir moved to Sarratt from Watford after retiring. He loves his new found country life.

"I have found everyone very friendly. I have got to know a lot of the locals and they are a great bunch.

"It never ceases to amaze me that only five miles down the road from this lovely scene is all the noise and industry of Watford — what a contrast," he said.

And for painter Norman Truscott the village green is his favourite spot in Hertfordshire as the setting for his sought-after water colours.

He enjoys sitting by the roadside, painting and chatting to locals and says he never notices a hint of the suburban abruptness that many complain about.

Villagers who have lived in Sarratt for years and do not have the burden of hefty mortgages — the bane of their new rich neighbours' lives — are sitting on potential gold mines as property prices continue to soar.

And for them there is still a great village atmosphere, largely centred around Sarratt's three pubs, The Cock, The Boot and The Cricketers.

On beautiful summer evenings the scene outside The Cricketers often resembles a medieval knees-up with Morris Dancers displaying their ancient craft much to the merriment of regulars.

The Boot is a bustling pub with a warm atmosphere and full of local characters.

Landlord Alan Grant is a well-loved figure and a keen football fan.

Players from the Sarratt team congregate at the happy hostelry and consider it a central part of the village.

Meanwhile, local cricketers discuss butter fingers and batting averages at The Cock.

All three pubs are proof that the hamlet is alive and kicking and provide hope for the future.

Even the yuppies enjoy the odd pint with locals — proving the point that a good beer refreshes the parts of a village that others cannot reach.



Ducks at the village pond attract locals and visitors alike. WO D6251.



Norman Truscott paints Sarratt's picturesque Green. WO D6253

Santa Claus travelling in style!

WAT. OBS. 11 DEC. 1987



1928 AUSTIN 7 'CHUMMY' DRIVEN BY KEITH HOLES OF BOVINGDON.

RUDOLPH the reindeer left Santa high and dry in Sarratt at the weekend — but Chummy the cheerful Austin came to his rescue.

Father Christmas was due to arrive at the village church's bazaar but poor old Rudolph had a redder nose than ever — he was down with the flu.

In desperation Santa turned to locals to help him out and they came up trumps.

Not content with driving him to the Holy Cross bazaar in Thirties motoring style, villagers teamed up to give him a spectacular guard of honour — the brownie pack dressed as snowmen and escorted him all the way to the church hall.

Once at the bazaar, greeted by scores of villagers, Santa helped things go with a swing and boost church funds. Then it was back to his secret hideaway to dose Rudolph up with honey and lemon.

Some car crazy Sarratt villagers even reckon Santa is thinking of ditching the unhealthy reindeer altogether — in favour of their delightful Austin Chummy! WO D8773

1987

Brownies sing for patients



SARRATT brownies, cubs and guides brought a little Christmas joy to the elderly patients of Abbots Langley Hospital when they went on their traditional round of carol singing.

A group of about 50 youngsters from the 1st Sarratt brownie and cub packs and guide company went with parents and friends to the hospital for long-stay patients, many of whom do not have relatives or regular visitors.

They split into two groups and sang in each of the six wards. Many of the patients joined in as well.

The youngsters visit the hospital each Christmas but have not always been able to get to each of the wards, explained Brown Owl Mrs Jan Mardling. This year they had enough enthusiastic singers to make sure that none of the patients was disappointed.

ratt, Abbots Langley, South Oxhey, Croxley Green.

Publican set to lose £20,000 in trade

AN ANGRY publican protested this week that he will lose up to £20,000 in trade because of the closure of his road for works that he says are quite unnecessary.

Even pedestrians will not have access to North Hill Sarratt, during the closure period of up to 13 weeks, a council director has said.

Scores of children from three schools in Sarratt and Chorleywood will be affected by the closure, as well as scores of commuters and residents.

Heavy peak hour snarl ups are virtually guaranteed as drivers using the "alternative route" attempt to battle their way out from Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood onto the busy A404 Rickmansworth Road.

But this week, while Mr Hugh Mackay, director of works and services at Three Rivers Council, told angry Sarratt residents, that he could not guarantee getting the services of a policeman for point duty at the junction, an equally angry Les Davis, publican at the Boot, Church Lane, said that installing kerbing along North Hill could prove dangerous to vehicles.

"The stupid thing — I don't know the full gist of it — is that they are reinforcing a side road which they should not be doing anyway. Then I find out they are going to put kerbs in anyway which are not needed. It is only a country lane," said Mr Davis.

"It started off at four weeks and Mr Mackay from the council came up and said 'It is going to be four weeks.'I didn't hear about 13 weeks," he added.

But that was length of time given by Mr Mackay as the maximum allowable period for completion of the work as he addressed anxious parishioners at Sarratt Village Hall on Monday night.

Mr Davis said that he would lose most of his lunchtime trade from Rickmansworth and Chorleywood. He feared that people would find new places to eat and never return.

"To my mind, the loss to me could go up to £20,000," said Mr Davis.

He said that when he asked Mr Mackay about compensation, the director said he could seek it but that the matter would go all the way to the High Court.

The work at North Hill will effect at least three schools — Sarratt JMI and Christ Church, and St Clement Dane Schools, Chorleywood.

Children going to Sarratt or from the village to the other schools will have to take the alternative route through Solesbridge Lane. Commuters will be affected because North Hill forms the link between the village, Church Lane and New Road with the A404 Rickmansworth-Chenies Road.

Now it has emerged that the reason the work is to be done in the depths of winter, rather than in the summer when the children will not be going to school, is because Mr Mackay wants to use up his funds allocation within the present financial year.

He cannot be sure of a fresh allocation for the work later on and says he can do "three jobs at once."

Parishioners, led by barrister Mr Anthony Coleman and his wife Angela, pressed Mr Mackay at Monday's meeting on whether consideration had been by the council to the position of the schoolchildren, and their numbers. Mr Mackay said it had not.

"It might have been helpful if we had informed the headmaster at an earlier stage," he conceded.

But he added: "We are following our normal practice of letting everybody know before work starts."

He said that the work, involving a 400-metre stretch and a £27,000 contract, would mean no pedestrian access to North Hill.

"These pedestrians will be at risk and we will make the best arrangements for them to get through as possible," he assured residents.

Questioned further, he agreed that the council had built in very little "down time" to allow for snow.

"We may have to abandon work," he said, also agreeing that closure of the road would pose further problems for gritting vehicles that would have no access and might have to rely on turning in the entrances to private land.

However, in response to further pressure Mr Mackay agreed to examine the possible policing of Solebridge Lane, the possibility of retaining free access to North Hill before 9 am each day, and the possibility of delaying work until summer.

However, the latter suggestion was even less comfort to Mr Davis who said that would involve loss of even more trade. Two other businesses, Wards Nurseries and that run by Mr Ray Adams, are likely to be affected by the closure.

There was no response to inquiries at Three Rivers Council on Tuesday.



JAZZ critic and writer Benny Green called upon the acting talents of his wife Toni to help raise £1,000 for cancer research in Sarratt at the weekend.

The couple, who live in Kings Langley, hosted an evening organised by the Cancer Research Campaign's Rickmansworth branch.

One hundred people heard Benny talk about the life and works of writer and humourist P.G. Wodehouse. He narrated while wife Toni brought to life a handful of Wodehouse characters.

A raffle for an original watercolour by well-known local artist Mrs Jan Clutterbuck helped boost funds.

The money will be donated to buy equipment for the Royal Marsden Hospital in London which specialises in cancer treatment.

"It's great that we managed to raise so much," said chairman of the organising sub-committee Mrs Jeanne Lawrence.

At the start of the evening the organising committee of Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Anne Robson, Mrs Mary Auld, Mrs Sarah Whalley and Mrs Kathy Laule presented Benny with a Cancer Research Campaign tie.

Our picture shows Mrs Robson, surrounded by fellow committee members, making a final alteration to Benny's wardrobe addition. W.O. D777.

W. OBSERVER 6.2.87

Judge lays down law on language

By Steven Bates



VERILY, any lawyers appearing before Mr Justice Staughton in the Commercial Court in future had better watch their language.

His Honour has made a heartfelt plea for his learned friends to use ordinary speech in court rather than the sort of legal jargon that wraps their meaning up in archaic and obsolete phrases and leaves it as clear as mud to the rest of the world.

"Avoid the word verily," he says in the current edition of the quarterly legal journal Counsel in the course of an all-out assault on courtly language. "It has been obsolete in ordinary speech almost since the Authorised Version of the Bible."

His Honour goes on to beg: "Do not "crave" leave to do anything, but just ask it."

Then: "The words 'humbly' and 'respectfully' are as unneccessary in affidavits, and generally as untruthful, as they are in oral argument."

Woe betide the counsel who tries to curry favour with Mr Justice Staughton using the phrase "with respect".

The learned judge pronounces: "There is high authority for the view that it means 'You are wrong' (thus serving an essential purpose), just as 'with great respect' means 'you are utterly wrong' and 'with the utmost respect' equals 'send for the men in white coats'."

Should counsel flounder into stating his opinion or belief in an argument, he will get even shorter shrift: "Either the English language is devalued by this usage, or the integrity of the advocate is exposed to doubt."

If he finally resorts to scattering his speech with "My Lord" as in "I ask my Lord to look at the bundle of pleadings . . ." his fate will be dire:

"It is an unnecessary archaism, which should be avoided if courts of law are not to appear even more strange and intimidating to litigants and witnesses than they do already."

Mr Justice Staughton, 53, Old Etonian, former member of the 11th Hussars, who once presided over "The Romans in Britain" obscenity case, lists his hobbies as bridge and growing dahlias, two areas where there is presumably no room for sloppy language.

His plea concludes: "Could 1987 be the year in which advocates in court and those who swear affidavits say what they mean in language which ordinary people can understand and without conscious archaism?"

Yesterday, when approached for an interview on what he meant by his criticisms, his response was a crisp: "No comment."

DAILY TELEGRAPH 7.2.87

NOW SIR CHRISTOPHER STAUGHTON, SARRATT HALL.

WATFORD OBSERVER 6.2.87



Traditional spectacle of country life

PROMISING weather proved deceptive when the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt descended on Sarratt last Thursday for ground frost put the dogs off the scent.

It lifted the foxes' scent clean off the ground. They were also slowed down in their pursuit by the woodland around the village. "This being the fox's domain, he knows where he is going, but the hounds cannot see him and are completely dependent on their noses," said a spokesman for the hunt.

Despite these difficulties villagers were treated to an aesthetic spectacle of traditional English country life. Nearly 70 huntsmen and their hounds transformed the peaceful village green into a hive of activity as they congregated ready to set off in the cold morning air.

Local children revelled in the excitement the scene generated in the village and showed themselves anxious to make the acquaintance of the hounds.

The Vale of Aylesbury Hunt meets three times a week during the hunting season but Sarratt only plays host once a year.

WO D731, D733, and D729.



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE, MARTIN CULVERWELL, HIS WIFE JACQUELINE AND THEIR CHILDREN, RACHEL AND JAMES.

We are pleased to be able to inform Patrons that the Artistes, together with the stage assistants, waiters and other staff have all most kindly offered to give of their services without fee or payment so that as large a sum as may be possible can be provided for improvements to the Rectory.

The Doors and the Bar will open at 7.15 p.m. and the programme will commence at 8 p.m.

Seats will not be reserved and Patrons are requested to take their places early.

Entrance to the performance will be by programme only and no tickets will be sold at the door of the Hall.

A licence has been obtained from the authorities to enable the provision of refreshments for our Patrons throughout the show. The Bar will be under the supervision of Langley Round Table. No liquor will be permitted to be brought into the Hall.

Patrons are respectfully requested not to partake of their refreshments at the Bar but to ask one of the waiters to bring it to their table.

A more solid repast of bangers and mash will be provided during the interval by the ladies of the Mothers Union.

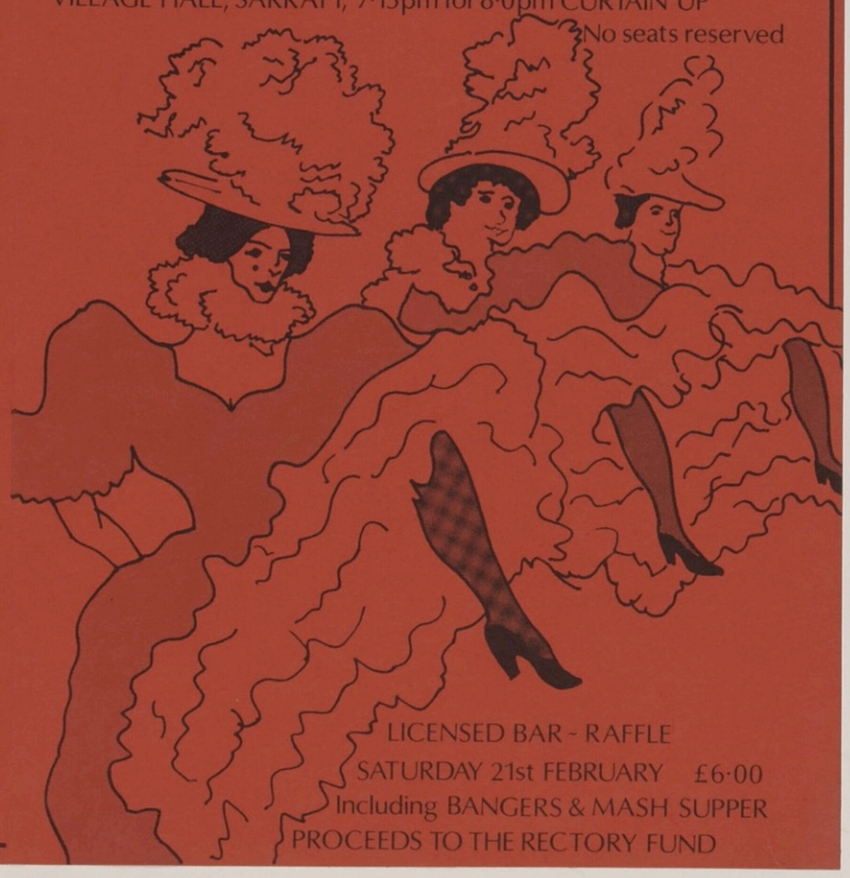
It is expected that the performance will be concluded at approximately 11 p.m. There is ample provision for the accommodation of carriages in the vicinity of the Hall but Patrons are requested to keep the entrance ways and footpaths free from any obstructions.

Dressing up in Old Style costume is entirely optional but those who remember the old Sarratt Music Halls will remember that a simple long skirt and blouse for the ladies and a floppy bow for the gentlemen will make the evening especially enjoyable. Everybody involved in putting on the Music Hall will be dressed for the occasion.

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

VILLAGE HALL, SARRATT, 7·15pm for 8·0pm CURTAIN UP

No seats reserved



LICENSED BAR - RAFFLE

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY £6·00

Including BANGERS & MASH SUPPER

PROCEEDS TO THE RECTORY FUND

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE. 27.2.87.

THAT MUSIC HALL MAGIC



THE headmaster turned into a singing waiter, a Christian mother changed into a waitress and a lecturer on international trade became a director, producer and chief organiser to raise money for a village rectory fund.

Sarratt villagers staged an Olde Tyme Music Hall in the village hall last weekend which raised £1,200 towards the modernisation of the rectory. More than 75 people took part in the show including the Mothers Union, which provided the bangers and mash supper, members of the Langley Round Table, who manned the bar, and local amateur actors and singers who provided a show which won a standing ovation from the audience.

It was staged on Friday and Saturday night and attracted a total audience of 200 people. Organised by Eddie Rollinson and his wife, Doris, the show was an enormous success and a big bouquet of flowers was presented to them when it was all over on Saturday night.

WATFORD OBSERVER 27.2.87

WATFOR

Village's comic capers



SARRATT children were in stitches this week when funny man David Copperfield gave them a glimpse of his new comedy series Lift Off With Coppers and Co.

The comic, famous for his Medallion Man sketches in Three of a Kind with Tracey Ullman and Lenny Henry, was in the village to film scenes for his new BBC show.

The rest of the nation's fun loving youngsters will have to save their laughter until April when it is screened on a children's television slot.

Sarratt Stores owner Giovanni Frederico nearly didn't see the funny side of the sketch when he heard that as part of the filming David would be knocking over a load of fruit and vegetables outside his shop.

So he breathed a sigh of relief when the BBC assured him that they would supply their own oranges and apples to take a tumble in the tomfoolery.

Filming involved shots of a shocked shopkeeper blundering into a closed door and dropping the cases of fruit he was carrying as he saw a wandering minstrel, played by David Copperfield, stroll past.

But it was not a case of fame at last for Giovanni, the 29 year old Italian who has been running Sarratt Stores for three years. His role as storekeeper was taken by an actor and hopes of the village being home to a new Alpacino have been dashed.

The film crew also took shots of the village green and the pond as the cameras rolled on Monday and Tuesday.

DISTRICT OF THREE RIVERS

ELECTION OF

PARISH COUNCILLORS

FOR THE

GROVE WARD OF THE PARISH OF SARRATT

NOTICE OF POLL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:—

1. **A Poll for the election of Parish Councillors for the abovementioned Ward will be held on THURSDAY, 7TH MAY 1987 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m.**

2. **The number of Parish Councillors to be elected is THREE.**

3. **The particulars of the Candidates remaining validly nominated for election and the names of the persons who signed the nomination papers for each Candidate are as follows:**

Ward	Name of Candidate (Surname First)	Place of Residence	Description	Names of persons who signed the nomination papers
GROVE	**FOLLOWS, Gordon John**	'Verity', Commonwood, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 9BA		Proposer: Ann Soanes. Seconder: A. M. Soanes.
	GELL, John Edward	The Poachers Retreat, Penmans Green, Chipperfield, Herts		Proposer: P. E. Newell. Seconder: Cynthia E. Newell.
	TYLER-DIMOND, Jennifer Charmian	Jasmine Cottage, 3 The Green, Sarratt, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 6AY	Local Government Secretary	Proposer: G. Trotter. Seconder: F. H. Daltrey.
	WOOD, Charles Arthur Valentine	2 Long Pightle, Chandlers Cross, Nr. Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 4NE		Proposer: S. D. Gibbs. Seconder: C. J. Trigg.

4. **The situation of the Polling Station and the description of persons entitled to vote thereat are as follows:—**

No. of Polling Station	Situation of Polling Station	Polling District Letters	Local Government electors assigned to each Polling Station
29	**West Herts. Management Centre, Bucks Hill House, Bucks Hill**	**D/B/B**	**Nos. 1 - 369**

5. **The above poll will be taken together with elections of Councillors for the Three Rivers District Council.**

6. **Any person against whose name in the Register of Electors appears his/her date of birth may NOT vote at this election unless such date of birth falls between 16th February 1987 and the date of this election (both dates inclusive).**

Dated this 28th day of April 1987

Council Offices, High Street, Rickmansworth

A. S. POTTS
Returning Officer

Printed by Blower Watford Limited and published by the Returning Officer

1987

GROVE WARD ELECTION

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday·7th May·1987

Dear Elector

As you may know I have served on the Parish Council for the past two years as a representative of the Grove Ward, and would welcome the opportunity to serve again for a full term during the next four years. I am therefore standing again as a candidate for this Ward and would greatly appreciate your support on Polling Day.

I have been in the district for sixteen years and while I live on Sarratt Green my work takes me to the West Herts Management Centre at Bucks Hill in my capacity as Administrative Officer. I feel therefore that I have a personal knowledge of, and interest in, our area.

If I were fortunate enough to be re-elected I should do my utmost to continue serving the community to the best of my ability and consider it a privilege to represent you on the Parish Council.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Tyler-Dimond

(Mrs Jenny Tyler-Dimond)

Jasmine Cottage
3 The Green
Sarratt
Rickmansworth,Herts.
Tel: Kings Langley 63803



SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

GROVE WARD



Thursday 7th May 1987
Polling Station:Bucks Hill House, Bucks Hill.
8am-9pm

Dear Elector,

I am aged 52, married with four children and have been a resident of Sarratt Parish for the last 17 years. Until 1985 I lived at Little Waterdell House, Little Green Lane, Croxley Green and now at The Poachers Retreat, Penmans Green, Commonwood.

For many years I was a farmer at Harefield but am now a Charities Administrator in Harrow.

From 1970 to 1976 I was a member of the Croxley Green Residents' and Ratepayers Association, four of them as Chairman and edited the 'Residents' Bulletin for 3 years.

From 1976 to 1984 I represented Croxley Green North Ward on the Three Rivers District Council and served on th Community & Leisure Services Committee.

I have served as a School Governor of Little Green J.M.I. & Malvern Way Infants Schools for the last 12 years - 8 of them as Chairman.

I am a founder & current member of the Friends of the Green Society formed in 1973 and which has done a considerable amount of work in protecting the environment around the Green at Croxley.

My aim in standing for Sarratt Parish is to be able to play my small part in looking after this delightful area which all of us around Sarratt value so much; with my past experience I feel that I might have something to offer.

My District Council seat was held under the Conservative Party banner. However I do feel that Parish Councils' should not be party political. I stand for the Grove Ward seat under the clear understanding that party politics will not be brought into the Parish Council Chamber.

If you would like to contact me at any time then do please give me a ring on Kings Langley 62401.

During the course of the election period I hope to be visiting each one of you personally.

I would ask you to vote for me on Thursday 7th May at the Polling Station at Bucks Hill House, Bucks Hill. The polls are open from 8.00am to 9.00pm

John Gell

VOTE FOR JOHN GELL ON MAY 7th

Published By: John Gell, Poachers Retreat, Penmans Green, Chipperfield, Kings Langley. Printed By PRONTAPRINT, WATFORD.

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 13·3·87

SCOUT HUT FUND PLEA



FEARS for the future of a wooden scout hut have prompted Sarratt villagers to launch a fund-raising project.

The 25-year-old hut, at Church Lane, is likely to need replacing within a few years so the village scouting movement has started to save up now.

They organised a race night at Sarratt Village Hall last Friday which raised around £700 towards the building fund. This event was organised by Mr Robin Sindall, assistant cub scout leader, and attracted 110 people who all enjoyed a fish and chip supper during the evening.

Mr Roy Eteen, group scout leader, explained that they are trying to build up a fund to repair or re-build the hut in a few years time. He said: "We must look to the future as it is going to take us a very long time to get enough funds to save this hut.

"We haven't yet looked into the actual cost of re-building it but if some eccentric millionaire would like to help us out we would be most grateful!"

FREE OBSERVER 20·5·87

Editorial, Advertising, Watford 42211, Classified 22323

Roadworks make villagers furious

SARRATT barrister's wife Angela Colman is furious with Three Rivers Council over roadworks that she claims leave her marooned and fire engines and ambulances unable to reach the elderly.

And she says she finds it unbelievable that while the road has been closed for the works the council has resurfaced the diversion route as well.

Mrs Colman says that works at North Hill and New Road, and the resurfacing of Dimmocks Lane have cut off people in Sarratt, and its Belsize and Commonwood areas wanting to get to Rickmansworth and Watford.

The fire brigade, she says, has been appalled at North Hill being cut off, but her husband Anthony Colman is unable to get any sense out of Three Rivers.

Mrs Colman's protest is the latest spark in the row over the council's kerbing and haunching work at North Hill which she and other parishioners have questioned the need for.

After outraged protests last December succeeded in persuading the council to postpone work until the school Easter holidays to prevent delays to school journeys, the work, started a month ago, has still angered Mrs Colman.

She says that commuters, including her husband, have been made late for work by the resurfacing of Dimmock's Lane.

Mrs Colman lives at Sarratt Mill House situated alongside five other houses at the bottom of the valley between North Hill and New Road.

"New Road is the only access to the five houses and pumping station down here. When they started work on North Hill they also started work on New Road and put a Road Closed sign at the top which meant that people who lived at the bottom were completely marooned.

We made a tremendous fuss against that. My husband said that if they didn't move the vehicles he would take out an injunction against them. In both directions the road was impassable," said Mrs Colman.

"I phoned the fire brigade who were absolutely appalled because they had no notice of this at all. This fire prevention officer from Hemel came and brought a fire applicance down. It would have been neccessary to move the earth, move machines and two heavy vehicles all of which were blocking New Road, and he told them it was simply not on and they could not block both roads at once.

"We have at the bottom here my mother who is 90, one old lady of about 80 and another old lady in her late 70s. The fire risk is quite high, let alone he ambulance risk," she added.

"Eventually they moved the stuff off there so just North Hill is blocked. This morning they have started digging up further up New Road. They are maybe working on both the down hill and uphill at once."

Mrs Colman said that what was "really driving me up the wall" was the simultaneous resurfacing of Dimmocks Lane which had meant half the road being closed at a time and rush hour queues either way of 20 vehicles.

Criticising in strong terms the council's handling of the work, and the role of directors, Mrs Colman said her husband had tried to contact chief executive Alan Potts.

"It is unbelievable that this sort of thing could go on. Whether North Hill needed doing is debatable, but having decided to close it everything that has gone on since is barmy," she said.

Referring to the meeting of parishioners with the parish council and district council director of works and services before Christmas, she added: "Mr Mackay admitted they had done no traffic survey, that they had no idea how many children needed to go up the hill to the school, had not informed the police, had not informed he fire brigade, so that was a complete fiasco the first time round."

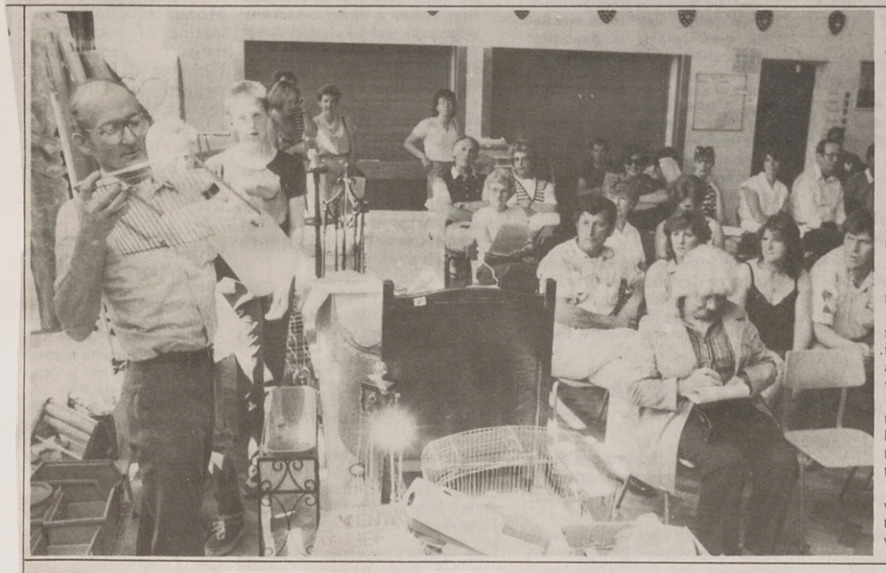
A spokesman for Three Rivers denied there had been any problem letting residents through New Road. "What the contractor has done is move when required with minor inconvenience to residents," he said.

"The resurfacing of Dimmocks Lane was planned to take place now and it was planned originally when the North Hill closure was going to take place in January. It is less than a day to take off the crust of the road and less than a day to put it back.

"I think their point was that there was a build-up of traffic, and our attitude was that it was better to have a minor inconvenience to allow the contractor to come in and do the work because obviously we didn't want to delay the programme," he said.

He said that the North Hill work was due to be completed by early this week, but refused to comment on the obstructon to fire tenders.





Auction fund raiser for a school

A RECORDER band from Sarratt JMI School won a distinction and second place at Watford Arts and Music Festival on Saturday.

The Sarratt band consisted of 12 pupils coached by headmaster, Mr Chris Alexander.

After the festival they all rushed back to join in the school's 50—50 auction, which raised about £300. Organisers were a little disappointed at the poor turn-out at the auction which had to be cancelled last term because there were not enough lots to go ahead.

But on Saturday there were 130 lots ranging from a twintub washing machine to a specialised collection of football programmes. There were only about 40 people, however, to bid for the items and Mr Alexander said that he blamed the good weather.

He told the Gazette: "I don't think too many people wanted to come and sit indoors on such a glorious afternoon. But we did well and we are grateful for the £300 which will go to buy new equipment for the school."

KLG
15·5·87

Character cottage is to expand

The go-ahead was given for for one and two storey rear extensions at The Old Forge, Sarratt, at last week's Three Rivers District Council Planning Committee meeting.

The councillors were by no means unanimous in their decision to grant planning permission. Seven councillors voted for, one against, and there were two abstensions.

A previous application was refused and later dismissed on appeal.

The scheme originally included a two storey extension to the cottage, but there are worries that the additions might detract from the character of the cottage, and also be used as a separate dwelling house.

The house dates from the early seventeenth century, is a listed Grade II building, and includes several features of historical and architectural importance.

PAVED COURTYARD

The current amended proposals are for a single storey extension to run parallel with the main rear wing of the house; a two storey rear extension to the main rear wing; and a glazed conservatory linking the two extensions and creating an enclosed, paved courtyard.

One letter of objection was received complaining of over-development and saying that the design was out of scale and character with the original building.

Various conditions were imposed. One was that the extension should not be used as a separate dwelling house, and the other was that materials used should match the existing building.

Sarratt Parish Councillor Mrs Jenny Dimond spoke out strongly against the development. "This is a substantial addition and would be detrimental and detract from the cottage appearance of the building," she said.

"It is a lovely old property, 17th century, and we feel that there is a lot of this development going on in the village".

KLG 5.6.87

Fundraisers jump to it!

ONE OF Sarratt's nine sponsored parachute jumpers helping to raise money for a Pegasus bed for Mount Vernon Hospital at the weekend discovered the hard way that once in the aircraft, when the doors are opened, there is no going back!

Sue Linley thought it was hilarious afterwards, but when her turn came to jump she was reluctant and the jumping instructor in effect 'threw' her out.

Derek Cox who organised the team said this week there were one or two changes. Allen Grant, landlord at The Boot, Sarratt, who had a bout of pneumonia and pleurisy about a year ago, was advised by his doctor not to take part because of possible breathing problems at a high altitude.

Another dropped out before the event, but Wendy Crossley, who had gone to support her husband Philip, made a spur of the moment decision to jump.

The other jumpers were John Darbyshire, Mark Allen, Eb Kretschmere, Eddie Woolford and Ilesh Khagram.

Because Mr Grant and the jumper who decided not to jump in the end had been heavily sponsored, the team will have raised £1,000, only half the amount they had hoped, and are now thinking up other fund raising ideas.

The plan is to buy the special bed with its comfortable mattress of air filled pockets, in memory of another villager, Yvonne Norman, a friend of Mr Grant, who died from cancer six months ago.

No-one was injured as a result of the drop which took place on Sunday at the A1 Skydiving Centre, at Abbotsley priavte airfield on a farm estate just outside Huntingdon, following training on Saturday.



The fundraisers celebrate afterwards.

W.O. 5.6.1987

Church sign wanted

VISITORS to Sarratt are getting lost trying to find the village Parish Church, according to the Parochial Church Council.

The Holy Cross Church is set some way from the village centre and because it is the only transverse saddle back Church in the country it receives a considerable number of visitors. But the church councillors are concerned that many of them can't find it and often give up and go home again.

So they are to ask Three Rivers District Council to signpost the famous church at the junction of The Green and Dimmocks Lane. The sign would simply say 'Parish Church' and would cost just £55.

KLG 12.6.87

Parents who break their vow to God

PARENTS who have their babies baptised and then never take them to Church and Sunday School are breaking their promise to God, according to Sarratt's new Rector, Martin Culverwell.

In a bid to encourage more villagers to honour their Baptism Service vows he is re-organising the Sunday School and the Junior Church at Holy Cross. They will be merged into one organisation, known as Crossbearers, from September.

Age groups will be in different sections and each will meet at Sarratt School at 9.40am. The children will go to Holy Cross Church at 10.30am as usual for the end of morning service.

TEACHING SYLLABUS

Crossbearers is to be run by Mrs Vera Honess, an experienced primary school teacher, and will be based on the new Christian Teaching syllabus approved by the Church of England in conjunction with the County agreed syllabus of Religious Education in use in State schools.

Mr Culverwell told the Gazette: "I have run similar groups for children in other churches and it works very well. We are hoping that we will see an increase in numbers as a result and certainly we forecast a more even split between the Sunday School and Junior Church with the new age groups.

" The problem is that so often we see babies at a Baptism service whom we have never met before and never lay eyes on again. Yet at the service both parents and Godparents are asked to promise that they will support the child by making sure that he or she will be a faithful attender at public worship and in private prayer. Encouraging your child to come to Crossbearers would be a step on the road to fulfilling part of that promise.

"Children learn best when set the example by their parents. Such is the weight of parental responsibility."

KLG 12.6.87

Descant Recorders

Sheree Bines
David Harrison
Claire Dennis
Mark Clough
Jonathan Bonwick
Christopher Kemp
Oliver Mardling
Christopher Waller

Percussion

Gemma Haynes
Samantha Biggerstaff

Glockenspiel/Xylophone

Amy Farrar
Miranda Martin

Guitars

Lauren Johnston
Miranda Martin
Samantha Biggerstaff
Peter Marriott
Carey Sindall
Lisa Keys
Kelly McCarthy
Christopher Kemp
Sally Lowther
Joseph McArdle
Oliver Mardling

Choir - most of the above plus . . . !

Anthony McCarthy
Andrew McCarthy
Joshua Lewsey
Matthew Illingworth
Lucy Rosenthal
Carey Sindall
Samantha Reeves
Stephen Brownsell
Robert Powell
Rachel Culverwell
Oliver Hart
David Bines
Jake Griffiths
Desmond Atkins
Leigh Davies
Luke McHale
Philip Homer

Accompanist:- Mr. David Clough
to whom we extend our sincere thanks.

Presentation of the Rees Trophy to the Musician of the Year

OUR THANKS TO THE S.P.A. FOR THE
PROVISION OF REFRESHMENTS DURING THE INTERVAL

S A R R A T T J. M. I.

S C H O O L

SUMMER CONCERT

Thursday, June 11th 1987

7.30 p.m.

R O G R A M M E

PIANO SOLOS

Grasshopper	Edward Lewsey
Oranges and Lemons The Busy Mill	Alison McArdle
May Day Dance	Carey Sindall
Dublin Town To Celia	Joshua Lewsey
Minuet in F	Mark Clough
Prelude Toy Shop	Cevit Heusen

VIOLINS — Leader - Mrs. B. Hilton

Marching	Andrew McCarthy
Cuckoo	Anthony McCarthy
Earwig's Tune	Miranda Martin
The Centipede's Shoemaker	Joshua Lewsey
Crocodile Visits the Dentist	Lauren Johnston
On the Move	Sheree Bines
Reverie	Alison McArdle
Road Hog	David Harrison
Mini Sonata in 3 movements	Claire Dennis

GUITARS — Leader - Mrs. A. Ballard

Scarborough Fair
She Sat 'Neath The Lilac
Light Up The Fire

RECORDER BAND

Air from Rosamunde	Schubert
Summer Lazy Rag	Joplin (?)

+ + + INTERVAL + + +

Song	Come and Sing Together	Hungary
Song	The Heron from Brecon	Wales

MIDDLE RECORDER GROUP

Bobby Shaftoe Dance to your Daddy The Keeper

KEYBOARD - Lauren Johnston

Largo Wooden Heart White Rose of Athens

SOLOS

Bright Eyes (Vocal)	Mark Clough
Cavatina (Tenor Recorder)	Miranda Martin
Sailing (Vocal)	Sheree Bines

Song	Chiapanacas	Mexico
Song	Sugar Candy	Scotland

DRUMS - Ben Burrows accompanied by Marc Burrows

SOLOS

Where is Love (Vocal)	Amy Farrar
Cuckoo Waltz (Recorder)	Sheree Bines
Chim Chim Cheree (Vocal)	Lucy Rosenthal

DUOLOGUE

Alice and The White Queen - Carey Sindall & Gemma Haynes

RECORDER SOLOS

Snowman	Lauren Johnston
Moon River (Treble)	Claire Dennis

RECORDER DUOS

Eidelweiss	David Harrison & Mark Clough
Nellie the Elephant	Sheree Bines & Claire Dennis
Song — Dan the Bagpipe Man	Czechoslovakia
Song — Robin Hood	England

1987

Claire's smile for a title



PRETTY Claire Ward could be in line for the 30th title of Miss Pears.

Her cute smile is being used to launch this year's famous competition which chooses the soap company Pears' princess for a year.

Five-year-old Claire lives in Tower Hill, Chipperfield, with her two younger sisters and she has the chance to win a £1000 cheque as well as the coveted title of Miss Pears. She goes to Sarratt School and enjoys swimming, ballet and horse-riding.

This photograph of Claire was taken when she acted as a bridesmaid at her cousin's wedding and already the picture is famous in Ruislip where the photographer has chosen it to advertise his studio.

Claire's parents are market gardener Tim and Linda Ward who have two other daughters, Katie, aged four, and baby Charlotte. Linda told the Gazette: "My sister sent Claire's picture off to Miss Pears because she liked it so much."

KLG 22.5.87

ford 42211, Classified 22323 WATFORD OBSERVER FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1987

SERVICES to local government, football, road safety, community relations, the textile Industry and the Armed Forces by Hertfordshire people were rewarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

CBE for former county chairman

COUNTY Councillor Frank Cogan, until last month chairman of Hertforshire County Council, has been made a Commander of the Order British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The distinction, for which Mr Cogan says he is "very, very honoured," has been uppermost among the events which have made the last few days special ones for him, his wife, Edna, and their two children, Patrick and Frances.

On Thursday night, he toasted election victory with Mr Richard Page, MP, the 13th campaign in which Mr Cogan had worked as Conservative agent, the 11th in the South West Herts Constituency. Sunday was his 67th Birthday.

The honour, which Mr Cogan says he views "obviously with great pride" has been bestowed in recognition of his work as chairman of Hertfordshire County Council, the post he held for three years.

A Yorkshire Blue, as he might be described, he hails from Leeds where his father was a headmaster. In 1939 when he was 19 and fresh out of college, he says, the outbreak of war dashed hopes of going to university to read languages.

Instead he entered the Royal Army Ordnance Corps where he gained the rank of Warrant Officer Class One and saw four-and-a-half years service in India.

It may have been quieter than campaigns of a different order to come.

"There was no actual fighting in India and the Royal Ordnance Corps is not a combative unit, it is a service corps," said Mr Cogan.

After demobilisation from the army at the end of the war, he says, he wondered like many people what to do. Although not from an especially political familiy, he joined the Young Conservatives and was then appointed agent in Hull where he fought the 1950 and 1951 General Elections.

He moved to Hertfordshire to fight the 1955 campaign and every one since, successively steering three MPs — Sir Gilbert Longden, Mr Geoffrey Dodsworth and Mr Page — to victory.

Mr Cogan and his wife live at Holly Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt.

He was first elected to the county council for the Chorleywood division in a 1967 by-election.

He held the Education Committee chair for seven and a half years, later becoming council chairman. He says he saw no problem in combining the role of chairman with that of constituency agent.

"I never found any serious conflict of interest," he says.

His son works for the Metropolitan Police Force. His daughter and her husband, seconded to Paris for IBM, have their home in Winchester.



Mr Frank Cogan and his wife Edna.

Mr Cogan follows rugby and cricket, both of which he once played, but he says pointedly: "I don't play golf!"

His wife responded in typically feminine fashion at news of the honour, rightly insisting on a new outfit. "My wife will have 'nothing to wear'" said the former chairman.

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 26 JUNE 1987

VILLAGE FLOWER FESTIVAL

Sarratt's Flower Festival will be extra special this year as it will celebrate the appointment of the new parish priest and welcome the vicar and his family to the village.

The festival will be held at the twelfth century Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Saturday June 27, and Sunday June 28. Money raised will go to the church's restoration fund.

AVAILABLE

Morning coffees, ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas will be available on both days, along with a plant and produce stall.

Prizewinners at Chesham and Watford Music Festivals, Sarratt JMI School Recorder Band, will join The Sarratt Singers and guest musicians for a concert of music and songs for a summer evening on Saturday June 27 at 8 p.m. as part of the Festival celebrations. Admission will be free.

SIGNS

Visitors will be able to follow road signs to the Flower Festival from the A41, A404, and A412.

Floral welcome for new vicar

BLOOMING awful June was the toast of Sarratt at the weekend — because it produced some brilliant blossom.

Organisers of the village flower festival were hoping for a paradise of petals despite the sodden weather.

This year's event was billed as the best ever, because it welcomed the new vicar, the Rev. Martin Culverwell.

Mr Culverwell is swapping troops for tulips in his new post. He was a chaplain in the Falklands War attached to HMS Glamorgan and has also worked on the spirituals at Scottish submarine bases.

Now Sarratt civilians are hoping that the green beauty of Hertfordshire will be a welcome change

The festival took place at Holy Cross Church. On Saturday evening at 8 pm there was a concert by the Sarratt JMI School Recorder Band in the church.

mid-week ob. 17/6/87

1987

Flower show winners

GREEN-fingered Sarratt gardeners got together for their annual horticultural show at the weekend.

The trophy winners were:

Mr G. Wakeham won the Jenkinson Trophy for his early flowering chrysanthemums, the Frederick Barber trophy as the champion of the flowers section and the Clutterbuck Trophy as the champion of all sections.

The Rickard family won the Three Rivers District Council trophy for the best all round family.

Sir C. Staughton won the Arthur Pritchard trophy for his roses.

Mr J. Lyons won the Dickens trophy for the cottages section.

Mrs N. Singleton won the Loader trophy for floral art.

Mrs Pat Petts won the Roy Ward Trophy for novices floral art.

Mrs Harold won the Elsie Collijns trophy for cookery.

Mrs M. Perkins won the Flight Cracknell trophy for handicrafts.

Miss Zoey Bloomfield-Lyons won the A.E. Cox Trophy in the Children's Section.

SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

THOUSANDS of blooms were used to decorate Sarratt's Holy Cross Church at the week-end in the village's annual Flower Festival, which raised more than £1,800 for the restoration fund.

A team of 20 village ladies spent days arranging the flowers, which this year had to be bought from florists because the weather had been too wet to produce the usual Sarratt garden blooms. They worked day and night to produce the breathtaking sight of the ancient church covered completely in floral displays.

Lunches and teas were served in the church on Saturday and Sunday to visitors who had travelled many miles to witness the annual village Flower Festival. On Saturday evening the church choir presented Music for a Summer Evening which was well attended and the entire weekend was dedicated as a welcome to the new Parish Priest, the Rev. Martin Culverwell, and his wife and family who recently moved into the vicarage.

Organisers were delighted by the tremendous response from both villagers and visitors to this year's event and have announced that the money raised will go towards restoring the damp plaster in the church walls.



WATFORD OBSERVER 3 JULY 1987.

Editorial, Advertising, Watford 242211, Classified 222323

Centre director gets top honour



A LANDMARK in the history of the West Herts Management Centre was reached this week with the announcement that its founder director, Mr Jack Bungard, was retiring.

And to mark the occasion, Watford College governors agreed unanimously last week to honour him with the title of the centre's Director Emeritus, the first honour of its kind ever to be awarded to a retiring member of the college's academic staff.

Mr Bungard, who lives in Bovingdon with his wife and 15-year-old son, was given the task of establishing the centre in 1964 after an executive career in industry and management consultancy.

Four years later, the centre was officially opened at Bucks Hill House, a Victorian manor house near Chipperfield, and since then has grown into a nationally acclaimed short-course training centre for aspiring managers in industry.

Now entirely self-financing, the centre boasts an annual intake of about 500 students from a large diversity of companies across the county and the country as a whole.

The success of the centre is a tribute to the ambitious determination of Mr Bungard whose firm commitment to the partnership between education and industry has seen the centre develop from humble beginnings in a St Albans Hotel to the high-tech teaching environment of its present home.

Born in Essex and educated at Culford School before entering the war as a flying instructor, his civilian career began in his father's shoe company.

Progressing to general manager of a division of Tuf shoes, he switched to management consultancy in 1958 — a field which included a short spell as financial director to Acker Bilk, Humphrey Lyttleton and Nat Gonnella.

Since taking over the directorship of the management centre he has received a long list of appointments.

He is a member of Watford College's Academic Board and Governing Body, the Chess Schools Advisory Committee, the Schools Appeal Committee, the NATFHE Regional Council and the Board of Examiners for the Diploma in Management Studies at Hatfield Polytechnic.

He is also a member of the Institute of Marketing, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors and a Fellow and former council member of the British Institute of Management.

Apart from becoming Emeritus Director of the management centre, his most recent academic award is an honoury doctorate from an African university.

He is joined in his retirement by Mr John Trotter and his wife Gwen who have worked at the management centre since 1972 as steward and housekeeper respectively.

He is succeeded as director by his second-in-command, Mr Roger Pringle.

But companies who have benefited from Mr Bungard's wisdom over the years will not see the last of him.

Bowing to popular demand, he will continue to help out in grooming managers for the demands of modern industry on a more ad hoc basis.

Pictured in the grounds of the West Herts Management Centre (from left to right) are Mr Pringle, centre secretary Mrs Jennifer Dimond, Mr Trotter, Mr Bungard, Mrs Trotter and Mr Ken Young, head of Management Studies at Watford College. WO D4310

TREASURE TRAIL TROPHIES



EVERY entrant in Sarratt's annual children's treasure hunt won a trophy or a medal this year.

The four- mile cross country course was mapped out by the village Conservative Association for the children, although the event is a non-political activity.

It was decided to hold the treasure hunt during the school holidays this year as the usual date in May clashed with the elections. Although only 20 children turned up organisers say it was a great success and everyone enjoyed a celebration tea in the village hall afterwards.

Winners in the senior section were Mark Dennis and Stephen Gaisford. Junior winners were Adam Spackman, Christopher Dunn, Benjamin Wynes and Christopher Kemp.

Winners of the poster competition were: 1. Lisa Keys and Alison McArdle; 2. Christopher Waller and David Harrison; 3. Jake Griffiths and Luke McHale.

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 21.8.1987

Nostalgia night

WATFORD OBSERVER 28.8.1987



OLD FULLERIANS celebrated their 40th Anniversary with a cricket week and a memory-jerking, thought-provoking dinner at the New Field on Friday night.

Said stalwart and fixture secretary John Cook: "It is an occasion for nostalgia with so many founder members here tonight."

Dick Hughes, the former Worcestershire fast bowler was instrumental in founding the club 40 years ago, and together with Peter Southern called a meeting in March 1947.

"We were disappointed that so many good cricketers were leaving Watford Grammar School and playing for other clubs. We wanted to form a club and keep them together and it is very gratifying to be here tonight and see the club still going on, 40 years later, and keeping it social as opposed to League cricket."Dick Hughes told diners.

"It is an achievement to keep the club going exclusively for the Grammar School old boys."

After the first season, the club had an income of £41.50, charged 10 shillings membership and five shilling for under 21s; and at the cost of 17s 6d (75p) teas would be provided for 22 players and umpires.

Tributes were paid to former members such as Ralph Human, John McGee, Barry Palmer, Jim Lister, Arthur Tomkins, Roy Seymour, Trevor Saunders, Tom Wilks (scorer of the first century) and inevitably Dick Hughes.

"Dick was in spectacular form one day in 1948 when we got Sarratt out for nine. The other month, passing through Chipperfield, Dick saw one of his victims from that match, a Mr Ron Cox, passing on the other side of the road," related John Cook.

"Dick waved to him and Ron ducked."

Grammar School headmaster, Keith Turner, revealed that out of 1,200 matches played, Old Fullerians had won 36 per cent and had shown club cricket in "it's best light".

Conratulations were also passed on to present-day cricketers such as David Gardner who has just passed the 1000 run-mark and captain Andy Gould who recently scored a maiden century.

Pictured above; (from left to right); Dick Hughes, Keith Turner, Ian Avent (Chairman of the Old Fullerians' Association), Andrew Gould (Captain), John Cook (Fixture Secretary). WO Photo D5542.

WO Photo D5542

CASH NEEDED TO SAVE HALL

KLG. 27-8-87

VILLAGERS face the daunting task of raising £100,000 to save Sarratt Village Hall from being burnt down.

Various fund-raising schemes are being discussed by the trustees who are disappointed that no financial help has been offered by the local district council. The hall needs to be re-built at the back because its wooden walls and corrugated iron roof are a fire hazard.

At the moment only the front part of the hall can be used and accommodation is very cramped. The trustees applied to Three Rivers' District Council for a grant last year but although the councillors were sympathetic to the Sarratt cause they felt that £100,000 would place too great a strain on funds and asked for a complete breakdown of the amount involved.

At that time Sarratt district councillor, Mrs Linda Bond, explained that she is torn between supporting villagers in their need for a well-built, safe hall and her duty as a member of the District Council to ensure that the funds are equally distributed throughout the area. The amount needed to repair Sarratt Village Hall would represent one-third of the council's annual capital programme for community and leisure services and members hope that other bodies might come forward to contribute to the cost of the re-furbishment scheme.

There seems to be another problem with tracing the deeds of the village hall and the management committee has set about tracking them down. Mr Joe Childs, of The Green, Sarratt, is chairman of that committee and he told the Gazette:"We are faced with having to find this money through fund-raising and at present we are looking at ways of how best to tackle a mammoth scheme of this kind. We must look to the future and provide the village with a sound structure for all the various groups which use it."

Chips go down as stylish Sarratt win at last

WATFORD OBSERVER 28.8.87

SARRATT beat a Chipperfield side for the first time in 31 years on Sunday and did so in convincing style.

Batting first they were boosted by a good partnership from Darren Seabrook, 34, and Patrick Waterfield, 35. Chipperfield seconds then threatened to breakthrough but John Aldersley laid the foundation for a healthy 207 for nine declared total with a great half century.

Chipperfield seconds, who have enjoyed an impressive run up until the weekend, sportingly went for the runs. But demon bowler Roger Dracott sparked a dramatic collapse with a 6-21 haul. The opposition slumped from 80 for one to 115 all out to give Sarratt a 92-run victory on a good batting track.

On Saturday, chasing Pelicans' 136 for eight target, Seabrook excelled with an unbeaten 80 to see the village side to a comfortable nine wicket win.

How a dream came true

WO 4-9-87



DREAMS of getting away from it all with a new life and a cottage in the country have come true for one Watford couple — but not without a few nightmares along the way.

Les and Linda Lowther abandoned their suburban Cassiobury estate home last year to set up a new business in sleepy Sarratt.

Their consuming passion for the last ten years has been antiques. In July 1986 they finally decided to throw caution to the wind and put everything into their hobby.

After months of searching they found the ideal place.

"It was a beautiful cottage on the Green and it had been an antique shop before. "We thought it ideal," said Linda, pictured.

They sacrifced the spacious comfort of their

By CHRIS BLYTHE

Watford home and moved in.

Then came the builders. . . "We initially called them in just to move a door, but once they started investigating things went from bad to worse. The place needed a lot more work than we had anticipated.

"It has taken a whole year and in that time we've had virtually everything done — the damp course, new floors, walls and ceilings. It cost a fortune.

"We had to be very careful when we replaced everything, especially with the brick and flint walls. The whole village is a conservation area including the house. No-one knows how old the house is exactly but it is at least 200 years. It used to be a corn chandlers," said Linda.

Luckily husband Les had kept on at his job as a design engineer in London and the family slowly adjusted to their new life.

There was dust everywhere and the builders were there the whole time but the couple coped, happy in their new found chaos. They still found time at the weekends to hunt out old pieces of furniture and bric-a-brac.

Les's speciality is old furniture and Linda loves porcelain. Between the two of them they have stocked the shop to the hilt with their favourite pieces, using the adjacent barn as a storage room. They have used a lot of their own antiques as stock because they had too many to fit into their new, more cramped accomodation.

Now their months of hardship are at an end, and the shop, called Penrose Antiques as the previous one was, is open. Les still works in London while Linda looks after the business and the family are settling in happily to their new life — until the next time the builders arrive.

WO D5622

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WATF. OBS. 18-9-1987

Helicopter 'hell' may be a mercy mission

DO THE Croxley Green residents who complained at a recent Parish Council meeting, of local helicopter activity (your report on page 19 last week) really believe it is "making life hell for thousands of Three Rivers residents?" Surely it isn't as bad as all that! (Have they given thought to what those aircraft may well be doing?)

The impression I get from reading your report is that they imagine pilots are not only indifferent to the effect that their flying may have upon people on the ground, but even delight in "mucking about" persistantly over certain areas.

As a founder-member and vice-president of the Helicopter Club of Great Britain, and as one of the original members of the council of management of the British Helicopter Advisory Board, I have been privileged to know hundreds of helicopter pilots over a period of 22 years. I can speak with certainty that every one is proud of the privilege he has of being able to fly a helicopter and is anxious not to do anything to jeopardise his licence.

We all know of the wonderful works of the air-sea rescue teams, but few know of the life saving flights that have been made by private and company aircraft. My daughter Britain's first womens commercial helicopter pilot, was called upon by the Thames Valley police late one summer evening to help look for someone who had taken an over-dose of drugs and wandered off leaving a suicide note. She found him in the middle of a field of ripening corn. He was taken to hospital and survived.

I was called upon, one Christmas Eve to pick up a team of doctors from Addenbrooks Hospital in Cambridge and fly them to Stoke-on-Trent to obtain a liver for a 16 year-old girl who was desperately ill. I couldn't fly myself but I had a pilot — a teetotaler — who did the night flight to and from the grounds of the hospitals. That young lady made a good recovery and hopefully she is alive today.

I was less successful when, while visiting friends in Rutland, I was called upon by the police to search for a youngster who had wandered off. We searched canals, rivers and quarries but unfortunately failed to find him. Several days later his body was found among debris in the river.

I could recount many tales of errands of mercy that have been done by private pilots.

Fortunately there are happier stories, too, such as bringing Father Christmas to land on the village green —this I did for many many years. Also visiting the Red Cross holiday camp for mentally and physically handicapped children so that they could enjoy sitting in the pilot's seat, listening to the local air traffic controller on the aircraft's radio and talking to the controller if he were not busy and his airspace was sufficiently small to make this possible.

All the above instances are those associated with just my daughter and myself. Every pilot has similar stories to tell.

Should the Croxley Green councillors like me to meet them to explain the steps taken by all concerned with the flying of helicopters to aviod nuisance and ensure safety I would be happy to do so. In the meantime may I hope that your readers, when they see a helicopter above them, will say to themselves "One day he may be needed urgently by someone — maybe me. — **Rowland Absalom, Victoria House, The Green, Sarratt.**

No special rules at fireworks fire

PARENTS of young children who are worried about the danger of fireworks at a village bonfire have been warned to stay away on November 5.

Sarratt Parish Council has heard that some parents are concerned that there are no restrictions on the letting off of fireworks at the annual bonfire on The Green and have been asking for new rules to make it safer for toddlers. But councillors decided that they could not introduce special rules because it would cause supervision difficulties.

Councillor Mrs Val Cumming said:"The problem is that it would be dangerous to ban individual fireworks from the main bonfire area because that would only lead to them being let off in an unlit place where the dangers would increase. Unless we accept responsibility for supervision we can't say what should and should not happen on The Green on November 5."

But the parish council is to ban old furniture and household items from the bonfire this year. Only items approved by the village warden will be used and no children are to be allowed to help to build up the bonfire. Councillors claim that the days of youngsters collecting wood for the annual bonfire are over and that it is more likely to be used as a rubbish dump for people bringing their unwanted items by car. They want to establish a traditional bonfire of wood and other suitable burning materials which will do much less damage to the grass on The Green and provide a splendid blaze for the villagers.

Kerbs on the Green

WO 25.9.87

SPARE cash from Sarratt parish council funds is being used to pay for new kerbs on the Green.

Worried councillors raised £1,000 to pay for their fight against a roundabout on the Chipperfield road in the A41 Bypass Inquiry.

Now the roundabout is not being built and so the money is being spent to finish the kerbing, which villagers say is long overdue.

● Sarratt parish councillors are angry about road works in North Hill that cost £25,000. They say that banks at the top of the hill look tatty and should be tidied by the district council.

Campfire carols to scout for help

KLG 4.9.87



SCOUTS and guides brought parents and friends along to meet troop leaders at a camp fire and barbecue on Saturday.

Although the evening was planned as a social event it also raised funds for Sarratt's scout hut, which needs repair and will hopefully be replaced once enough money has been donated.

More than 60 adults and about 80 children attended the camp fire at Greenacres in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt. Organisers were delighted that the weather dried up for a pleasant evening and everyone enjoyed singing songs late into the night.

Sarratt scouts are also appealing to the public for some stacking chairs in the hope that a local firm or household may be replacing old ones. Mrs Margaret Eteen told the Gazette:"If anyone can spare some stacking chairs we would be enormously grateful as we need them desperately for our scout and guide meetings." If anyone can help please contact Mrs Eteen on Kings Langley 69918.

A note from the Chairman:

As on every occasion like this, thanks must go to so many people for their help and contributions. So, with apologies for any omissions, thank you very much:

Jeffery Holland for giving us his time.
Sarratt School and Mr Alexander for his co-operation.
Donors of the marvellous Raffle prizes.
Parents for their donations of cakes, gifts, etc.
Red Cross (Croxley Green Branch).
The committee - for their hard work.

One of our main aims this year is to raise funds for Sarratt Youth Club - over 50 children are now members. We continuously need to raise money for our Swimming Pool too. So, thank you for coming today - enjoy yourselves!

Entertainment

Competitions

Grand Raffle

Sideshows

Sarratt Parents Association Present Their

Michaelmas Fair

Saturday 26 September, 1987
at
SARRATT SCHOOL

Programme 10p

KLG 2.10.87



Spike picks a village's fancy winner

THE holiday camp atmosphere of fun and laughter was infectious at Sarratt's Michaelmas Fair last Saturday when actor Jeffrey Holland, who plays Spike in Hi-de-Hi, was the guest celebrity.

The Irish Workshop Band came along as well with their fiddles and all the children dressed up as cartoon characters for the fancy dress competition. All the money raised will go towards the village youth club and school funds.



1987

Hi-De-Hi and low-de-low!



STEADY, Spike! Popular yellow coat Jeffrey Holland nearly comes a cropper at Sarratt fair.

The hapless Hi-De-Hi star had no head for heights when cheeky Christopher Waller, 9, challenged him to a ride on the Cresta Run at the village knees-up on Saturday.

But he wobbled his way through and proved he can still raise a smile, miles away from the Hawaiian ballroom and his Maplins' mates.

Jeffrey, who lives in Chipperfield, had revellers in stitches with his antics at the fair, organised by Sarratt Parents' Association. This year a whacking £750 was raised for village organisations.

For fun filled photos and reports of all the area's fetes and festivals see inside.

WO D6515

WATFORD OBSERVER 2.10.87

WO. 2.10.87

Lordship of the Manor up for sale



WHAT'S in a name — the tongue in cheek question Shakespeare posed 400 years ago is answered this week by estate agents in Kings Langley. It's money!

The Lordship of the Manor of Micklefield is up for sale. It is one of the oldest titles in the country, granted to St Albans by King Offa, and dates back to Domesday.

At the moment it belongs to a property company.

Despite the fact that the buyer will not even get the original documentation, which provides all the historical evidence, some on 16th and 17th century skins, Faulkners expect it will fetch around £20,000.

Within days of advertising the sale, about a dozen people, mostly from this area — Micklefield is near Sarratt — had expressed an interest.

Derek Bromley at Faulkners says the closer a title for sale is to London the higher its price.

It's not an heraldic title. There is no seat for the owner in the House of Lords. The buyer can't call himself Lord. He is entitled only to use Lord of the Manor of Micklefield after his name or as letterhead.

Derek says one of the earliest deeds is dated 1260 and there are manorial rights, some relating to the River Chess, but they would need to be carefully researched to see if they are still in existence.

"There are so many old documents, some in old English, to go through," he says.

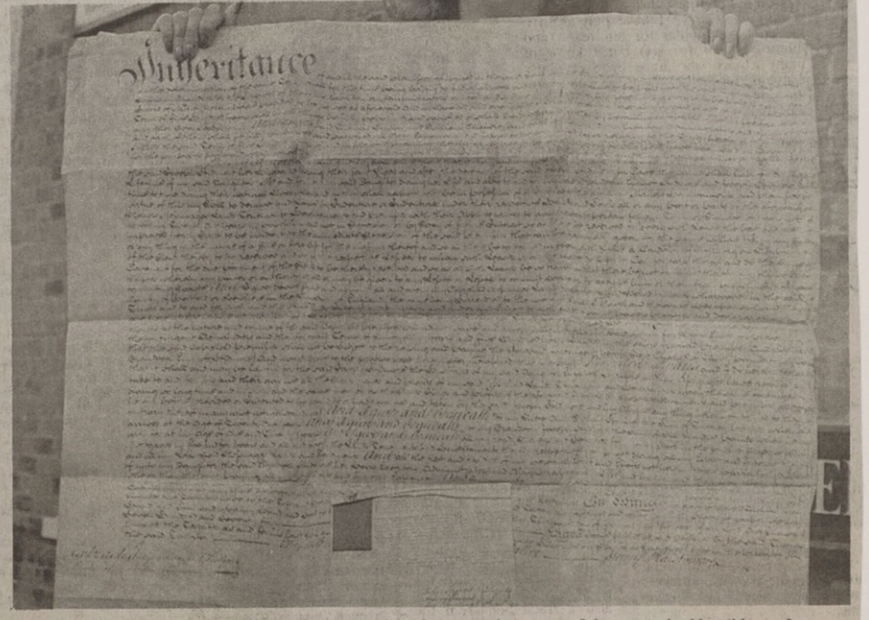
The title was separated from the Micklefield Hall estate formerly owned by the Clutterbuck family, when it was broken up in the 1970s.

Richard Edmonds, chairman of Clements now owns Micklefield Hall, and a large proportion of the land. The rest of the estate, including cottages, woodland and land is owned by the Trinity Street Property Company.

The title, Derek explained, is of no interest to the property company, but the documentation is also the title to the estate, and they need to keep the original deeds.

They have planning permission to build on a Solesbridge Lane plot, within the original grounds of Micklefield Hall, and will sell the title with that, if a price for it alone is not reached.

So all a buyer needs to become Lord of Micklefield it seems, is the money.



Faulkners negotiator Marion Windsor showing some of the documentation on one of the country's oldest titles up for sale.

WO D6459

SCHOOL WILL NOT CHANGE COUNTIES

CONCERNED parents in the throes of choosing a secondary school for their children have been reassured that the future of St Clement Danes School is safe.

The majority of pupils from Sarratt primary school travel to Chorleywood to attend St Clement Danes comprehensive school and many from Chipperfield and Bovingdon also choose to go there, although the school is not within the Dacorum division. But this year some parents have been concerned over a boundary issue which could take the school into Buckinghamshire.

At present the voluntary aided school, with a strong historic tradition from its days as the North London Grammar School, is a Hertfordshire comprehensive school which attracts pupils from a wide area. Although parents from Sarratt, Chipperfield and Bovingdon are not officially given the choice of St Clement Danes School by Dacorum's divisional education department many exercise their right to opt for it as a first preference when they are choosing a secondary school for their children.

The school stands right on the boundary between Bucks and Herts in Chorleywood and although the school building is officially within the Herts border the playing fields are actually in Bucks. A public meeting in June was held to review the Chorleywood boundary by the Local Government Boundary Commission. But a report on that meeting won't be produced before parents have to make a choice of school for their 11-year-olds for next year.

Mr Peter Conway, headmaster at St Clement Danes School, told the Gazette: "It was perfectly obvious at that public meeting that no-one wants the boundary to be changed. We were left in no doubt that the majority of people want to see this school continue in Hertfordshire and I am convinced that it will remain a Hertfordshire comprehensive school for the forseeable future."

He has written to prospective parents to reassure them that there is to be no change in status for the school and to tell them that he is convinced the school will not be moved into another county. Mr Conway insists that "there is absolutely no truth in any rumours that the school will be moved into Buckinghamshire."

One of the problems with a boundary review is that the two counties have totally different systems of education which means that while St Clement Danes School remains in Hertfordshire it would continue to be a comprehensive school. But in Buckinghamshire there is a two-tier education system of grammar schools and secondary modern schools.

A parent who attended the school's recent speech day said that Mr Conway gave an assurance that St Clement Danes would never become a secondary modern schools.

2.10.87

The Editor
Watford Observer
124 Rickmansworth Road
WATFORD
Herts.

The Rectory
The Green
SARRATT
Rickmansworth
Herts. WD3 6BP

10th October, 1987

Sir,

I read with incredulity the article I am supposed to have written in the Watford Observer (Sept. 25th). No wonder residents in Sarratt are angry, and no wonder I have recieved angry anonymous telephone calls.

At no time have I ever stated what your journalist and newspaper have perported that I have said.

I made no initial reply to the article because it was so muddled, confused and outrageous, that I thought no one would believe it. However some have (Watford Observer Oct. 9th) and this makes me very sad because it shows a lack of trust in their Parish Priest.

I hold your newspaper totally responsible for this form of journalism which has caused me, my wife and children severe distress and worry, and gives me concern as to whether I have a future ministry to fulfil in Sarratt.

I therefore demand an unreserved published apology for gross misrepresentation on my behalf and an unreserved published apology to the People of Sarratt for the contempt in which your newspaper appears to hold them.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Culverwell (Vicar)

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1987 9

Scrooge does not live in Sarratt

WITH so much being said about Sarratt at the moment, I thought your readers might like to know about the Real Sarratt.

On October 17 my friend and I ran a coffee morning in aid of Heathlands School for Deaf Children.

The posters went up; local shops and pubs gave us raffle prizes,(even my local butcher in Croxley). Mums were asked to make cakes, children of the local school saved two pence pieces, and some of the older children of the Youth Club offered to come and help.

We had not taken into consideration Thursday's storm and the awful winds on Friday that took down most of the posters and left most of the village without electricity.

But providence smiled on us, the wind had gone, and the sun was out, and by the look of things so were half the village and they were coming our way.

Time and time again we heard "Sorry I couldn't make you a cake but I haven't any electricity, will this donation be ok?". And donate they did. We made £350 for the school and £70 for the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

But it wasn't only money they donated, it was their kindness and generosity they brought with them. Many raffle prizes were put back to auction at the end, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

In the Good Book it says "Seek and ye shall find...", well, thanks to everyone here, we certainly found. Scrooge may be alive and well, but he doesn't live here! — **Mrs Carol Gaisford, Alexandra Road, Sarratt.**

Nice Oliver twist



NAMES will be no problems during Amanda Theatre Club's rehearsals for the much-loved musical 'Oliver' — both boys chosen to share the leading role are called Oliver !

Seen here practicing one of the most famous lines "Please Sir, I want some more," are Oliver Mardling (left) and Oliver Clark.

Oliver Mardling lives in Kings Langley is a pupil at Sarratt JMI School. Oliver Clark lives in Rickamnsworth and goes to St Clement Danes School. Both boys have previous acting experience. Oliver Clark has even appeared on television, in nine episodes of 'Jenny Briggs'. You may also recognise his face from TV commercials.

The show is due to be performed at Watersmeet, Rickmansworth, from March 22 until 26, next year.

● Auditions for all the adult parts and some children's parts, including the Artful Dodger, takes place on Sunday October 25. Anyone interested in joining Chorleywood-based Amanda Theatre Club to be considered for a part in 'Oliver', or to be in the chorus, should telephone the Secretary Jenny de Courcey-Hughes on 02406-3537 (evenings) as soon as possible.

W.O 16.10.87

KLS 9.10.87

Gardening tradition



HERBERT Simmonds first put up a sign outside his home in Chipperfield in 1907 to announce his intention to sell a few garden plants to passing customers.

This week his grandson, Terry, is celebrating the 80th birthday of the family garden centre business which has grown into a major village industry.

Customers now travel to Chapel Croft from all over the area to buy plants to enhance their gardens. But today they can also purchase a set of patio furniture, garden swings and slides or even a conservatory.

Terry Simmonds, who studied horticulture at Reading University, has great ambitions for the family business which he hopes to turn into the local leading garden centre. He is a keen collector of historical garden tools and has set up a special exhibition in the new greenhouse to display such items as the oldest rotary cultivator in the country and a 1930s lawn sprinkler.

There are also pre-war mowers and potting tools which are now extinct. Eventually Terry, who is married to Jacky and has four children, hopes to open the country's first gardening museum at Chipperfield. He travels all over Britain examining old gardening tools and his collection is already recognised as one of the finest of its kind.

His father James, and mother, Mimie, still help out at Simmonds Garden Centre and Terry's two brothers, Philip and Robin, are both in the nursery business in the village. Philip has a wholesale plant business and Robin produces peats and composts at his plot just 100 yards down the road.

They all work together to produce the wide range of garden flowers, shrubs and plants on sale at the garden centre and will proudly tell you of their grandfather's contribution to world-wide catalogues. For he cultivated the now popular Cotoneaster Hybrida Pendula which is a lush green shrub with red berries. It can be seen in many gardens both at home and abroad and Terry once spotted one sprouting from a cafe garden on a Paris pavement when he was visiting the French capital.

Herbert also cultivated the Helenium Chipperfield Onge which certainly put the village on the map in the horticultural world but didn't prove as popular with the plant buying public. Terry says that they all owe their green fingers to their grandfather who had no idea what a future he was building when he put up that first sign in his garden 80 years ago.

As a gesture of reminiscence Simmonds are selling seeds this week at 1907 prices to customers who call in and may perhaps stay to browse around Terry's historical display.

First for Nicholas

SARRATT scout, 15-year-old Nicholas Jenner wrote a small piece of history last week when he became the first person from the Rickmansworth and Chorleywood area to receive his chief scouts award since the introduction of new rules.

The changes relate to the tasks scouts must perform to be eligible for the award.

Nicholas was presented with his chief scout badge at the scout hut in Church Lane, Sarratt on Tuesday evening.

He is pictured (right) after receiving the badge from Mr Roy Eteen, group scout leader (left). Also pictured are Mr John ("Flight") Cracknell (centre left) and Mr Noel Rabbetts, Sarratt scout leader. WO D6840



'GET INVOLVED' NEWCOMERS TOLD

PROSPEROUS newcomers to Sarratt have a duty to become involved in village life, according to the new Rector, the Rev. Martin Culverwell.

He claims that if you can afford the expensive properties in Sarratt you cannot just use them as a bed and breakfast retreat but must contribute to the village spirit and the life of the community. Otherwise it may eventually be eroded away and Sarratt could become just another dormitory suburb.

He told the Gazette: "If living in Sarratt requires both husband and wife to work long hours every day outside the village then you must ask whether they have got their priorities right. I believe everyone living here has a duty to involve themselves in village life, not necessarily in the church at all because there are plenty of different activities and organisations. In fact, it is possible to totally exhaust oneself simply by attending all the various village activities.

"That is not what I am recommending at all but rather to ensure that each newcomer does contribute to his or her environment. Sarratt could become a home merely for the wealthy and opulent who would send their children to public schools and shop in the nearby towns. This could lead to a closure of the village school and the local shops which would eventually destroy the village character."

The Rev. Culverwell is concerned that the core of village life in Sarratt could depend upon newcomers' willingness to involve themselves in the community and he believes that its unique character can be preserved if they follow his code. He would like to see the newcomers taking great care of the "feel" of the village which they have moved into so that Sarratt life can continue to flourish.

He predicts that if these new villagers don't take steps to involve themselves in local activities but merely use their homes as retreats then "the very ethos of the village into which they have moved will die and disappear."

KLG 16.10.87

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1987 taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	1, 4th / 9.5	12th /-11.0	12th /-15.7	4th / 7.7	14.0	
February	28th / 14.0	1st / -9.0	19th /-10.0	26th / 9.4	32.2	
March	17,24/13.0	13th / -7.0	13th /-10.5	26th /13.5	62.6	last snow, 29th.
April	25th / 22.0	13th / 0.5	13th / -3.6	4th / 11.8	56.4	1st cuckoo heard, 25th.
May	9,26 / 21.5	8th / -0.5	8,9 / -2.5	30th / 9.5	65.7	last air frost, 8th.
June	29th / 26.5	10th / 3.0	16th / -0.1	8th / 21.6	105.5	last ground frost, 16th.
July	6th / 28.0	4,19 / 6.5	26th / 2.6	29th / 12.1	67.7	
August	20th / 27.0	6th / 5.5	6th / 3.3	1st / 12.4	46.7	
September	1st / 23.5	29th / 2.0	29th / -2.2	-------	44.2	1st ground frost, 27th
October	2,5th/ 17.5	25th / -2.0	25th / -4.5	20th / 40.8	195.0	1st air frost, 25th.
November	17,19/ 12.0	29th / -5.0	29th / -7.0	11th / 22.8	64.1	
December	17th / 13.0	11th / -5.0	11th / -8.0	30th / 10.0	41.5	1st snowfall of winter, 9th.

1987

WATFORD OBSERVER 13-12-87

Editorial, Advertising, Watfo

School play is a blast



PENSIONERS in Sarratt were rocketed by schoolchildren this week — in a Christmas play called Blast Off.

Old folk packed the tiny hall at Sarratt JMI for a special free performance of the space-age farce on Monday.

The play, starring 43 children and staff, tells the story of a headmaster whose school is threatened with closure, so he builds a rocket and roars off into the skies as a publicity stunt.

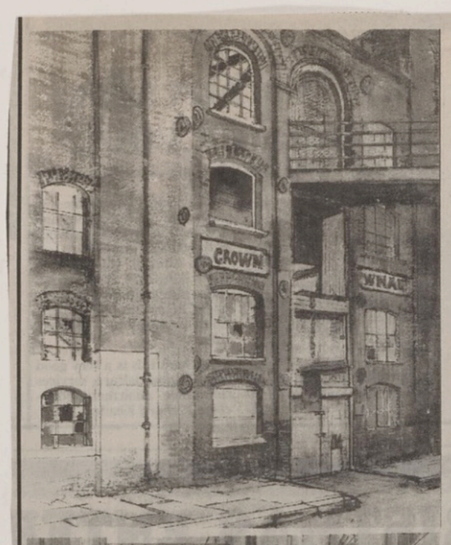
Head teacher Chris Alexander plays the moon bound master himself, while teachers take on the other adult roles.

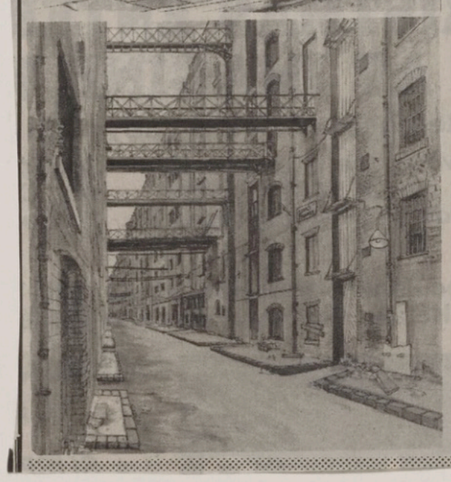
He said: "It really was a smashing afternoon and all the pensioners had a great time."

Already the school has raised £100 for the Children in Need Appeal with parents' donations at its infants nativity.

Now Mr Alexander hopes to double that with performances of Blast Off on evenings this week.

WO D8827





WATFORD OBSERVER 4-12-87

Makes a good im-Press-ion!

By NICKY BOLSTER



THE WORK of Sarratt artist Gillian Burrows is proving a real hit with Fleet Street journalists, usually the hardest people to please.

She is currently holding her seventh exhibition in Scribes Cellar, Carmelite Street, a favourite hang-out of Fleet Street hacks. On the first night of the show alone she sold half of the pictures.

The reason for her popularity with the pressmen could well be the interest she has shown in the newspaper buildings in Fleet Street.

With nearly all the papers planning to move away from the area her portrayals of the buildings are in great demand.

Her original painting of the Northcliffe House, at present the home of the Daily Mail, is to be given to the paper's owner Lord Rothermere by Geoffrey Van-Hay, of Scribes Cellar.

Lesser pressmen have snapped up Gillian's limited edition prints of their old haunts.

She regrets not having had the time to do more of this kind of work. "I have let a lot of places be pulled down without recording them," she says.

Her artistic career began with a graphic design course at the former Watford Technical College.

She went on to work for various agencies, but always ended up working for herself. "I suppose I'm a loner really. That is why you never see any people in my paintings," she says.

She does admit though that even she occasionally finds painting too lonely. To make up for it, her solitary sessions are punctuated by the hectic months when she is in the middle of an exhibition.

While Gillian is working away in her studio her two sons, aged 11 and 12, can often be found painting themselves. "I think I have taught them to be quite observant," she says.

Her elder son in particular has inherited her enthusiasm. "I show him an idea of how to use something and he will take it one step further."

Although much of her inspiration comes from wandering round the countryside near her Sarratt home, Gillian describes herself as a fair weather painter as far as this is concerned.

A lot of the cottages in the area were finding their way into her watercolours about five years ago. This led to a request for a picture of the old school house in Chipperfield from the developer who was converting the building.

Soon afterwards she did a painting of the West End store Libertys, which was later made into a postcard and sold in the store.

Although some of Gillian's watercolours come straight from her imagination, such scenes will invariably be made up of features of the countryside near where she lives. "This is my form of escapism out of the chaos," she explains.

Pictures Gillian has in the pipeline for the future will be more impressionistic than much of her work at present.

Commissions are now pouring in for copies of her paintings. She does not feel, however, that she can produce an exact replica to order. "I couldn't paint the same old thing over and over again," she says.

But she does find her work on commisssions stimulating. "I enjoy the challenge of any new job that comes along."

Asked if she felt restricted by the commissions, she says: "I find freedom within the restriction."

She says she also works far harder under those conditions. "Everything goes by the board. Sometimes I work through the night. It doesn't impair my work at all because I work well under pressure."

PRODUCER	MRS. S. THOMAS
PROMPTER	MRS. M. WALKER
LIGHTING	MRS. A. GRIFFITHS
SOUND EFFECTS	MR. P. WYNES
SCENERY	MR. R. SINDALL
COSTUMES	MRS. B. KEYS AND THE CAST

Our thanks to all who have provided items of clothing and props for this production. Sincere thanks also to all adults giving their time and energy to take part.

There will be a plate at the door to receive your contributions to 'Children in Need'. The extent of your generosity will indicate how much you enjoyed the show.

Carol Service

10 a.m. Wednesday, December 16th in the School Hall. All welcome.

'Oliver'

Look out for ticket booking forms in the New Year. March 22nd - 26th at Watersmeet.

SARRATT J.M.I. SCHOOL

Christmas 1987

'B L A S T O F F ! '

by

Tom Stanier & Jim Parker

Tom Stanier & Jim Parker

Monday, December 7th 2 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9th 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10th 7.30 p.m.

'BLASTOFF!'

CAST

(in order of appearance)

MRS. BONWICK, school secretary	HERSELF
DORIS, cleaner in charge	MRS. MARDLING
MAVIS, another cleaner	BELINDA RICE
GLADYS, yet another cleaner	SAMANTHA REEVES
MR. ALEXANDER, headmaster	HIMSELF
Space Crew - ANDREW, the professor	ANDREW NICE
PETER	PETER MARRIOTT
DAVID	DAVID HARRISON
LUCY	LUCY ROSENTHAL
LAUREN	LAUREN JOHNSTON
LISA	LISA KEYS
BOROUGH SURVEYOR	OLIVER MARDLING
MISS HUGGINS	MRS. SINDALL
U.F.O.	MARK CLOUGH
BLACK HOLE	JONATHAN BONWICK
ADAM of 'The Observer'	ADAM CLACK

ALIEN 1	MISS MICHELLE WINGROVE
ALIEN 2	JAMES HALLAM
ALIEN 3	JOSHUA LEWSEY
ALIEN 4	PHILIP HOMER
EXPRESS MAN	MATTHEW ILLINGWORTH
RADIO WOMAN	JANE BUNTING
PHOTOGRAPHER	IAN CRAWT
JULIAN WILLOUGHBY, T.V. producer	BEN WHITE
CAMERAMAN	DAVID BINES
SOUND RECORDIST	LUKE McHALE
WHITE HOLE	CAREY SINDALL
1ST REPORTER	JAKE GRIFFITHS
2ND REPORTER	DESMOND ATKINS
3RD REPORTER	PETE CHAPMAN
TELEX OFFICIAL	CHRIS WALLER

SCHOOL CHILDREN - Chorus

KELLY McCARTHY	ALISON McARDLE	LEIGH DAVIES
RACHEL CULVERWELL	GASTON MAGNERE	EDWARD LEWSEY
DEBORAH ILLINGWORTH	ROBERT POWELL	SARAH HERN
AIDAN GRIFFITHS	ANDREW YOUNG	JAMES REEVES
CHRISTOPHER KEMP	KATE BUNTING	ADAM SPACKMAN
CLAIRE MARRIOTT	BEN WYNES	

ACCOMPANIST:- MR. D. CLOUGH DRUMMER:- MR. S. CLEMENTS

JUPITER ROCK

You can keep your rings of Saturn,
You can keep your moons of Mars.
You can keep your solar planets,
And your supernova stars,
Give me Jupiter Rock,
Give me Jupiter Rock,
You can keep the stars
Give me sixteen bars
Of Jupiter Rock.

You can keep your Solar System,
You can keep your Milky Way.
If there's one thing in the universe
That is really here to stay
It's Jupiter Rock,
It's Jupiter Rock.
You can keep the stars, give me sixteen bars
Of Jupiter Rock.

Jupiter - has to be the greatest,
Jupiter - it's the very latest,
Jupiter - it's the up-to-datest.
Jupiter, Jupiter Rock.

Take a sample for your spaceship,
It's the best thing of its kind.
It will energise your asteroids,
It will blow your cosmic mind.
Give me Jupiter Rock,
Give me Jupiter Rock.
You can keep the stars, give me sixteen bars
Of Jupiter Rock.

It will activate your motors,
It will make you go for bust.
It will get you into hyperdrive,
It will give your rocket thrust,
Give me Jupiter Rock,
Give me Jupiter Rock.
You can keep the stars,
Give me sixteen bars,
Of Jupiter Rock.
Jupiter Rock, Jupiter Rock,
Jupiter Rock, Jupiter Rock,
Yeah!

RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD FESTIVAL

Affiliated to THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF MUSIC FESTIVALS

Competitor Holy Cross Choir, Sarratt | Class No. 6 | Entry No. 1

Test Pieces

		Marks
1	The Crown of Roses.	
2	Sanctus	
3		
	TOTAL	89

Merit Certificates ... 75 - 84 marks
Honours Certificates
Medals & Trophies 85 marks and over

1) Do enjoy it more. It would so lift the performance.
A little too much bass line at times but overall a very good performance.

2) Good clear singing. Be sure you all breath at the same time.
To be rather brighter at times would help you not to go flat.
Lovely that you choir includes everyone

Wendy Fulton Adjudicator

RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD FESTIVAL

Affiliated to THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF MUSIC FESTIVALS

Competitor The Sarratt Singers | Class No. 30 | Entry No. 1

Test Pieces

		Marks
1	How is the month	
2		
3	of May sung	
	TOTAL	90

Merit Certificates ... 75 - 84 marks
Honours Certificates
Medals & Trophies 85 marks and over

Excellent Rhythm
and Tone obviously
enjoy Your singing.
lovely clear diction
& Your expression
meaning behind the
words.

Constance Shallcott Adjudicator

RUISLIP-
NORTHWOOD
FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC · SPEECH · DRAMA · DANCING

Certificate of Honour

Awarded to Holy Cross Choir, Sarratt

who gained 1st place in Church Choirs

Chairman

Wendy Fullbrook Adjudicator

Date 21/5/86

RUISLIP-
NORTHWOOD
FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC · SPEECH · DRAMA · DANCING

Certificate of Honour

Awarded to THE SARRATT SINGERS

who gained 1st place in MIXED CHOIRS - (CLASS 30)

Chairman

Adjudicator

Date 1985

RUISLIP-
NORTHWOOD
FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC · SPEECH · DRAMA · DANCING

Certificate of Honour

Awarded to The Sarratt Singers

who gained 1st place in Mixed Choirs

Chairman

Morag Robb Adjudicator

Date 1987

RUISLIP-
NORTHWOOD
FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC · SPEECH · DRAMA · DANCING

Certificate of Honour

Awarded to Holy Cross Choir, Sarratt

who gained 1st place in Church Choirs

Chairman

Morag Robb Adjudicator

Date 1987

Chesham Arts Festival



Certificate of **MERIT**

AWARDED TO

The Sarett Singers

FOR Adult Choir

DATE: 19th FEB 1986 ADJUDICATOR: David Patrick

CHESHAM ARTS FESTIVAL

Affiliated to The British Federation of Music Festivals

Year 1986

Competitor The Sarratt Singers Class No. M73

Entry No. 1

Test Pieces

	MARKS
B The Merry Month of Maying	86
A By Lord, what a morning	82
C	168
TOTAL	84

Scale of Marks

75 represents COMMENDATION
80 represents MERIT
85 represents DISTINCTION
90 represents HONOURS

(A) Where was the Alto at the start!? A pleasant choral sound here. Balance needs greater care at times – more alto needed. Tuning worked well here & the chording was generally secure. Some well pointed rhythmic features. Pitch well maintained.

(B) Vital & rhythmical singing here & the ensemble mostly very tidy. Good dynamic contrasts achieved. When singing lightly & fast take care not to peck at notes at times.

David Patrick ADJUDICATOR

Evidence of careful preparation here.

RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD FESTIVAL

Affiliated to THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF MUSIC FESTIVALS

Competitor Sarratt Singers | Class No. 5 | Entry No. 1

Test Pieces

		Marks
1	Frederick Bridge The Goslings	44
2	Dowland Fine Knacks for Ladyes	42
3		
	TOTAL	86

Merit Certificates ... 75 - 84 marks
Honours Certificates
Medals & Trophies 85 marks and over

1. The story well related with a wide range of dynamics and a straight-faced sense of fun. Perhaps the humming section could have been sadder - the Ab was a little suspect.

2. The cross-rhythms v. well done. The words had too little projection in the soft singing although excellent above p. This is very important in a strophic song.

Margo Noble *Adjudicator*

RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD FESTIVAL

Affiliated to THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF MUSIC FESTIVALS

Competitor Holy Cross Choir Sarratt | Class No. 6 | Entry No. 1

Test Pieces

		Marks
1	Bach O Little One Sweet	45
2	Anon Rejoice in The Lord always.	43
3		
	TOTAL	88

Merit Certificates ... 75 - 84 marks
Honours Certificates
Medals & Trophies 85 marks and over

1. Very sweet toned choral singing with clear parts - the suspended inner parts especially were beautifully done.

2. Good change of mood here with real vitality. Slight loss of rhythmic energy in the p. section but otherwise very well done.

Margo Noble *Adjudicator*

Farmer rescues son from burning home

THE QUICK thinking of a youth on work experience may have saved the life of a three-year-old boy when fire swept through the temporary home of a Sarratt farmer's family on Friday.

By SIMON BERLYN

Eighteen-year-old Callum Guthrie was first to spot the blaze at Cherry Trees Farm, Belsize and shouted to alert farmer Michael Bell who smashed his way into the inferno, cutting and burning his hands, to rescue Willy, his youngest son.

Propane gas cylinders "flew like rockets", one landing in a field tens of yards away; and firemen said that two were burning at the valves.

Within ten minutes of the start of the fire at the prefabricated home the flames, fanned by strong north winds, had it ablaze from end to end, and Mr Bell, his wife Mary and their four children lost all their possessions. No animals were injured.

Mr Bell was treated for his injuries by ambulance crewmen at the scene.

In the aftermath on Sunday the picture was one of charcoal and ashes and of the Bells' home razed to the ground. Only the steel supports on which it had lain remained together with the wood burning stove in the position it had stood.

The wreckage revealed merely a few fragments of everything that had rested within — a pot of old coppers, the barrels of the farmers' guns, a few saucepans.

Firemen from Rickmansworth, Kings Langley and Bovingdon who were alerted to the blaze just before 11 am drew water from hydrants a mile and a half away and set up a relay, but the flames ripped through the structure like dry tinder.

On Sunday Mr Bell said he and his family were absolutely devastated.

"Willy was in there. We have a lad on the farm called Callum Guthrie. If it had not been for him we might not have got Willy out," he said.

"We were talking to someone in the tea-room. Mary had come out for some vegetables for dinner, and he came rushing out calling 'The caravan's on fire' and Mary shouted 'Willy is in there'.

"Willy was up against the window in his bedroom trying to get out. The next bit is blank, and we had got him out," said Mr Bell.

"I just rushed into it because the fire extinguisher was in the kitchen. It was like something off TV. I went in and grabbed the fire extinguisher and I burnt my hand on it," he said.

"We got out. In just 10 minutes it was totally engulfed and it was virtually gone. It was just flames from end to end," he added.

Meanwhile Mary's brother, John Hammond, had been trying to ring the farm from Steiner House in Regents Park.

"I kept trying to ring the farm and I could not get a reply for hours," said Mr Hammond.

Mr Bell said that he and his family had been overwhelmed by the offers of help from neighbours following the blaze. On Sunday the tea-room was already piled up with clothes and furniture. There had been offers of help from Social Services, said Mr Bell.

A young police sergeant had brought Willy a new train set to replace the one lost in the blaze, he said.

The children were dispersed following the fire. Ted, 12, went to Wiltshire. Emmy, seven, went to Chesham, while Beth, 15, and Willy stayed with Mr and Mrs Bell at the home of Mary's brother, Mr David Hammond, near Hemel Hempstead.

The fire occurred as the Bell's new permanent house is taking shape and now efforts to complete it are being speeded up.



Memories of happier days before Friday's blaze. Farmer Michael Bell, who rescued his son Willie from the flames, with his daughter Emmy and the mobile home now just a heap of ashes.

Charity arts show

OVER £1,500 was raised for cancer research at the third Sarratt Arts and Crafts Exhibition last weekend — thanks to Mrs Val Cumming, chairman of the Rickmansworth Branch of the Cancer Research Campaign, and watercolour artist Mrs Jan Clutterbuck.

Twelve artists showed their work at the two day exhibition in The Barn at Little Sarratt Hall. Co-ordinated by Mrs Clutterbuck, it featured country crafts, painting, pottery, jewellery and sculpture.

Cancer Research received 25 per cent of the exhibits' selling price. There was also a raffle of five paintings and watercolours donated by Molly Binfield, Gillian Burrows, Jan Clutterbuck, Judy Heimburger and Elizabeth Stewart Liberty.

Mrs Cumming said she was delighted with the result and hoped to have another fair next year.

Her committee was praised by the Herts, Beds and Northants Cancer Research Campaign area organiser, Mrs Elizabeth Taylor.

"They have always worked tremendously hard with great energy and enthusiasm. The campaign enjoys much support from its local committees and we need at least £25 million each year to keep going," she said.

Mrs Taylor said 92p out of each pound given went directly to research projects.

"You can rest assured that the money you have given us will be wisely used," she added.

Rickmansworth will have a house to house collection for the Cancer Research Campaign from March 6-12.

Tiny treasure hunters seek a real pot of gold

KIDDIE treasure hunters will be flocking to Sarratt on Sunday, March 6 in search of a pig who will give them the clue to finding a real-life "pot of gold!"

"We have a pot made and we have got the gold to put in it and it is really gold, 22 carat gold," said Graham Prentice, the organiser of the children's event at Cherry Trees Organic Farm, Sarratt.

The first clue to its location will be contained in a newspaper advertisement appearing before the event, and the second will be written on a pig at the farm!

The organic farm, which uses only natural farming methods, is run by farmers Michael and Mary Bell who have turned the farm into a popular spot for visitors.

The Bells are still recovering from the fire that recently destroyed their temporary home. The farmer and his wife are living in a metal cabin next to their new house nearing completion, while the couple's children are staying with an uncle.

One of the Bells' most popular facilities is the tea-room in a converted barn at the Belsize farm off Olleberrie Lane where musicians play and organically raised produce is sold.

But Three Rivers planning committee members are less sure about the venue and its growing popularity. At their meeting last week they would only grant the couple a 12 month temporary permisssion to continue using the barn as a tearoom.

The council, who want to gauge the impact of the facilities on the area after a year, also noted the single track approach road to the farm, although this had drawn only one traffic objection and there were none from Sarratt Parish Council.

Mrs Bell complained later that the temporary permission would cost her another £66 planning application fee when she has to renew the approval in a year's time — a fact confirmed by the council.

Cottage critics anger councillors

A LETTER accusing a leading villager of "bulldozing antics" sparked a furious row at a parish council this week.

Outraged Sarratt councillors leapt to the defence of colleague Ron Cox, Chairman of the Greens Committee.

He was attacked in a note from Diana and Stephen Tyler-Dimond of Myrtle Cottages.

They were angry about his attitude at a site meeting to discuss parking problems along the track outside their houses on The Green.

"We were treated with brusqueness and animosity," they wrote. "We have found the bulldozing antics of some of your representatives extremely distasteful and ask you to rectify the matter."

On Monday extracts from the letter were read to the parish council meeting.

By CHRIS BLYTHE

Afterwards Councillor Cox demanded: "You have the chance to rectify it. Sack me as a councillor."

His colleagues were astonished that the note had been circulated to all councillors — a step never taken before. They argued that the controversial site meeting had been very profitable with a good atmosphere.

"We should treat this letter with the contempt it deserves. It is so inaccurate it's untrue," said parish councillor Val Cumming.

"It is very unfair when the Chairman of the Greens committee does such a marvellous job," she said.

Councillors had visited the Tyler-Dimonds after complaints that cottagers' cars were blocking access to Sarratt Junior School and causing damage to the Green.

Parents feared for their children's safety because of the conjestion and lorries delivering oil supplies for central heating had been forced to turn away.

This threatened the school with closure on some occasions and the parish council were called to act.

Members heard that cottagers could not be forced to park their cars somewhere else.

Councillor Cox urged that the track, officially called a wayleave, was widened by two feet to solve the problem.

He said this could save the council £2,000 on the cost of repairing the Green where lorries delivering to the school had created ruts.

It would also improve safety for children leaving school and allow lorries to negotiate the lane.

Councillors supported him and agreed to write to every authority necessary to get permission to reduce the size of the Green.

In the short term it was agreed to fill in the ruts with a type of gravel called hoggin.

Right bunch of bright sparks

BRIGHT sparks at the First Sarratt Cub Scout Pack have picked up a special award for their fund raising efforts.

A shield bearing the words "bright sparks" was presented to pack leader, Sue Nichols, by the Potato Marketing Board, as part of its promotion of early British potatoes.

The Board launched a nationwide campaign that involved encouraging youth groups to come up with original fund raising ventures and to obtain sponsorship.

Money raised in this way has been donated to SPARKS. (Sportsmen's Pledge to aid Research in Crippling Diseases).

The Potato Marketing Board agreed to match every £1 raised with £1 of is own.

And Sarratt's response to this challenge was to organise a summer fete on Sarratt Village Green, which raised £66.

This won the cubs the regional prize of £200, which has been forwarded to SPARKS.

The presentation coincided with Sue Nichols' last evening as Cub Scout Leader.

"I'm delighted with the wording on the shield," said Miss Nichols. "All the cubs I have known have been very bright sparks indeed."

Cottage's face-lift

COUNCIL planners have agreed to the refurbishment of the Grade Two listed Red Lion Cottage, Sarratt Green, a timber-framed building dating from the mid-16th century.

Major restoration of the front elevation involving removal of the gable and repair of the timber frame is said to be required.

The scheme was agreed by Three Rivers Council Planning Committee last week

Lord of your own 'manor'!

THE Lordship of the Manor of Micklefield at Sarratt, formerly belonging to the Clutterbuck family, has been sold at a London auction for £7,500.

The title was bought by a London businessman.

Micklefield was one of 47 Lordships of the Manor titles auctioned by Ray Knappett of Strutt and Parker, estate agents with offices in St Albans, at Painter's Hall, Little Trinity Lane.

Stratford on Avon achieved £87,000 — the highest price paid. Several lots were withdrawn and the average price paid was £11,000.

Lowest prices paid were between £7,000 and £7,500.

The value of a Lordship depends on its location, history and whether rights or property are included in the sale. A Lord or Lady of the Manor is entitled to apply for a coat of arms from the College of Arms.

The new owners can call themselves Lord or Lady of the Manor and have their title printed in their passports, on stationery, cutlery and visiting cards for example.

Lordships of the Manor were granted with estates in land by the Crown to followers for military or civil services rendered, and many Lordships were recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

Knights

The Queen has conferred knighthoods on **Mr Justice Auld, Mr Justice Hazan, Mr Justice McKinnon** and **Mr Justice Pill** on their appointment as Justices of the High Court.



MR R. MEYERS and MISS J. GELL

Australia was the honeymoon destination for Mr Russell Meyers and Miss Juliet Gell who were married at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs K. Steele, of Colne Way, Watford, and the bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Gell, of Penmans Green, Chipperfield. On their return from Australia, the couple will live at the Green, Sarratt.

Photo: Photography by Reflections

Rare honour is only fitting for familiar face

A SARRATT woman who at one time served on 32 committees and action groups at the same time, and whose name and photograph were frequently featured in the Watford Observer, is leaving the district.

Elizabeth Absalom, and her husband Roland who is "half" Welsh, are moving to the Buith Wells area, and on Monday, at the Loudwater home of Ovaltine chief Dr Albert Wander, she announced her resignation from the chairmanship of the Watford and South West Hertfordshire Cancer Relief Committee.

During her 13 years as chairman, the committee has raised £80,000 — more than £8,000 of it last year — and to mark the occasion, she was presented with a certificate of merit, a rare honour, given to only one person in a county each year.

By JEAN GROOME

Elizabeth's career in voluntary service dates back to 1947 when she lived in Oxhey Lane.

Following the general election, the Carpenders Park Conservative Association was formed and she became its first secretary. Four years later she became chairman, a post she held until 1954, when she and Roland moved to Micklefield Green.

From 1954 until 1957 she was chairman of the old King Street Maternity Hospital Committee, and at the same time served on the Watford Hospital Management Committee for Shrodells, Peace Memorial and Holywell hospitals.

"I left when somebody said I'd been on the committee too long," she said this week. "You were allowed to serve 12 years and I had served 13!"

Another voluntary committee which she joined as chairman, was the Stephen Scorer Fund in memory of the Watford gynaecologist. She was also a trustee of the Loosemore Memorial Fund with Dr Wander in memory of a consultant at the Peace Memorial Hospital.

Elizabeth's interest in the world of medicine found another outlet in the Red Cross. She joined as a vice president; became Divisional Director; and when the Red Cross was reorganised she became Centre Organiser.

When she left about 10 or 12 years ago after 20 years' service, she was given a Badge of Honour, made a Life Member, and presented with a Certificate of Commendation.

Then about 13 years ago she was approached by Peter Montague, Cancer Relief area organiser to help with the setting up of the Cancer Relief committee which she has chaired since it was formed — and to which Dr Wander is the only other founder member still serving.

Elizabeth helped to found the Watford Circle of Help, an organisation which as its name suggests aimed to help people with household budgeting problems, and redistributed furniture given for people in need.

She also allowed her lovely garden at Micklefield to be used for Red Cross fetes and coffee mornings, among other charity fund raising events.

Looking back over a busy life devoted to caring voluntary work, Elizabeth says with a modest shrug that her husband was busy with his business, and her daughter Gay was at boarding school. She wanted something to do.

Gay, like her father, is a qualified helicopter pilot. She now lives in Warwickshire, and as a freelance, she helps check electricity lines by helicopter.

Pictured with Elizabeth and her husband, Roland, left, are county Cancer Relief organiser Duncan Milne, who presented her with the Certificate of Merit, Bill Pitt-Ford, retired Watford dental surgeon, right, who is the incoming chairman, Dr Albert Wander, standing behind, left, and Peter Morrill, branch treasurer. WO E1713



WATFORD OBSERVER 18 MARCH 1988



HERTFORDSHIRE is spoiled for choice when it comes to houses for sale.

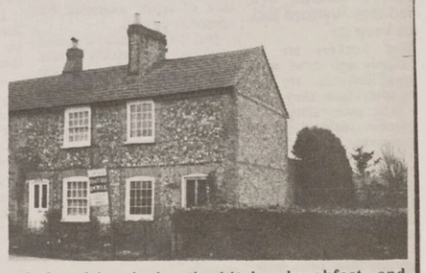
They span the spectrum, large and small, some with historic interest dating back to Tudor times and even earlier, others in a wide variety of modern designs.

They all have one thing in common — they are expensive! But over the years they have proved a sound investment for their owners.

Two pictured here illustrate the point.

The brick and flint two bedroom cottage (bottom) on The Green at Sarratt was sold this year by estate agents Proffitt and Gough for around £125,000.

Manager Stephen Hunt says the pretty home, built at the end of the 19th century, had been modernised, and is quite beautiful.



Towards the other end of the scale, a neo-Georgian, individually designed house (top) at Kings Langley fetched in excess of £400,000.

This four bedroom, two bathroom property with three reception rooms, kitchen-breakfast and utility rooms, double garage, standing in a one acre garden plot and approached by a sweeping gravel driveway, was bought by a company as an investment.

Mr Hunt said: "It has been a buoyant market, but we have had the harvest."

WATFORD OBSERVER 15.4.88

October hurricane may have unearthed archaeological windfall

Roman rubbish leads the way to major discovery



Perhaps 1,800 years ago a Roman hunting dog put his foot in it, and this tile fragment held by Mr Adrian Havercroft, director of Herts Archaeological Trust, has immortalised the imprint. It was hard luck on the tiler though. WO E2348

EXCITED archaeologists excavating a Roman rubbish tip at Chorleywood dating from the 2nd-Century AD now believe they may be on the verge of a major discovery.

They believe they have located the site of one of a series of agricultural villas that ringed the area west of Verulamium, in its day at least as prosperous and important as London.

The site at the Solesbridge Mill Water Gardens has yet to be excavated. The present excavations, covering a wide area alongside the River Colne, and which have yielded up a Roman bronze balancing arm; an iron stylus; shards of pottery with the maker's mark; tile with a hunting dog's paw mark and ancient deer antlers, is just the fringe of what is now thought to have been an extensive development.

The enthusiastic site owner, Mr Richard Sankey, who bought the property last July intending to extend the the range of trout lakes — the area now under excavation — has indicated the existence of a potentially more fruitful site.

And the site's importance has been underlined by grants of £8,000 from English Heritage and £2,500 from the Three Rivers Council Planning Committee, money specially made available.

Mr Sankey told the Watford Observer: "We have found another area which will be excavated anyway during this coming winter.

"A lot of information has been passed on by people who knew the site 20 years ago.

"We think we have found another building. We don't know yet until it is fully excavated."

The water gardens, an early water plant nursery laid out by the well-known Clutterbuck family at the turn of the century, was previously known to contain Roman remains. A hoard of coins was discovered in the 1950s, and the existence of the building known.

According to Mr Sankey, however, an earlier owner did want the site disturbed.

The excavations now underway result paradoxically from last October's hurricane which brought down trees which had to be cleared and sparked the idea of merging existing ponds into one.

"There were four ponds which were terribly dilapidated and we decided to bring in a digger and clean it up. As we dug, the machine suddenly came up with a Roman tile," said Mr Sankey.

The Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, now overseeing the dig with a team of workers from as far afield as Yorkshire and Northampton, then stepped in.

"We are on the fringes of a Roman villa which is a large estate centring on thousands of acres running up the valley. We are now in the area where they dumped the rubbish," said Mr Stewart Bryant, site director for the trust.

The deer antlers discovered are reckoned to be third or fourth century. Fine, imported pottery ware from Gaulle has been found as well as wine storage vessels (amphora) and pottery shards identifiable with the Radlett and Brockley Hill works that supplied Roman Britain and especially the military in the North, according to the trust.

There are also fragments of colour coated wares from the Nene Valley and Colchester, and red and white pieces of mosaic floor tiling (tesserae).

The site is also revealing structural remains, possible Roman post holes and boundary ditches.

According to Mr Adrian Havercroft, director of the trust, it is thought that the settlement may have shifted when the river flooded it and that the now canalised water course could be flowing above the level of the ancient settlement.

Although Mr Sankey has allowed excavations to run on, they are expected to have to finish at the end of the month when the site is flooded as a fish farm.



Archaeologists are getting right down to earth at the Solesbridge Mill site. WO E2344



Some of the pottery fragments and the Roman deer antlers excavated on the dig. WO E2347

Ancient bridge gives experts clues to local history

Archaeological find unlocks a mystery

W.O. 29.4.88

A SERIES of holes said to be signs of an ancient bridge across the River Chess at Chorleywood has been taken by leading county archaeologists as evidence of a Romano-British community flourishing around Verulamium after the Romans had left Britain.

The excavations carried out this month at the Solesbridge Mill site included a large cobbled courtyard perhaps 50 metres by 20 metres with fields laid out alongside the river.

By SIMON BERLYN

Solesbridge Mill Water Gardens have provided clues to the existence of an agrarian villa — just one of several that flourished along the course of the Chess Valley, including locations at Latimer and Sarratt.

Now diggers after history from the Hertfordshire Archaeolgical Trust say the post holes would have supported a low service bridge across the Chess which was later diverted, said Mr Robert Kiln, chairman of the Trust.

Speaking during an inspection of the site on Friday, he said the posts would have been rammed into the holes and people would have used the bridge to dump their rubbish into the river.

Samples of the material removed from the holes have been sent for tests and possible radio-carbon dating, but experts believe the find to be third or fourth century, and possibly even earlier.

The say the yard was laid out after the alteration of the river course.

According to Mr Kiln, author of The Dawn of History in East Herts, settlement of the villa site would initially have occurred when people fled Gaul against the advance of the German races.

But, he said, it was uncertain what happened after the Romans left.

The production of fine wares — such as pottery in which the Romans excelled — petered out, leaving few clues as to the type of settlement that followed.

"One of the great enigmas of archaeology to me has always been what was happening when the Romans left," said Mr Kiln.

But one theory, he added, was that Verulamium continued as a flourishing Romano-British settlement.



Archaeologists working close to the ancient bridge site. WO E2736

Abbots Langley, South Oxhey, Croxley Green

Celebrating in the sun



Sarratt Women's Institute was one of the societies which held stalls. WO F3139

By RICHARD ARQUATI

IT WASN'T only the glorious sunshine that produced steam at the annual Sarratt Day celebrations on Saturday.

On show on The Green were nine steam engines including steam rollers, steam tractors and agricultural engines.

Also on display were two vintage lorries, three vintage coaches and ten vintage cars.

Perhaps the most popular event of the afternoon was the tug of war competition organised by Mr Alan Grant, landlord of The Boot public house in Sarratt.

Five teams took part, and though a team from Chalfont St Giles won the contest, Mr Grant jokingly claimed a technical victory for The Boot as it was a Sarratt village team.

The fancy dress parade attracted 30 entrants.

A competition to design a coat of arms for Sarratt was won by 11-year-old Desmond Atkins. His winning shield will be displayed at Sarratt Village Hall.

"Sarratt Village Day was brilliant and aroused tremendous interest in the village.

"The hard work, preparation and planning by everyone concerned resulted in a happy day," said Mrs Val Cumming, one of the organisers.

"One woman told me it was one of the best village days she had ever been to," she added.

The day raised more than £1,000 for Dr Ron Knight's Cystic Fibrosis Clinic.

Other outdoor events included maypole dancing, pony rides, children's sports, and a traditional game called bowling for the pig.

Sarratt Women's Institute gave a craft display and exhibited copies of its new guided walk and history booklet.

Mrs Fiona Wynes and Mrs Carol Gaisford, who help at Heathland's School for Deaf Children in St Albans, sold mugs depicting the village pump.

Indoor attractions at the village hall and school included a village history and school history display, and an exhibition of photographs of the village.

A splash of colour was provided by local artists exhibiting their watercolours.

Mr Steve Statham and Mr John Guy showed slides of Sarratt and provided a commentary.

The day ended with two discos and a barn dance.



People of all ages were captivated by the size of the steam engines. WO F3140



Traditional games were resurrected, providing great entertainment. WO F3142

Lack of pride in Sarratt village

SARRATT Parish Council are concerned about a lack of village pride following poor local response to a Best Kept Village competition.

Parish councillors could list a number of worthwile projects that would boost Sarratt's chances in the competition — including new litter bins and railings on the Green as well as refurbishment of the village hall itself — but had been disappointed by the poor response compared to other villages.

In nearby Belsize, for example, a newly formed residents association had taken matters into its own hands and were busy scrubbing road signs.

"It just does not seem that anyone in this village is interested in the Best Kept Village Competition," said parish councillor Mr Ron Cox.

Referring to "a number of blackspots," he added: "You have only to look around this village hall to appreciate the problems we have got.

"The level of interest is nil," said Mr Cox.

At Deadmans Ash and along Dimmocks Lane residents mowed their lawns and threw cuttings over the edge. 'They just don't care, these people, do they?" said Mr Cox.

Then discussion got onto the question of the restoration of some railings along the Green. Mr Cox said he had spoken to Mr David Nutley, chief engineer of Three Rivers Council, who had suggested painting the railings would take a week or alternatively that they could be taken down.

Mrs Alexandra Ballard, council vice-chairman, said the railings prevented children running into the road.

Parish councillor Mr Harold Metson commented: "I went through Belsize yesterday at about 12 o'clock and there were about 25 people out there. There was one woman out there with a pail and soapy water washing road signs," he said.

No action was agreed on the Best Kept Village Competition.

WO 3.6.88

Sarratt council concern

WO 10.6.88

SENSITIVITY over the use of Sarratt Parish Council meetings as a forum for district council issues has risen following last month's Three Rivers election.

Concern has arisen now that Sarratt is represented by SLD member Councillor Mrs Lynda Bond, who is not a parish councillor, and Tory member Councillor John Gell, who is a parish councillor.

Sensitivity exists, too, due to an incident some while ago when then Tory councillor Mr Freddie Downing accused the then fresh elected Councillor Mrs Bond of using the parish as a district platform, claims she firmly denied.

Last week Councillor Gell received reminders at grass roots level.

Mrs Barbara Fordyce, who is clerk, told him: "Obviously so far it is not a matter you have treated with considerable propriety."

Mrs Val Cumming, who beyond her parish role is an active Tory, added: "I don't believe in politics on the parish council at all."

Chairman Mrs Jennifer Tyler Dimond said: "I am sure that Councillor Gell will have a good opportunity in working closely with Councillor Bond behind the scenes."

Show it with flowers

ALMOST eight centuries of history will be celebrated in flowers at the Sarratt Flower Festival, Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on June 25 and 26.

The festival traces the development of the Holy Cross church from its foundation by monks in the 12th Century to the present day.

Flowers will be used to illuminate the many special features of the site.

A guide is available for information on the history and oddities of the church, including the Hertfordshire pudding stone and 14th Century wall paintings.

Morning coffees, ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas will be available on both days. At 7.30 pm on Saturday the Sarratt Singers perform and on Sunday there will be a choral evensong at 6.30 pm.

WO 17.6.88

'No' to GP's drug sales

A DOCTOR serving Chipperfield and Sarratt has been refused permission to provide medicines for his patients.

The Rural Dispensing Committee, part of the Department of Health and Social Security, refused Dr Michael Scorer's application because it could result in a loss of business for a local chemist servicing the villages.

Although Dr Scorer has appealed against the decision, North West Herts Community Health Council has decided not to take any action.

Dr Scorer said the rejection was a pity because the dispensary would have been a very useful service for the local community."

WO 17.6.88

Step back in time

SARRATT is going back in time to the 12th century tomorrow(Saturday) when the village parish church holds its annual Flower Festival.

A celebration of the evolution of the Holy Cross Church, which was founded by monks 800 years ago, is planned for the entire weekend with morning coffees, ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas available on both Saturday and Sunday. Flower arrangements will have a historical theme and the colours will be used to give visual clues to the age of various parts of the church with its many special features.

The old tower and an ancient Hertfordshire pudding stone will be highlighted along with 14th century wall paintings. Music and songs which span the last eight centuries will be performed in the church on Saturday at 7.30 by the Sarratt Singers.

KLG 24.6.88

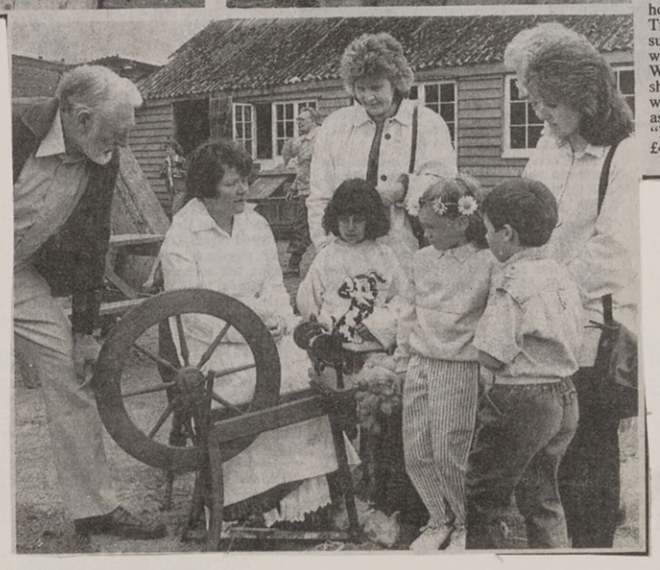
1988

Cheery day at Cherry Trees farm

WD 10-6-88







VISITORS to Cherry Trees Farm, in Belsize, had a wonderful chance to see a varied display of rural crafts last Sunday.

Once through the gates of the Olleberrie Lane farm, they could have seen sheep shearing, horse shoeing, spinning and enjoyed an exhibition of old time ploughing.

For most it was a step through a time warp into the days when the highlight of the local entertainment was the country fair.

There were rare breeds of sheep on show including the Lincoln Long Wool, which, in the words of farmer Michael Bell, has a coat resembling Rastafarian dreadlocks.

Shepherd Barry Adlam relieved Rylands ram Claude of his winter coat and Liz Rafferty used it to spin a yarn for all to see.

Michael, 39, explained how Claude came to Cherry Trees. His wife Mary took such a liking to the animal when she spotted him at a Warwickshire auction that she put in a bid for him without even bothering to ask the price.

"I was very glad it wasn't £4,000," said Michael.

Bovingdon farrier Greg Terry is pictured knocking a horse shoe into shape. He used his own Shire horse and Odette, an Ardennes horse from Cherry Trees, as models for his horse-shoeing display.

Odette and her filly Cerise pull old-fashioned ploughs in the fields at Cherry Trees.

The Bells are now planning to hold special events days at the farm every other Sunday afternoon right through until Christmas.

They hope they will be able to create a country fair atmosphere at their farm.

These will include a bowling for the pig game, in which the person with the highest score will win half a freezer pig.

A live pig was the prize in the game when Michael was a child in nearby Felden.

He puts the disappearance of such customs down to the advent of television.

His own television set was destroyed in January when the mobile home he and his family were living in went up in flames.

Although the fire was a disaster, Michael says losing the television was the best thing that ever happened.

Cherry Trees is open to the public from Wednesday through to Sunday, 11 am to 6 pm.

Editorial, Advertising, Watford 242211, Classified 222323

WO 24/6/88

THREE RIVERS: Rickmansworth, Chorleywood,

Sarratt school's future jeopardised by falling pupil roll

Sarratt residents fear for the future of their school — believed to be the only village school left in South West Hertfordshire.

A Sarratt School governor, the Reverend Martin Culverwell, said he feared for the school because of falling student numbers and a lack of Education Authority concern.

Reverend Culverwell said the authority was not fulfilling it's obligation to the people of Sarratt with it's inflexible attitude over teacher to student ratios.

Numbers at the school have been falling in recent years and unless the trend is reversed Hertfordshire County Council will reduce it's teacher allocation.

There are 102 five to 11 year olds at the school this year.

In September, 24 of them will go to secondary schools and only four will take their place, leaving less than 90 children at the school.

Under the authority formula the reduced student roll means three morning or afternoon class sessions will have to be cut a week.

Headmaster Chris Alexander will take over the classes instead of allowing them to be cut.

Reverend Culverwell said:"I feel for the long term future of the school."

"The rising prices of village property and the fact that some young couples send their children to private schools is part of the problem.

"It is worrying for the teachers, the pupils, the parents and the village to see the school struggling to make the Education Authority fulfil its obligation to the people of Sarratt."

Sarratt villagers are also entering the fray to save lessons at their school.

The headmaster, parents, school governors and parish councillors are mobilising against education chiefs who want teaching time reduced.

Villagers accused the County Council of using a fixed formula to work out the reduction, taking no account of the school's importance to the social fabric of the village and the only village school in the area.

School headmaster Mr Chris Alexander, and parent governors, Mrs Jackie Nice and Mr Ken McArdle have appealed for friends of the school to write to South West Herts Education Office, County Councillors and Richard Page, MP.

"The children must come first. I am determined they won't suffer and I shall undertake the extra teaching commitment that is involved," said Mr Alexander.

"Manpower is the most valuable resource a school can have. A school is only as good as its staff," he added.

On Monday Sarratt Parish councillors pledged their support for the school's fight.

Mrs Val Cumming said: "Unless we give our support we will lose the only village school in South West Hertfordshire. We should take no notice of the falling numbers. The schoo! should be protected as a central part of the village."

Tories weren't dampened



DRIZZLING rain didn't dampen everyone's enjoyment of Sarratt Conservatives' annual garden party last Friday.

Organisers had planned to stage the event in the gardens of Old Red Lion Farm where Peter and Val Cumming live but as the clouds darkened the venue was changed at the last minute to Little Sarratt Hall where Denis and Judy Jenks hosted the party.

Mr Richard Page, MP for South-West Herts which includes Kings Langley and Sarratt, turned up and spoke about the urgent need to protect the Green Belt. He was joined by around 60 members of the village Conservative party.

KL 24/6/88

Graveyards safety fear

SARRATT villagers are being asked to look closely at headstones in the churchyard to help makes the graves safer for children.

The Rev. Martin Culverwell is concerned about an injury to a nine-year-old girl in another part of Britain. She was seriously injured a few months ago when a headstone fell on her while putting flowers on her grandmother's grave. He says "quite apart from the shock to all concerned at a personal level this event has given rise to concern as to who is liable in such an event. Unfortunately there is no straightforward simple answer for much depends on what the child was doing in the churchyard. Grave headstones are not climbing frames."

He has looked into the legal responsibility for headstones in a graveyard and discovered that liability first lies with the person who erected it. If the headstone has not been securely fixed so that it falls then the monumental mason is liable. There is some responsibility upon the Parochial Church Council as manager of the churchyard but the Rev Culverwell hopes that serious injury can be avoided in Sarratt if visitors to the churchyard report any insecure headstone immediately to him or to a church warden.

He tells villagers "your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated and may well save a life."

Show furniture is stolen

THIEVES broke into an exhibition tent at Wards Nurseries in Sarratt and stole garden furniture worth £3,360.

They climbed over a fence at the back of the village nurseries in Dawes Lane between 7.30pm last Wednesday and 7am the following morning. Police believe they walked along the footpath at Dawes Lane before entering the tent containing the garden furniture.

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 15/7/88

Adventure success

22-7-88

YOUNGSTERS from Sarratt School have just returned from an adventure holiday at Hope-Under-Winmore near Leominster.

They enjoyed a week of varied activities, including climbing a 40 foot wooden tower and abseiling down the other side, canoeing, orienteering, pony trekking and archery.

One of the most popular events was the daunting obstacle course over nets, monkey frames and tunnels of mud. The fastest finisher was David Bines who completed the course in 2min 50sec.

Accompanying the party of nine, 10, and 11-year-olds were headmaster Chris Alexander and teacher Sue Thomas.

Mr Alexander said the week away was an outstanding success because of the amount of courage each child showed, and the great ability they had to listen and learn new skills.

Treasure hunt and a tea

MORE than 50 children turned out for Sarratt's annual treasure hunt through the surrounding countryside and organisers say the event has become firmly established in the village calendar.

For the past three years Sarratt Conservatives have planned the route and provided a slap-up tea for the youngsters. It is one of the few occasions when there is no fund raising and the entire afternoon is held simply to provide fun for all the young folk.

Organiser, Mr Peter Cumming, who recently retired as a district councillor due to business pressures, said: "We all had a marvellous time and it has now become a regular summer event."

● Mr Cumming recently successfully negotiated a free fall parachute jump of 3,000 ft to boost a £2 million fund-raising drive for the physically and mentally handicapped. He was a member of the team from the Allied Dunbar Foundation who travelled to Goodwood for the jump. He said "I have done a bit of ski hand-gliding in Switzerland before but this was the most fantastic experience you can imagine."

WD KLG 1-7-88

VILLAGE CELEBRATES TEAM EFFORT

VILLAGERS crowded into the garden of The Plough at Belsize on Saturday to celebrate victory in the Best-Kept Village Competition.

It was the first time that Belsize entered the annual contest and everyone was delighted when the village won second place in the hamlet section as well as a silver rosebowl for obtaining the highest marks in West Hertfordshire.

A Belsize Residents' Group was formed in April and members organised working parties to clean up the village for the competition.

STUNNED

Mr Laurie Young, of Flaunden Lane, who is a founder member of the new residents' group, said: "This contest was our very first project and we are stunned at the success we have had. It has been a real team effort and everyone who lives here has helped. I think all Belsize villagers are very proud today of their achievement."

KLG 15-7-88



KLG 1-7-88

Pupils' careers ideas change

SCHOOLGIRLS no longer dream of becoming nurses — instead they long to work in a travel agency with foreign holidays in the sun as perks.

And according to Mrs Eileen Adams, who pioneered careers education at Kings Langley School, boys used to want to become engineers but now plan on working in construction, crafts or computers.

Mrs Adams, who has taught at the secondary school in Love Lane since it opened in 1960, is retiring at the end of this term and has been reflecting on some of the changes which have taken place in the last 28 years.



● *MRS ADAMS*

The 57-year-old head of textiles at the village comprehensive school was the first teacher to organise work experience for pupils in Kings Langley back in 1964.

Within a few years it had become an important part of the school's curriculum.

Mrs Adams, who has been a teacher for the past 38 years, believes that work experience has changed many pupil's lives and encouraged them to work hard with a particular job in prospect.

She said: "Our aim here at Kings Langley School is to prepare pupils for life and not just a job of work. We include social education along with careers guidance and encourage them to widen their experiences as much as possible."

Mrs Adams lives with her husband, Ray, in Sarratt where she will spend her retirement helping with the family nursery business. They have three grown-up children and are looking forward to spending more time together.

Her work with careers at Love Lane will be carried on by colleagues at the school.

Cheers Eileen!



WATFORD OBSERVER 22/7/88

TEACHER Eileen Adams is retiring in style this week, knowing she has set hundreds of children on the way to successful careers.

After 28 years at Kings Langley School careers teacher Mrs Adams is taking early retirement.

On Monday night more than 200 former pupils, teachers, governors and friends turned out to give her a send-off to remember plus a host of gifts — flowers, a gold cameo chain and an enormous bottle of perfume.

Last night teachers at the school said their own special goodbyes with a dinner in her honour.

The mother of three joined the school when it started as head of textiles and later coupled that with the head of careers post.

She built up a network of vital contacts for the school which her successor, Mrs Sheila Pickering, will benefit from next year. Many of those contacts were present on Monday.

School secretary Mrs Edith Jackson, who has worked with Mrs Adams for 25 years, said: "The children's work experience started some years back. It was a big task but it all goes very smoothly now every year.

"She will be a really great loss to the school, because she helps in everything that happens."

But Mrs Adams does not plan to sit back and put her feet up. Her husband's horticultural business will keep her busy. WO E5156

Hornets in tie thriller at Sarratt

WATFORD FC and Sarratt tied their cricket match on Wednesday day night with both teams finishing with a total of 111 for eight wickets.

Rick Holden needed three runs off the last ball but managed just two in a dramatic finale to an enjoyable evening of cricket.

Set a total of 111 to chase, the Hornets suffered an early setback when Martin Kuhl was dismissed by the catch of the night, a running, one-handed effort by Nick Morgan near the boundary. Malcolm Allen was also back in the pavilion soon afterwards but Youth team coach Ray Graydon provided the base for their innings with a fine 31.

Skipper Nigel Gibbs (22) and Tim Sherwood (20) helped the Hornets gather momentum and Luther Blissett with 15 put them within sight of their target.

Excellent fielding by Sarratt throughout the innings, kept Watford in check but Rick Holden, taking some mighty swipes at the ball, brought the Hornets to the final over needing just six runs to win. Boosted by a wide, Holden then hit two but failed to make a connection with two further balls. He dispatched the final ball towards the boundary but it was fielded just short of the line and a quick return restricted Holden to two runs and the match finished tied.

Earlier, Sarratt made a good start with Richard Styles (42) and skipper Roger Rufey putting on 66 for the second wicket. Graydon took two wickets and Barry Ashby, Tim Sherwood, Mel Rees and Holden took a wicket apiece, as Sarratt reached a total of 111 for eight wickets after their allotted 20 overs.

Said Sarratt skipper Roger Rufey: "In our standard of cricket, if you hit a ball towards a fielder, there is still a possibility of a run. But against the footballers, their fielding is so good and they are so fit, that you cannot risk it."

WATFORD OBSERVER 22-7-88

WO 22/7/88

Council row as hay barn gets the go-ahead

A STEEL-FRAMED, coloured cement fibre-roofed barn for hay storage is to built in a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Sarratt.

Three Rivers Council Planning Committee has approved the open field siting to the west of Church Lane.

This was despite opposition from Sarratt Parish Council,which called for the building to be sited next to another barn belonging to the same applicant, Mr P.G. Grego, on the other side of the lane.

Planning officer Mr Roger Pells told the meeting: "I personally feel it is not too prominent. We have frequently requested it to be set back against the trees and not too close to the road here."

Sarratt ward member Councillor John Gell, representing the parish council on which he also sits, added: "This may seem perhaps trivial to some members but the parish council is very unhappy about the siting of the barn.

"The site of the application is one on a completely open field. There is nothing there. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty.

"We clearly can't understand why the applicant can't put put this next to the existing barn rather than start off a completely new agricultural development," he said.

Fellow Sarratt councillor Mrs Lynda Bond added: "Just to give you a bit more background, on the other side of the road there is also a barn.

"There are also a lot of other buildings, some of which are prominent, some of which are not. The neighbours already have an enormopus eyesore for what was a nice outlook."

FAREWELL SONG FOR CHARLES & EVE DEE

Tune: "Sweet and Low"

1.

Charles and Eve, Charles and Eve,
Thank you for living here.
If you have to leave
Don't expect us to cheer.
When Jack had gone, before Martin had come,
Who gave the lead in the Interregnum,
All without thanks or fees,
Sequestrating, negotiating?
The Dees!

2.

Charles and Eve, Charles and Eve,
Thank you from girls and boys.
You taught them to believe;
One day they'll come to rejoice.
Children of Sarratt, both angels and urch- (~~exaggerated Dreadful~~)
-ins, have grown up in your Junior Church.
Come back and see us, please.
Come September we will remember
The Dees.

FAREWELL SONG FOR WALTER MACKIE

(Tune: "Dear Lord and Father")

Dear Walter, as we say Farewell
We wanted you to know
That, more than any words can tell,
We wish you very, very well
And hate to see you go,
And hate to see you go.

We thank you for the love you share
Not just with Baptist folk;
For many a neighbour worn with care
Has blessed you for a call, a prayer,
A smile, a chat, a joke,
A smile, a chat, a joke.

And we were always glad to see
Our Uncle Walter's face
At many a village jamboree,
And knew your generosity
To causes in this place,
To causes in this place.

And often when the sun was hot
And skies were bright and clear
We'd see you in your hat and coat,
A muffler round about your throat,
And say "Ah, Walter's here",
And say "Ah, Walter's here."

We may not know which way you went
Until we find you've gone.
But be it Bournemouth, or in Kent,
Or elsewhere in the continent,
May life go gladly on,
May life go gladly on.

Council veteran may quit over competition mix-up

VETERAN Sarratt parish councillor Ron Cox has threatened to resign because the village was not entered in the Best Kept Village competition.

Mr Cox made the threat on Monday following a meeting during which he accused the parish clerk of failing to enter the event.

Clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, denied it was her responsibility to make the entry and said she handed the entry papers to Mr Cox.

Sensitivity over Sarratt's non-entry into the contest was heightened by the parish hamlet of Belsize taking second place in the contest's fourth category. It was the first time Belsize had entered.

Belsize's entry was for communities of less than 1,000 people and is judged in terms of 'features' like churches, pubs, playing fields and allotments.

Belsize won from 14 other hamlets and won a certficate and trees from the Hertfordshire county nursery.

Mr Cox told the Watford Observer: "She (Mrs Fordyce) forgot to put us in. I feel so strongly about it that my days on the council might be numbered."

At the Monday meeting chairman Mrs Jennifer Tyler Dimmond said there had obviously been some confusion."It is obviously very unfortunate."

Mr Cox added: "I am shattered. I have been sent no papers through about the Best Kept Village Competition, I have not seen anything."

The chairman added: "I don't think we have lost anything. The village has been cleared." Members agreed to send a letter of congratulations to residents at Belsize.

Later Mr Cox said the March meeting agreed to enter the contest. In the past the clerk had returned the entry form and the whole village had helped in the campaign.

"I feel very sad about it that all the efforts of the people in the village...other years we had a lot of posters through from the county about it. This year we had nothing."

Mrs Fordyce said: "I don't wish to comment. I have not been involved in the organisation of the Best Kept Village Competition for many years."

According to Mrs Fordyce it had been agreed some years before the council would not organise entry, but would help financially.

Treasure hunt and a tea

MORE than 50 children turned out for Sarratt's annual treasure hunt through the surrounding countryside and organisers say the event has become firmly established in the village calendar.

For the past three years Sarratt Conservatives have planned the route and provided a slap-up tea for the youngsters. It is one of the few occasions when there is no fund raising and the entire afternoon is held simply to provide fun for all the young folk.

Organiser, Mr Peter Cumming, who recently retired as a district councillor due to business pressures, said: "We all had a marvellous time and it has now become a regular summer event."

● Mr Cumming recently successfully negotiated a free fall parachute jump of 3,000 ft to boost a £2 million fund-raising drive for the physically and mentally handicapped. He was a member of the team from the Allied Dunbar Foundation who travelled to Goodwood for the jump. He said "I have done a bit of ski hand-gliding in Switzerland before but this was the most fantastic experience you can imagine."

Girl on the ball

PETROL pump attendant Diane Biggerstaff isn't just on the ball at work — she's has just been named player of the year by her football club.

The delighted 27-year-old from Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, was awarded the top title by her team, Hemel Hempstead Ladies, for her soccer skill's during last season.

She said: "I was very surprised when I was named player of year but obviously I'm over the moon.

"I must say that it has been a particularly good seasonfor me."

Diane has been playing in mid field for the club for the last six years and before joining them played for an Amersham based ladies team.

"I really love the game. It's less physical than the man's game," she said.

Diane, who is a keen Manchester United supporter, says that she had no plans to further her football career.

"To me it's just a hobby and I will be continuing to play at this level for some time," she said.

Diane's talents don't end on the football pitch or when she giving the customers the four star treatment atthe petrol pump. She also helps out with car repairs at her family's garage in Sarratt.

"I often help out with changing tyres and sometimes with some mechanical jobs," she said.



WATFORD OBSERVER 5.8.88

Couple given a surprise serenade

SEVENTY members of Sarratt Church greeted retiring churchwarden Mr Charles Dee and his wife Eve at a surprise party last week.

The Dees have just retired to live at Canford Cliffs in Dorset. They went along to Sarratt Rectory expecting to have a quiet supper with the Rev Martin Culverwell and his family. But a magnificent spread had been laid on by church members.

The Sarratt Singers serenaded the couple to a song sung to the tune "Sweet and Low" but with special lyrics written by the Rev Michael Hewlett including the lines "When Jack had gone before Martin had come, who held the fort for the interregnum?"

This referred to the fact that Mr Dee, who had been a churchwarden for eight years, had negotiated with possible candidates after the departure of the Rev Jack Tomlinson and before the appointment of the present Rector, Martin Culverwell.

Mr and Mrs Dee had both looked after the day to day running of the church during the "interregnum" with Mrs Dee being responsible for running the Junior Church.

The party was organised by churchwardens Mrs Trish Clements and Mr David Clough, who is also the church organist and choirmaster.

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 5TH AUGUST 1988

Sixth place is a consolation

FOLLOWING a parish council mix-up which led to Sarratt not being entered in the Best Kept Village competition it has been announced that the village came sixth in the Beautiful England in Bloom competition.

"It does soften the blow," said veteran parish councillor Ron Cox, who threatened to resign after the mix up.

Marked out of ten for each category, Sarratt were awarded seven for both tidiness of allotments, hedges and fences and also for the absence of litter and ordiliness of advertising around the town.

A total of 40 towns and villages entered the competition, and these were divided into large towns, small towns and villages. They covered the Thames and Chiltern tourist board area.

Hemel Hempstead were awarded a silver plated rosebowl for coming second in the large town section.

Dogs to be shown 'red bins'

By Claire Beaumont

WHAT type of "Poop Scoop" campaign is best for the village? That was the main question Sarratt Parish Councillors spent 50 minutes attempting to answer during last week's meeting.

Councillors agreed that something needed to be done about dog mess in the village, but they were not sure exactly what.

Councillor Alex Ballard said she had been provided with literature and advice from Three Rivers District Council, but now it was up to the village.

She spoke about distributing "Good Dog Campaign" leaflets and pinning the posters in shop windows around the village.

"There is an existing by-law covering all the footpaths in Sarratt, Alexandra Road and Dawes Lane," she said. "If we are to have a voluntary scheme then we should try to enforce it as well.

It will be a consciousness raising campaign as much as anything, and people who have thought they can do nothing will be able to make their feelings felt".

Mrs Ballard thought that the red plastic bins should be put in as many places as possible, especially in the areas where children play.

A mildly heated discussion followed about who should have the unpleasant task of emptying the bins. Mrs Ballard caused a stir when she mentioned she had approached the ranger.

Councillor Cox said angrily: "The law of the council is that the only person who can approach the ranger is the Chairman of the Green and I take exception to people going above my head."

Mrs Ballard apologised and said she had not asked the ranger to do anything she had merely discussed the possibility.

She said that the bins would cost either £69 or £81 each depending on whether or not they had a pedal.

Members were amazed when they heard that Croxley Green council paid £1,000 every year to an outside person to empty the bins.

They were also amazed to learn that dog muck, and disposable nappies, are not classified as disposable waste.

The Poop Scoops will cost about 8p each. The council has been given a box of about 200, which they thought might be sold to the public from the village shop.

The council had been given a grant of £400 from Three Rivers to get the campaign going. They decided they would need to pay about £300 themselves.

They agreed to have a pilot scheme in Alexandra Road and Downward Drive.

● **At the end of the lengthy discussion a dog barked in the foyer — whether it was a mark of approval or disapproval is not known!**

KINGS LANGLEY GAZETTE 5.8.1988

Girls join the boys

TWO young girls made up part of the Sarratt Youth Club team, who recently played in the Watford Football Friends Club competition.

The competition has been organised by the joint forces of the Hertfordshire Constabulary and the supermarket chain Asda.

The main aim of the tournament was to promote a friendship by playing football as a team.

The nine to eleven year olds each won a consolation prize of a ticket to see Watford Football Team play, a commemorative medal, and a bag of goodies from Wander Foods.

The prize for the winning two teams is the chance to play on the hallowed ground of Watford Football Club at Vicarage Road before their first home match against Swindon Town in October.

The team was: Sarah Herne, Christopher Kemp, Oliver and Sarah Mardling, Kelly McHugh, Adam Spackman, Christopher Waller and Benjamin Wynes.

WATFORD OBSERVER 5.8.88

School's fitness awards

YOUNGSTERS from Sarratt School have proved they are all as fit as a fiddle during the past school term.

For ten of them shared 40 Esso AAA Five Star fitness awards at the school last week.

The awards were presented by Mr Tom Self, the Physical Education Advisor to Hertfordshire County Council.

Mr Self said:"It is a marvellous number of awards and five star awards are very difficult to get. A lot of effort has been put in by pupils and teachers and it is a tremendous credit to them all."

Other prizewinners at the school's end of term celebration included David Harrison, who won a cup as "Cricketer of the Year", and an award for playing the violin and Alison McArdle who was also rewarded for her violin playing.

Five Star certificate winners were presented to: Lisa Keys, Edward Lewsey, Adam Spackman, Sarah Hern, David Bines, David Harrison, Philip Homer, Joshua Lewsey, Peter Marriott and Lucy Rosenthal.

Sarratt teenager injured

A SARRATT teenager suffered a broken collar bone when his Yamaha motor bike was in collision with a Ford Sierra car in Church Lane, Sarratt, last Saturday.

The accident happened at 9.45pm just one-third of a mile east of the Green when Dylan Naghee-Reddy, of Church Lane, Sarratt, was overtaking a car. The collision was with the Ford Sierra driven by Mr Peter Lindsay, of Croxley Green, who escaped unhurt.

Dylan, aged 17, was rushed to Watford hospital but is now at home recovering from his injuries. The former pupil of Kings Langley School,currently unemployed, is hoping to start work for a greengrocer as soon as he feels better.

He told the Gazette: "Of course, I was wearing a crash helmet and my new, expensive leather jacket took a lot of the punishment. That saved my body a lot but I broke my collar bone.

"The doctors reckon it will take around six weeks to heal but then I'm hoping to get a job." K L G. 26/8/88

Free Watford Observer, 1988

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Meeting to talk about gipsy site

By RICHARD ARQUATI

THE proposed gipsy site in Old House Lane, Langleybury, will be the subject of a public meeting of the County Social Services committee on Friday, October 28.

The committee will discuss the recommendation made by the Gipsy Panel at its last meeting when three other sites at Tolpits Lane, Hunton Bridge and Maple Cross were rejected.

Mr Steven Christie, a development planner at county hall, said he is unsure what will come out of Friday's meeting. When the Gipsy Panel recommend a site, it is usually adopted by the committee.

He said all the sites could have provided a home for the gipsies but the three rejected had very difficult technical problems, and it appeared the Old House Lane site had more things going for it.

"The A41 and M25 junction at Maple Cross was rejected because the site was very open and therefore difficult to landscape.

"It is also possible that in the future the A41 Kings Langley and Berkhampstead bypass will be kicking off from there," said Mr Christie.

He said Hunton Bridge was rejected because it was on the side of a hill and also difficult to landscape, and the only access to it was from a busy road opposite a household waste dump.

Tolpits Lane was rejected because of the cost, the lack of footpaths to and from the community, and because it was in a flood plain.

"Looking at the problems of all for sites it would seem Old House Lane has more things going for it," said Mr Christie.

He said it had reasonable access to the local community, was close to educational facilities in Watford, Kings Langley and Abbots Langley and it could be easily landscaped.

Strong opposition to the proposal has come from Abbots Langley Parish Council, Sarratt Parish Council and residents of Hunton Bridge, Langlebury and the surrounding villages.

They are urging anyone who can turn up to the meeting at county hall in Hertford to do so.

Flower power wins the day

GREEN fingered gardeners celebrated 100 years of flower power in Sarratt on Saturday.

Villagers young and old gathered at the Village Hall to first enjoy the merry melodies performed by the Dacorum Marching Band and then brouse around the varied and colourful exhibits inside the hall during their centenary show.

Among the attractions was a display of 100-year-old garden equipment loaned by Mr Terry Simmonds.

There was also a raffle for a centenary cake, which was made and iced by Mrs Noreen Singleton, and her husband, Bob, decorated the hall with flowers.

Prizes were presented by Harry Neal, the society's president, who had the embarrassing task of presenting two of the awards to himself. They were the David Osborne Trophy for vegetables and the Clutterbuck Trophy for being the overall show winner.

He congratulated and presented trophies to Sir Christopher Staughton who won the Arthur Pritchard Trophy for Roses and the Fred Barber Trophy for the overall open flower section winner.

The Dickens Trophy in the Cottagers Section went to Mr Gareth Crockford and the Loader Trophy for Floral Art was won by Mrs Hilda Wakeham.

The Ward Trophy for Floral Art Novice went to Audrey Griffith-Jones who also won the Elsie Collins Trophy in the Cookery Section.

The Flight Cracknell Trophy was awarded to Mrs Connie Barber and the Children's Section Award went to Douglas Finlay who received the A.E.Cox Trophy.

The Three Rivers District Council trophy awarded to the family with the most points went to Mr John Lyons and his daughter Zoe.

Mr Lyons, the society chairman, said: "The season has not been particularly good for flowers but the entries of fruit and vegetables are very good.

"The handicraft section is excellent and the cookery section has several excellent cakes decorated depicting our centenary.

"There has been a disappointing number of entries in the children's section but the exhibits are of a particularly good standard."

The society have organised a centenary supper at The Barn, Great Sarratt Hall, on Saturday, September 24.

WO 9/9/88



Mrs Toots Downer inspects another prize winning display. WO E6072



Douglas Finlay brings a picture of Sarratt Village Hall to the show. WO E6071

Conteh's costume caper

FORMER World champion boxer John Conteh was knocked out by a dazzling array of costumes on Saturday.

The ex-fighter was in Sarratt to judge a children's fancy dress competition — and the high standard of competition left him floored!

Despite the dreadful weather, the fair at the Sarratt Junior and Mixed Infants School raised more than £600 towards youth projects in the village.

As well as the fancy dress competition, children enjoyed donkey rides, a roundabout, a cresta run, a colouring competition and side shows.



"We had a very successful day even with the lousy weather," said organiser Mrs Hilary Waller.

"The school children gave a display of maypole dancing and the Scouts gave a canoe display in the school swimming pool," she said.

It is hoped some of the money raised will go towards a new playing-frame in the school playground. E 6888

W.O. 30.9.88

Just the medicine for villagers

MANY villagers in Sarratt and Chipperfield will no longer have to travel miles to get presciptions made up at a chemist's shop.

For Dr Michael Scorer, who has been a GP in Sarratt for 30 years, has been given permission by the Herts Family Practitioner Committee to act as a dispensing practitioner. He applied early last year and under the National Health regulations had to prove his patients from Sarratt and Chipperfield live in a rural area.

Once the rurality of the area was accepted Dr Scorer's application had to be considered on the grounds of whether or not it was a reasonable request and if it would endanger the livelihood of local chemists.

There are no chemist shops in Sarratt or Chipperfield and patients have had to travel as far as Kings Langley or Croxley Green to collect prescriptions. Dr Scorer, whose surgery is in Church Lane, points out that he is only going back to the village system which was operated 40 years ago.

He said: "The Sarratt doctor who was in practice then became ill and Kings Langley pharmacist, Mr Ian Kinloch, operated a delivery service. It was after his retirement that I applied for the dispensing licence."

Dr Scorer believes that his sick patients should be spared the difficult journey to reach a chemist, especially as the bus service is very infrequent. He is anxious to help mothers with young children and the elderly who have particular difficulty in travelling outside Sarratt and Chipperfield to collect prescriptions.

He told the Gazette: "I am very pleased that the Family Practitioner Committee has agreed to this because it is going to be a great help to everyone."

KLG 23.9.88

Thanks for the party



Hot-dog fun for Sunday school kids

HOT-DOGS and Hamburgers were on the menu for members of Sarratt's Sunday school when they held a special party. More than 35 youngsters enjoyed a barbecue before diving into a pool at Pear Tree Cottage on The Green. The children, aged between three and nine, were supervised by older children who belong to the parish church's Link group.

And as our picture shows, after such a great party they said thank you by presenting flowers to Mrs Jenny Peiser of Pear Tree Cottage.

KLG 23.9.88

Martin's clock ticks up the prizes

A 16-YEAR-OLD Sarratt carpenter struck lucky with his entry in the village centenary horticultural shows on Saturday. His grandmother clock won first prize in the miscellaneous class.

Martin King, of Dawes Lane, took 18 months to make the clock which is valued at £800. But the former pupil of St Clement Danes School in Chorleywood says it is not for sale as he hopes it will become a family heirloom.

Martin made the clock for a craft, design and technology course winning first prize at the 1988 Exhibition at Cassio College in Watford.

Sarratt Horticultural Society celebrated its hundredth birthday at the Autumn show in the village hall when the Dacorum Brass Band gave a programme of light popular music. Mr Terry Simmonds brought along a display of 100-year-old gardening equipment and a special centenary cake was made and iced by Mrs Noreen Singleton.

Her husband, Mr Bob Singleton, decorated the hall with flowers and prizes were presented by Mr Harry Neal, society president, who had to present two of the awards to himself as he was the overall show winner and also took first place in the vegetable section.

Sir Christopher Staughton won the Arthur Pritchard Trophy for roses and the Fred Barber trophy for the open flower section. The Dickins Trophy in the cottagers section went to Mr Gareth Crockford and the Loader Trophy for floral art was won by Mrs Hilda Wakeham.

Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones won the Elsie Collins Trophy in the cookery section as well as the Ward Trophy for her entry in the floral art novice class. The Cracknell trophy was awarded to Mrs Connie Barber and the children's section award went to Douglas Finlay who received the Cox trophy.

The Three Rivers District Council award to the family which gained the most points went to society chairman, Mr John Lyons and his daughter, Zoe.

A centenary supper is to be held at The Barn, in Sarratt Hall on Saturday, September 24.

KLG 9/9/88

KLG 7.10.88

Crafts bring in the cash

THE first craft fair in Sarratt raised a staggering £3,500 for cancer research when 650 people travelled from as far away as Somerset and Herefordshire to attend the unique event.

It was held at the home of Mrs Judy Gooding, of The Barn, The Green, Sarratt, and stallholders did a roaring trade in ceramics, Florentine woodware, designer jumpers, tapestry work, silk flowers, engraved glass, pottery and silverware.

A marquee was specially erected for the day and inside The Barn committee members of the Rickmansworth branch of the Cancer Research Campaign sold home-made jams, marmalade, chutney, cakes, groceries, houseplants and bowls of bulbs.

Mrs Val Cumming, chairman of the local branch, said: "What a wonderful response from the people who came to the fair. Everyone is delighted with the result of all the hard work and planning. We must congratulate Mrs Gooding and her sub-committe."

Scooper snoopers?

SARRATT villagers are being asked to mount a dawn patrol to catch dog owners who are not using the new Poop-Scoop scheme.

Councillor Mrs Val Cumming made an appeal for a vigilante group to be formed at Monday's monthly meeting of the village parish council. She said: "We need an early dawn patrol on the Green if we're going to have any success with this scheme."

The parish council introduced free scoops and special bins recently but in a report to the meeting members heard that few people were taking advantage of the new scheme.

But most councillors agreed that public open spaces were being kept cleaner and put this down to increased public awareness prompted by the introduction of the scheme.

Councillor Mrs Alex Ballard asked parish councillors to carry a free scoop with them at all times so that they could approach dog owners and show them how easy it is to use.

She said: "I know it sounds a bit bizarre but unless you have a scoop with you then its difficult to explain how the scheme works. If you've got a scoop in your pocket then you can approach offending dog owners and show them how to treat the nusiance."

Councillors agreed to step up the campaign by posting new leaflets inspired by those displayed in Sheffield. They are hoping that villagers will tell neighbours of the scheme.

Suffer little children . . ?

THE future of children in the parish church of Sarratt is to be decided at a special village meeting next weekend.

Parishoners, parents and children are invited to take part in the discussion at Sarratt School from 3 pm to 5 pm next Saturday afternoon (October 22) when the Rector, the Rev Martin Culverwell, will be asking if there is room for children in the church.

He says that some members of his congregation at the Holy Cross Church have asked why so many of the children who come to church have no support from their parents.

There have also been complaints of children being noisy and fidgety in church and the debate will focus on whether or not there should be a family service.

The Rev Culverwell said: "I know of one parish that will not accept children for Sunday School unless the parents are regular attenders. In practice, admittedly, this works because the community is more easily identified and its membership clear."

But he pointed out that: "The church is a worshipping family and splitting the community into old age pensioners, middle aged people, young people and children is obscuring the unity of the community. A family is full of tensions and conflicting personalities — so is the family of the church. The disciplining of children by not allowing them to run amok and the self-disciplining of adults to tolerate some noise must be a 50-50 involvement."

He wants children to join their parents and other churchgoers at the meeting and asks those who don't come to church to attend as well.

KLG 14.10.88

Coffee cash

TWO Sarratt Mums have handed over a cheque for £255 to the Heathland School for Deaf Children at St Albans as a result of their third annual coffee morning in the village pavilion.

Mrs Fiona Wynes, wife of the village policeman, PC Phil Wynes, and Mrs Carol Gaisford have been busy over the past three years helping to raise funds for the school.

Mrs Wynes said "It started off as a coffee morning but ended up as an extravaganza. People are so good and it was really super to have so many items donated for the stalls."

The mums also visit the school each week and are learning sign language.

21.10.88

Blooming lovely!

GERANIUMS, chrysanthemums and fuchsias are allowed to flourish in Sarratt — and that's official.

A village nursery has won an appeal against refusal of planning permission for a glasshouse on land at the back of Church Lane.

An enforcement notice issued by Three Rivers District Council requiring the dismantling of an existing glasshouse has been quashed.

Mr R.W. Adams appealed to the Secretary of State and the inquiry inspector has ruled that the glasshouse can stay and an additional one may be built. Mr Adams wants to use them for growing flowers.

District planning officers had claimed that the nursery was really a warehouse and distribution centre and that local residents have complained that large vehicles visit the site at unsocial hours causing a disturbance. But the appeal inspector has allowed Mr Adams to use glasshouses for horticultural purposes.

Sarratt: go slow!

SARRATT children should be protected from speeding motorists with signs at entrances to the village.

That is the view of parish councillors who are hoping to get permission from the county council for the new signs. They want 'Please Drive Carefully' notices placed above the existing Sarratt signposts which alert motorists to the fact that they are driving into a village.

DUTY TO PROTECT

Councillor Jenny Dimond, chairman of the village parish council, says "We have to try to protect our children from speeding motorists. I think these signs should be authorised because there are an increasing number of accidents on the Sarratt crossroads. Fortunately no-one has been badly injured but it is only a matter of time before someone is badly maimed or killed.

"We have a duty to protect our children and we think these signs would be one way of making drivers slow down when they enter our village."

KLG 28.10.82

FREE OBSERVER 16.11.88

ditorial, Advertising, Watford 242211, Classified 222323

Meeting on children in churches

CHILDREN in the Church was the subject of a discussion held at Sarratt school when the Rev Martin Culverwell, rector of the parish, met parents and their children to discuss the format of the monthly family service.

The meeting follows complaints from some churchgoers that children are noisy and fidgety in church and that many of the children have no support from their parents.

They said most parents are rarely seen in church even for the family service.

The Rev Michael Hewlett asked "Is our family service a service for the childen or for their parents or is it a family service?"

Mrs Diana Burlington, mother of Katie, 7, and Nicholas, 5, suggested that the family service was not child oriented and should be shorter, sweeter and more fun for the little ones. Half an hour was long enough for a family service.

Ten year old Rachel Culverwell spoke for many of the children when she said: "It's boring. I would like to have fun music more like school music."

Present at the meeting was Mrs Olive Albon, the Dioscesan Children's Advisor who suggested getting two or three groups of people and their children together to plan the services.

Mrs Albon described a church where the belfry was blocked by a glass screen where the children could participate in the service with a one way sound system relaying the service to the children without any disturbance to the congregation.

The Rector agreed that it would be a good idea for families to be responsible for planning the family service and it would be the subject of a parochial Church Council Meeting.

Mrs Vicky White, Mr Jim White, Mrs Vera Honess and Mr Maurice Tyerman have formed a group to discuss the situation.



KLG 11.11.88

Well done you guys! It was a great jubilee

A BONFIRE party in Sarratt, organised to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the village Scouts and Guides association, proved such a success last weekend that it is hoped to make it an annual event.

The firework display made an unexpected profit of nearly £300 which will go towards the headquarters' repair fund. More than 400 people turned up at Church Lane for the jubilee celebration and Mr Roy Eteen, group Scout leader, said it was particularly popular with family groups involving younger children.

He told the Gazette: "We paid particular attention to the safety angle with the firework and bonfire area roped off and the St John Ambulance team were in attendance. Parents of young families appreciated this aspect enormously and I think we can say that we plan to hold an organised event of this type every year from now on."

He thanked Mr Roger Dennis, chairman of the group committee, and Mr Robin Sindall, cub scout leader, for their hard work and said "it was a grand team effort with everyone pulling out all the stops to ensure it was a safe family night of fun."

Local youngsters had been busy making some magnificent guys and lined them up for our photographer Peter Ward. Sadly, the Guys were soon just a pile of ash.

Duck pond water is not polluted

THE water in Sarratt's duck pond has been given the all-clear by pollution detectors but to raise the water level could involve works costing as much as £2,000.

A recent test of the water showed there was no pollution present in the pond on the Green but the drains are blocked and further investigation could reveal that the pipes are badly damaged or cracked.

The village parish council is employing contractors to look into the problem and a report will be made to next month's meeting.

The water level of the pond by The Cricketers pub has been falling for some time and it seems likely that the drainage system needs a complete overhaul.

Parish councillors were pleased to hear that the water had not become polluted but at Monday night's meeting they agreed to authorise a full study of the pond. It could be that if the oil filters can be cleared then fresh water will flood in to raise the level but if not more expensive work will need to be carried out.

Hertfordshire Management Service has agreed to clear debris from the pond and will cut back bushes and trees to allow more sunlight in to improve the oxygen in the water.

KLG 2.12.88

Sounds of the 'swinging 70s'

A COMMITTEE of swinging Sarratt parents organised a special 1970s-style disco at the village hall on Saturday to raise funds for new playground equipment.

The music of 'Duran Duran' and others blasted out from the hall and a "great evening was had by all.

More than 60 people turned out for the occasion when everyone enjoyed the music and and many wore the fashions of more than a decade ago.

The exact total of money raised at the event had still to be calculated as the Gazette went to press.

Our picture shows some of the disco-goers getting prepared to take to the dance floor on Saturday.

XIT



Roll of honour complete

THE roll call of war heroes in Sarratt will be complete on Sunday for the very first time.

At the annual Remembrance Day service the village Rector, the Rev Martin Culverwell, will read out the list of 30 names of Sarratt villagers who died for their country in the First and Second World Wars.

This year he will be able to include all the Christian names, as a special plea for help in identifying each individual was 100 per cent successful.

The Rev Culverwell explained: "The official list only includes initials and I don't find that very satisfactory when reading out the roll call on Remembrance Sunday. So I asked villagers to help me identify each one and I'm delighted to report that the list is now complete.

"Of course, the biggest problem is with those who died in the First World War. Links with villagers who died more than 70 years ago are growing ever weaker and I did think we might not be able to trace one or two. But they are all there and the wreath will be laid by Judge Hickman, president of Sarratt Royal British Legion."

KLG 11.11.88

New tree for green triangle

A NEW chestnut tree is to be planted on Sarratt Green opposite Myrtle Cottages to replace the one blown down during the ~~hurricane~~ of last October.

The new sapling will be sited on the triangle where the pole exhibiting Sarratt's best-kept village award once stood. Parish councillors are anxious to point out that it will be at least 20 years before the tree matures but they have chosen a site where it will not block light or shed its leaves on the roadside.

A report submitted to the parish council on Monday assured members that the lime trees lining the Green are in a safe condition.



Double celebration for jubilees

DOZENS of Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs turned out for a special double celebration at Sarratt Village Hall last Friday evening.

It is 60 years since the first Scout troop was founded in Sarratt, although it ceased to exist for many years until it was started up again in 1963. So this year local Scouts are celebrating their Diamond and Silver jubilees and other groups including, Guides, Brownies and Cubs have joined in.

A celebration buffet supper was prepared on Friday and an entertainment performed by each group was a great success with the family audience.

IMAGE

Campfire songs formed a large part of the evening and a 'Spitting Image' sketch depicting various local celebrities in the scout movement prompted a standing ovation from those present.

Mr Roy Eteen, Group Scout Leader, explained that everyone had helped to make the evening a huge success and he thanked those who had worked so hard in preparation and on the night.

●OUR photo shows some of those who took part in the special celebration.

KLG 2.12.88

Horse sense

2/12/88

SARRATT horse Dutch Dauphin, a nine-year-old gelding, has qualified for the National Winter Dressage Championships, at the British Equestrian Centre, at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Owner and rider of the horse, Mrs Sue Featherstone comes from Bricket Wood but manages a yard at the Red Lion Farm in Sarratt.

Sue said: "All the best horses at all the different grades meet to compete at the championships."

A trunk call to the fair

NELLIE the Elephant has packed her trunk and is saying hello to Sarratt on Saturday when the annual parish church Christmas bazaar is to be held in the village hall.

Nellie will be joining Father Christmas on the Green at around 2.15 pm before the bazaar doors open at 2.30 pm. In past years Father Christmas has arrived in Sarratt by helicopter but this year he will be coming in a horse-drawn carriage before taking up residence in his grotto in the village hall.

There will be several stalls selling festive gifts and all funds will go towards maintaining the Holy Cross Church.

MLG 2.12.88

Reeling at the scouts' party

W.O. 2.12.88

A PARTY to celebrate the 1st Sarratt Scouts and Guides Jubilee Year went with a swing when they danced Scottish and Irish reels to the music of a Ceilidh Band at Sarratt Village Hall on Friday.

More than 150 Guides, Brownies, Cubs and their families were celebrating 25 years of the present troop and 60 years of the original group.

Despite widespread publicity no "old boys" attended, said Group Scout leader Roy Eteen.

He made a plea for more leaders for the Scout, Guide and Cub troops.

A two foot square cake iced in green and yellow depicting the Guide and Scout motif was cut during the buffet by the section leaders.

Among the guests were the Scout District Commissioner, Mr Geoff Shilling, and Assistant District Commissioner, Mr Tom Crosby.

KLG 9.12.88

Sarratt greets Santa

IN previous years Father Christmas has arrived on Sarratt Green by helicopter but last Saturday he made a much more traditional entrance to the annual parish church Christmas bazaar — in a horse-drawn carriage.

His annual appearance at the Holy Cross Church fund-raising event is always very popular with the village children who line the Green to greet him and then queue throughout the afternoon to visit him in his grotto in the village hall.

Last weekend church funds were boosted by £1400 to be spent on maintaining the parish church.

The well attended bazaar was organised by Mr Percy Saunders and his team who have been congratulated by church members for making it such a successful event.



Santa's trunk call

Watford Observer 9/12/88

FATHER Christmas arrived at Sarratt village hall on Saturday, riding in a landau carriage and accompanied by an elf.

Nelly the Elephant also joined Santa at the annual Holy Cross Bazaar which was attended by more than 300 people.

Organisers said the bazaar raised £1,400 — £300 more than last year — towards the church appeal, and was a great success.

The 107-year-old landau carriage was driven by Ron Higgins of Bucks Hill, Kings Langley.



Fun at the Holy Cross bazaar.

E 8070



Santa takes on his dragon flyer!

RUDOLPH the red-nosed reindeer has been sacked this Christmas in Sarratt and Santa Claus will be relying on a fire-breathing dragon this year.

For the legendary reindeer who traditionally guides the sleigh full of toys has been replaced by a new hero who can fly round the earth faster than Concorde.

The story unfolded at the village school when pupils gave a new twist to the Christmas tale.

There were so many parents and friends who wanted to watch the performances that the school concert was held twice to give everyone a chance to attend.

Mr Chris Alexander, headmaster, said that all the classes had worked very hard to produce this year's concerts.

The infants school productions included Teddy's Christmas and a nativity scene by class 4 and The Christmas Dragon by class 3. Junior school pupils presented The Donkey and The Bell that Cried.

Our picture shows pupils of class 3 in their production of The Christmas Dragon. Father Christmas was played by Michael McHugh and the dragon by Michael Wynes.

Musical youth

MONDAY morning is music morning at Sarratt School where 16 young musicians are learning to play the violin under the tuition of the BBC's Ian White.

He is using a new teaching method with the children playing to an accompaniment of taped music.

Headmaster Chris Alexander explained: "Quite a few of them are very promising.

"We have 20 violins of all sizes for the seven to 11-year-olds. The school has bought them and the children hire them and this pays for the purchase.

"Mr White is enjoying teaching them and they are building up a good rapport."

Party time

LESSONS will be taking a back seat at Sarratt School next week with a series of Christmas concerts, carol services and parties in the pipeline.

On Monday the youngsters have invited members of Sarratt Friendship Club to a Junior Concert, a nativity story and and "animal cantata."

There will be more seasonal entertainment on Friday, December 16, when the school holds its annual carol service.

School parties on Monday and Tuesday the following week round off the Christmas term.

December 1988

MYSTERY BLAZE HITS LEGION HQ

But club takings survive flames

A MYSTERY blaze in the early hours of Sunday morning at the Royal British Legion Club in Sarratt has left the building completely gutted.

Forensic experts are sifting through the debris to discover the cause of the fire which caused flames to leap 20 feet high before firemen brought the blaze under control.





Five fire engines rushed to the village club after the alarm was raised at 2 am on Sunday. All that is left of the building is a charred shell and stocks of wine, beer, spirits and confectionery worth thousands of pounds went up in smoke too.

But later on Sunday morning the club treasurer, Mr David Kempster, emerged beaming from the wreckage clutching a bag which he had rescued containing £900 takings.

He and Mr David Hunt, secretary, had closed the club just before midnight on Saturday. All the heating was turned off and they were planning to return in the morning for the annual general meeting which was due to be held there.

But instead of arranging events for the forthcoming year they just stood around in groups looking at the remains of their clubhouse. Now they will hold an emergency meeting at the village pavilion tonight (Friday.)

The fire is believed to have started in the bar area and quickly spread to the evening lounge in the wood and corrugated iron building. There was extensive smoke damage to the wood and concrete hall used for snooker, darts and dancing.

The club was built in 1921 by Mr John Hickman, father of the current president, Judge Michael Hickman. But it was burnt down in 1933 and later re-built.

Now Mr Fred Banks, chairman of Sarratt Royal British Legion, said: "I am shocked by this. We have been trying to keep the club going and this is a right set-back. We have had a falling membership as there are not many old soldiers left so we have been trying to get the younger element interested."

The clubhouse was also under lease to Sarratt Ex-Services Association and their members are very depressed by news of the fire.

Following a special meeting in the summer the club has been run on a voluntary basis without a steward and members have been battling to pay creditors and keep it running. In the last few weeks it was announced that the club's membership had increased to 400 and the financial situation had improved considerably.

Now Mrs Carol Gaisford, a committee member, said: "It is so disheartening. We were looking forward to Christmas because that is when we hoped to make our profit. We had planned to hold a children's party and a buffet dance for the OAPs in January."

KLG 16.12.88

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1988
measured at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date/max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	1,2nd/12.0	8th / -4.5	8th / -8.8	21st / 17.3	155.2	WETTEST JAN, 1981 – 2011
February	14,15/12.0	13th / -4.0	13th / -8.2	3rd / 8.6	42.1	
March	21st / 13.5	7th / -5.5	7th / -9.5	20th / 13.6	76.8	
April	18th / 19.5	10th / -5.0	10th / -8.7	8th / 6.4	33.6	last snow, 9th.
May	8,14/ 22.0	20th / -0.5	20th / -2.7	-------	55.5	last air & grd frosts, 20th & 27th.
June	19,20/23.5	5th / 4.0	5th / 10.0	8th / 15.8	33.8	
July	21st / 22.5	3rd / 4.5	3rd / 8.0	3rd / 17.9	91.0	
August	5th / 26.5	17th / 6.5	29th / 2.0	30th / 15.4	46.7	
September	7th / 24.0	30th / 1.0	30th / -1.9	24th / 15.9	61.2	1st ground frost, 30th.
October	19th / 18.0	30,31/-2.0	30th / -4.8	8th / 24.4	69.7	1st air frost, 1st.
November	10th / 15.5	5th / -6.0	22nd/ -9.6	29th / 15.6	32.0	1st snowfall of winter, 20th.
December	24,26/13.0	1st / -1.0	7th / -3.0	3rd / 11.4	19.6	

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History in pictures 1

A focal point of village life

By TIM BOWDLER

STILL standing is the old flint building that used be Sarratt School, the quaint, unaffected architecture still unmarred by the modern age.

The Old School, which opened in 1862, is now owned by Mike and Mary Finlay after the school transferred to new premises fifty metres away.

The new School in The Green is still in the business of educating infants and juniors, while the old school in Church Lane quietly stands, solid as a rock like an institution, wise and unmoved by the temperament of youth.

Originally it was a Church of England aided school catering for children up to the school-leaving age. In 1945 54 children were moved to Durrants School, leaving 46 juniors and infants.

In its early days children walked to the school from Chenies, Chandlers Cross and Bucks Hill. In 1949 it ceased to be an aided school and became Sarratt Church of England Controlled School.

The move to The Green started in 1958 when two classes at the new school were completed.

Enthusiastic pupils spent a day shifting equipment fifty yards up Sarratt Green.

Deputy Head Joyce Newton said: "We spent a whole day moving all types of things. A stuffed crocodile had been lying about so we decided to bring that as well, nobody seemed to know where it had come from."

Two classes remained in the old building until 1969 when phase two of the new school was built. Then all children moved into the new block which had four classrooms, assembly hall and kitchen.

Due to the building of new houses in Alexandra Road and Downer Drive, the school continued to grow and in 1970 the old school reopened to accommodate a fifth class and then a sixth. The number of pupils reached 190.

Eventually the old school was sold in 1978 and the money was used to provide mobile classrooms to unite the school on one site.

One of the most notable and popular members of staff was headmaster Kenneth Green.

Mr Green became headmaster in 1955 and during his 20 years in charge he worked in conjunction with Sarratt Parents Association to raise money for an open air swimming pool.

Much of the £3,000 needed for the pool was raised by the association with the help of a grant from Hertfordshire County Council.

After resigning in 1975 Mr Green left for Perth, Australia, where his daughter lived.

He was replaced by Mr Christopher Alexander who is still there.

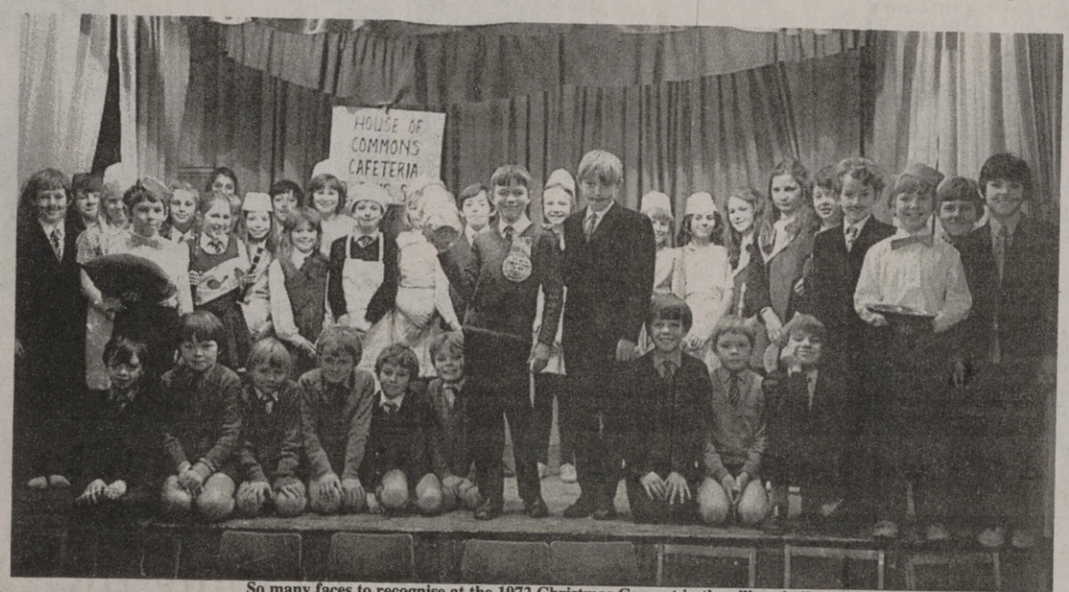
Another long serving member of staff is Deputy Head, Miss Joyce Newton. She joined the school in 1962 as a teacher and became deputy in 1969.

"There are always ups and downs, but I have worked alongside a lot of good people and overall I have been happy here."

The school is well known in the village and it has gained a reputation of being a very friendly and happy school.



Parents, teachers and pupils are pictured on sports day, 1969. In the background is the half-built new school.



So many faces to recognise at the 1972 Christmas Concert in the village hall.



BATTLING with wits were these three pupils who represented Sarratt School on BBC TV's Finders Keepers in 1983.

Lee Chamberlain, Amy Aylett, and Matthew Eaton were picked for the children's quiz show compared by Richard Stillgoe.

The three were pipped at the post by a Hampshire school on their first appearance by a question asking what organ can suffer from myopia.



Who is this character carrying his friend?



RARING to go, Sarratt School's football team of 1988.

According to headmaster Christopher Alexander this team is the most successful team the school have ever had.

Sarratt School did not have a team before Mr Alexander's arrival in 1975 but in 1980 a team was formed to play in a schools' league.

Mr Alexander has a keen interest in football and he spends a lot of his spare time managing, coaching and selecting the team.

They play schools from Chorleywood, Chipperfield and the surrounding area. On the one occasion the team played a Watford side they won 8-0.

This particular team only lost to two school sides and was captained by Joshua Lewsey (front row) who played for Watford's Under 11's.



Primary Schools Day at Sarratt School in 1973 when the general public were invited to see "what goes on". Pictured (from left) are Mr Kenneth Green, Lady Diana Spearman, Miss Joyce Newton, and Miss Margaret Clutterbuck.



Sarratt School staff in 1963. They are (from left) Joyce Newton, Kenneth Green, Margaret Davies and Judith Gregson.



Use the abacus to work out who this is on removal day in 1969?

350 gather at ceremony

THE FOUNDATION stone of St Clement Danes School's new £1 million assembly hall was unveiled in a special ceremony by Evelyn, Lady Barbirolli, the cellist and widow of the late world famous conductor Sir John Barbirolli.

The Barbirolli Hall, as the new building was dedicated, will commemorate one of the school's most famous pupils who attended St Clement Danes in the late 1920s and 1930s, when it was based in London.

The 350 dignitaries and parents assembled in the sports hall at Chorleywood last Thursday to honour their guest with performances of Mozart and Bach.

The party then processed to the new assembly hall, construction of which began six months ago, where Lady Barbirolli unveiled the foundation stone.

The company then filed back to the sports hall to enjoy a supper prepared by Mrs Nina Moore and members of the kitchen staff.

In speeches, Lady Barbirolli thanked St Clement Danes for its hospitality and vowed to return to see the completed hall.

Headmaster Mr Peter Conway's assessment later was that Lady Barbirolli's visit had gone down extremely well and that she in turn had been "thrilled" with the school.

"She is definitely going to come back and see it finished and hear some music played in the hall," said Mr Conway.

St Clement Danes has a strong musical tradition, its choir regularly supporting soloists at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

The new hall will reflect that interest and be equipped to provide the best acoustics for performances.

Yet the hall is intended to be multi-purpose. It will be equipped with a lighting box for drama productions, and be used for assembly.

Of the £1 million cost, £330,000 has been donated or pledged by parents, while the remainder will come from Holborn Estate Charity, the 16th century foundation that supports the school as well as an old people's home in Sydenham, south London. WO 30.6.89

SARRATT J.M.I. SCHOOL

SPORTS DAY

Tuesday, 20th June 1989

2 p.m.

*Denotes School Record

3rd Year	4th Year
Spackman A.	Waller C.
Griffiths A.	Powell R.
Fitzgerald A.	(Harris C.
	(McHale L.
Lewsey E.	
Wynes B.	
Mardling O.	
Height: 1.20m.*	Height: 1.04m.

3rd Year	4th Year
S. Hern	L. Keys
D. Illingworth	L. Davies
C. Marriott	A. McArdle
K. Bunting	R. Culverwell
Height: 1.06m.	Height: 1.12m.

3rd Year	4th Year
Griffiths A.	Waller C.
Lewsey E.	Powell R.
Wynes B.	McHale L.
Spackman A.	Harris C.
Fitzgerald A.	
Mardling O.	
Distance: 3.60m.	Distance: 3.15m.

3rd Year	4th Year
S. Hern	L. Keys
D. Illingworth	A. McArdle
C. Marriott	L. Davies
K. Bunting	R. Culverwell
Distance: 2.90m.	Distance: 3.14m.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL

2nd Year Boys	3rd Year Boys	4th Year Boys
1. Jones K.	Lewsey E.	Powell R.
2. McArdle J.	Spackman A.	Waller C.
3. Bone C.	Griffiths A.	Harris C.
4. McHale C.	Wynes B.	McHale L.
5. Wynne-Morgan T.	Mardling O.	
6. Dunn C.	Fitzgerald A.	
Distance: 35.20m.	Distance: 42.15m.	Distance: 41.90m.

THROWING THE ROUNDERS BALL

2nd Year Girls	3rd Year Girls	4th Year Girls
1. S. Mardling	S. Hern	L. Davies
2. N. Clough	K. Bunting	L. Keys
3. A. Harris	D. Illingworth	A. McArdle
4. S. Keys	C. Marriott	R. Culverwell
5. R. Powell		
6. K. McHugh		
Distance: 27.25m.	Distance: 21.85m.	Distance: 26.50m.

TODAY'S EVENTS

1.	35m.	Boys (2 heats)	Top Infants
2.	35m.	Girls	Top Infants
3.	35m.	Boys	Middle Infants
4.	35m.	Girls	Middle Infants
5.	35m.	Boys	Reception
6.	35m.	Girls	Reception
7.	50m.	Boys	1st Year Juniors
	Culverwell J.	Barnwell B.	Waller R.
	Kerrigan G.		
8.	50m.	Girls	1st Year Juniors
	L. Clack	C. Phillips	F. Ballard
	S. Havercroft	R. Holt	V. Cooling
9.	50m.	Boys	2nd Year Juniors
	McArdle J.	Dunn C.	Jones K.
	Ashlee P.	McHale C.	Bone C.
	Wynne-Morgan T.		
10.	50m.	Girls	2nd Year Juniors
	K. McHugh	S. Mardling	S. Keys
	N. Illingworth	N. Clough	A. Harris
	R. Powell	E. Linnell	
11.	50m.	Boys	3rd Year Juniors
	Mardling O.	Fitzgerald A.	Griffiths A.
	Magnere G.	Lewsey E.	Spackman A.
	Wynes B.		
12.	50m.	Girls	3rd Year Juniors
	K. Bunting	S. Hern	D. Illingworth
	C. Marriott		
13.	50m.	Boys	4th Year Juniors
	Harris C.	McHale L.	Waller C.
	Powell R.		
14.	50m.	Girls	4th Year Juniors
	L. Keys	L. Davies	A. McArdle
	R. Culverwell		
15.	Novelty	Girls	Top Infants
16.	Novelty	Boys (2 heats)	Top Infants
17.	Novelty	Girls	Middle Infants
18.	Novelty	Boys	Middle Infants
19.	Novelty	Girls	Reception
20.	Novelty	Boys	Reception
21.	Sack	Boys	1st Year Juniors
22.	Skipping	Girls	1st Year Juniors
23.	Sack	Boys	2nd Year Juniors
24.	Skipping	Girls	2nd Year Juniors
25.	Sack	Boys	3rd Year Juniors
26.	Skipping	Girls	3rd Year Juniors
27.	Sack	Boys	4th Year Juniors
28.	Skipping	Girls	4th Year Juniors
29.	Sack	Boys	Top Infants 1
30.	Skipping	Girls	Top Infants
31.	Sack	Boys	Top Infants 2
32a.	Skipping	Girls	Middle Infants
32b.	Bat & Ball	Girls	Middle Infants
33.	Sack	Boys	Middle Infants
34.	Bat & Ball	Girls	Reception
35.	Sack	Boys	Reception
36.	Under 5s	Boys	
37.	Under 5s	Girls	
38.	60m.	Girls	1st Year Juniors
	L. Clack	C. Phillips	F. Ballard
	S. Havercroft	R. Holt	V. Cooling
39.	60m.	Boys	1st Year Juniors
	Culverwell J.	Barnwell B.	Waller R.
	Kerrigan G.		
40.	60m.	Girls	2nd Year Juniors
	K. McHugh	S. Mardling	S. Keys
	N. Illingworth	N. Clough	A. Harris
	R. Powell	E. Linnell	
41.	60m.	Boys	2nd Year Juniors
	McArdle J.	Dunn C.	Jones K.
	Ashlee P.	McHale C.	Bone C.
	Wynne-Morgan T.		
42.	60m.	Girls	3rd Year Juniors
	K. Bunting	S. Hern	D. Illingworth
	C. Marriott		
43.	60m.	Boys	3rd Year Juniors
	Mardling O.	Fitzgerald A.	Griffiths A.
	Magnere G.	Lewsey E.	Spackman A.
	Wynes B.		
44.	60m.	Girls	4th Year Juniors
	L. Keys	L. Davies	A. McArdle
	R. Culverwell		
45.	60m.	Boys	4th Year Juniors
	Harris C.	McHale L.	Waller C.
	Powell R.		
46.	Novelty Team Race	Class 2	
47.	Novelty Team Race	Class 1	

In the Junior section an individual boy and girl champion will emerge from competition in four or five events: 50m., 60m., High Jump, Long Jump, Throwing (2nd, 3rd & 4th Years only). Points are awarded as follows:-

1st - 6 points 2nd - 5 points 3rd - 4 points
4th - 3 points 5th - 2 points 6th - 1 point

In the Esso Five Star Athletic Awards we have, so far, nine children with 5 star awards in three events and eight children with 5 star pent-athlete awards. All the children have gained an award of some sort!

****

Refreshments at 5p per cup will be available to parents and small children from the table on their side of the track.

****

It is a very great pleasure to welcome Lady Spearman to Sarratt School today as our guest of honour. Well known to so many in the village, we are delighted that she has been able to fit us into her very full calendar and agreed to present the trophies.

1989

K.L.G. 7-4-89



New church blessed at special service

THE new Roman Catholic Church in Chipperfield was officially opened and blessed on Sunday.

The opening comes after years of uncertainty about the future of the planned church.

The church's progress has been beset with difficulties. Both villagers and Dacorum Borough Council opposed the church on Green Belt grounds when the plan was first put forward.

But after years of planning and a costly four day inquiry, planning permission was granted for Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Church to be built.

SERVES

The church, which held its first mass on Christmas Eve, now serves Roman Catholics from all over Sarratt, Chipperfield, Bovingdon, and Kings Langley.

Before the church was constructed Roman Catholics had to hold services in Anglican churches and village halls every Sunday. Now they can meet under one roof.

Cardinal Basil Hume was invited to the official opening, but was unable to attend. The Right Reverend James O'Brien, Roman Catholic Bishop in Hertfordshire took his place.

The Mayor of Dacorum, Councillor Hazel Bassadone attended with her consort and Sergeant at Mace.

●OUR picture shows Bishop O'Brien and Father Desmond Cantwell with Dacorum's Mayor, Councillor Hazel Bassadone at Sunday's service.

W.O. 13-1-89

Cardinal at opening

CARDINAL Basil Hume, the head of the Roman Catholic church in England, has been invited to officially open Chipperfield's new Roman Catholic Church.

Midnight Mass at Christmas was the first service to take place in Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Church which has been completed after eight years of planning, controversy and a public inquiry.

The building work started last summer and now there is only the priest's house to be finished.

Father Desmond Cantwell will be the new priest. He is also Chaplain at St Michael's School in Garston and The Mount Youth Custody Centre in Bovingdon.

Before the new church was built local Catholics used St Pauls, Chipperfield, the Memorial Hall in Bovingdon and All Saints Church, Kings Langley.

"We are very grateful for the hospitality of the Anglicans," said Father Cantwell.

The church serves an area of 54 square miles including Kings Langley, Chipperfield, Bovingdon and Sarratt. A congregation of between 300 and 400 is expected by the new church.

A date for the official opening has yet to be set.

Urn theft from judge's home

K.L.G. 3/2/89

WHEN a Sarratt judge looked out of his bedroom window on Sunday morning he discovered that thieves had broken into his garden during the night and stolen an antique copper urn.

Sir Christopher Staughton, who lives at Sarratt Hall, was furious to see his lawn scattered with earth, rocks and plants from the urn, which was originally a water tank.

The judge bought it at a country house sale in Wales ten years ago and it was filled with masses of plants.

His wife, Lady Staughton, said: "It must have taken two or three people to carry it away. They can't have been gardeners because the plants were just left scattered around. The strange thing is that there were no marks on the lawn. Police say it will probably be cut up for scrap.

"Sir Christopher is very irritated indeed that it has been taken and he would like it back."

1989

Council ordered to compensate resident

W.O. 10-2-89

RESIDENT Gerald Tatham has finally won a nine-month bureaucratic battle against Three Rivers District Council.

Following an inquiry, the Ombudsman has stated the council misled Mr Tatham when he applied for listed building consent to carry out repairs on the 450-year-old Red Lion Farm, The Green, Sarratt.

To rectify the blunder, the council has been asked to compensate him for the time and trouble in resolving the issue, and to meet any additional building costs incurred.

Mr Tatham originally sought advice from the district council in 1987.

They advised him to seek listed building consent before repairing the front wall of his house.

In May 1987, a district council planning officer and a Hertfordshire County Council conservation officer met with Mr Tatham and his builder, and agreed the front wall of the house should be removed to see what structure was underneath and what works would be needed.

"The county council officer expressed the view that repairs did not need listed building consent," said the Ombudsman's report.

However, on a second visit to the property in August, the district planning officer's view was that listed planning permission was required to expose the frame of the front wall.

In September, Mr Tatham applied for listed building consent and asked for the application to be dealt with as soon as possible.

His application was considered by another officer, who asked him to supply four copies of the necessary plans of the works and six copies of a location plan to show the property in relation to its surroundings.

Mr Tatham replied saying that since he did not intend altering the appearance of the house he could not provide before and after plans.

According to the Ombudsman's report, he understood the officer had agreed to this — but the officer said later he did not agree that plans were not necessary.

Mr Tatham then wrote to the director of planning sending copies of the location plan and his intentions.

His letter was received by a third officer who instructed his staff to deal with the application as it came to the top of the pile — which it did at the end of October.

Having not received a reply to his letter, Mr Tatham contacted the council and spoke to a fourth planning officer.

His understanding of what she said was that everything was in order and that there would be no problems, said the report.

The conclusion Mr Tatham drew was that the council would not insist on the production of drawings, so he contacted his builders.

On October 29, following a further visit to the house in Sarratt, the third planning officer wrote to the owner.

The letter said there was insufficient information contained within his application to enable a consent to be issued.

The officer said a survey drawing of the part of the building to which the works would be carried out was needed.

Mr Tatham replied to the letter setting out why he was unhappy about the advice he had received from the council, and adding that the contract for the work had been signed and scaffolding had been erected.

In the letter he also asked whether the work proposed required listed building consent and whether survey plans were required.

In December, a reply to his letter was sent, saying listed building consent was required.

At the end of the month the necessary plans were supplied, and in January 1988 the planning committee granted consent. The work has now been completed.

● The Ombudsman's report referred to the property as a listed 16th century house on Sarratt Green. There is only one such listed house.

Confirming he was the complainant, Mr Tatham said this week he felt it would be imprudent of him to comment on the ruling until the council have responded.

Memorial hope

K.L.G. 24.2.89

SARRATT could soon have its own war memorial.

Speaking at this month's parish council meeting, Councillor Ron Cox suggested a memorial for the village green saying that Sarratt men had gone off to fight in the wars and never returned, but the village had no war memorial.

"There are two plaques in the church which can hardly be read and about two thirds of the village do not go to church."

He said that many villages had their own war memorials and Sarratt seemed to be an exception. He thought perhaps the matter could be discussed at the annual parish meeting in March.

All the councillors thought it would be an excellent idea to have a war memorial, and agreed to discuss the idea at the meeting.

Councillor Cox said that since the fire at the Sarratt and District Ex-Serviceman's Club in December, the Royal British Legion seemed to be going from strength to strength.

"The British Legion has now got 70 members, the best since the war," he said and added that the services committee is now contacting all the widows of servicemen, "looking around at hardships and doing a good job."

Memorial cost and who pays?

WHETHER or not Sarratt's Royal British Legion is going to bear the cost of the village's proposed war memorial is till not decided.

At this month's Sarratt Parish Council meeting members discussed the memorial which villagers said they wanted at the the Annual Parish Meeting a fortnight earlier.

A new memorial for the village had been one of the major topics discussed at the annual meeting. According to parish councillors, Judge Hickman had said that the Sarratt Royal British Legion would bare the costs of the memorial.

But certain councillors claimed that the judge had been "talking out of his head." They said that Sarratt's branch of the Legion had not agreed to pay for the memorial, and did not know if it could be paid for by the Legion's headquarters.

But they also said that this did not rule out the fact that Sarratt's Legion branch might still pay for it!

Sarratt Parish Council news by CLAIRE BEAUMONT

No growth

VILLAGE allotments will be available for £1.50 a year — the same rent as last year.

Parish councillors claim that it is a very reasonable charge as rates in other areas can be as much as £8 or even £15 a year.

Hole problem

POTHOLES in and around Sarratt have been causing a problem for drivers, cyclists, and horse riders.

Parish councillors reeled off a long list of holes that need to be filled in before someone has an accident.

These include pot holes in Grove Mill Lane near Whippendell Woods, Fir Tree Hill near the nursery, and in Bucks Hill where councillors say drivers are swerving to avoid them.

Holiday flats

THE PARISH councillors discussed an outline application from the owner of Dellfield Farm in Plough Lane. Farming is not as profitable as it used to be says the owner who wants to do something to generate more income.

He wants to convert one of his brick barns to take holiday flats.

The councillors wondered if the application would do the village any good. They finally decided they would recommend that the application be refused on Green Belt grounds.

Display

THE DIRECTOR of planning at Three Rivers has asked the parish council to find a suitable place for displaying plans in the village.

Plans are normally available in libraries, but Sarratt which does not have a library, is up a gum tree.

The owner of the village post office is considering whether or not to display the plans on her premises.

K.L.G. 3-3-89

Garden shed relics identified!

SOME of the coins and relics re-discovered in Sarratt by accident have been identified as Roman, but some have been given a much later date.

But the Rector of Holy Cross Church, the Rev. Martin Culverwell, has been advised not to display them in the church in case they are stolen.

The artefacts, including a Roman box tile, a fifteenth or sixteenth century iron key, and an ornament with a rose motif, were re-discovered after former Holy Cross Churchwarden, Mr Edwin Newman read about the missing artefacts in a history paper.

The paper had been written by a former rector, the Rev Edward Ryley in 1902 and then republished in a booklet on the history of the church compiled by Mrs Doris Rollinson.

It included a passage which jogged Mr Newman's memory and he remembered that the artefacts had been given to him for safe keeping by the rector's son on his retirement in the 1950s.

He stored them in a garden shed where they lay forgotten for over 40 years until Mr Newman unearthed them.

An inscribed tile was described by Verulamium Museum as a Roman box tile which formed part of a heating box similar to a chimney, and used for heating a small house or bath house.

The ornament with the rose motif was described by the British Museum as a type of stud on a leather garment. They also identified three pieces of rendered tile as medieval floor tiles.

Mr Adrian Havercroft, Director of the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust said that the finds are, "the first hard evidence of a domestic settlement as well as the church building itself."

WO 10-11-89

JOHN HOW recalls

Last Lord of the manor

WHEN I first came to work in Watford in the 1950s I was intrigued about tales of the village of Sarratt and the happenings on bonfire night.

They also initiated me into tales about the treacle mines. I cannot remember what they were, but they were, to say the least most fascinating.

I also know the name of Thomas Clutterbuck. He was the last Lord of the Manor of Sarratt. Although he only held the Lordship for three months, following the death of his father in 1938, to the older residents he always retained that title.

His father's wish had been that the manorial lands of Sarratt Green and Commonwood Common should belong to the parish. In December 1938, three months after his death, the land was sold to Sarratt Parish Council for the nominal sum of £100.

But losing the Lord of the Manorship never deterred Thomas Clutterbuck in his love and good deeds for Sarratt. He chaired the parish council for years and with his family landowners in the area for a hundred years, there wasn't much he didn't know about the district and local matters.

He represented the village on Watford Rural District Council for 11 years and was chairman in 1957 and 1958.

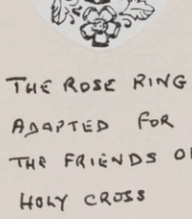
He was bitterly opposed to Sarratt being part of Watford and he led a deputation to Whitehall on the matter.

I can recall Thomas Clutterbuck fighting another battle in London during the big inquiry to decide upon the expansion of local government in Greater London.

There were plans to amalgamate half of Hertfordshire with Bedfordshire and other gigantic moves.

The inquiry droned on at the headquarters of the National Farmers' Union in the heart of London during a long, hot, summer. Eventually it was the turn of Sarratt and Thomas Clutterbuck stood up to fight his corner.

It was just another of the many good deeds that he did for his village. Thomas Clutterbuck, last Lord of the Manor of Sarratt, moved to new pastures, with his death in 1967.



THE ROSE RING ADAPTED FOR THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Church mystery new evidence

K.L.G. 3-2-89

THE mystery of a Sarratt memorial in the Holy Cross Church is about to be revealed after nearly half a century.

There is a memorial to Sir William Kingsley in Sarratt church which has puzzled many people over the years. It is dated 1502 but the dress of the people on the memorial is from the early part of the 17th century. And just to add to the confusion there is a will of the deceased in the church archives dated 1611.

But now new light has been shed on the Sarratt secret from an unexpected source. It seems that a member of the National Trust has been doing research into a Cleveland family which brought about the discovery of new information on the Kingsleys of Sarratt.

Mark Wyman, who has been delving into the past in Cleveland, has agreed to come to the village in March to give a lecture with slides.

His lecture will coincide with the launching of a Kingsley Memorial Restoration Fund. The Rev Martin Culverwell, Rector of Sarratt, explained that the new fund is needed as restoration of the memorial is likely to prove expensive.

He said: "Many people have commented to me about the very poor state of the memorial and in fact a portion of a pinnacle fell on to the church and smashed. But luckily no-one was underneath at the time. As a result all loose masonry was removed and stored awaiting the complete restoration which we hope will be achieved by the end of the year."

The Rev Culverwell won't reveal what information has come to light but said: "I can assure you it is very interesting."

The lecture will be held on Wednesday, March 1, at the Holy Cross Church at 8pm.

KINGSLEY of SARRATT

The story of a Seventeenth Century Family

All proceeds in aid of the Kingsley Memorial Restoration Fund

1989



'The Kingsleys of Sarratt & The Jacobean Legal Mafic

A Lecture by
Mark Whyman of the National Trust
at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt
8pm Wednesday March 1st
Admission Free • Collection in aid of the Kingsley Memorial Restoration Fund

Villagers begin the big clean-up



SARRATT villagers are trying to regain the title of Best Kept Village which they last won in 1982.

They mustered their forces on The Green last Saturday to plan their campaign.

The meeting point was a 1932 veteran Bedford bus, owned by joint organiser of the campaign, Mr Dennis Banks.

He and Mr Jeff Benham, who has already made a name for himself in Sarratt with his own personal clean-up campaign, were joined by 25 willing volunteers.

They began by tidying strategic areas including the village green, the playing fields, public house areas, bus shelter and the churchyard.

Armed with brooms, shovels and dustbin bags, the campaigners collected paper, beer cans and takeaway food containers.

"We were not quite sure how many people would turn up but we based our strategy on something like 40.

"We were a little disappointed as only about 25 very enthusiastic villagers turned up," said Mr Benham.

WO F2916

W.O. 26-5-89

Chairman elected

NEW chairman of Sarratt Parish Council is Mr John Gell.

He was elected at Monday's annual meeting of the council when, against convention, he stepped up from the ordinary rank of parish councillor to assume the post.

It is usual among parish councils for the incoming chairman to first gain a year's experience in the vice-chairman's post.

Mrs Alexandra Ballard was elected vice-chairman of the council for the second successive year.

She explained later that she was offered the chairmanship, yet declined due taking up a shared job running the Multi-Racial Community Centre in West Watford.

The inference remained, said Mrs Ballard, that she might become chairman next year after she had had time to assess whether she could manage the post and her new job at the same time.

In Sarratt, villagers are celebrating after winning the Trophy for the Best Kept Small Village.

The village had to beat ten other villages in the Central and West Herts area to win the coveted award.

In the whole of the county Sarratt and Icklefield were joint second with only two points separating them from the winning village of Much Hadham.

Villagers say that Sarratt's success can be attributed to Mr Geoff Benham and Mr Dennis Jenks who waged a campaign against litter in the village. They used a veteran 1932 Bedford bus as their meeting point.

To thank everyone for their hard work, Mr Jenks and his wife Judy are giving a celebratory party for all the helpers this weekend. Both he and Mr Benham are determined that Sarratt will win the top award in the county in 1990.

Neighbouring Belsize won the Best Kept Hamlet award for the second year running. Worried that their run-down red telephone box might ruin their chances of winning, Belsize residents phoned up British Telecom.

Within 24 hours BT came to the rescue and completely refurbished the box.

Belsize is best!



A PLAQUE was unveiled on the green at Belsize on Saturday after Hertfordshire Conservation Society named it Hertfordshire's Best Kept Hamlet.

Chairman of Hertfordshire Best Kept Village Competition, Dr Mervyn Miller, presided at the ceremony watched by most of the Belsize residents.

After unveiling the plaque, he said Belsize was all an English village should be.

It was one of the village's smaller listed buildings which won favour with the judges.

The original-style red telephone box on the green got a special mention. Judges commented that Belsize had the best red phone box in the county.

They also referred to the attractive hanging baskets and flower tubs at The Plough public house.

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, Mr John Gell, said the Belsize Residents' Association had been in existence for just over a year. He congratulated it for being runner-up in last year's competition and winner this year.

Mr Laurie Young, chairman of the association, thanked everyone in the hamlet for their support in keeping their own verges and gardens tidy, and also for joining work parties to cut greens, plant trees and clear hedges of litter.

He gave a special word of thanks to Mr Dave Evans of British Telecom who was responsible for the "excellent" work done on the phone box. WO F4691

WO 28.7.89

Bouquet for BT after SOS call



RESIDENTS of Belsize are praising two men from British Telecom whose hard work helped them to win a best-kept hamlet prize.

Mr Dave Evans and Mr Len Fosbrook are two of BT's phone renovating team. Following an SOS call from residents, they rushed to Belsize to mend, paint and generally refurbish the village's ancient red phone booth before this year's Best Kept Village Competition.

The chairman of the village's organising committee, Mr Laurie Young, had written to British Telecom because he was worried the hamlet's dilapidated booth would ruin its chances in the prestigious tournament.

Within 24 hours the company's 'red booth team' arrived with their equipment and completely refurbished the booth. Despite the box's age, the team used modern 'electro-static' spraying methods and installed new equipment.

Belsize, in only its second venture into the 32-year-old competition, went on to win the best-kept hamlet category for the second year running. The judges, from the Hertfordshire Conservation Society, gave a special mention to the booth.

Mr Les King, spokesmen for the company, said that it was a nice change to have some good news for once.

MAY '89.

Clean-up effort brings success



SARRATT villagers gathered forces last Saturday, anxious to regain the title of the Best Kept Village, which they last held in 1982.

They met on the Village Green to plan their campaign. The rendezvous point was a 1932 Veteran Bus, with the destination Dublin on display. It is a new acquisition of Mr Dennis Jenks of Little Sarratt Hall.

Mr Jenks was also one of the joint organisers of the event along with Mr Jeff Benham, who has already made Sarratt history with his own "Clean-Up The Village Campaign." They had 20 volunteers to help tidy up strategic areas in the village including the Village Green, playing fields, pub areas, bus shelters, and churchyard.

Armed with brooms, shovels, and dustbin liners, the campaigners will be collecting beer cans, paper and takeaway food containers.

Best kept kiosk?

"We want to encourage people to cut their lawns and tidy hedges and tidy their gardens, or give a lick of paint where it is needed," said Jeff and Dennis.

"If you need help phone Kings Langley 62578 or 63363. Please adopt an area near your home and make it litter free. The key to winning is everyone joining in."

Judging for The Best Kept Village Competition will take place unannounced sometime between June 13 and the end of July.

●OUR picture shows the village telephone kiosk getting a clean-up thanks to Mr Jenks and four-year-old Charlotte Kelly.

K.W.G. 26-5-89

Garbage busters



LITTER conscious couple Jeff and Catherine Benham of Sarratt have collected more than 150lbs of rubbish in the village in less than one month.

Distressed by the amount of beer cans, sweet wrappers and newspapers that littered the area, the couple from Dimmocks Lane, went around the village, collecting 60lbs of rubbish along Sarratt Road alone.

"The people mainly responsible are car drivers and their inconsiderate passengers, horse riders and walkers who don't seem to show any example to their children," said Jeff.

With the help of his wife he has cleared along Deadmans Ash, Bottom Lane, Plough Lane, Dimmocks Lane and Red Lion Lane.

Catherine, who comes from America, said: "In America you can be fined the equivalent of £200 for leaving litter, but there they have people to enforce the rules."

● Hundreds of people in the Three Rivers District turned out on Sunday for the annual Spring Clean organised by the district Council. WO F1371

Sarratt barn auctioned



W.O. 5/5/89

AN 18th century Grade Two listed barn, almost opposite the pond on the Green at Sarratt, with planning permission for conversion to a large three bedroom, two reception room house, fetched £215,000 at auction.

Faulkners of Kings Langley were the auctioneers for the sale of Great Wheelers Barn, at the Heath Park Hotel in Hemel Hempstead on Wednesday April 19.

The auction room was crowded and Matthew Carter, for Faulkners, said afterwards that both the vendor and the auctioneers were well pleased with the price obtained.

Candles came out!

K.W.G. 7-4-89

RESIDENTS of Chipperfield and Sarratt were left in the dark on Friday night when the electricity supply to the villages failed.

But customers at The Windmill public house in Chipperfield were undeterred and carried on playing darts by candlelight.

From 9.40 pm to 10.20 pm on Friday the electricity stayed off, hundreds of people missed "Educating Rita" on the television and could not make themselves a cup of tea.

The problem was the result of a small explosion in two manholes at the corner of the High Street and Vicarage Lane which was closed for half an hour.

The explosion damaged an electricity cable which runs through the High Street. Engineers had to isolate the supply and switch to another cable before the electricity supply could be restored.

"The landlord of The Windmill in Chipperfield found some candles and we all carried on drinking and playing darts by candlelight," said Chipperfield Parish Councillor Stephen Cox.

Cancer fighting award

THE annual general meeting in Sarratt of the local branch of a cancer charity was crowned by the presentation of a silver certificate in recognition of members fund-raising efforts.

On Monday the village played host for the annual general meeting of the Rickmansworth branch of the Cancer Research Campaign.

The certificate was presented by Dr Nigel Kemp, who is scientific director of the campaign.

The Rickmansworth branch, which covers all the villages in the Langleys, has raised over £100,000 in the last few years.

Mrs Valerie Cumming, branch chairwoman said that the research programme cost over £35m in 1989. It is being conducted in universities, medical schools and research institutes throughout the land.

Frank J Cogan

Now retired, has lived and worked in the area for 34 years.

He has a married daughter, a son and two grandchildren. He has represented Chorleywood, Sarratt and part of Croxley Green on the County Council since 1967.

A member of the Education Committee since 1967, he was Chairman of the Committee from 1975-1984, having been Leader of the Conservative Group for the two previous years. A governor of local primary and secondary schools, he is currently Chairman of the Chorleywood Library Committee.

He has represented the County Council on the Association of County Councils and the Regional Advisory Council for Further Education.

Awarded the C.B.E. in 1987, he serves now on the Police Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee and the Education Committee.



Conservative

W.O. 3-11-89

Looking into parish's past

INTERESTING information about Sarratt's past is being sought for an exhibition on the history of local parishes being staged by Three Rivers Museum Society.

Sarratt Women's Institute members Dawn Pitts and Pam White need exhibits.

"Any maps or photographs lent will be carefully copied and the originals returned," said Dawn.

Contact them on (Kings Langley) 67071 or 63812).

Village hall is filled with spring produce

SARRATT Horticultural Society's second annual spring show was held in the village hall last week.

Although entries were slightly down on last year, they were widely spread across the schedule, said chairman Mr John Lyons.

The judges commented on the very high standard of the entries in all sections.

Mr Lyons appealed to members to donate gifts of plants, flowers, fruit, vegetables, gardening tools and flower pots towards the society's stall on Sarratt Day, Saturday, May 27.

Overall Results:

1, Mrs M. Stratford; equal 2, Mr Cyril Petts and Mr John Rickard; 4, Mrs Val Cumming; equal 5, Mrs P. Gooding, Mrs S. MacGregor and Miss Zoey Lyons.

Combined section:

1, Mrs M. Stratford; 2, Mrs S. MacGregor; equal 3, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones and Mr Cyril Petts.

Other sections:

Daffodils, Mrs M. Stratford; flowers, Mrs S. MacGregor; floral arts, Mrs N. Singleton; cookery, Mrs Pat Petts; handicrafts, Mrs C. Barber; children's, Miss Zoey Lyons; youth clubs, Sarratt Brownies.

WO 21.4.89

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

CHORLEYWOOD

THURSDAY MAY 4th 1989

Lynda Bond has been Sarratt's hard-working District Councillor for the past three years. Born in 1958 in South Wales, Lynda attended the University of Kent where she obtained a degree in French and European Studies before joining a major accountancy firm in London. Now married to Sarratt Parish Councillor Tony Bond, Lynda has been active in local affairs since moving to the area six years ago. She is a member of the local Marriage Guidance Council and has been Treasurer of Sarratt Church Parochial Church Council. A busy mother with two young sons, Lynda's energy and enthusiasm should blow away a few cobwebs at County Hall.



1989

Medieval Michaelmas

KWS LANGLEY GAZETTE 6.10.1989



● *Village children had great fun dressing up as heros and heroines from the past and present. Characters included snooker player Steve Davis, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck and Joan of Arc.*

Joan of Arc wins the day

IF you were in Sarratt recently you would have been easily forgiven for thinking you had been transported back to Medieval Times.

The highlight of the village's unique Michaelmas Fair on Saturday afternoon was a procession from the Green to Sarratt JMI by a whole host of children in historical outfits.

Sarratt Parents' Association arranged the whole venture. A magnificent £1,200 was raised to be spent on village needs — particularly those of its children.

As well as all the tots in the village, specific youth groups such as scouts, guides and the playgroup will also benefit.

The youngsters enjoyed a Punch and Judy Show, pony rides and swings and roundabouts. Pupils from Sarratt JMI School danced around the maypole and the Hosier and Dickinson (Watford) B Band entertained during the afternoon.

Both Sarratt Afternoon and Sarratt Evening WI had stalls selling produce, plants, books and displayed photographs of Sarratt old and new.

Other fund raising stalls included jewellery, lace, toys and crafts.

Sarratt watercolour artist Mrs Jan Clutterbuck judged both the colouring competition and the fancy dress parade, Prizewinners in the colouring competition were — Two to three-year-olds, Jamie Fitzgibbon; four to five-year-olds, James Cavalier; nine-year-olds, Kelly McHugh.

Results in the Fancy dress, Heros and heroines, Past and present were — six years and under — first, Jodie Hitchcock as Joan of Arc; second, Hannah and Sam Cheetham as Friar Tuck and Robin Hood; third, Tom Barnwell as Steve Davis.

In group two for those aged seven and above first was Dan Ballard as the Duke of Wellington; second Sophie Havercroft as Emily Pankhurst; third Fay Ballard as Boadicea.



Five Star record for Sarratt

SARRATT SCHOOL had a record number of pupils winning the Amateur Athletic Association's-Esso Five Star Awards.

Said headmaster Chris Alexander, "In this scheme, they are competing against themselves and not each other. Out of 35 pupils in the top three years, 13 have qualified for the Award at the highest grade, which is very pleasing.

"They can follow their own progress amd that of others through the year after entering it up on their computer. So this scheme involves other studies as well."

Pictured are, back row from left to right: Andrew Fitzgerald (U/11), Chris Waller (U/12), Aidan Griffiths (U/11), Lisa Keys (U/12), Sarah Hern (U/11), Joseph McArdle (U/10). Front row: Ben Wynes (U/11), Edward Lewsey (U/11), Angela Harris (U/10), Sarah Mardline (U/10), Kelvin Jones (U/10), Ciaran Bone (U/10). Not pictured, Andrew Spackman ((u/11). WO F4626.

W.O 1.9.89

Sad death in Sarratt

WITH the death this month of Mrs Nan Livingstone — Learmouth, Sarratt has lost one of its best loved residents.

Following the death of her husband, war hero Lt. Colonel Lennox John Livingstone-Learmouth, only 15 months ago, Nan left Green End Farm, the family home since 1952 and moved to a house on Sarratt Green.

Her untimely death happened just after she had spent months re-decorating and re-furbishing her home, without having a chance to enjoy it.

Close family friend Mrs Jan Clutterbuck said, "many of us in the village have lost a very dear friend. We knew Nan, Len and their four children Marcus, Finola, Sue and John after they moved to Green End Farm from Ireland over 36 years ago.

"Nan was a person of great charm, warmth and kindness and loved by all her friends. She was never too busy to help them whenever needed. Her friendship extended to so many of us that her absence will be of great personal loss in Sarratt."

KLG 16.6.89

K.L.9. 14-7-89

Farewell to minister

A SPECIAL farewell service is to be held on Sunday at Sarratt Baptist church for the Rev Philip Dixon who is leaving the village to be become minister of a Baptist Church near Manchester.

All friends from the village are invited to join Philip and Margaret Dixon at the church on Sunday where they will be able to give their best wishes to the couple.

Saturday night fever



MICHAEL Jackson's monopoly of the disco dancing scene could soon end if the standards at a Sarratt school continue to climb. K.L.9. 21-7-89

Last Saturday was the day; Sarratt Junior Mixed Infants was the venue; the village's parents' association were the organisers; and most of Sarratt's children were getting down at the barbeque and disco.

Earlier that week the adults had organised their own disco, but the dance floor moves were apparently just not the same.

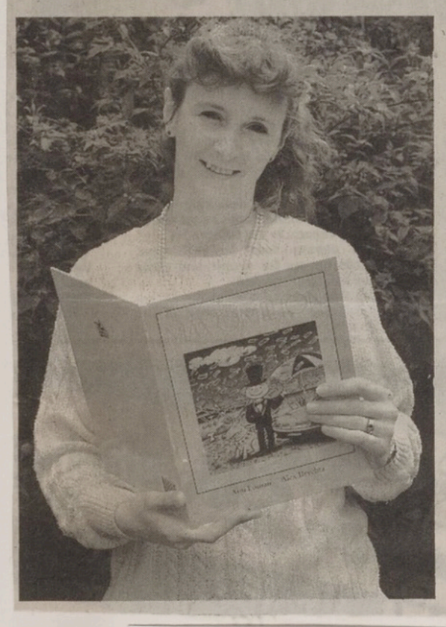
The parents' association, which encompasses the whole village, has been thriving for many years now.

They raise money through a myriad of events and their funds help the youth club, the school, Guides and any groups in the village for young children.

W.O. 19-5-89

Max could be a cult character

TIGHT-FISTED Max O'Million is proving a great moneyspinner for writer Angi Loman, a former Rickmansworth schoolgirl.



Max O'Million is the central character invented by Angi for her book of the same title published recently by Oxford University Press, which is proving a real hit with children.

Are we seeing the birth of a new cult figure in children's literature?

The book is about a young boy called Max who hordes all his money in his bedroom and won't spend any of it, until one day the money rebels and spends itself on presents for his family.

The book is beautifully written in Roald Dahl-like rhyme:

"His birthday never came around
Without at least another pound
For building up his secret stash
Of someone else's hard earned cash."

And like every good children's book, it has a moral for its readers, in this case that it is best for them to share and be generous.

Anji, 30, recently moved from The Green, Sarratt, to the village of Castle Acre, in Norfolk, where she lives with her husband David Field, a freelance engineer in television.

The book is illustrated by Alex Brychta, artist for many of the books published by Oxford University Press.

"I wrote the book a few years ago while I was still living in Watford.

"I was very surprised at first to have it published. It is a very prestigous company. I'm thrilled," said the new authoress.

Angi was brought up in Chorleywood and lived in Oxhey, Bushey and Watford, before moving to Sarratt.

As well as writing, she runs Fieldwork Productions, a video production company.

At the moment she is working on a promotional video for a leukaemia charity featuring actress Jane Asher, but Angi still intends to carry on writing.

"I've other ideas for books about Max with him learning a lesson in each book," she said.

"I think when I was a child I enjoyed reading stories in rhyme, especially if they taught me a little."

Foyle's bookshop in Charing Cross Road is currently displaying copies of her book in its window, a sure signthat Angi Loman has arrived as an author.

SARRATT J.M.I. SCHOOL

PRESENTS

THE STAR AND THE ANIMALS

by PETER CANWELL

MONDAY DECEMBER 11th 1989 2 pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13th 1989 7.30 pm



Chipperfield News

E FAIR

ne grass grew so long on Sarratt Green nat a herd of cows was brought in to njoy the grass. The right to keep the air open was maintained by one man who urned up regularly every year to keep ne tradition going on May 1st and 2nd. During the winter the travellers go ack to their home bases, to which they lso return in the odd intervals be- ween bookings, when families catch up n education and collect items like hild Benefit which cannot so easily ollow them on their travels.

The Tradition Continues

Sarratt Fair is just one in a long nd widespread tradition of local airs, held around a seasonal festival ike May Day or Michaelmas, relics of a impler agricultural past.

Today's caravans and motor trailers quipped with televisions and modern itchens, are a far cry from the old and-decorated, horse-drawn caravans ith solid-fuel cooking stoves, but the ife is still one carried on from eneration to generation, and the young en I spoke to while gathering infor- ation for this article last year found t hard to imagine a different way of ife. They all obviously enjoy the ravelling and the glamour of the fair s it lights up at night and the groups f families with wide-eyed children or xcited teenagers join the throng of air-goers. They are all part of a enturies-old tradition of pleasure- eeking villagers, ready to experience ll the fun of the fair.

S.A.M.

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1989

SARRATT

VILLAGE DAY

Saturday, May 27th 1989

Tony Bond	K.L. 63636
Alex Ballard	K.L. 62250
Val Cumming	K.L. 62920

As you may know already, the Parish Council have decided to promote a Sarratt Village Day this year, in the hope that it will become an annual event.

The concept is simple. As many Village organisations as possible will lay on fund-raising events. The net proceeds will be divided between the respective Village organisations and the nominated charities for this year, Heathfield School for Deaf Children and Dr. Ron Knight's Cystic Fibrosis Clinic. The aim is to involve as many people as possible in the village and get support from "charity givers" as well as those supporting the village organisations.

Events will include:

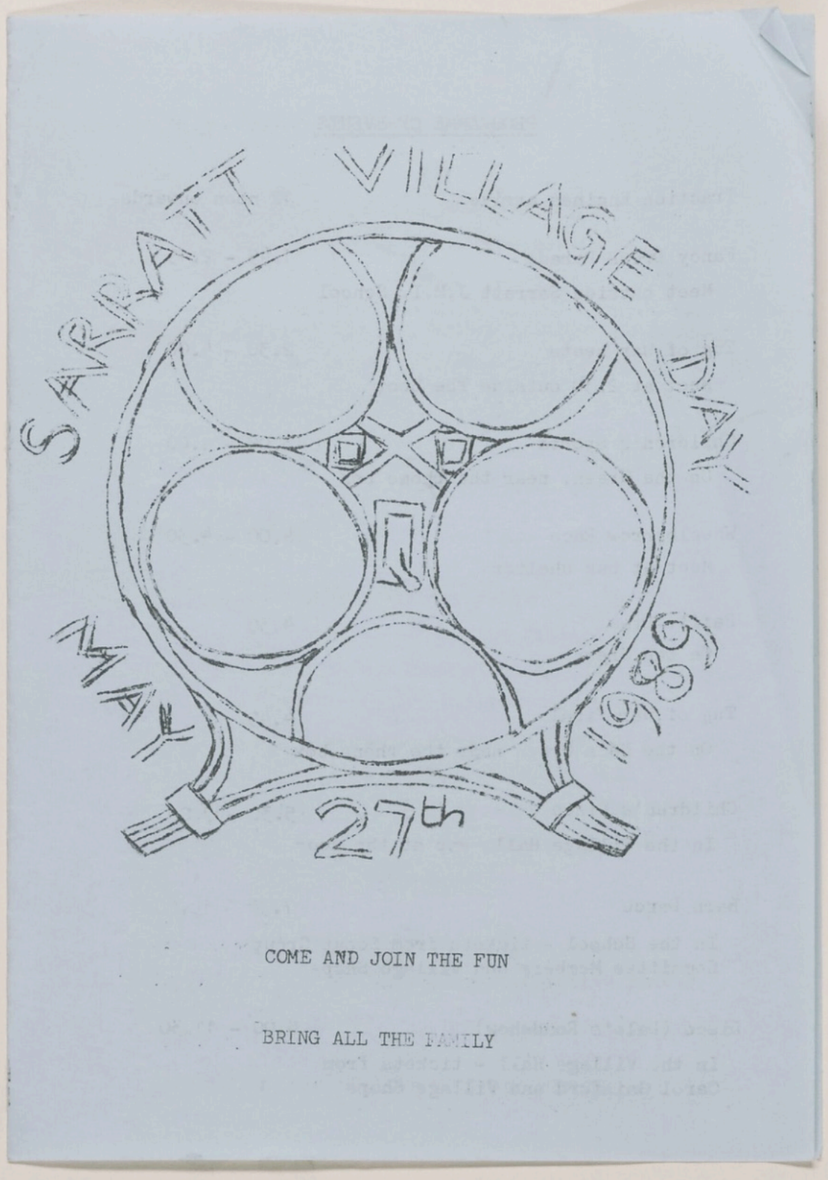
Fancy Dress - procession on wheels (non motorised)
Traction Engine Rally
Vintage Cars
Childrens' Rides
Sports Events
Village Exhibitions
Wheelbarrow Race (making a welcome re-appearance)
Tug of War Competition
Children's Art Competition, to design a village Crest

To make the day a success, we need your help, and not only by sharing the fun on the day itself. Please let us know if you can contribute by:

- Offering raffle prizes
- Helping with events
- Selling raffle tickets
- Lending photographs or historical records of the Village for the exhibitions
- Decorating your house on the day (more details later)

Please get in touch with one of us if you can help in any way. I hop that you will support the Village Day and share our enthusiasm for involving the whole community in this project.

THE FIRST VILLAGE DAY



COME AND JOIN THE FUN

BRING ALL THE FAMILY

KLG 13.1.89

Sarratt may have its day!

IF you live in Sarratt, then now is the time to get down to your garden shed, get the wheelbarrow out and give it a full service!

For plans are in hand to hold a 'Village day' and revive some old traditions, such as a wheelbarrow race. Another suggestion is bowling for a pig.

As well as providing a day of fun it is hoped it will provide a chance for local organisations to "show their faces" to village people and also to raise funds and make a contriibution to charity.

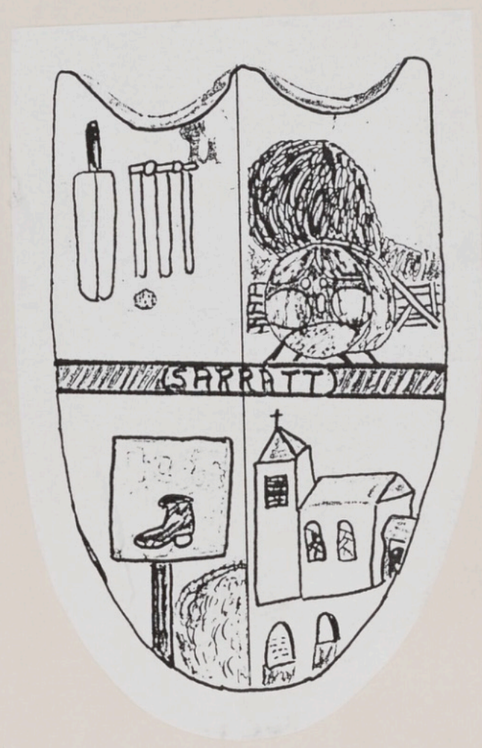
It's not just traditional events that it is hoped to include, but perhaps some new ones as well.

If anyone in Sarratt has any ideas or can offer any help then they should contact a member of the parish council. The Council will be discussing the proposal for the 'Village Day' at its meeting on Monday evening.

Youth club resumes

SARRATT youth club swings back into action today (Friday) after the Christmas break.

The club has sessions for two age groups. The seven to 11-year-olds meet between 6 pm and 7.30 pm and the 11 to 16-year-olds from 7.30 pm to 9.15 pm.



W.O. 19-5-89

Village prepares for a special day

PREPARATIONS for Sarratt Village Day on Saturday, May 27 are well under way.

Villagers hope it will become an annual attraction in the village.

Twenty local organisations have spent weeks planning the event.

It will benefit two charities — the Heathlands School for Deaf Children at St Albans and Dr Ron Knight's Cystic Fibrosis Clinic.

"It is super the way people have volunteered to help, from the very young to the elderly," Mrs Val Cumming, one of the organisers, said.

"It is the village getting together," she added.

The day's events will begin at noon with a parade of traction engines and vintage cars.

Afternoon events will include a children's fancy dress parade and sports, a tug of war and wheelbarrow race.

There will also be a competition to find the village's best decorated house on the theme "All the fun of the fair".

Indoor events will take place at Sarratt School and the village hall.

There will be a display on village history, aerial photographs of Sarratt, an exhibition by local artists, and a showing of the winning coat of arms for Sarratt designed for a children's art competition.

Sarratt Women's Institute will be demonstrating crafts including calligraphy and crochet, as well as selling their newly-published local walks and history booklet.

A grand raffle, with prizes including a week's holiday in Portugal and a ride in a hot air balloon, is also planned.

W.O. 2-6-1989

Celebrating in the sun



Sarratt Women's Institute was one of the societies which held stalls. WO F3139

By RICHARD ARQUATI

IT WASN'T only the glorious sunshine that produced steam at the annual Sarratt Day celebrations on Saturday.

On show on The Green were nine steam engines including steam rollers, steam tractors and agricultural engines.

Also on display were two vintage lorries, three vintage coaches and ten vintage cars.

Perhaps the most popular event of the afternoon was the tug of war competition organised by Mr Alan Grant, landlord of The Boot public house in Sarratt.

Five teams took part, and though a team from Chalfont St Giles won the contest, Mr Grant jokingly claimed a technical victory for The Boot as it was a Sarratt village team.

The fancy dress parade attracted 30 entrants.

A competition to design a coat of arms for Sarratt was won by 11-year-old Desmond Atkins. His winning shield will be displayed at Sarratt Village Hall.

"Sarratt Village Day was brilliant and aroused tremendous interest in the village.

"The hard work, preparation and planning by everyone concerned resulted in a happy day," said Mrs Val Cumming, one of the organisers.

"One woman told me it was one of the best village days she had ever been to," she added.

The day raised more than £1,000 for Dr Ron Knight's Cystic Fibrosis Clinic.

Other outdoor events included maypole dancing, pony rides, children's sports, and a traditional game called bowling for the pig.

Sarratt Women's Institute gave a craft display and exhibited copies of its new guided walk and history booklet.

Mrs Fiona Wynes and Mrs Carol Gaisford, who help at Heathland's School for Deaf Children in St Albans, sold mugs depicting the village pump.

Indoor attractions at the village hall and school included a village history and school history display, and an exhibition of photographs of the village.

A splash of colour was provided by local artists exhibiting their watercolours.

Mr Steve Statham and Mr John Guy showed slides of Sarratt and provided a commentary.

The day ended with two discos and a barn dance.



People of all ages were captivated by the size of the steam engines. WO F3140



Traditional games were resurrected, providing great entertainment. WO F3142

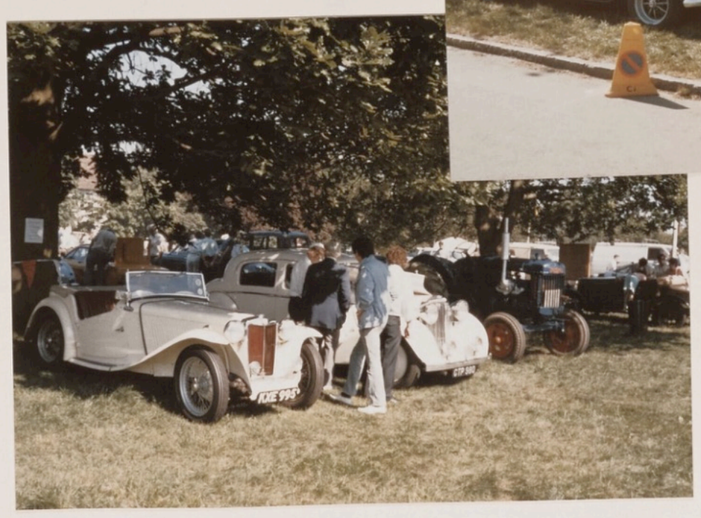




W.O. 1-6-89

Kids enjoyed fishing for bottles to quench their thirst at the Sarratt Day celebrations on Saturday.





Fallen remembered

AN ILLUMINATED Book of Remembrance containing the names of Sarratt's fallen in the two world wars was dedicated at Holy Cross Church on Sunday.

The book was illustrated by parishioner Mrs Doris Rollinson in memory of her brother, killed in action during World War Two.

It took months of research to compile the roll of names, regiments and places where soldiers died using the Great Sarratt Scrapbook and other sources.

Sunday's Remembrance Day service was conducted by the Reverend Martin Culverwell.

Mr John Trotter, secretary of Sarratt British Legion, read out the names on the roll of honour.

Judge Michael Hickman, president of Sarratt British Legion, read the traditional verse "And they shall grow not old."

The Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies presented their colours at the service.

W.O. 17-11-89

THE HERTFORDSHIRE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Best Kept Village Competition

VILLAGE SARRATT

AREA Central/West GROUP 2

JUDGING POINTS	MAX MARKS	MARKS GAINED	JUDGE'S REPORT AND COMMENTS
1. Absence of litter and refuse dumps. Provision of litter bins.	10	9	Very little litter, very good effort.
2. General appearance and tidiness of trees, hedges, fences, walls, roads and verges within the judging area.	10	9	Excellent very good standard throughout the village.
3. General appearance, tidiness and condition of public open spaces such as playing fields, village greens, wild life areas and allotments.	20	18	Very pleasant and well maintained.
4. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of communal buildings such as village halls, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and schools.	15	14	Whilst the rear of the village hall is not the most attractive area, it was well maintained and the grass mown.
5. General appearance and tidiness of residential property and gardens.	15	14	Very good
6. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of places of worship, war memorials, graveyards and cemeteries.	10	10	The Churchyard was superb
7. General appearance and tidiness of shops, public houses, workshops and garages.	10	7	Shops could be improved with attention to planting and window displays with less attention to the multiplicity of advertising.
8. The upkeep and appearance of sign-boards and notice boards, and the restraint shown in advertisement displays.	10	7	A lot of advertising in the shop windows.
TOTAL 100		88	88%

NOTE: In the event of a village not having one or more of the above judging points, the total marks scored will be expressed as a percentage of the total possible marks.

DATE JUDGING TOOK PLACE 27th June 1989

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE Christine G Banks

CALOR

Cuming

THE HERTFORDSHIRE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Best Kept Village Competition

VILLAGE SARRATT

AREA GROUP 2

JUDGING POINTS	MAX MARKS	MARKS GAINED	JUDGE'S REPORT AND COMMENTS
1. Absence of litter and refuse dumps. Provision of litter bins.	10	9	DOG WASTE BIN AT PAYING FIELD A SPLENDID FEATURE; LITTER BIN PROVIDED HERE WAS OVERFULL AND INADEQUATE
2. General appearance and tidiness of trees, hedges, fences, walls, roads and [illegible] within the judging area.	10	10	EXCELLENT
3. General appearance, tidiness and condition of public open spaces such as playing fields, village greens, wild life areas and allotments.	20	19	EXCELLENT; ALLOTMENTS EXTENSIVE, WELL MAINTAINED
General appearance and tidiness of the outside of communal buildings such as village halls, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and schools.	15	14	VERY GOOD; THE PALINGS AT SCHOL FRONTAGE COULD DO WITH A COAT OF PAINT
5. General appearance and tidiness of residential property and gardens.	15	15	EXCELLENT
6. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of places of worship, war memorials, graveyards and cemeteries.	10	10	CHURCHYARD OUTSTANDINGLY NEAT AND TIDY
7. General appearance and tidiness of shops, public houses, workshops and garages.	10	9	THREE INNS ALL GOOD; ONE SHOP FRONT RATHER DOWDY
The upkeep and appearance of sign-boards and notice boards, and the restraint shown in advertisement displays.	10	8	TWO PUBLIC NOTICE BOARDS NEATLY ARRANGED BUT APPEAR TO HAVE OUT OF DATE MATERIAL; THE HALL ONE PARTLY OBSCURED BY CONIFER. BEST KEPT VILLAGE POSTERS NOT DISPLAYED ON THEM. BUT NOTED AT GREEN GROCER'S SHOP
TOTAL 100		94	

NOTE: In the event of a village not having one or more of the above judging points, the total marks scored will be expressed as a percentage of the total possible marks.

DATE JUDGING TOOK PLACE 4th July 1989

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE Peter Hakner

H.C.S.

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THE HERTFORDSHIRE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Best Kept Village Competition

VILLAGE SARRATT

AREA CENTRAL/WEST GROUP 2

JUDGING POINTS	MAX MARKS	MARKS GAINED	JUDGE'S REPORT AND COMMENTS
1. Absence of litter and refuse dumps. Provision of litter bins.	10	8	An almost complete absence of visible litter throughout. Most bins recently emptied and provision assumed adequate.
2. General appearance and tidiness of trees, hedges, fences, walls, roads and verges within the judging area.	10	8	Verges and hedges well trimmed. Walls, fences and trees everywhere in good order. Roads and footpaths adequately maintained
3. General appearance, tidiness and condition of public open spaces such as playing fields, village greens, wild life areas and allotments.	20	18	The whole of the Green in good shape and well mown. Good pond. Large area of allotments; plots where let, well cultivated. Playing fields well maintained. Childrens play equipment adequate.
4. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of communal buildings such as village halls, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and schools.	15	13	Well-kept grounds and tidy entrance to J.M.I. School. Telephone box swept clean. Shelter ditto. Village hall well kept with public clock telling the right time. Good hardwood seats.
5. General appearance and tidiness of residential property and gardens.	15	13	Houses generally maintained to high standards. Well tended and attractively planted gardens everywhere, particularly facing the Green.
6. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of places of worship, war memorials, graveyards and cemeteries.	10	9	Baptist Church grounds tidy. Providence Mission Hall ditto. Churchyard mown and surroundings of Holy Cross Church in excellent order.
7. General appearance and tidiness of shops, public houses, workshops and garages.	10	9	Tidy shop frontages. Esso garage: tidy forecourt. "Cricketers": hanging baskets, tidy car park. "Boot": tidy car park "Cock": flower tubs.
8. The upkeep and appearance of sign-boards and notice boards, and the restraint shown in advertisement displays.	10	9	Parish Council notices well displayed. Notice boards adequate. No intrusive or offensive advertising.
TOTAL 100		87	

NOTE: In the event of a village not having one or more of the above judging points, the total marks scored will be expressed as a percentage of the total possible marks.

DATE JUDGING TOOK PLACE 4.VII.89

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE John Speight

H.C.S.

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THE HERTFORDSHIRE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Best Kept Village Competition

VILLAGE Sarratt

AREA GROUP 2

JUDGING POINTS	MAX MARKS	MARKS GAINED	JUDGE'S REPORT AND COMMENTS
1. Absence of litter and refuse dumps. Provision of litter bins.	10	9	all bins were empty except on the playing field. That bin was overloaded and tatty.
2. General appearance and tidiness of trees, hedges, fences, walls, roads and verges within the judging area.	10	9	The road to the church had verges very unevenly treated.
3. General appearance, tidiness and condition of public open spaces such as playing fields, village greens, wild life areas and allotments.	20	19	The very extensive village green was well kept also other spaces. Play equipment set in concrete.
4. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of communal buildings such as village halls, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and schools.	15	15	The school was excellent.
5. General appearance and tidiness of residential property and gardens.	15	15	All very well looked after.
6. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of places of worship, war memorials, graveyards and cemeteries.	10	10	All three places of worship were were well kept.
7. General appearance and tidiness of shops, public houses, workshops and garages.	10	8	The Post Office was the only fault here.
8. The upkeep and appearance of sign-boards and notice boards, and the restraint shown in advertisement displays.	10	9	Notice boards were neat but some notices were a little out of date.
TOTAL 100		94	

NOTE: In the event of a village not having one or more of the above judging points, the total marks scored will be expressed as a percentage of the total possible marks.

DATE JUDGING TOOK PLACE 4th July 1989

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE [signature]

H.C.S.

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Five years apart during war



●Cyril and Pat Petts of Sarratt.

A DESERT Rat who spent the first five years of his marriage separated from his wife because of the Second World War celebrated his Golden Wedding on Boxing Day.

Well known Sarratt couple, Mr and Mrs Cyril and Pat Petts, of Dimmocks Lane, met as children and eventually became teenage sweethearts.

They were married at St Mary's Church, Watford in 1939 but the couple were soon parted when Cyril, who had joined the Territorial Army the previous year, spent nearly half a decade away from his wife.

He was commissioned in 1942 into an Essex Regiment, the 4th Indian Division, and served in North Africa from Alamein to Tunis.

Swept on to Italy by the conflict, he was wounded after treading on a mine: "I was lucky and survived," Cyril said. The drama did not end there, however, as he also experienced the siege of Malta, living on a meal every other day.

"I saw my son Tony for the first time when he was four-years-old," he said.

Turkey thief not tempted by tomato



POLICE were perplexed when they arrived to investigate the theft of three whole salmon, a turkey, six pounds of sirloin beef, a large chicken, and several packets of meat from a Sarratt woman's freezer.

Mrs Ann Dolamore, of Dimmocks Lane, surprised a CID man by saying: "I do hope they haven't stolen the soup I made for the Women's Institute Christmas Lunch."

For despite the dreadful blow of losing the Yuletide fare destined for her own table, kind-hearted Mrs Dolamore was more concerned about the six gallons of delicious tomato soup she brews for others.

Fortunately for local WI members, the heartless thief (obviously no gourmet) decided to leave the 'liquid gold' behind.

●On Monday night Mrs Dolamore resigned from her 'coffee duties' at Sarratt Parish Council.

To loud applause from press, public and councillors, she was presented with a garden voucher from members of the parish council.

For some years she has distributed coffee and biscuits at the parish's monthly meetings in the village hall.

1989

Gang Show pioneer

W.O. 29-12-89

THE much-loved chairman of the Sarratt Horticultural Society, Mr John "Flight" Cracknell, 79, of Greenacres, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, died on Friday morning.

His funeral for close family will take place at West Herts crematorium on January 5 at 2.30pm. There will be a memorial service at Sarratt Parish Church on February 17 at 3pm.

Mr Cracknell had said that he did not want a big funeral and that a memorial service would be a more appropriate place to say farewell.



Mr Cracknell was a Squadren Leader in the Royal Air Force for many years and was closely linked with the famous Gang Shows.

He was a friend of legendary organiser, Ralph Reader, and was responsible for recruiting promising RAF members into the shows.

Among those he spotted were Peter Sellers, Tony Hancock and Dick Emery. He remained friends with them all and they often visited him at his Sarratt home.

On leaving the RAF he resumed an involvement with the Scout movement that had started in 1916 and it is for this that most people will remember him.

He was warden at Phasels Wood, Kings Langley, for 18 years and negotiated with the Forestry Commission over Lees Wood at Chandlers Cross, helping to develop that into the Scout camp. The Scouts recently raised enough money to buy the lease and one of the buildings has been named "Flight" Oak by way of thanks.

Twenty years of the Watford Gang Show owed its existence to Mr Cracknell who helped produce the shows in the 1950s and was instrumental in them moving from the Town Hall to the Palace Theatre.

He was most closely associated with the 2nd Bushey and Oxhey Scouts. He was made the troop'spresident some years ago.

Five years ago he was granted Freedom of the City of London.

He referred to his Scouts as "my old boys" and it is with them that some of his fondest memories lie.

His nick-name, Flight, came about when he and one of his old boys were at an art exhibition. A painting of a Spitfire, one of his great passions, had the word "flight" in the vapour-trial. The young Scout suggested that it would be a good name for him and he agreed, adding that it should just be between the two of them.

There will be no flowers at the funeral and donations should be sent to Lees Wood, c/o 67 The Ridgeway, Watford, WD1 3TJ.

Invitations to the memorial service will be sent out in the near future. To help with the organisation of the service however, all those who wish to attend are asked to register their names with the executors as Sarratt Parish Church holds only 150 people.

The executors are Terry Lockyer (0992-716651) and Neil Shave who can contacted at home (0252-621705) or at work (01-843-3217).

Police pound the streets for fun

ANY crook contemplating fleeing from the scene of his dastardly crime would be advised to avoid Sarratt.



At the Third International Police Marathon in Rotterdam earlier this month local bobby, PC Philip Wynes, came 80th with an overall time of 2 hours 54 minutes and 47 seconds.

His colleague, Detective Sergeant Peter Hern, of Micklefield Green, came 199th with a time of 3 hours, 16 minutes and eight seconds.

Both of these champions run as part of the Great Britain Police Team: consisting of forty athletes from England, Scotland and Wales. The team finished fifth out of the forty teams entered, and Philip and Peter each received an inscribed silver salver.

This success does not come without effort on the part of our two athletes. Their performance at Rotterdam follows six months of regularly running 60 to 70 miles around the lanes of Sarratt, Belsize, Flaunden and Chenies.

They also run half-marathons on Sundays all over the South-East as part of their training.

Despite this punishing schedule these two policemen have many more runs up their sleeve. They are due to take part in a cross country marathon for the Hertfordshire Police Team at Ampthill, and various runs at Wembley, Welwyn Garden City, Maidstone, Horsham and Guildford.

Wartime memories win essay prize

W.O. 1-9-89

By CATHERINE CAIN

RECOLLECTION of wartime experiences as an evacuee has won Audrey Griffith-Jones from Sarratt a prize in a national essay writing competition.

Mrs Griffith-Jones, who lives in Dimmocks Lane, entered a competition organised by Country Living Magazine which invited former evacuees to write about what it was like to be billeted with strangers or relatives.

At the outbreak of war she was living in Glasgow with her grandmother. As bombs started to drop on Clydeside, barrage balloons blackened the skies and the sound of anti-aircraft batteries filled the air, it became clear the city was not the safest place for a child.

She was evacuated to Newton Mearns in Renfrewshire to the country home of a wealthy aunt and uncle. In her essay she wrote about the dramatic contrast between life in a Glasgow tenement flat and in a grand house with staff and a cook.



Audrey Griffith-Jones — at home in Sarratt

It was difficult for a child to understand what was happening. Mrs Griffith-Jones remembers asking her grandmother, "What is war?".

In Renfrewshire, her aunt and uncle bought her a tricycle. Her overiding preoccupation for the three years was to make sure the tricycle was safely parked inside each evening, to prevent any descending German paratroopers making a get away on it.

Ironically Rudolph Hess landed his aeroplane in a field not far from where she was living. Mrs Griffith-Jones remembers her only concern at the time was the thought of Hitler's right hand man escaping through Scotland on her tricycle.

In the last years of the war, she moved from the relative safety of Scotland to London during the Blitz, where she lived in Bromley with her father.

In later life, Mrs Griffith-Jones became a journalist. Her first job, at 16, was on the Whitley Bay Seaside Chronicle where she started out as a trainee with Brian Redhead, now presenter of BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

She was prompted to enter the essay competition by the fact that Brian Redhead was one of the judges.

"I must admit I was quite interested to see him again as we were juniors together in Northumberland. He's gone from strength to strength and I've only just gone back into journalism after bringing up a family," she said.

She now works as a freelance journalist and often writes for the Watford Observer.

On Friday, she and ten other prize winning essay writers will meet for a celebration lunch in London.

Country Living Editor, Francine Lawrence and Brian Redhead will play co-host for the luncheon so Mrs Griffith-Jones will get the chance to revive memories of her first job as well as of the war.

£350 for church

W.O. 16/6/89

VILLAGERS had a blooming good time at a coffee morning held in the barn of Great Sarratt Hall to raise money for the Sarratt Flower Festival.

The event, organised by Mrs Rosemary Cammell and Mrs Margaret Stratford, raised more than £350.

Flowers For A Country Church is the theme of this year's festival on Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25, and will be in aid of the Holy Cross Church restoration fund.



Rich harvest of farmyard fun

In the heart of the Sarratt countryside is a place where piglets roam. They can stretch their mini trotters on 35 acres of land and enjoy a trough full of wholesome grub every feed-time.

The contented porkers, together with a small family of farm animals have the good fortune to take board and lodgings at Cherry Trees organic farm.

It's a large scale version of *The Good Life*, but instead of Tom and Barbara, there's Michael and Mary Bell and a daily stream of curious visitors.

Since the Bells opened their gates to the public four years ago, Cherry Trees has become a popular haunt for the organic shopper and coach parties of green-wellied children.

Last year, 15,000 people experienced a few nose-to-snout encounters with the farm animals. And this year figures top 25,000.

"People enjoy being here," said Michael. "Especially the children. It all evolved quite naturally. I never thought it would take off like it did, but I'm as excited about it now as I ever was."

It was six years ago that Michael swapped intensive farming for organics. He sold off his stock of fattening pigs, introduced a few chickens, goats and sows and banned all use of pesticides and chemicals.

Then, turning back the clock, he laid the farm machinery to rest and learned how to work the land with horses.

"I didn't think it was morally acceptable to carry on with intensive farming. I've set the animals free and given them back the respect and dignity they deserve. The pleasure has been put back into farming," said Michael.

On Saturday, an additional pleasure will be opened at the farm — The Organic Eaterie. Health conscious diners will be able to sit back raise a glass or two of organic wine, tuck into a plate of natural farm food while watching the animals stroll by.

●The farm in Olleberrie Lane Sarratt, is open to the public from: Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm and Sunday

10/89

Words: JULIA CHILDS

K.L.9. 15-12-89

A host of toys for less lucky girls and boys...



THE ravages of flu kept twenty generous young children from attending a joint 'toy service' held at Sarratt Baptist Church.

Despite the effects of the dreaded virus, a group of young people did manage to come along with their dolls, games, jigsaw, puzzles, and toys. These much-loved items will be donated to those less fortunate than themselves.

Sunday's service, conducted by Mr Alan Donaldson, a student from the London Bible College, combined the congregations of Holy Cross Church and the Baptist Church.

Local children, including members of Crossbearers and Adventurers, brought along toys that will be distributed through the Blackfriars Settlement in London and the Spurgeon's Children's Home in Bedford.

New booklet for Sarratt

"Around Sarratt — Local Walks and Recollections of Bygone Days", is the title of the latest booklet compiled by members of Sarratt WI.

This is their second booklet of walks around the village. The members meet monthly for a walk which usually includes lunch in a local pub. They thought it would be a good idea to let more people know about all the great walks around the village!

The booklet was very much the result of a real village effort. Acknowledgements for the booklet have gone to Anne Dolamore for devising the walks; Irene Rogers who designed the cover and did the sketches; Vera Honess for the calligraphy; also Pam White and Dawn Pitts; members of the WI, Eric White and all the villagers who supplied much of the information.



Sarratt

SARRRATT'S Autumn Show attracted a good range of entries in most classes.

Our picture, above, shows trophy winners Sir Christopher Staughton, Mrs Connie Barber and Mr John Ricard.

●FULL report in next week's Gazette.

K.L.9. 22-9-89

W.O. 22-9-89

A good year for garden produce

GARDENERS celebrated one of the best autumn shows held in Sarratt for many years.

Mr Dennis Jenks presented trophies to the main prizewinners.

Mr John Lyons, Sarratt Horticultural Society chairman, said: "The weather has favoured fruit, and the apple classes are particularly good.

"Overall the entries are slightly up on last year and the display in the village hall is a splendid sight."

The Clutterbuck Trophy, awarded to the champion of all sections, went to Mr Harry Neal, who also won the David Osborne Trophy for fruit and vegetables.

Mrs Connie Barber won the Arthur Pritchard Trophy for roses, Mrs Noreen Singleton received the Elsie Collins Trophy for cookery, and the Frederick Barber Trophy went to Sir Christopher Staughton.

The Loader Trophy for floral art was won by Mrs Toots Downer, and the Flight Cracknell Trophy for handicrafts went to Mrs Connie Barber.

The Three Rivers District Council Trophy awarded to the family with most points was won by the Lyons family.

Zoey Bloomfield Lyons won the A.E. Cox Trophy in the children's classes.

Results:

Chrysanthemums, Mr John Rickard; hybrid tea roses, Mrs Connie Barber; Specimen H.T. roses, Mrs Connie Barber; floribunda roses, Mrs E Downer; bowl of roses, Mrs Connie Barber; asters and double asters, Mrs Connie Barber.

Dahlias, Mr Steve Rickard; small flowered cactus dahlias, Mr Steve Rickard; medium decorative dahlias, Mr Steve Rickard; small decorative dahlias, Sir Christopher Staughton; pompom dahlias, Sir Christopher Staughton; specimen dahlia, Mr Steve Rickard.

Vase of dahlias, Sir Christopher Staughton; mixed flowers, Mrs Connie Barber; flowering pot plant, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; foliage pot plant, Mr Jonathan Miller.

The cacti, gladioli, and vase of gladioli, Mr Steve Rickard; hanging basket, Mrs E. Thomas.

Onions over three inches, Mr Rickard; culinary shallots, Mr T. Biggerstaff.

Shallots for pickling, best potatoes, Mr John Lyons.

Runner beans, Mr Rickard; French beans, carrots, Mrs H. Neal.

Beetroot, Mr John Lyons; cabbage, Mr H. Neal; cucumber, Mr T. Biggerstaff; marrow, Mr Rickard; lettuce, Mr Neal; tomatoes, Mr Biggerstaff, any other vegetables, Mr Neal.

Courgettes, Sir Christopher Staughton; dessert apples, Mr Neal; soft fruit, Mr Neal; stoned fruit, Sir Christopher Staughton; basket of fruit, Mrs A. Rickard.

Floral art classes:

Seascape, Mrs E. Downer; foliage arrangements, Mrs E. Downer; a corsage, Miss R. Bonwick; arrangement in wine glass, Mrs E. Downer.

Cookery classes:

Coconut cake, Mrs N. Singleton; lemon meringue pie, Mrs A. Bonwick; pizza, Mrs N. Singleton; bread pudding, Mrs N. Singleton; cheese straws, Mrs A. Bonwick; apple dumpling, Mrs A. Bonwick.

Jar of soft fruit jam, Mrs G. Bullman; jar of chutney, Mrs A. Griffith-Jones; jar of honey, Mr J. Rickard.

Handicraft classes:

Knitted article, Mrs D. Rollinson; oil painting, Mrs P. Baker; miscellaneous handicraft, Mrs C. Barber.

Children's classes:

Bookmark, Carly Tyler; vegetable drawing, rock cakes, flower heads arrangement, Zoey Bloomfield Lyons.

Novelty class:

Longest runner bean, Mr John Rickard.

1989

Sarratt Parish Appraisal

The Parish Council exists to represent and serve the interests of the village. Its powers are limited, but it can sponsor projects if it knows them to be really wanted. It can also influence other authorities if it has hard facts to present. In order to get the priorities right, it is obviously necessary to know the wishes of the villagers. One very effective way is to gather information via a questionnaire, such as this, which is known as a Parish Appraisal.

Please help us by taking the time to complete this document as fully as you can. If you feel that you could provide more information than the questions allow then please do so in the space provided on the last page.

When you have answered as many of the questions as you can then please put this document into the envelope provided. Somebody will come and collect it soon.

It is important for you to know that this information is anonymous.

The Parish Council does not want your name and address.

[SEE ALSO SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 1989]

If you have any queries please contact the clerk to Sarratt Parish Council (Mrs Barbara Fordyce) Chorleywood (9:00am - 12 noon Mon/Fri)

Pros and cons of Sarratt life

SARRATTS's unique appraisal of all aspects of village life is off and running.

Householders are currently receiving copies of the Sarratt Appraisal Form which will give every resident the opportunity to put forward personal views on the future development of the Parish.

The confidential questionnaire contains questions on a multitude of issues including the length of time people have lived in the village. It will also ask: is more housing needed in Sarratt? is there a need for commercial development? are the public footpaths used regularly? does your household shop in the village?

One of the most important questions concerns Sarratt JMI school which was under threat of closure last year because of the falling number of children in the village. Residents will be asked: "If you have children under 12-years-old, do they or will they attend the village school?"

Other questions relate to the bus services, sports facilities, health services, facilities available for the disabled and "public utilities".

At the launch of the scheme at Sarratt Village Hall last Monday, Simon Bland, the Countryside Initiative Officer from the Community Council for Hertfordshire, lent his expert advice.

"The appraisal will show historical aspects in the years to come — highlighting the deficiencies and assets of the village," he said.

"One of the benefits is that it brings people together. It is the village stocktake and it is totally anonymous."

And he added: "It brings the village into the District Plan and can help with bus routes and time tables being changed, and the possibility of light industry."

The appraisal, which will be collected from today (September 29) until October 6, will be appraised from a group drawn from the village.

Parish Council Clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, stressed that any information given will be totally anonymous.

She said: "The Parish Council does not want any names or addresses. If you have any queries please contact me on Chorleywood 5806, 9 am to noon, Monday to Friday. I will be pleased to help you." K.L.G 29-9-89.

Sarratt's fight not to lose "valuable" village Pc

KLG

A WORRIED parish councillor has claimed that police would have "a riot on their hands" if they tried to axe Sarratt's village bobby.

Fears that the village might lose its very own boy-in-blue surfaced at a parish council meeting last week.

Many villagers feel that having a village policeman has helped keep crime rates low.

But last Tuesday worried parish councillors heard that Hertfordshire police force was undergoing a fundamental review of its services.

Superintendent Paddy Flavin of Herts Police told councillors the county would be looking for a "value for money" service across the county.

He said that Hertfordshire's Force Review was a bid to look at "the purpose and principals of policing in Hertfordshire".

He explained that the review had been prompted by pressure from magistrates, the Government and the changing expectations of the public.

But during the meeting councillor Val Cummings expressed her fears about the future of the village bobby.

She feared a "rogue" consultant could be called in who "knows nothing at all about the police force".

She said many local people and groups had written to her expressing their fears.

Local people were "very concerned" about the future of the village policeman, she pointed out.

"The feeling could be that the village policeman is not necessary," she said.

Quoting a letter she had received from the Womens Institute Mrs Cummings said "they are all in favour of retaining our own village policeman.

"He is a valuable member of our community," read Mrs Cummings.

He could be contacted directly instead of having phone calls directed to Watford, she stressed.

And the meeting's Chairman, Councillor Alex Ballard, underlined the importance of Sarratt's village policeman.

Commenting on the possibility of losing him, she said: "I think you will have riot on your hands."

Some of Mrs Cumming's fears were echoed by Councillor John Gell who intoned: "There is difficulty within the county in general. Sometimes when you ring up Watford you are told it is Hemel Hempstead's area and Hemel Hempstead say it is Watford."

And the village policeman himself, Constable Philip Wynes, backed Mr Gell saying that confusion sometimes did arise.

"When people phone into Watford especially if it is Bucks Hill they are told it is not their area, it is Hemel Hempstead," he said.

But Superintendent Flavin did his best to quell councillors' fears.

"I would be amazed if the product of the review was that we do not want to have local bobbies any more," he said.

He said feedback from many parishes had shown that 99.9 per cent of village communities wanted more local policing.

"I think it veers towards the reverse," he said reassuringly.

The official outcome of the Review should be made known later this year.

County police chiefs are set to meet in September to pour over the results of consultations, said Superintendent Flavin.

Guides need a helping hand

SARRATT Guides are in dneed of help.

Although the number of girl guides is increasing in the village, the amount of help needed to run the company is not keeping pace and the unit is desperate for assistance.

Mrs Patricia Rowley, the District Commissioner, is appealing for one or two people to work as assistant guiders with the girls each week.

"We would also appreciate some help with the girls even on alternate weeks, if people don't want to become formally involved as Guiders," she said.

"Mrs Linda Clough has been doing a super job running the Guide company single-handedly for two-and-a-half years.

"If we are to maintain the unit, which we strove so hard to re-open, we must have some help. Without it the future does not bode well."

Anyone who would like to help can call Mrs Rowley on Rickmansworth 777261.

KLG 8·12·89

Call to stop drivers using 'rat run' lane

WO 15·12·89

By RICHARD ARQUATI

SO MANY cars dash along Rousebarn Lane in Croxley Green that people living nearby have dubbed it the "rat run".

Drivers have used the single track leafy lane to cut across from Sarratt to Watford for many years, but the volume has increased.

The refusal by members of the Hertfordshire County Council's Highways Personal and Urgency Sub Committee meeting in September to close the road, has infuriated many people.

So much so that Croxley Division County Councillor Graham Williams last week invited the chairman of the committee, County Councillor Trevor Marwood to visit the road.

Councillor Marwood, who admitted being unaware of the controversy surrounding the road when it was discussed in September, said he was expecting Councillor Williams to present a case for its closure when it comes back on the agenda in February or March next year.

Among those who would like to see the road closed are SW Herts MP Mr Richard Page, Chorleywood Division County Councillor Frank Cogan, Croxley Green Parish Council, Three Rivers District Council, and more than 150 people living near Rousebarn Lane who signed a petition.

Members of Sarratt Parish Council are against the closure of the road because of the effect they feel it would have on the village.

They claim the road creates a throughway for people living in Sarratt to get into Watford. If it was closed, traffic would percolate onto Sarratt Road and come out through Croxley Green.

Watford Borough Council also opposes the closure.

But Croxley Green District Councillor Tim Williams said: "The road's closure will have a minimal effect in Sarratt but would have major safety implications for certain roads in Croxley Green."

The district council would like to see the road closed and a car park built in the woods opposite Blacketts Nurseries so visitors could enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

"I am more than extremely hopeful that the road will be closed," said County Councillor Williams.



Croxley Division County Councillor Graham Williams shows County Councillor Trevor Marwood the busy Rousebarn Lane. WO F8305

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1989 17

Village nostalgia

NOSTALGIA came to Sarratt on Saturday evening when a bitter sweet evening of music and verse from the frivolous 1920s raised more than £800 for the Watford General Hospital Scanner Appeal.

Songs and poems were performed in the barn of Little Sarratt Hall by a cast of professional performers and musicians.



Sarratt Hall fire drama

TWO Sarratt residents were saved from an horrific ordeal only because of the quick action of a neighbour and the time of day!

When the lights went out in Sarratt Hall last Sunday afternoon, Sir Christopher and Lady Staughton thought it was just another power cut.

But Sir Christopher investigated further and found to his horror that fire had broken out in the cupboard housing the electricity meters.

The mains meter and all the wires leading from it were ablaze, and only the prompt action of neighbour Mr Ke'ane Delderfield who arrived on the scene with a fire extinguisher saved the hall, the Sarratt home of Lord Justice Staughton and his wife Joanna.

Rickmansworth and Watford Fire brigades attended and the electricity board had the supply back on within half an hour.

"The emergency services were marvellous," said Lady Staughton. "Had the fire occurred during the night it would have been a major disaster.

"The fumes spread very fast and were very unpleasant. Anyone sleeping in the bedroom above would have been asphixiated." KLG 21.4.89

Gibbs sets up victory

WO 28.7.89

NIGEL GIBBS with a punishing, unbeaten 96 set the Hornets up for their first cricket victory of the close season.

The Watford full back hit 11 fours and five sixes as he pushed his side to a 164 for seven total that proved just beyond the reach of hosts Sarratt in this 20-over match on Tuesday night.

With each player, apart from the wicket-keeper, bowling two overs apiece, the footballers appeared to be trouble when they lost two quick wickets a quarter of the way through the innings.

Then skipper Gibbs came in and began to dominate the bowling. Iwan Roberts scored 16, Rick Holden 18 and Tony Coton 12 in support before the innings closed at 167 for seven.

The village side lost their top scorer, Darren Seabrook, caught by Coton off the first ball from Lee Richardson and their other main batting star, Dave Birchenall, followed him without a run to his name. It was left to skipper Richard Styles to try and emulate his opposite number, scoring 58 out of the first 64 before playing on to a ball from Gibbs.

With his departure, Sarratt, who had been on target with 83 after 10 overs, began to fall behind the required run-rate and were all out for 134, leaving the Hornets winners by 30 runs.

The Watford players are in cricket action again on Sunday (2.30) when play a Bushey-Benskins XI at Bushey Cricket Club off Eastbury Road.



Iwan Roberts hits out, watched by Neil Redfearn, and Sarratt's Paul Skingley and Roger Rufey. WO F4780.



Watford footballers pose for a pre-match photograph with Sarratt before Tuesday's game. WO F4777. WO 28.7.89

Village Day Tug of War



SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1989
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	13th / 11.5	11th / -6.0	11th / -9.1	20th / 10.2	40.7	
February	6th / 13.5	2,11,17/-5.5	2nd / -9.0	25th / 13.4	66.3	
March	27th / 17.5	18th / -6.5	18th / -9.7	14th / 15.3	76.9	
April	30th / 15.0	9th / -3.5	8,9th/ -5.1	5th / 15.1	87	last snow, 25th .Heard 1st cuckoo, 27th.
May	23rd / 28.5	31st / 0.0	31st / -3.9	------	14.2	
June	14,20/27.0	5th / -0.5	5th / -1.8	6th / 6.0	31.9	last air/grd frosts, 5th.
July	22nd / 32.5	15th / 7.0	2nd / 3.9	6th / 16.3	29	
August	6th / 27.5	5,18 / 5.0	18th / 3.3	10th / 14.4	60.6	
September	7th / 24.5	14,29/ 4.5	3rd / 1.7	16th / 5.0	14.3	
October	5th / 18.0	15th / 1.5	24th / -2.0	20th / 17.9	70.3	1st ground frost, 3rd.
November	11,12/ 14.5	26,27/ -7.5	26th /-10.0	2nd / 13.2	38.4	1st air frost, 5th.
December	20th / 12.5	1st / -4.5	1st / -7.8	20th / 41.9	165.3	15th Nov -10th Dec, 26 rainless days

1989

Sarratt Parish Appraisal

The Parish Council exists to represent and serve the interests of the Parish. Its powers are limited, but it can sponsor projects if it knows them to be really needed. It can also influence other authorities, through informed opinion, based on hard facts. It is, therefore, vital that your wishes are known. One very effective way to gather information is through a Parish Appraisal - a questionnaire covering many aspects of village life.

You will find that the questions are of a general nature, and it may be necessary - sometime in the future - to prepare a more detailed questionnaire if any problem shows significantly the need for greater research.

Please answer the document as fully as possible, by marking an "X" in the appropriate box; circling your choice; or giving written details as appropriate. If you feel you can provide more information than the space allows, please continue on the reverse side of the particular page (This will make analysis easier).

To make sure that every house in the Parish receives a copy, the name of your property is shown on the attached envelope. Please delete it before the questionnaire is collected from you during week commencing Friday 29th September.

Any information given will be anonymous. The Parish Council does not want any names or addresses.

If you have any queries, please contact the clerk to Sarratt Parish Council, (Mrs Barbara Fordyce) on Chorleywood 5806.

Office hours are 9:00 am to Noon, Monday to Friday.

If, for any reason your appraisal has not been collected by 6th October, please let the clerk know.

1 Family Life:

1) How long has each member of your household lived in the Parish?
(Line 1 is completed as an example)

Age	How Long	Age	How Long
35	15 years		

g) *Is there a need for commercial development in the Parish?*
e.g. Cottage Industries

(Please Circle) YES NO

2 Health

a (i) Are you satisfied with the local Health/Social Services facilities?

(Please Circle) YES NO

(ii) If not, what does your household miss?

.....

b (i) Are you satisfied with the facilities available within the Parish for people with disabilities?

(Please Circle) YES NO

(ii) What additional facilities are needed?

.....

3 Open Spaces

a) *Do members of your household:-*

(i) Use the public footpaths in and around the Parish?

(Please Circle) Sometimes Regularly Never

(ii) Use the bridleways and riding routes in and around the Parish?

(Please Circle) Sometimes Regularly Never

b) *Does your household value common land?*

(Please Circle) YES NO

c) *Does your household take a personal interest in keeping common land tidy?*

(Please Circle) YES NO

4 Public Utilities

42) *Do you think that the following Public utilities could be improved?*
(Mark Yes or No).

Road drainage		Refuse collection	
Road sweeping		Bus shelters	
Verge Cutting		Hedge Cutting	
Other (Specify)			

b) Have any of your household moved from the Parish to get their own homes?

YES | | NO |

c) If you answered YES to b would they have preferred to remain in the Parish?

YES | | NO |

d) (i) Are there any members of your household looking for a separate place to live within the Parish?

YES | | NO |

(ii) Are they doing this through the local council housing list?

YES | | NO |

e) (i) Do you hope to continue living in the Parish?

YES | | NO |

(ii) What are your reasons for your answer to e (i)?

.....

.....

f) (i) Is more housing needed in the Parish?

YES | | NO |

(ii) If you answered YES to question f (i) please indicate the types of housing needed by marking the appropriate types listed below:-

Smaller family		Rented council	
Low Cost for locals		Rented private	
Elderly Peoples		Private purchase	
Single Peoples			

5 Recreation

(a) Do, or will your under 18 year old children use the following facilities:-

Brownies		Play School	
Cubs		Scouts	
Football		Swimming Pool	
Guides		Tennis	
Playing Field Equipment		Youth Club	

(b) Playing Field:-

(i) Does you household use the sports facilities at the King George's Playing Field

(Please Circle) YES NO

(ii) If so, which facilities (Please list most used first, and those used least, last)

.....

(iii) Are there any other sports that should be catered for?

.....

(c) Village Hall

(i) Does your household use it?

(Please Circle) YES NO

(ii) If so, what (please list those attended most first and those attended least last)

.....

(iii) Is it the right size?

(Please Circle) YES NO

(iv) Are the present facilities adequate?

(Please Circle) YES NO

(v) If not, what would you like to have provided, bearing in mind the costs

.....

(d) Generally

(i) Please list any Village clubs (Sports, recreation, WI etc. to which you and your household belong

.....

(ii) What new clubs would you support?

.....

6. Schooling

a)(i) If you have children under 12 years old, do they, or will they, attend Sarratt JMI School?

(Please Circle) YES NO

(ii) If not, where do or will they go to school?

.....

a) Which Secondary School do you hope your children will attend?

.....

7 Shopping

(a) *Where does your household shop?*

Village		Rickmansworth	
Chorleywood		Hemel Hempstead	
Watford		Kings Langley	
Elsewhere (Specify)			

b) How do you get there?

(Please Circle) Bus Car Dial-a-ride Foot Bicycle

c) *What other shops would you and your household like to see and use in the Parish?*

.....

.....

.....

.....

8 Spreading Information

30) *Please circle which local publications you read*

The Langley Gazette Spotlight

Chipperfield News Watford Observer

9 Traffic Problems

If you think parts of the Parish suffer from car parking, road safety, heavy lorries etc, Please indicate the location and problem.

.....

.....

10 Transport

a) *Do any members of your household use public transport?*

(Please Circle) YES NO

b) *Please indicate how many people use*

Bus service 319		Trains	
Bus service 352		Ricky Shopper Bus (318)	
Dial-a-ride			

c) *If anybody in your household uses the local bus service please indicate the frequency and destination*

Daily		Monthly	
Weekly		Rarely	
Starting From		Destination	

d) *Do you prefer the smaller buses now being run sometimes?*

(Please Circle) YES NO

e) *Would your household use the buses more if they were frequent or reliable?*

(Please Circle) YES NO

f) *Which services would your household use more?*

.....

g) *How many of your children would use public transport to go to school if available at reasonable cost?* [ ]

h) *How many members of your household commute to work?*

Less than 10 miles		More than 20 miles	
10-20 Miles		SARRATT	

i) *How many people are there in your household?* [ ]

j) *How many vehicles?* [ ]

If there are other matters which you feel are important for this appraisal, please comment here:-

.....

.....

.....

.....

Thank you for sparing the time to complete this questionnaire

18th Sept 1989

Barbara W. Fairclough
Clerk to the Parish Council

MAY 25, 1989 W.O 25/5/89 Editorial, Advertising, Watford 242211, Classified 222323

Tithe Barn for auction



THE TITHE Barn,once part of the Goldington estate, in Sarratt, is up for aution next month and promises to cause quite an interest.

The barn was built in the late 17th Century and is a grade II listed building which backs onto Goldington House and Sarratt's 12th Century village church.

Orginally Goldingtons was granted to the Baldwin family at the time of the dissolution and later sold to William Kingsley of Rooshall in Sarratt until the early 1900's when it became a separate estate.

In 1775 the manor house and farm belonged to Sir David Williams who was married with a young daughter Sophia.

Sir David died when she was only a year old and her mother remarried leaving her in the care of her grandmother Lady Williams.

Goldingtons was left to Sophia who eventually became engaged at the age of 19 to Thomas Tyringham Bernard but was unable to marry him because her grandmother did not want to live alone.

After the old lady's death in 1819 the couple eventually married and had a daughter Laetitia Charlotte and continued to live at Goldington.

Eventually the house and farm was bought by the Clutterbuck family, who were influential landowners and brewers in the County.

The Clutterbuck's continued to live there until 1976 when Maragaret Clutterbuck died and the house was sold.

Today the Clutterbuck family still live in Sarratt and the surrounding area but the house and barn is the property of Sir Robin Auld QC.

The barn has been given detailed planning permission to convert it into a four bedroomed detached house and prices are expected to begin in the region of £300,000.

The auction takes place on Thursday June 8 at Sarratt Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt at 6.30pm. The sale is being conducted by Brown and Merry auctioneers.

1989

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

This is to certify that 'Spotlight on Sarratt' has been awarded first place in the 1989 Hertfordshire Community Council's Newsletter Competition in conjunction with Hertfordshire Countryside Magazine.

Category: Church Magazine

Spotlight on Sarratt

A LOCAL parish magazine has been voted the best church publication in the county.

The spotlight was aptly played upon the parish magazine Sarratt Spotlight when it won first prize in a competition for church-sponsored magazines organised by the Community Council for Hertfordshire.

Spotlight editor, the Reverend Michael Hewlett, recently received his winning certificate at the offices of Hertfordshire County Council. It was presented by Mr Ken Washbrook, Editor of the Hertfordshire Countryside Magazine.

Mr and Mrs Lawrence Reading — who duplicate the magazine which is sent to 700 homes in Sarratt, Belsize, Bucks Hill, Chandlers Cross and Micklefield — were also at the presentation.

Being a truly village magazine, the list of those people who make this venture such a success is suitably long.

Over forty villagers are involved in its production: writing, editing, typing, stenciling, duplicating, and distributing.

The distinctive cover of the magazine is illustrated with a Sarratt scene by local artist Mrs Gillian Burrows and the lettering is done by Mrs Doris Rollinson.

Joint-editor Noreen Tatham writes monthly reports of parish council meetings and edits the 'personal paragraphs.' Each week these contain news of births, marriages, death, and family items of local interest.

"Spotlight is produced for the people of the village and we hope it is interesting and informative," said the Reverend Hewlett.

He said that although the magazine is church sponsored it is intended to reflect all aspects of village life.

And he added: "The most gratifying remark I have ever heard is someone who said: 'I read you magazine from cover to cover.' Spotlight has a lot of readers like that."

Nearly all local organisations feature on a regular basis.

"Although Spotlight is free we rely on donations. More of these are always welcome," said the Reverend.

Will TV companies help to sing the praises of Sarratt church?



● Holy Cross Church, Sarratt.

KLG 10.11.89

Bid to publicise 800th birthday

GETTING the major TV channels involved in the 800th anniversary celebrations of Sarratt's Holy Cross Church has met with a divided response.

Trying to get the BBC or ITV to record Songs of Praise or Highway (the Sunday evening religious programmes) at this ancient place of worship is the idea of churchgoer Peter Clements.

He said: "If one of the companies did respond it would give us all tremendous encouragement and create even more local interest in the church. If Sarratt thinks the idea worth pursuing we can approach relevant organisations straight away."

MARVELLOUS

Keenly supporting him is Mrs Dora Richems, a member of the Parochial Church Council, who thinks it is a "marvellous idea". She recalls that 30 years ago ITV filmed the Sunday morning service at Holy Cross Church.

The Rev. Martin Culverwell said that it was a jolly good idea but asked: "Who's going to do it?"

He said: "A lot of programmes are done a year in advance, we should have thought about it earlier. I have been involved in a similar venture before and I know that everybody has to give up every evening for a solid week. No excuses accepted!"

And he added: "You have to cancel all your arrangements. Would people be prepared to do that?"

Village to turn back the clock

SARRATT villagers will relive medieval times when Holy Cross Church celebrates its 800th anniversary next year.

The village's celebrations will take a medieval theme.

"This will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put Sarratt on the map," said festival coordinator Mrs Doris Rollinson.

Highlight of the anniversary celebrations will be a flower festival, with the theme Medieval Poetry and Song, in the church on June 30 and July 1.

Pupils at Sarratt School will be presenting a medieval pageant and games.

It is also hoped to hold an historical exhibition.

Moving a few centuries further through history, there are plans to organise an Elizabethan banquet and concert.

Mrs Rollinson is appealing to Three Rivers District Council for assistance with road and car parking signs, the printing of booklets, publicity and the production of posters.

WO 17.11.89

Medieval festival plans shape up

W.O. JAN. 1990

CELEBRATIONS are in hand to mark the 800th anniversary of the foundation of Holy Cross Church in Sarratt.

The main attraction will be a Festival of Medieval Poetry and Songs on Saturday, June 30, and Sunday, July 1.

Festival coordinator Mrs Doris Rollinson is compiling an anthology of medieval verses to illustrate the flower arrangements.

School children in the village will stage a medieval pageant and organisers hope some of the people attending the event will dress in period costumes.

On the same weekend, entertainments will be provided at Jenks' Barn with the theme of Sarratt Through The Ages.

There will also be a historical exhibition using material from Hertford Record Office, the British Museum and local libraries.

Mrs Rolinson is appealing to anyone who can provide homemade cakes, jams, plants, crafts or knitted garments to contact her on Kings Langley 65461.

She would also be grateful for offers of herbs and old flowers including roses, lavender, marigolds and daisies.

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS

INTERNAL REDECORATION OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH

In the course of the next few weeks, work will begin on redecorating the interior of our Church.

The PCC decided to make enquiries about redecoration in April 1988 and, at subsequent meetings, some reservations were expressed about limewashing the original medieval Totternhoe stone around the chancel and belltower arches - and the piscina and Easter sepulchre in the sanctuary.

Just before Christmas the opportunity was taken to expose this masonry and, underneath the paint, a considerable variety of graffifi was discovered - initials, dates and what appear to be pilgrim marks. These marks indicate that Holy Cross was on a pilgrim route and similar marks appear on the arches of St. Albans Cathedral.

The PCC will be holding a short meeting after the 10 am. service this morning to discuss whether or not the areas now exposed should be limewashed over again, or left exposed after treatment for flaking surfaces.

Since the PCC are your representatives, I would be grateful if you could let me know your opinion after this service.

With thanks.

Martin Culverwell

Church of The Holy Cross
Sarratt, Hertfordshire





Kids follow Santa

SANTA CLAUS led this merry bunch of young followers through the village of Sarratt on Saturday.

Hordes of happy children turned out to follow Father Christmas's procession from the green to the village hall where Holy Cross Church was holding its annual bazaar. Wfree O 7·12·89 F8220



SANTA Claus will arrive in Sarratt on his fun bus, a 1934 Bedford, on Saturday, December 2, bringing gifts for the children.

All they have to do is visit him at the Holy Cross Christmas bazaar in the village hall.

The jovial gentleman will lead the youngsters to the hall in a procession starting at 2.15pm from The Green.

Cakes, toys sweets bric-a-brac books and a nearly new stall will be raising funds for the church at the fair.
WO F7875



BOXING DAY RALLY AT THE BOOT

Toys bring unity

SARRATT'S Baptist Church and Holy Cross Church are holding a joint toy service in the Baptist Church at 10 am this Sunday (December 10).

It is hoped that all who attend will bring a toy or a gift suitable for youngsters. The Blackfriars Settlement in London and the Spurgeon's Children's Home in Bedford will distribute them to children who would not otherwise receive any Christmas presents.

The toys do not need to be new but must be in good condition. Children from Crossbearers and Adventurers will be taking part, and at the end of the service light refreshments will be provided.

Later in the day all residents of the village are invited to the Baptist Church for 'Carols by Candlelight' at 6.30 pm when the combined choirs of Holy Cross Church and the Baptist Church will sing seasonal music. Coffee will be served afterwards.

Ali Doolally

ALL the young children in Sarratt between the ages of two and five years are invited to the village parents' association Christmas Party in the village hall today (Friday December 8) between three and five pm.

Entertainment comes from the great magician, Ali Doolally, and a Christmas tea will be provided.

KLG 8·12·89

1990

Sarratt's survey results revealed

WO 13·4·90

IF you thought Sarratt was an old people's village — think again.

In one of the most comprehensive studies of life in the village conducted in recent years, it is revealed that there are more people under the age of 20 than between 60 and 80 years old living in Sarratt.

The Sarratt Appraisal is the result of a year long exercise by the parish council to get the views and wishes of the villagers.

Members hope Three Rivers District Council will refer to it as the district plan is updated.

The district plan sets out broad guidelines for land use in the area within the context of relevant planning legislation and the county structure plan.

By RICHARD ARQUATI

More than three quarters (477) of the forms issued were completed and returned. The Community Council for Hertfordshire recognises 60 per cent as the minimum satisfactory response for a local survey.

Ninety per cent of those surveyed said they hoped to continue living in the parish and cited as reasons the beautiful countryside, the sense of community and the good road networks.

Those who wanted to leave said the village was too large, affected by motorway noise, that property was too expensive, that the village was getting overdeveloped. For one person it was too quiet and four others preferred Chipperfield.

There was a split on whether people in the parish wanted to see more housing, and 64 per cent said they felt there was no need for commercial development in the parish.

Of the facilities offered to youngsters in the village, 31 per cent used the playing field equipment and school pool and 26 per cent used the tennis and youth club facilities.

District Councillor John Gell said he was surprised that only 58 per cent of parents with children under 12 years old said they would send them to Sarratt JMI School.

Sixty per cent of those who said they were not considering the village school said they would choose a private school. It was found that the majority (57 per cent) of secondary education pupils attend or will attend, St Clement Danes School, Chorleywood.

Other results showed most people shopped in Watford or in the village, that they would like to see a butchers or chemist in the village and that almost 80 per cent read the Watford Observer.

On the subject of traffic, villagers gave a list of blackspots including Church Lane and Dawes Lane with enforceable speed limits being the most popular suggested remedy.

The most used bus route was the 352 (36 per cent) from Watford to Hemel Hempstead, though even more (42 per cent) used the trains. Only one per cent said they utilized the dial-a-ride service.

Of those who answered the questionnaire, 197 said they commuted less than 10 miles to work while 128 said they travelled more than 20 miles. Only 26 people said they worked in Sarratt.

According to the survey there are 123 households with one car, 207 households with two cars, 69 with three — and one with an astonishing six cars!

Sarratt's surprising statistics

KLG 27·4·90

LOW COST housing is needed in Sarratt to help people born and bred in the village to stay there.

That is one of the most revealing findings in a 16 page village appraisal carried out by Sarratt Parish Council last September and launched at its annual meeting at the beginning of this month.

The appraisal which is to be entered in a regional competition was compiled after 630 questionnaires were distributed to villagers, an impressive 76 per cent being returned.

Out of those who replied, an astonishing 73 per cent said low cost housing for locals was badly needed with 32 per cent claiming that some memers of their families had moved from the parish to get their own homes.

Another telling finding was the number of youngsters in the village — out of those surveyed it was established that there were 486 youngsters between the ages of one and nine. There are 424 residents between the ages of 10 and 39, but only 52 over the age of 60.

John Gell, the parish council chairman said: "The major benefit of an appraisal is that it gives people the opportunity to express their ideas about what they want locally. It may also suggest schemes to improve the amenities of the local environment which could be taken up by the parish and district councils.

Among the other significant revelations of the comprehensive document were:

- The need for more facilities for the disabled including public conveniences and a social club.
- Dissatisfaction with the bus services, with 66 per cent saying they would use the service more if it was frequent and reliable.
- Many complaints about traffic problems including speed and parking black spots, most notably Church Lane and Dawes Lane respectively. Concern about dangerous junctions at Dimmocks Lane, Red Lion Lane, Templepan Lane and the Plough crossroads was also expressed.
- Disappointingly, only 24 per cent of households questioned said they used the sports facilities at King George V Playing Fields.
- On a more optimistic note, 90 per cent said they hoped to continue living in the parish.



Mount Boot after January gale

Photograph of cycle to come.

JAN. 1990

Petition fails to halt plans for gipsy site

A GIPSY caravan site in Langleybury Lane looks certain following a meeting of the Hertfordshire County Council Social Services Committee last Thursday.

They agreed the 15 pitch site on the conditions it was Government funded and that planning permission is given.

By RICHARD ARQUATI

The present tenant on the county council owned land, Mr Paul Lory, would be served notice to quit the agricultural holding.

Committee members also decided that the Gipsy Panel should look at three further sites put forward as alternatives by Mr Lory.

This additional resolution was seen by many as a means of placating opponents to the caravan site.

"I think the resolution is a crumb. It is almost an insult. The councillors minds are closed," said Langleybury Ward District Councillor Mr John Ayrton.

Langleybury Ward County Councillor Paul Goggins presented the committee with three petitions from Sarratt Parish Council, the South West Herts Scouts and Girl Guides Association and Langleybury Action Group.

More than 3,500 signatures were collected by these groups.

He argued against the proposed site in Langleybury Lane on six points, saying:

- Langleybury and Hunton Bridge are designated conservation areas
- Users of the site would be visibly obtrusive
- Sheep and cattle on the adjoining farm would be at risk from gipsies' dogs
- Evicting Mr Lory from the land would be unfair and his possible compensation claim — believed to be in the region of £500,000 — would be a high price to pay
- Siting for caravans would be too near to the M25 Motorway ● Gipsies ran the risk from the already busy traffic in Langleybury Lane.

County Councillor John Hudson, chairman of the Gipsy Panel, said he felt the petition gathered by the South West Hertfordshire Scouts and Guides showed unnecessary concern.

Scouts and Guides have campsites at Beechwood, Leeswood and Lord Hyde Memorial, all situated near the proposed site.

"There is no evidence that any of the sites have any serious problems with adjoining owner occupiers," said Councillor Hudson.

Further points were raised by other Committee members.

County Councillor Mrs Jill Tattersfield said: "I think we ought not go so hastily ahead without the support of the district council."

Labour County Councillor Mrs Joan Warren, who sits on the Gipsy Panel, said the site favoured by the district Council at Tolpits Lane was totally unreasonable as were the other sites proposed by Mr Lory.

County Councillor Mrs Warren said residents' views of county controlled gipsy caravan sites were wrongly coloured by the image of illegal roadside camps.

"A gipsy site is properly maintained and warden controlled," she said.

Concluding the meeting, County Councillor Mr Robert Ellis said: "Thanks to the public for coming today, though I do not think you will thank us for the decision."

"No we won't," came the unanimous reply from the public gallery.

Afterwards, Langleybury Action Group member Mr John Peaty said: "The feeling for us is both shock and disgust at this decision."

He said people's opposition to the proposal has been strengthened.

"We will do everything in our power to make sure this agricultural site, on top of a hill and providing a pleasant aspect and view for a large area around, is not turned into an eyesore," he said.

County Councillor Paul Goggins said the additional proposal to look at three further sites was just a cynical move to placate residents at the meeting.

Also after the meeting Mr Lory said he was prepared to give another site, which he owns, free of charge to the County Council for use as a gipsy caravan site.

A darker shade of green

KLG 30·3·90

GREEN fever has caught up with Three Rivers District Council who are calling for more environment controls in a bid to protect remaining Green Belt land.

And the policy is bound to receive approval from residents in Abbots Langley and Sarratt who are still embroiled in a green battle to stop the planned Langleybury Lane gypsy site.

In a statement issued to the Gazette, a spokesman for Three Rivers said: "We are calling for a planning policy based on restraint, imposition of environment controls and the limitation of new sites for employment development."

The council's environmentally friendly comments followed a meeting of the environmental policy commitee last month.

At the meeting, councillors discussed their response to the up-dated county council structure plan which looks forward to 1996.

Chairman of the planning commitee, Councillor Mrs Ann Shaw proposed a motion calling on the Government to tighten up planning controls that have been relaxed over the past ten years. She also called for a move to abandon the present presumption in favour of the developer and replace it by recognition of community interest.

The Three Rivers statement went on: "The maintenance and protection of the Green Belt remains vital for the council together with the restoration of derelict land. A more positive approach on set aside land is required in the county structure plan together with guidance for landowners."

A spokesman for the district council explained that the objective was to continue to encourage economic prosperity without sacrificing precious green belt areas.

In a bid to ease traffic on the already congested major roads, the council are also asking Hertfordshire County Council to upgrade public transport and concentrate investment on producing an integrated public transport system.

The council's comments will be discussed by County at a later date.

Thousands remember

2·3·90 KLG

TWO HUNDRED friends of the late John "Flight" Cracknell gathered at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt last month to pay tribute to this popular war veteran and Scouting figurehead who became something of a local celebrity.

It is a mark of his popularly that there were over 1000 applications to attend the service of remembrance and thanksgiving, held on Saturday February 17, to celebrate the life and times of "Flight" who lived in Sarratt for 32 years.

He died on December 22, aged 79 and his ashes were buried in Sarratt churchyard on the day of the remembrance service with only his close family present.

Conducting the service, The Reverend Martin Culverwell said: "This is a very happy service for a man of kindness, charm and integrity."

All aspects of this carefully planned service which was attended by local scouting groups and fellow soldiers among others, were in accordance with 'Flight's' written wishes.

The church was decorated with Spring flowers arranged by members of Sarratt Horticultural Society, including a bunch of his favourite anemones from a friend.

A portrait of 'Flight' wearing his familiar scouting outfit was displayed in the pulpit while a table in front of the chancel displayed memorabilia of his Scouting and RAF days. Among his most favoured possessions were; a scout hat, his ties, a model spitfire and a 'member of the year' plaque presented by showbiz charity, The Water Rats.

After the service, his many friends attended a party in Sarratt JMI school, organised by Sarratt Scouts.

Born John Cracknell, 'Flight' gained his nickname while serving in The Battle of Britain as an RAF Squadron Leader.

A friend of Gang Show creator Ralph Reader, he was also closely linked with the famous Gang Shows, helping to produce them in Watford for twenty years.

He was founder of various scout groups and founded the Lees Wood Camp Site as well as being Warden at Phasels Wood.

Church packed for Winifred

K.L.G. 19-1-90

BIGGERSTAFF'S Garage, Sarratt, was closed on Monday afternoon as Mrs Winifred Biggerstaff, who died shortly after Christmas aged 88, was buried at Holy Cross Church.

Winifred, the widow of George Biggerstaff, was born at Belsize Farm and lived in the village all her life.

She had lived at her home in Red Lion Lane since 1933 and she was the mother of five sons — Douglas, Ray, Joe, Toby and John — who all live in Sarratt.

Two of her sons, Douglas and John, still run the garage, which was started by her parents-in-law. It is where her late husband George spent all his working life.

Until it was nationalised in 1933, Mr Biggerstaff ran a bus service to Watford every day of the week during the 1920's. He also ran a private coach service for ten years in the 1950's.

The garage, which was closed as a mark of respect, is where two of Winifred's 11 grandchildren, Diane and Andrew, work.

Holy Cross Church was packed with 50 family and friends who came to pay their respects to a much-loved wife, mother and grandmother.

News from Sarratt

Happiness is a Morris Minor called FUU and a cheque for £65

KLG 3.5.90

AN UNUSUAL visitor surprised Sarratt Parish Councillor Mrs Valerie Cumming last week when FUU, an almond Green Morris Minor arrived bearing a £65 cheque for Rickmansworth Cancer Research Campaign.

A delighted Mrs Cumming, chairman of the Rickmansworth branch of the Cancer Research Campaign, greeted the 25 year-old car and its proud owner Jonathan Frater, 24, after they took part in a Charity Fun Run from London to Brighton, which he completed on April 8.

FUU, which means happiness in Chinese has been owned by Rickmansworth civil servant Jonathan for five years. The car buff is an active member of the Morris Minor Owners' Club, which nominated Cancer Resaerch as its charity for this year.

"We had five Herts Branch cars with fifteen members, some of whom were dressed as doctors and surgeons in theatre gowns and masks, collecting. We will be together again fund raising at Wendover on the May Bank Holiday," said Jonathan.

The fun-loving fund-raisers have been invited by Mrs Cumming to join in the Sarratt Village Day festivities on May 26, when the Cancer Research Campaign will be manning a charity stall.

Book will be ready

A BOOK covering eight centuries of Sarratt village history is being diligently researched by a local resident and will be ready in time for the 800th anniversary celebrations of Holy Cross Church.

Since last November, Mrs Doris Rollinson of Wheatsheaf Cottage has spent up to six days a week thumbing through the archives at Hertford Record Office, the Local Studies Collection, the Colindale Library and the museums at Hertford and Verulamium.

A tithe map with an index is being lent by the Hertfordshire Records Office and medieval items including pottery, coins, a roman brooch and pieces of Roman brick excavated from Holy Cross churchyard will be on show during the two day event.

Bovver with thieves

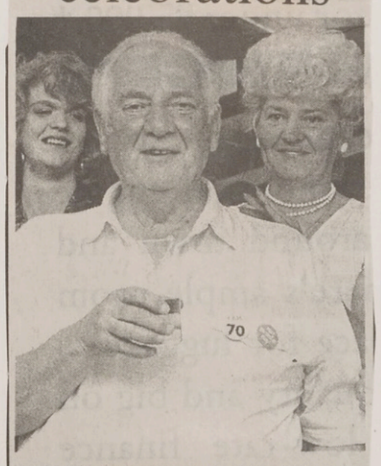
GREEN-FINGERED thieves gave one Sarratt resident 'a lota bovver' when they took a lawnmower and strimmer worth £2,000 from his garage last week.

The expensive gardening equipment was taken from a block of four garages adjoining Sarratt Mill House at North Hill, between 9.30 pm on Monday April 23 and 7.30 am the following morning.

The equipment belonged to Mr Coleman.

Ron's birthday celebrations

WO 1.6.90



POPULAR Sarratt villager Ron Cox was not going to wait until he died before an opportunity arose for his friends and relatives to get together.

Instead he chose the occasion of his 70th birthday to throw a big party in the village inviting 48 of his relatives and 50 of his friends.

Ron forked out for a disco, food and a free bar to keep his guests entertained at the village hall on Sunday evening.

"We go to funerals, sit around, and everytime we say we should get together while we are all still alive. I wanted the funeral treat early," said Ron, who received more than 76 cards and presents.

Sarratt's parish chairman

KLG 31.5.90

SARRATT Parish Council is under new leadership as Councillor Mrs Alex Ballard replaces John Gell as this year's chairman.

Councillor Mr Harry Metson was elected Vice-Chairman.

Tribute

KLG 28.5.90

A MINUTE'S silence was observed for former Sarratt Parish Councillor Keith Godman at Monday's parish meeting, following his death at the weekend.

Councillor Ron Cox, a parish colleague and long-standing friend for many years, said he was saddened by the news and paid tribute to his instrumental role in the re-vamping of King George V playing fields in the 70s.

Mr Cox added that he was a well-known character in Sarratt, having run the village sweet shop on the green for many years and also been a key figure in the play leadership schemes.

Appointment of Presiding Judges

The Independent 12.5.90

The Hon Mr Justice Garland, to be a Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit, in continuation of his present appointment.

The Hon Mr Justice Hidden, to be an additional Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit.

The Hon Mr Justice Rougier, to be a Presiding Judge of the Midland and Oxford Circuit, in succession to The Hon Mr Justice Tucker.

The Hon Mr Justice Morland, to be a Presiding Judge of the Northern Circuit, in succession to The Hon Mr Justice Rose.

The Hon Mr Justice Scott Baker, to be a Presiding Judge of the Wales and Chester Circuit, in succession to The Hon Mr Justice Roch.

The Hon Mr Justice Auld, to be a Presiding Judge of the Western Circuit, in succession to The Hon Mr Justice Swinton Thomas.

Pony Club games

ASPIRING Sarratt showjumpers of the future were a 'mane' attraction when The Old Berkley Hunt North branch of the pony club scored a success in the Prince Philip Cup games.

The youngsters were competing in the area competition at Watlington against other teams from all over the county.

There were 18 teams competing in the Seniors where Old Berkley came 7th with the junior team coming an impressive second to Oakley West who were the ultimate winners at Wembley last year.

They will now take part in the Zone Trial which will take place at Edenbridge, Kent on August 26.

Mrs Pam Dickins, Commissioner for Old Berkley said: "They all trained very hard and excelled themselves having trained on ordinary ponies.

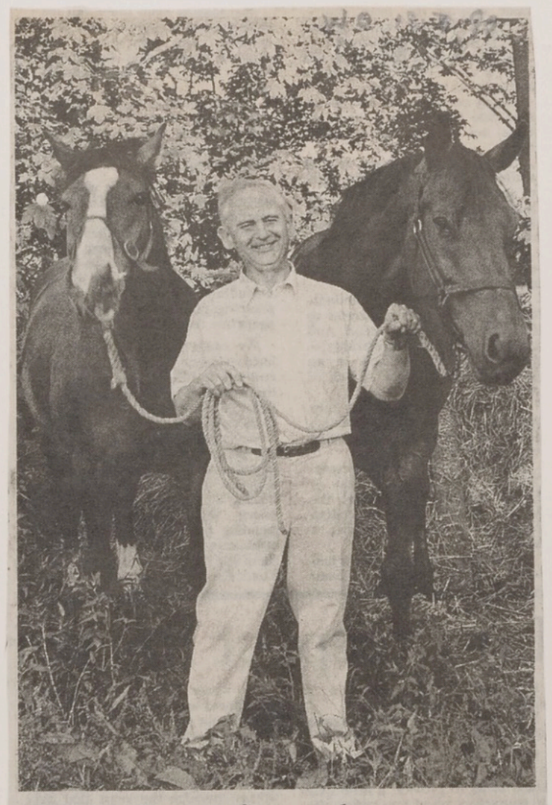
Their trainers were; Mr Mike Keys, Mrs Marilyn Butler and Nathalie Butler.

In the Senior team were; Lisa Keys, Sinead Conlon, Sarah Hern, Gemma Haynes and Shirley Spencer.

The Junior team comprised: Michelle Tipper, Lisa Keys, Sarah Keys, Pippa Frow and Lizzie Furber.

The Pony Club was out in force again last weekend when they were raising money for local charities with a 50/50 auction.

KLG 24.5.90



We're in deep...

GARDENERS are invited to drop-in to a house in Sarratt to pick up as much manure as they like — for free.

The offer is being made by Mr John Lines of Red Lion Lane, who keeps two horses Toby and Jamie.

Toby is ridden by John in the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt and the Exmoor Foxhounds.

Jamie was ridden by John's children Douglas and Alison through the Pony Club, competing at Hickstead and Stoneleigh.

"Gardeners and allotment holders are invited to come and help themselves to the manure," said John.

Anyone interested is asked to telephone him on Watford 262294.

W.O. 13-7-90 WO G6560

1990



W.O. 20/7/90

MR S. WARD and MISS A. RICKETT

Childhood sweethearts Mr Steven Ward and Miss Anita Rickett were married at St Paul's Church, Chipperfield. The bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Rickett, of Shepherds Lodge, Chipperfield. The bridegroom is the son of Mr and Mrs B. Ward, of Cakebread Cottage, Sarratt. The couple met while at Durrants School, Croxley Green. The bride is a compositor at the Watford Observer and the bridegroom is the manager for Bridgewater Windscreens, Watford. The couple went to Tenerife for their honeymoon and will live in Watford.

Photo: Chipperfield Colour



MR G.W.M. RILEY and MISS G.M. STRATFORD

St Lucia was the honeymoon destination for Mr Graham William Matthew Riley and the former Miss Gail Margaret Stratford, who were married at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt. The bride is the daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Stratford, of Sarratt. The bridegroom comes from Scotland. The couple met when the bridegroom started working as a chef at the same hotel as the bride. The bride's father is a director of Watford Football Club. W.O. 3-8-90

Watford challenge Sarratt

WO 13.7.90



The Sarratt cricket team line up for our photographer knowing that they are to meet members of Watford FC in their now annual summer fixture. WO G6774.

WATFORD make their first public appearance next Wednesday (July 18) night when they travel to play Sarratt Cricket Club.

The Hornets can be expected to field a large number of first team players for the game that attracted a good crowd last year, and which produced an excellent game.

Watford were led by Nigel Gibbs, known to be a more than useful cricketer, and he peppered the boundary in an innings of 96 that saw Watford make 164 for 7.

Sarratt lost key batsmen Darren Seabrook and Dave Birchenall early on, but skipper Richard Styles hammered 58 before falling to Gibbs' bowling.

Sarratt fell behind the rate after that, and despite a late flurry, they were all out for 134.

There is a chance that the Watford side could include new signing Alan Devonshire, while manager Colin Lee could also don his whites.

Sarratt will not doubt to be out to avenge last year's defeat, and will look to people like Seabrook, Styles, and bowlers John Aldersley and Roger Dracott to take them to victory.

The match takes place at Sarratt's beautiful grounds at King George V Playing Fields in the village, and the game starts at 6pm.



WO 27.7.90

Guides may end despite donation

VILLAGERS' £1,400 presentation to improve the Scouts' and Guides' hut comes at a time when the Sarratt Guide Company is threatened with closure.

District Commissioner Mrs Pat Rowley warns that unless an assistant Guider can be found very soon, the Guides (pictured above) will have no Company to return to in September.

The girls from Sarratt set off on Saturday for a week-long international summer camp at Cheltenham Race Course.

Their Guider, Linda Clough, will not be able to carry on with the company unless an assistant can be found before the end of the summer.

Sarratt Guides meet every Thursday between 7.15pm and 9pm at the Scout and Guide Hut.

Mrs Rowley says she is desperate to hear from anyone who can spare time to help keep the company alive.

"The Guides in Sarratt first formed a company on October 2, 1959, and it would be very sad to see it die," said Mrs Rowley.

Assistant Cub Scout Leader Mr Robin Sindall received £1,400 for the maintenance of Sarratt Scout hut at a cheese and wine party in the village hall on Friday.

Proceeds of Sarratt Village Day were handed out by Mr Mal Biggerstaff.

A further £500 was donated to Mrs Joan Platts and Mrs Christine Wilyman, on behalf of the Watford and District Alzheimer's Disease Society.

Youth Club leader, Police Constable Phil Wynes accepted a cheque for £100 towards the club and Mrs John Guy, custodian of Sarratt village scrap book received a donation of £200 to be used to rebind the book. WO G7227

Plans to halve bus link

BUS services linking Sarratt with Rickmansworth could be halved by next year if plans by Hertfordshire County Council are given the go-ahead.

A letter has been sent to parish councillors informing them of the county council's passenger transport review plans to cut the 318 service on Tuesdays.

The bus currently runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Sarratt, Chipperfield and Dacorum.

The provision of bus services in Three Rivers by Hertfordshire County Council is the subject of a judicial review that could take months to resolve.

Mr Geraint Hughes, head of the passenger transport unit at the county council, admitted that cutting the service and the judicial review were slightly interwined.

But he added that this particular route was being reviewed on the basis that it services Dacorum Borough Council.

"Bearing the judicial review in mind, the service would have to be maintained in the short term. It could be 12 months before the case is heard," he said.

In his letter Mr Hughes says that alternative bus services are provided to take people to Hemel Hempstead and Watford.

"The 318 service is a shopping facility. We are asking the parish council if they think the two other shopping centres are suitable alternatives," he added.

Mrs Barbara Fordyce, clerk to the parish council has replied to Mr Hughes saying that neither Hemel Hempstead nor Watford are alternatives.

She said that as well as having the new council offices in Rickmansworth, the town also has a fast Metropolitan Line underground rail service, and British Rail links to Marylebone Station in London.

"In the opinion of my council and of the village, as evident in the recent parish appraisal there is a present need to run a service two days a week.

"Once the new district council offices are completed this need will increase further," she said.

Diamond surprise



FRIENDS and relatives of Mr Frank Tyler and his wife Elizabeth showed that even after 60 years of marriage, surprises were still to be had.

They organised a secret party on Sunday at the home of the couple's nephew, Terry, and his wife Daphne, in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, to mark Frank and Elizabeth's Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Frank, 86, and Elizabeth were married at Maiden Lane Catholic Church, in Covent Garden in 1930, and lived at Albert Cottages in Sarratt Bottom until 1947, when the building of their bungalow in Dimmocks Lane, was completed.

It was not until then that they were able to enjoy gas, electricity and running water in their house.

Since he was 16 years old, Frank can remember working in his grandfather's watercress beds in the River Chess.

"He stopped working at the age of 84 because his eyesight was failing. Although he couldn't walk any distance he could stand all day in the watercress beds," said Terry.

It is now Terry who cultivates acres of watercress with the help of his wife.

27-7-90 WO G7283

Prize gets clean away

27-7-90

DISAPPOINTED villagers in Sarratt believe wrong information about the judging dates cost them first place in the Best Kept Village Competition.

Operation Greensweep, designed to clean up the village, was arranged a week after the judges made their visit.

Organisers, Mr Jeff Benham, his wife Catherine, and Mr Dennis Jenks organised a team of tidiers to clean up the village.

But their efforts were in vain for the judges had already been.

"We were told judging would take place from the middle of June onwards. In fact the judging was done on June 11, a week before we marshalled our troops to tidy up," said Mr Benham.

They blame Three Rivers District Council and those who run the competition for the village's failure to secure first place.

Sarratt scored 82 per cent, four less than the Central/West area preliminary round winner, Potten End.

"I am extremely unhappy with the district council as it did not cut the green until June 24. I also asked a council member about road sweeping but I certainly did not see any evidence," added Mr Benham.

Coat sparks fire

FIREMEN were called to Dawes Lane, Sarratt, when a coat caught fire in a mobile home and sparked a blaze, which left the kitchen severely damaged, on Monday.

The alarm was raised at 12.57pm after the coat caught fire from the cooker.

The fire left 40 per cent of the kitchen severely damaged and the rest of the mobile home was badly damaged by smoke and heat. WO 12/10/90

Church of the Holy Cross
Sarratt, Hertfordshire

A Service
of
Remembrance and Thanksgiving

for

Flight Cracknell

John - Jack - Uncle Jack

who was called to Higher Service
on 22nd December 1989

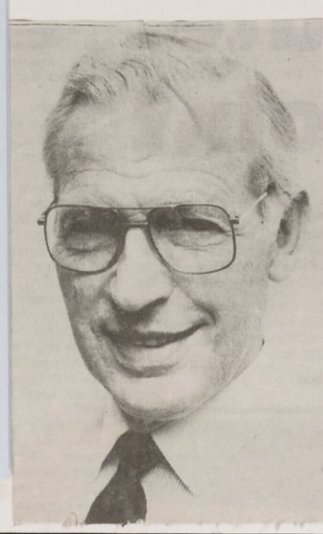
Conducted by The Rev. Martin Culverwell
Rector
Church of the Holy Cross, Sarratt

Organist and Choirmaster: David Clough

"The life that I have lived, so full, so keen,
Is mine! I hold it firm beneath death's blow
And, dying, take it with me where I go."

Saturday, 17th February 1990
at 3 p.m.

All aspects of this Service
are in accordance with Flight's written wishes



Korean veteran appeal

K.L.G. 26-7-90

KOREAN veteran, Peter Cumming, who lives in Sarratt, was heard by thousands of Radio Two listeners talking to Judith Chalmers recently on the Reunion Spot on her morning radio show.

Peter sounded assured and as though he broadcast every day but admitted that he "felt the old adrenalin going" as the time drew near for his phone-in conversation with Judith.

He said: "She is very professional and she had obviously done her homework. Her questions were spot on. She remembered that we had met 20 years ago when we were involved in crowning Miss Pears."

"Are you wearing your kilt?" was the first question she asked Peter, who hails from Stirling.

"No, I usually keep it for special occasions," he replied.

The very special occasion when he will be wearing his kilt is the Argyll and Sutherland Regimental Reunion for the 40th anniversary of the Korean campaign. It will be held at Stirling Castle on the weekend of September 7-9 and Peter is anxious to trace as many Korean veterans as possible.

He said: "I am chairman of the organising committee and we want to get together as many of those who were in the battalion in Korea as we can.

"I consulted the medals office and discovered 900 Argylls were awarded the Korean medal. We established more than 300 addresses and so far we have 110 men coming. I have had several phone calls already since talking to Judith Chalmers."

His memories of the three month campaign 40 years ago are still vivid. He said: "It was an amazing campaign. In the beginning it was very hot and after three months very cold (45 degrees below was not uncommon) and in between we were kept pretty busy.

"As a 21-year-old Lieutenant I was in charge of the Medium Machine Gun Platoon. To begin with we were involved in a tiny perimeter round Puson in the South but after three weeks we broke out and at the same time the American Marines landed near Seoul.

"We were airlifted there and were told to lead the advance up the West route into North Korea. We got to within seven miles of the border when, under threat of atomic attack, the Chinese entered the war and we were on our way South again."

One incident which the veterans at the reunion will sadly remember is the tragic error during the break-out from Pusan when American bombers mistakenly attacked the wrong hill with rockets and napalm and many Argylls perished.

Peter Cumming was a regimental soldier for 10 years and rose to the rank of Captain, serving in Malaya and British Guyana. He ended his army career as an instructor at Eaton Hall Cadet School.

Today he is a sales manager with Allied Dunbar Financial Services and he has lived at Old Red Lion Farm in Sarratt for the past 20 years. His wife, Valerie, will accompany him on his trip to Stirling Castle where he will be wearing the United Nations Korea Medal and the British Korean Campaign Medal.

Argylls who were in Korea can contact Peter on 0923 262920 or 081-954-7411.

WO 1.6.90

Old and young at play

Pictures: TREVOR ADAMS
Words: RICHARD ARQUATI

CHOIRBOY Aidan Griffiths was so engrossed with the events during Saturday's Village Day in Sarratt he forgot he was due to sing at a wedding.

The Tannoy made a desperate appeal for him to make his way to Holy Cross Church where the marriage of Miss Melanie Tourish and Mr Stephen Hedges was taking place.

Fine weather encouraged crowds to flock to the annual gathering on The Green.

In fact, there were so many people that at times it was difficult to move.

Mr Peter Cumming kept up a non-stop running commentary informing the crowds of the many attractions laid on, such as the fantastic display of vintage cars include Morgans, Fords, a Lanchester, an Aston Martin, a Daimler, a 1932 Bedford Bus, and a 1957 crash tender from Carlisle.

Steam rollers, tractors and agricultural engines were lined up and a fair organ played in the backround.

Vintage motorcycles on display included a Vincents Scott Triumph an a Velocette Venom.

Male strength and stamina was put to the test by six tug o' war teams in a contest organised by Mr Alan Grant of the Boot Public House.

Winners were the Artichoke Pub Team from Croxley Green who triumphed over the Bovingdon Banger Boys in the final.

The other teams were the Chiltern Traction Engines Team, the Belsize Bruisers, The Boot Sarratt an the Weavers Boys.

The finalists flexed their muscles against a steam tractor but lost the battle.

The accent of the day was on fun for the children and each child who entered in the nursery rhyme fancy dress parade was presented with a Village Day commemorative mug by the Rt Hon Lord Justice Staughton, of Sarratt.

Stalwart Sarratt fathers manually operated the children's roundabout and the cresta run while the Watford Silver band entertained parents during the afternoon.

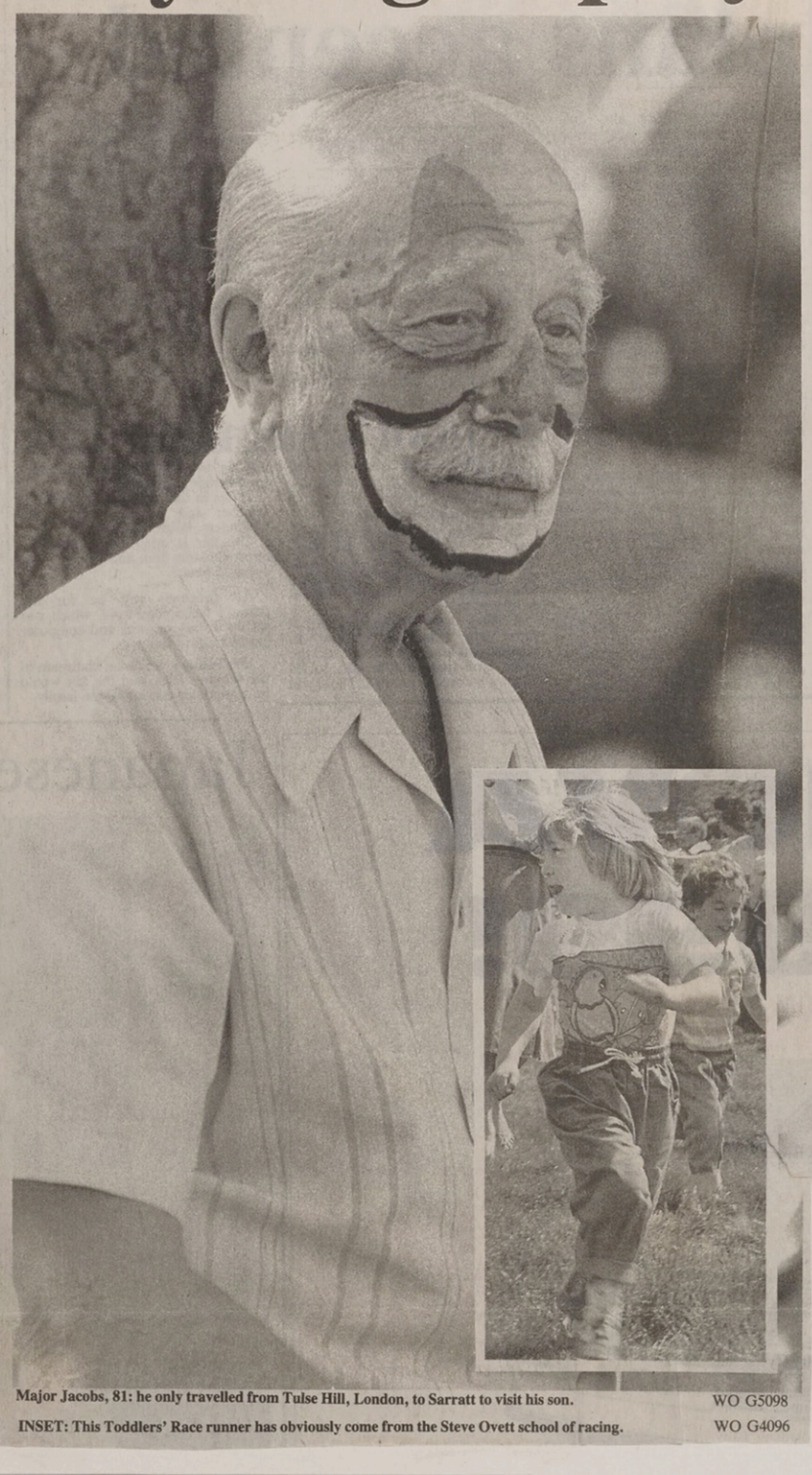
Every organisation in Sarratt from the toddlers' group to the friendship club had a fundraising stall while the Mothers Union and Sarratt Women's Institute were overwhelmed by the demand for tea and homemade cakes in the Baptist Church Hall.

Village bobby PC Philip Wynes organised games for the under 15's including a highly successful children's disco in the marquee.

The evening was rounded off for the youngsters with the view of a hot air balloon taking to the skies from King George V Playing Fields.

Chairman of the Village Day committee Mr Mal Biggerstaff said, "I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success and most importantly the people who supported us and spent so much money.

One major contributor to the funds was 70-year-old, Mr Bert Sharland, who knocked on every door in the village selling more than 500 raffle ticket books during the weeks leading up to the day.



Major Jacobs, 81: he only travelled from Tulse Hill, London, to Sarratt to visit his son. WO G5098

INSET: This Toddlers' Race runner has obviously come from the Steve Ovett school of racing. WO G4096



Bert Sharland shows raffle organiser Carol Chorley just a handful of the hundreds of tickets he sold to raise money for village day. WO G3093



You are never too young to start, says racing driver Mr Richard Naylor to his rather distracted son Andrew as they sit in this Mallock Mark 27 racing car. WO 5100



Steam engines were just one of the attractions at Saturday's Sarratt Village Day. WO G3091

Sarratt News

Village Day fun!

KLG 26.5.90

FULL STEAM AHEAD!

After months of preparation, Sarratt Village Day will finally arrive on Saturday with a huge line-up of steam rollers, steam tractors and locomotives.

The oldest steam engine built in 1897 has been in the Boughton family business since then, with the biggest machine on display being a McLaren road locomotive weighing 20 tons.

Mr P. Williams from Chipperfield will proudly show wing his restored showman's living wagon and other attractions include vintage lorries, coaches, tractors, a fair ground organ, Morgan cars and an Aston Martin Super Leggera which will be arriving at midday.

Fun for youngsters starts at 1.30 pm with a nursery rhyme theme fancy dress parade and later on they can compete in the children's sports, activity centre, cresta run or fun fair rides as well as an early evening disco.

APPETITE

Putting in an appearance will be many local societies including Sarratt Horticultural Society, Cancer Research, Conservative Party, Friendship Club and Toddler's Group who will be fund-raising for Sarratt Scout and Guides Hut and Croxley Green Alzheimers Society.

If that's not enough to whet your appetite, there will be the added spectacle of tug of war, wheelbarrow races, bowling for the pig, an exhibition of old Sarratt photographs, and wool spinning.

A silver band will lend an air of melodic harmony to the day.

The hungry will be catered for by the WI and the Mother's Union and by Sarratt Scouts with their hot dogs and hamburgers.

The evening will be given a fitting send off with a sixties style dance in the marquee on the green and a hot air ballon rising from the village.

WO 23.3.90

Children to benefit from village day

YOUNGSTERS in Sarratt will figure prominently and profit handsomely from the annual village day on May 26.

Organisers of the event have decided that 75 per cent of the proceeds would help benefit children in the village, with the remainder going to the Alzheimers Disease Society.

Last year, money raised was given to children's charities outside the village.

Mr Roy Eteen, group scout leader, suggested at a meeting held earlier this month, that the scout hut, used five nights a week by Guides, Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and Venture Scouts could use some extra funds.

The Scouts will be raising money on the day selling hot dogs and beefburgers.

Events for children include a fancy dress competition, a children's pet show, sports, a disco, a mini fun fair and a competition to design a village day poster.

This year's programme will feature the Sarratt crest, designed by last year's winner, Desmond Atkins.

Adults will be able to enjoy an exhibition of photographs and relics of Sarratt by the Women's Institute, and a demostration of sheep shearing by Mrs Beryl Baxter.

She will show the wool from her Jacob's sheep being spun and knitted.

There will also be a tug o' war competition, displays of steam and traction engines and vintage cars, a brass band and a barn dance.

The planning committee will have their next meeting in the Pavillion at King George V Playing Field on Monday, April 2.

SECOND VILLAGE DAY







SARRATT FUN

Village day's success story

by RUTH HUNTMAN

EXCITED choirboy, Aidan Griffiths was having such a good time at Sarratt Village Day on Saturday that he forgot his cue to sing at the wedding of Melanie Tourrish and Stephen Hedges at Holy Cross Church.

Aidan finally got 'a call from above' when he was paged by village day commentator, Mr Peter Cumming over the loudspeakers.

The fund-raising village day was a roaring success, drawing huge crowds with attractions for young and old alike.

For the nostalgic car-lover there was an impressive display of vintage cars including a Lagonda, Morris Eight, Morgans, the £100 Ford, Lanchester, Aston Martin and a Daimler.

Vintage commercial vehicles had their day too with a Willis jeep, a 1932 Bedford Bus and a 1957 crash tender from Carlisle Airport.

Visitors had a chance to let off steam when they admired a collection of steam rollers, agricultural engines, a beautifully restored showman's living wagon and a working fairground organ.

Strength and stamina was put to the test by six Tug O' War teams organised by Alan Grant of The Boot.

Finalists flexed their muscles against a steam tractor, but not surprisingly, lost.

The winners were from The Artichoke public house in Croxley Green, who defeated Bovingdon Banger Boys in the final.

The other teams were: Chiltern Traction Engines, The Belsize Bruisers, The Weavers Boys and The Boot, Sarratt.

A Nursery Rhyme Fancy Dress Parade kept the children amused and was judged by the Rt Hon Lord Justice Staughton, with all contestants receiving a commemorative Village Day mug.

Stalwart Sarratt dads manually operated the children's roundabout and the cresta run, whilst village bobby, Phil Wynes organised sports for the under 15s.

Every organisation in Sarratt, from the toddlers group to the Friendship Club, had a fund-raising stall and a melodic air was lent by Watford Silver Band.

The Mother's Union and Women's Institute were overhelmed by demand for tea and cakes in the Baptist Hall.

The Scouts did a roaring trade in burgers and bangers whilst a hot air balloon, taking off from the playing fields, provided an exciting spectacle for youngsters dancing the night away at the children's disco.



● Alex Fitzgerald, alias Spiderman!

PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE KENEALY

The Village Day coffers will no doubt have been boosted by the efforts of Bert Sharland, 70, who knocked on every door in the village and sold 500 books of raffle tickets.



● Having a great time at the village day.

KLG 31.5.90

Sarratt's bumper gifts to charity



THE FRUITS of Sarratt Village Day have been handed over to lucky local organisations by Sarratt Village Day Chairman, Mr Mal Biggerstaff at a cheese and wine party at the village hall.

Overjoyed Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Mr Robin Sindall received a hefty £1,400 for the maintenance of Sarratt Scout Hut.

Mrs Joan Platts and Mrs Christine Wilyman received a cheque for £500 for Watford and District Alzheimers Disease Society and Youth Club Leader PC Phil Wynes accepted a cheque for £100 for the club.

Mr John Guy, custodian of the village scrapbook which records village activities thanked Mr Biggerstaff for the donation of £200 which will be used to re-bind the book.

Mr Biggerstaff thanked committee members Mr Roger Atkins and Mrs Val Cummings for all their hard work. 16/8/90 KLG

Budding musicians

SWEET HARMONY can be heard at Sarratt JMI School this week as budding Yehudi Menhuins and James Galways are preparing for the Rickmansworth Schools Music Festival. K.L.G. 30-3-90

They are busy rehearsing 'Captain Coram's Kids,' a cantata by Michael Hurd in readiness for the competition with eight other schools at Watersmeet on April 2.



















QUEEN OF THE CASTLE: **Toddler Ellie Chorley, two, took time out from jumping on the bouncy castle to recharge her batteries ready for more capers at Saturday's Sarratt Village Day. Hundreds of people converged on The Green for the biannual event, raising more than £1,000 for the St Dunstan's charity, which cares for blind ex-servicemen and women, and Sarratt community events. Ellie's grandmother, village day organiser Mrs Carol Chorley, said: "It was a happy and very successful day. It gave a chance for everyone in the community to contribute something."** Picture S215118: PETE STEVENS.

1990

Group starts to combat undesired development

WO 3/8/90

CONCERN over the number of planning and environmental "disasters" in and around Sarratt during the past 12 months has prompted villagers to form an action group.

The group has been set up by Peter Cumming and "like minded villagers" who aim to put an end to undesirable new developments by taking "overt and explicit action outside the parish council system."

Mr Cumming, who has lived at Old Red Lion Farm in Sarratt for two decades, said that over the past two or three years he has become aware of the increasing sense of unease, concern and frustration among those who value the countryside in general and the beauties and character of Sarratt in particular.

"As there have been so many patently unacceptable developments recently it would seem that some dedicated local Perestroika, People Power or Vox Populi is the only option for those of us who feel strongly that things have been allowed to slip too far."

Sarratt Preservation Action Group will run an information system, record members' worries, feelings and suggestions, and make sure those views are passed on to local council decision makers.

Mr Cumming said: "Parish councillors are constrained by a number of considerations of which precedents, finance and the very fact that they are elected, tend to encourage moderate views and actions which really don't suit, at times, the speed with which change in general and building development in particular, can happen these days.

"As a member of SPAG one can take a detached view because you will not be involved in the actual process of local government."

Developments that have caused particular concern in the village recently are the spate of barn conversions.

"You only have to drive round the roads and lanes of Sarratt to see the sights, which not only offend the eye but also call into question the effectiveness of so called planning control.



The Hon Mrs Anthony Cayzer is putting Great Westwood on the market. WO G4773

Great Westwood estate for sale

WO 25.5.90

By SIMON BERLYN

AN ESTATE, believed to be the largest private agricultural holding in Three Rivers District is to go on the market next month.

The 1,500-acre Great Westwood estate at Buckshill, Sarratt, is to be sold by private treaty, either as a single entity or else in lots.

Sale follows the recent death of the Hon Anthony Cayzer who made his home there for 23 years.

The estate has been left to the Hon Mr Cayzer's widow, and his daughters by his first marriage, Mrs Kinvara Hoare, the Hon Mrs Hugh Tollemache, and Mrs Ian Molson.

It comprises a three storeyed, brick built, Queen Anne farmhouse of 1740 with older timber framed sections, set in gardens and hundreds of acres of undulating arable farmland on the fringes of Langleybury.

It is possibly unrivalled in its proximity to London.

The estate is the home of a famous partridge shoot and includes acres of woodland, and an extensive number of farm houses, barns and lodges, some believed to date back to the 16th Century or earlier.

The main house, which is listed Grade II, is grand yet plain, suggesting landed gentry rather than stateliness.

It can house 22 people in comfort, according to the Hon Mrs Cayzer.

The house is linked to an older farmhouse via an extension, known as the Windsor Suite and built by Lord Dudley in the 1950s.

The Duke of Windsor stayed there during shooting trips.

On the ground floor a picture by Felix Kelly painted in 1951 shows the house before the extension was added.

There is a charming portrait by Edmund Brock of the Hon Mr Cayzer as a boy of ten or 11. There are others of the late owner and his first wife, the Hon Patricia Browne, who died in 1981.

There is another portrait over the stairway of the Hon Mr Cayzer and his second wife, Sybille, daughter of the Beligian Count de Selys Longchamps.

"I will be sad to leave. You get attached to people, and people get attached to the place," said the Hon Mrs Cayzer during an impromptu drive around the estate last Thursday.

"The gamekeeper has been here 35 years. I am sure the people who take this place on will want first class people," she said.

There are three keepers, a farmer and two farm workers, two gardeners and three servants at Great Westwood.

Some of the Hon Mr Cayzer's daughters had weekend lodgings on the estate but its dvision has forced the sale.

"To start with it is being offered as one lot. I know we all want it to be offered as one lot. Different lots will be proposed if we don't find someone to buy the whole thing," said the Hon Mrs Cayzer.

The late owner's daughter Mrs Hoare said her father had done much to create the present appearance of the Great Westwood gardens.

"He was very pro-conservation. During the years he was here he planted so many trees.

"He totally created the Azalea garden. He was someone who was interested in all aspects of life. He did so much for so many," said Mrs Hoare.

Division of the estate may raise concern over the possibility of future gravel extraction at Great Westwood.

Great Westwood quarry is situated by the M25 which cut a sliver from the estate.

Great Westwood Estate is to be marketed by London agents Strutt & Parker and advertised in Country Life on June 8.

So far the agents have not disclosed details.

Garden opening for cancer care fundraising

THE opening of the gardens at Great Westwood, Bucks Hill, Sarratt, helped to raise funds for the care of cancer patients on what was an unavoidably poignant occasion on Sunday.

The owner of Great Westwood, the Hon Mrs Anthony Cayzer, opened the gardens to the public and in aid of the South West Herts Macmillan Nurse Appeal only a few weeks after the death of her husband from the disease.

Until his death, the Hon Mr Cayzer was patron of the appeal, and the appeal organisers had staged events at Great Westwood for 14 years.

Sunday's opening raised £2,388, raising proceeds so far to more than £56,000 and almost halfway towards the £120,000 current overall target.

Sunday's proceeds were £700 more than the sum raised from last year's event.

The beds of Azaleas, brightly coloured snd many of them scented, which the Hon Mr Cayzer laid out, provided the focus to the garden displays.

There were special attractions for children, and stalls of books, household items and plants.

Teas were served in one of Great Westwood's many barns.

The Hon Mrs Cayzer was present, as was the late Hon Mr Cayzer's daughter by his first marriage, Mrs Kinvara Hoare.

Chairman of both the South West Herts Macmillan Nurse Committee and the Appeal Committee, Mr Bill Pitt-Ford, said the object of the fund was to provide purpose-trained nurses for the care of cancer patients.

The nurses chosen have SRN and district nursing qualifications and had to display a special vocation for the care they provided.

They offer specialist care in the control of pain and symptoms plus support for patients and their families.

The appeal covered the training and superannuation costs of the nurses for the first three years on the basis that the South West Herts District Health Authority then undertook to meet the cost of employing them.

Last week the appeal received £1,000 from Radlett Rotary Club.

On Monday a further £1,000 raised by Watford Rotary Club and £250 from the sale proceeds of catalogues from Clements of Watford's art exhibition, were presented to Mr Pitt-Ford by store managing director Mr Tony Quint.

A number of items for sale and provided for the raffle at Great Westwood on Sunday, were donated by local shops and garden centres.



Mrs Kinvara Hoare and Mr Bill Pitt-Ford enjoy the gardens at Great Westwood. WO G4771

Green light is given for playing field grant

KLG 9/8/90

THE BALL is definitely rolling for the major extension of King George V Playing Fields after Three Rivers confirmed a grant of £20,000 towards the long-awaited project.

The Green Light was given at Three Rivers Leisure Committee at the end of last month when councillors confirmed its provision of the £20,000 grant.

A report to the committee by Head of Leisure Services stated: "The extension to the Pavilion at King George V Playing Fields will provide a valuable additional recreational resource as well as an important meeting venue. The contribution of a capital sum of £20,000 will provide a sound investment in community life in Sarratt."

Short mat bowls and an expanded youth club-programme are the main aims of the new, improved pavilion as well as providing a necessary meeting facility for existing local groups.

The hefty grant will be a big relief to Sarratt Parish Council and the Administrative Trustees who managed to find £12,000 for the project from their Development Fund.

But they still have to find another £8,000 towards the estimated £40,000 cost of the scheme.

● Golfing grievances have been aired by the Chairman of the Administrative Trustees of the playing field who says that practice golfing sessions in the field are a safety hazard. Speaking in the August edition of Spotlight on Sarratt Parish Council, Chairman of the Administrative Trustees, Mr D.B. Rees said: "Because of the danger to other users of the Field, and the fact that nine panes of glass have been broken in the pavilion, this activity will not now be allowed."

Welcome visit

KLG 24.5.90

FORMER Sarratt rector, Rev Jack Tomlinson and his wife Joan were guests of honour at a special lunch party last week whilst they were visiting friends in the area.

Until his retirement over four years ago, Jack, who now lives in Norfolk was the rector at Holy Cross Church for 24 years: "It's so lovely to be back in the village and see so many old friends," said Rev Tomlinson.

Picnic party

KLG 20/9/90



THE teddy bears gather — Little Oswin Lyons meets WI secretary Vera Honess. 1420/90.

THE 'BEAR' necessities of life were in plentiful supply in Sarratt last week when 45 youngsters were the special guests at a Teddy Bear's Picnic organised by the village Women's Institute.

The cuddly celebration at the village hall was organised by Sarratt WI as part of the national celebrations to commemorate the founding in Great Britain of the popular movement on September 11,1956.

Under the watchful eyes of Mummy and Daddy bears, the youngsters tucked into sandwiches, cakes and special teddy bear biscuits, washed down with orange juice, accompanied of course by their own favourite teddies.

Entering into the spirit, WI Secretary Mrs Vera Honess donned a furry outfit to read to her young audience although she confessed to being: "just a trifle warm, but I can bear it."

Tired, but happy, the party goers went home clutching balloons, teddy bear finger puppets and sporting furry bear ears.

Sarratt watchdogs to protect village

KLG 11/10/90

by JONATHAN CLARK

THIRTY Sarratt residents met last week to discuss ways of protecting the village and its environment.

The men and women are members of a new group called the Sarratt Preservation Action Group (SPAG). They discussed tree preservation, housing, the village school, noise from the M25, river and pond pollution, village shops and planning permission.

The group says it is a non-political body that is only interested in making Sarratt a better and cleaner place.

This was the first meeting held by the group, and of those attending, the majority said they were prepared to do something positive to help the village.

Chairing the meeting was former councillor, Peter Cumming, who said of the group's aims: "SPAG is not political in any sense. We are here because we all love Sarratt.

"Public opinion is a real force in the village. We must plan what we are going to do and how we are going to do it. These things need people and time," he added.

The group now aims to set up an information network so members of SPAG can register concerns and inform the rest of the group of specific developments which they see as against the best interests of Sarratt.

NEWS FROM SARRATT

Farm's demand

KLG 26.7.90

THE GREEN revolution is boosting demand for educational tours of Cherry Trees Farm in Belsize, near Sarratt.

This organic farm has been developed over the past six years but with the recent growth of interest in the environment many more school visits are being requested. Now temporary planning permission has been extended until 1994 for existing buildings to be used as a tea room, farm shop and rural skills demonstration area.

Four local residents objected to the "creeping commercial developments" on the site and said that visiting coaches often cannot reach the site and have to park in Belsize causing inconvenience, obstruction and danger.

But in her application Mrs Mary Bell told Three Rivers planning committee: "It is now two years since we applied for change of use. At that time we did not envisage the huge growing concern for our environment. We have now reached the stage where Cherry Trees Farm is struggling to fulfil demand. Educational visits no longer require just talking about farm livestock but encompass projects on organic farming and in-depth lectures."

District Planning Officer, Mr Tony Turk, recommended that temporary permission should be granted so that the effect of the development could be reviewed again in 1994.

Guides need leader

THE SARRATT Guide Comany will be disbanded in September if a volunteer is not found to take over as assistant leader.

Guider, Mrs Linda Clough, of Church Lane, Sarratt, has been running the guide company single-handed for the past three years and now feels she is no longer able to cope. She says: "Unless somebody comes forward immediately the Guide company will definitely close down in two months and the girls will no longer be able to enjoy guiding.

"This year's summer camp will be their last activity. I am appealing to mothers and saying to those with daughters too young yet for guides that now is the time to save the company. Once it is closed down it's extremely hard to restart when time has elapsed. We are desperate to prevent it closing."

If you feel you might be able to help contact Mrs Clough on Kings Langley 264884 or District Commissioner, Pat Rowley, on 0923 777261.

Spotlight cash

THE award-winning village magazine, Spotlight, needs a financial boost to stop it going into the red.

For the first time it is running at a loss this year and the Sarratt magazine's editor, Rev Michael Hewlett, says increased expenditure coupled with a decreased income from advertising and donations has led to the financial problems.

But the monthly parish magazine, which was voted the Best Church Publication in Hertfordshire last year, does not plan to reduce its 700 copies of 20 pages. A team of 40 villagers are involved in its production, writing, editing, typing, stencilling, duplicating and distribution.

Sun shines on WI's show

WO 19.7.90



SUNSHINE and summer flowers helped to make Sarratt WI's annual horticultural show a dazzling occasion.

Exhibits of garden flowers, produce and crafts were displayed in a Sarratt garden, at the home of Pat Petts, a founder member of the village WI.

A total of 75 entries were judged in 18 classes. The overall winner was Vera Honess, and Audrey Griffith-Jones was runner-up.

Craft produce secretary, Jean Jennings, said: "The day was very successful. We had lovely weather and the pleasing thing was that nearly everybody won something."

Mrs Jennings is pictured (on the right) admiring floral exhibits with Sheila Ward.

Villagers hit out at council

DISAPPOINTED Sarratt villagers who were pipped to the post by Potten End in Three Rivers' Best Kept Village competition have hit out at Three Rivers for their lack of co-operation.

In a bid to make a clean sweep and walk away with top honours, villagers organised Operation Greensweep, a tidy-up campaign, in mid-June.

But it was a week too late for the county judges who made their tour of the village a week earlier.

A furious Mr Dennis Jenks who led the tidying up operation with Mr Jeff Benham said: "In fact, the judging was done on June 11, the week before we marshalled our troops to tidy up the areas which had let us down last year."

And Mr Jenks also slammed Three Rivers District Concil: "I am extremely unhappy withthe council because they didn't cut the green until June 24. I also asked a council member about road sweeping but I certainly didn't see any evidence. If Three Rivers would like to see us win outright then next year they must ensure that a greater effort is made, especially with the enthusiasm that our small band drummed up. The whole episode is disappointing but there is always another year," said Mr Jenks.

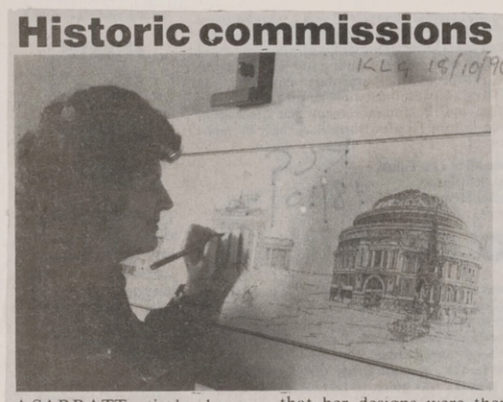
Sarratt lost out to Potten End in the Central/ West Area Preliminary Round of the competition, scoring 82 per cent and missing out on first place by just four per cent.

Judges commented on the appearance of the village that it was of a very high standard and generally litter free, but that the dowdy village hall had shops with too many adverts in the windows and untidy and flapping notices on fences had cost points.

KLG 2-8-90

Historic commissions

KLG 18/10/90



A SARRATT artist has been chosen to decorate a limited edition of pianos to commemorate the reunification of East and West Germany.

Gillian Burrows was commissioned by Bluthner pianos to decorate three of their pianos with line drawings of the Neues Gewandhaus, Leipzig, the Brandenburg Gate with the broken wall, and the Albert Hall, London.

Gillian, who is best known in this area for her water colour paintings, explained that her designs were then silkscreened in gold onto the front walnut panel of the pianos, which were auctioned off at Bonhams last week.

The funds raised by the sale of the pianos will be going towards the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

"This is a joint venture between the World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the United Nations Environmental programme," explained Gillian.

Ex-councillor rallies villagers

KLG 9/8/90

MOUNTING concern in Sarratt over the increase in planning 'disasters' over the last year has prompted villager Mr Peter Cumming to rally residents and form an action group.

Mr Cumming has lived at the Old Red Lion Farm for 20 years and says that over the last three years he has seen a lot of confusion, and frustration amongst those who feel the beauty of Sarratt is being spoiled by bad planning decisions.

"As there have been so many patently unacceptable developments recently, it would seem that some dedicated local 'Perestroika' or People Power is the only option for those of us who feel strongly that things have been allowed to slip too far," he raged.

INFORMATION

The new Sarratt Preservation Action Group will run an information system, record members worries and suggestions and lobby the 'decision makers'.

Mr Cumming added that the parish council was forced to adopt moderate views because of various constraints such as finance and precedent, which he said weren't in step with the rate at which building development now took place.

CONVERSIONS

"SPAG could take a detached view, not being in the process of local government," he said.

Particular developments which have angered Mr Cumming and other villagers include a spate of barn conversions: "You only have to drive around the roads and lanes of Sarratt to see the sights, which not only offend the eye, but also call into question, the effectiveness of so-called planning control. Members of our group will communicate with each other and meet quickly whenever they observe a threat to the rural amenity of Sarratt," he continued.

A former Three Rivers District Councillor, Mr Cumming is hoping to get a country management seminar off the ground in the autumn.

A flying career

ONE of Kings Langley's most distinguished residents, The Hon. Anthony Kayzer was buried last Saturday at Langleybury Church.

Mr Kayzer, 69, of Great Westwood, Kings Langley died on March 4 and the funeral took place on March 10, following a service at St Albans Abbey.

Born on May 28, 1920, he was the younger brother of Lord Rotherwick. He decided on a military career and attended the Royal Military College at Sandhurst before being commissioned in the Royal Scots Greys.

He saw action in the Middle East but was later invalided out of the army because of infantile paralysis.

He then embarked on a high powered career in industry, starting with a Kayzer firm, Clanline Steamers.

His career took him to posts with many Kayzer firms. His interests gradually centred on the airline business and he was a qualified fixed wing and helipilot and a founder of the Air Squadron.

In 1970, he was involved in the merger of British United with Caledonian Airways to form British Caledonian and then attempted to challenge the former state owned operation which later became British Airways.

Locally, Mr Kayzer was well known as a farmer with a 1,500 acre estate where many shooting parties were held.

He was involved with many local charities and was a member of the Herts Agricultural Society and a trustee of St Albans Cathedral.

He was first married in 1952 to Patricia Helen, the daughter of The Lord Oranmore and Browne and they had three daughters. In 1981, he married Baroness Sybille de Selys Longchamps, a year after his first wife's death.

KLG 11.8.90

Listed building repairs

HISTORIC buildings in Abbots Langley and Sarratt which were damaged in this winter's gales have had some of the repair costs met by Three Rivers District Council.

Historic Buildings Grants of £82.19 and £942.25 respectively were awarded for repairs of The Abbots House in Abbots Langley and Green End farmhouse, Sarratt.

During February's violent storms a large chimney stack on the side of Abbots House nearest the High Street became unsafe and was taken down.

CHIMNEY

Now over £2,500 has been spent on rebuilding the chimney to its original pattern, from photos taken before the chimney was removed.

With part of the cost being recovered under insurance, only a small grant was agreed by Three Rivers Planning Comittee.

Green End farmhouse, a Grade II listed building dating from the late 17th century has had to be re-roofed at a cost of over £7,000 following the storms.

GRANTS

Arrangements for the award of building grants have recently been changed by Three Rivers in a bid to settle them more quickly and cut out unnecessary red tape.

Whereas an applicant had to sign a Deed of Covenant when the grant is approved, he now just has to sign a letter setting out conditions of the grant offer.

The conditions include allowing public access by appointment and requiring that the council be notified of the sale or lease of the property within three years.

KLG 6-9-90

Watercolours exhibition

A SARRATT artist will be displaying her work at an exhibition at Rickmansworth this weekend.

Gillian Burrows, a much respected watercolour artist, will be exhibiting her paintings at The Studio Cottage, The Studios, 11 Denham Way, Maple Cross, on Saturday and Sunday from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm.

Her pen-wash paintings deal mostly with scenes from Docklands and Fleet Street before their redevelopment.

Gill has previously exhibited her work in the USA, as well as two exhibitions in Mijas, Spain.

She has also had her work displayed at the Royal Society of Painters in Watercolours, and The Society of Women Artists, as well winning acceptance at the Royal Academy summer exhibition.

Those wishing for further information can call 0923 772351.

PERSONALITIES

Spotlight needs a boost

WO 20.7.90

MONTHLY Sarratt Parish magazine, Spotlight, needs a financial boost after last year running at a loss for the first time.

Writing in the magazine Spotlight's Editor, the Rev Michael Hewlett said that increased expenditure coupled with less income from advertising and donations has led to the problems.

He said: "There is one reason for the increased expenditure which we are not ashamed of and shall not try to escape, the fact that Spotlight now runs to 20 pages instead of 16.

"With 700 copies that means a lot of paper in which the church is subsidising the village."

A team of 40 villagers are involved in Spotlight's production, writing, editing, typing, stencilling, duplicating and distributing to homes in Sarratt, Belsize, Bucks Hill, Chandlers Cross and Micklefield.

The distinctive cover of the magazine is a scene of Holy Cross Church by local artist Norman Truscott and the lettering is by Mrs Doris Rollinson.

Joint Editor Mrs Noreen Tatham writes monthly reports of parish council meetings and edits the Personal Paragraphs, containing news of local births, marriages, deaths and items of family interest.

Local organisations including the WI, Mothers Union, scouts and guides, and the Friendship Club, as well as four local churches contribute articles.

The magazine was last year voted the best church publication in the county.

Mr Hewlett said: "Spotlight is produced for the people of the village and we hope it is interesting and informative.

"Although it is free we rely on donations. More of these are always welcome."

KLG 2.3.90

Rector leaves village and family



● REV Culverwell.

SHOCK WAVES are running through Sarratt this week, following the sudden resignation of Rev Martin Culverwell, Rector of Holy Cross Church.

Stunned parishioners were still reeling from the news as an emergency statement was issued by The Bishop of St Albans, The Right Rev John Taylor on Wednesday morning.

"I have learned with great sadness that Martin Culverwell, the parish priest of Sarratt left his village and his family suddenly on Sunday morning," said the Bishop.

"He has written to me resigning his appointment and I have accepted his resignation."

The Bishop continued: "This is a time of great sadness for the family and I have assured them that they may continue to live in the vicarage for the time being. I am grateful for the help and support they are receiving from the Parish of Sarratt at this difficult time. I ask for your prayers for his wife and two children."

The village became increasingly concerned about the rector's whereabouts when he was absent from a charity weigh-in on Tuesday at The Boot pub in Sarratt. The sponsored weigh-in was to boost funds for the 800th anniversary celebrations of Holy Cross Church.

Holy Cross reader Mrs Vicky White who was due to take part was also absent. Rev Culverwell and Mrs White planned the sponsored slim together. The Gazette was unable to contact Mrs White, this week.

Martin Culverwell came to Sarratt in 1987, with his wife Jacqueline and two young children Rachel and James. He had previously served as a chaplain to the Royal Navy in the Falklands conflict. He escaped unhurt after his ship, the HMS Glamorgan was hit by an Exocet missile.

Still upset at the sudden departure of his colleague, Sarratt's Hon Assistant Priest, Rev Michael Hewlett said: "I feel great sadness for Martin Culverwell and for his family, because there are always personal repercussions. But I have no doubt that the parish will pull together and make a success out of a disaster."

Rev Hewlett praised Rev Culverwell for his work in the parish since his arrival: "He is a man of considerable energy and planning ability. He had all sorts of new enterprises underway. He was always an initiator within the parish, introducing new hymn books and new forms of service."

The rector's wife Jacqueline, said she did not wish to comment and referred the Gazette to the Bishop.

Rector returns to family

A MONTH after leaving his wife and children, former rector of Sarratt, Martin Culverwell has returned in a bid to reconcile his family although church sources say he is unlikely to be re-instated at Holy Cross Church.

Martin Culverwell's return was confirmed on Monday by Diocesan Registrar Mr David Cheetham who is the legal adviser to the Bishop of St Albans: "It's true that Mr and Mrs Culverwell are seeing each other with a view to reconciliation. The church is very keen that they should do so and if at all possible, become reconciled because the Christian church supports the institution of marriage," he said.

Asked of the likelihood of Mr Culverwell returning to Sarratt as Parish Priest, Mr Cheetham added: "No decision has been reached. Nevertheless as a matter of common sense, the possibility of him carrying on is pretty shattered. The church is in a very difficult position. It wants to support a reconciliation but because of what has happened, his credibility in the village is rather damaged."

A shocked Sarratt learnt of Martin Culverwell's resignation at the end of last month when he and the village church reader, Mrs Vicky White disappeared shortly bafore they were both due to take part in a charity weigh-in for the church's 800th anniversary celebrations. KLG 30.3.90

Sensitive story

ON behalf of the Church and village of Sarratt, I should like to thank you and your reporter for the exceptionally sensitive and considerate way in which the Gazette reported the sad events of last week.

THE REV M. E. HEWLETT, KLG 9.3.90
Sarratt.

CHURCH OF HOLY CROSS SARRATT

Licensing & Installation of

Rev.David John Dredge

Monday 22nd October 1990

8.00 pm

Admit One No 31

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

APR

Annual Vestry Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 1st April 1990.

The Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 9th April 1989 were read and approved as correct. Proposed by Joyce Newton and seconded by Jenny Dimond-Hewlett. Agreed unanimously.

Appointment of the two churchwardens to serve the parish of Holy Cross, Sarratt for the coming year 1990-91.

David Clough was proposed by Trish Clements seconded by Mary Lane.
Michael Clark was proposed by David Clough seconded by Jenny Dimond-Hewlett. The nominations were unanimously agreed by the meeting.

David Clough proposed a vote of thanks to Trish Clements, the retiring churchwarden, for all her work as churchwarden and as a member of the PCC for many years. The vestry meeting closed at 10.00am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 1st April 1990.

Minutes of the last APCM held on 9th April 1989 were read and approved as correct. Proposed by Michael Clark, seconded by John Guy and unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising

It was agreed at the meeting on 9th April 1989 that the size of the PCC would be reduced to eight elected members from twelve as at present plus three Deanery Synod members and the Rector and Churchwardens as ex-officio members to take effect from this Annual General Meeting.

Presentation of the Electoral Roll

126 names on the Electoral Roll - eight people have moved away in the last year and fourteen new members making 126 in total.

Annual Report of the proceedings of the PCC and the General Report

David gave the report in the absence of a Rector. The PCC had ten meetings during the past year and he gave a brief resume of the meetings reports of which meetings had appeared in Spotlight during the year.

The question of the limewashing problem - more details to follow in the Fabric Report.

The Kingsley Memorial is greatly enhanced and will be completed shortly before Easter.

The 800th Anniversary Celebrations being organised by Doris Rollinson and her team should produce a wonderful weekend on 30th June/1st July.

True colours are revealed

2.3.90 KLG

STUDENTS Karin Hignett and Sue Baumbach from the City and Guilds of London Art School, are currently restoring the Kingsley Memorial in Holy Cross Church, Sarratt.

Last year an alabaster obelisk fell from the monument and was shattered. The fragments were collected together with loose portions of the memorial and stored until this year.

Sue and Karin have undertaken a painstaking cleaning operation that has revealed the original colours of the figures showing William Kingsley wearing a black cloak, a gilded collar and white ruff.

His wife and daughter are wearing black gowns, white ruffs, black hats. The six sons are wearing black cloaks, black breeches and black doublets.

All are kneeling on red and green cushions.

The students are doing the work as part of their three year Conservation and Restoration Diploma Course under the watchful eye of their course leader Frances Halahan and their tutor Nick Durnan.

The memorial, which commemorates William Kingsley, his wife Katherine, their six sons and one daughter, is located on the south wall of the chancel and shows the family in an act of prayer.

The family lived at Rosehall, Sarratt, and William Kingsley was a Cursitor of the Court of Chancery having been called to the bar in 1595.

"When the stone is all cleaned it will look stunning. Working here gives us a chance to gain practical experience on site. We are learning things that we wouldn't otherwise have known about," said Karin.

In short

WO 27.7.90

New Vicar of Holy Cross

SARRATT is to get a new vicar following the resignation of former rector, Mr Martin Culverwell, earlier this year.

The Reverend David Dredge, 57, is to become Priest in Charge of Holy Cross Church after his induction by the Rt Reverend Bishop Robin Smith of Hertford on Monday, October 22.

Mr Dredge and his wife Joan are currently living at North Brickhill in Bedford, where he is team vicar.

Joan is a keen wine maker and intends to play her part in the life of the church and village.

Since Mr Culverwell's resignation, the parish has been officially looked after by the Reverend David Saville, the rural dean, while the daily work of christenings, marriages and funerals have been carried out by retired priest, the Reverend Michael Hewlett.

Mr Hewlett, who has no official position has lived in the village for three years and edits the parish magazine, Spotlight.

Big welcome for village's new rector

KLG 11/10/90



EVERY pew was filled at the Holy Cross Church in Sarratt on Monday last week when the congregation gave an enthusiastic welcome to the new rector, Rev David Dredge.

Holy Cross has been without a parish priest for the last eight months following the resignation of the Rev Martin Culverwell.

Many Sarratt groups turned out to welcome Rev Dredge and his wife Joan to the village, including members of the Sunday School, the Mothers' Union, Sarratt Scouts and Guides, the Friendship Club, the British Legion, the Parish Council and the Sarratt Parent's Association.

Rev Dredge was Licensed by the Bishop of Hertford and Installed by the Archdeacon of St Albans.

He was most recently a team vicar at Great Brickhill in Bedfordshire.

During the induction, the Bishop paid tribute to the Rev Michael Hewlett, the Hon Assistant Priest, who has been unofficially looking after the parish during the interregnum.

After the service, Rev Dredge took the opportunity to meet his new parishioners in the village hall.

He said that he was looking forward to ministering his parish, and explained that he sees his ministry as being one that extends to every person who lives in the ecclesiastical parish of Sarratt, in addition to those who come into the area to worship.

Photo number: 1646/90.

Sarratt's new Vicar

MONTHS of uncertainty for Sarratt Churchgoers, following the shock resignation of Rev Martin Culverwell looks set to end with the appointment of a new incumbent.

The Rev David Dredge, 57 and his wife Joan met 14 members of the Parochial Church Council at a Question and Answer meeting on July 14, where members were unanimously in favour of inviting Mr Dredge to become the next rector of Holy Cross Church

The induction of Rev Dredge, conducted by Bishop Robin of Hertford, will take place on October 22.

Rev Dredge is currently living in North Brickhill in Bedford where he is a team vicar, he was ordained late in life in 1971 after having spent 15 years in industry and has served town and county in Sheffield, and Oxfordshire.

KLG 2/8/90

Lady's coffee morning

A COFFEE morning and bring and buy sale has been organised by Lady Staughton, to raise money for next month's flower festival at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt.

She will host the event in Sarratt Hall, on Friday, June 8, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

THE 800TH ANIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Church celebrates the centuries

9.2.90 KLG

BACKSTAGE busy bees in Sarratt are hard at work preparing for the celebrations of the 800th anniversary of Holy Cross Church in June.

A task force of fourteen met at The Old Wheatsheaf, home of co-ordinator Doris Rollinson in January to discuss planning progress.

Several committees have now launched themselves wholeheartedly into organising various events.

A fragrant treat is in store with The Flower Festival at Holy Cross on June 30 and July 1.

This year the theme is Medieval Poetry and Song and it is hoped that there will be about 35 arrangements.

Festival organisers Doris Rollinson (KL 65461), Margaret Stratford (KL 60475) and Audrey Bond (KL 63255) are appealing to all gardeners to grow as many herbs and flowers as possible; Roses, Lavender, Marigolds, Daisies and long-stemmed annuals.

Percy Saunders will have his usual stall under the yew tree in the church yard and he is asking for produce including plants, flowers, jams, chutneys, crafts and knitted garments. He can be contacted on KL 67124.

With a mammoth crowd expected for the historic celebrations, demand for refreshments is likely to be greater.

If you have some extra time to bake cakes or have freezer space, Noreen Tatham (KL 67124) or Dora Richens (KL 62734) will be delighted to hear from you.

A marquee has been booked for the exhibition which will be held in the church car park. Historians are hard at work at Hertford Record Office, The British Museum and local libraries researching the exhibition which may include a series of models of 'Holy Cross through the Centuries.'

A booklet is being compiled by Doris Rollinson which will outline the exhibition details.

Sarratt's youngsters will also play a prominent part in the festivities, with the pupils of Sarratt JMI school staging a medieval pageant and games. Organised by the village Parents' Association, further information is available from Hilary Waller, Latimer, Dimmocks Lane.

Families will also have an opportunity to join in the festive fun with a competition for the most authentic family group, with residents encouraged to get togged up in medieval garb.

'Sarratt through the Ages' will combine music and drama in an historical pastiche including a meal at Jenks barn on June 30. Phone Val Cummings (KL 62920) for more information.

Don't miss out on what promises to be one of Sarratt's most illustrious weekends. Now is the time to get involved.



King Chris cuts the cake G6418

Villagers turn the clock back

WO 5.7.90

KING Richard I rode into Sarratt on a white horse on Saturday and declared celebrations of the 800th anniversary of Holy Cross Church officially open.

The king (alias Chris Alexander, headmaster of Sarratt Junior school) used his sword to cut the anniversary cake.

The whole village took part in the celebrations, with children dressed as serfs and their parents as knights and ladies.

Birds of prey were shown by the Redtails Falconry Display Group, and the whole 800-year history of Sarratt was laid out in an exhibition in a marquee.

In the church itself, there was a flower festival with more than 30 arrangements based on the theme of medieval poems.

All the children taking part received commemorative mugs and families with the best costumes were presented with crystal rose bowls.



Villagers join in the fun G6416

Church's 800th anniversary

W.O. 14-9-90

PARISHIONERS attending a service at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Sunday, can enjoy a specially written hymn as part of the church's 800th anniversary celebrations.

The Rev Michael Hewlitt has written words to music composed at the beginning of the century, by a former Sarratt Rector, the Rev Gilbert Ryley.

The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev John Taylor, will be attending the morning service.

"The wording is not deeply theological but celebrates the relationship between the church and the village. It is based on the fact that 800 years ago the church was built in the shape of a cross," said Mr Hewlett.

The music, described by Mr Hewlett as "a simple folk style tune," was called Sarratt, and appeared in the English Hymnal.

● Pupils from Sarratt Junior and Mixed Infants School will atend a service today at the church to celebrate Holy Cross Day.

1990

HOLY CROSS
1190 1990
SARRATT

Certificate

to verify that
Philip Buller

was present at the
village celebration
For the
800th Anniversar
Holy Cross Chu
Sarratt
Hertfordshi
30 June - 1 Jul

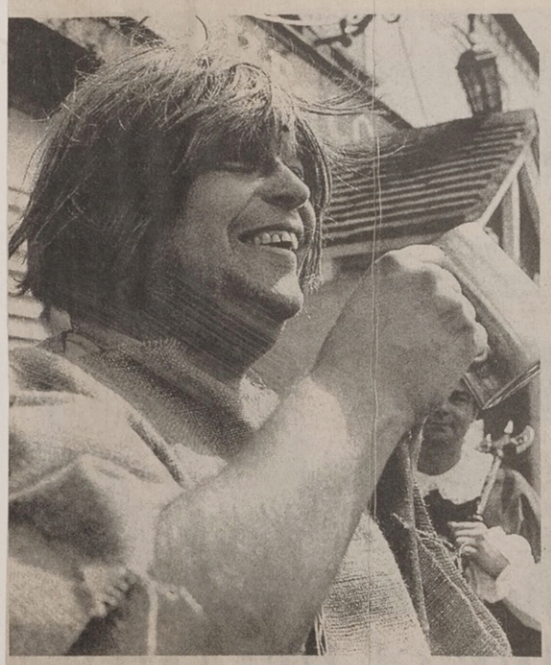
HOLY CROSS
1190 1990
SARRATT

Certificate

to verify that
Constance Buller

was present at the
village celebrations
For the
800th Anniversary of
Holy Cross Church
Sarratt
Hertfordshire
30 June - 1 July 1990

1990



Incredible! Be he hulk or village peasant, no-one could deny him his right to a pint of ale at The Cock Public House. WO G6427



Passing time: Axe-wielding executioner, Ian Cheetham, resembles the Grim Reaper as he passes the 800-year-old church. WO G6424



Looking back: a magificent looking King Richard I leads the parade through the village on Saturday. WO G6417



Wildlife: For some of God's creatures, life went on as normal at the flower show after 800 years of church services. WO G6411

Reaping but not grim!

SARRATT turned the clocks back 800 years at the weekend and celebrated eight centuries of worship at Holy Cross Church.

Despite intermittent showers and blustery winds, the two day festival proved so popular queues formed for the church's flower festival and at a marquee giving an historical exhibition.

A procession of children and their parents in medieval costumes walked from The Green, along Church Lane, to the church field where they performed medieval games.

They were led by village headmaster Mr Chris Alexander, resplendent as King Richard I, astride a white charger and bearing a hooded falcon on his arm.

The bird, having found a taste for freedom on his exhibition flight, decided that he preferred to perch on top of Holy Cross Church tower, from where he watched his bemused falconer Ray Aliker.

The display of falconry given by the Red Tails Falcon Display Team from Essex was a highspot of the afternoon and the sight of the birds diving and skimming had the audience enthralled.

Prizes of three crystal engraved rosebowls were awarded to families wearing the most authentic period costumes.

Both the Spackman and Compton families each received a bowl, with the Mardling and Griffith families tying for the third bowl.

All children in costume received a commemorative mug and every youngster enjoyed a free slice of the special commemorative cake baked by Mr Horwood at Bovingdon.

The cake was ceremoniously cut by King Richard I, and slices were handed out by Ann Boleyn, Henry VIII, Mr Roger Rufey and Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones.

Words: RICHARD ARQUATI
Pictures: PETER STEVENS

Demand for the Anthology of Medieval Verse which accompanied the flower arrangements was such that more than 750 copies were sold on the first day.

A further 500 copies of Sarratt, Historical Aspects Of A Parish And Its Church were also sold as well as specially commissioned engraved glass and china.

Festival organiser Mrs Doris Rollinson said, "The weekend has surpassed all my expectations.

"There was a great spirit of exuberant enjoyment partly because of the glorious costumes.

"I thank everybody for turning what was just an idea nine months ago, into a memmorable anniversary," she said.

Saturday's events were rounded off at Jenks' Barn where 80 costumed revellers enjoyed a celebration supper and were entertained by members of the Holy Cross Church Choir, conducted by David Clough and soloists Roger and Julia Rufey.

The evening ended with a colourful firework display.



Fit for a king! The gigantic commemorative cake was cut into slices to provide a feast for every youngster. WO G6419











THE BANQUET



ratt at the weekend during the 800th anniversary celebrations of Holy Cross Church.

The falcon's flight of fancy came during a medieval procession through the village led by Richard I — alias Sarratt School headmaster Chris Alexander astride a white charger.

Perching on the king's arm, obviously held less of an attraction for the handsome bird than sitting on top of Holy Cross steeple, until he was coaxed down by his falconer Ray Aliker.

One theory was that he was casting his eagle eye over the 3 foot celebration cake, baked by Horwood's Bakers of Bovingdon. The magnificent confectionery centrepiece was cut by Mr Alexander and partners in crime, Mrs Audrey Griffith Jones (Anne Boleyn) and Roger Rufey (Henry VIII).

Children in the procession tucked in to slices of the cake, leaving plenty to be sold to some of the two thousand visitors to the event.

An exhibition tracing eight centuries of Holy Cross Church, elaborate flower displays in the church and the Red Tail Falcon display team from Essex were the main attractions over the weekend.

Souvenirs were snapped up, including 500 copies of the specially compiled book by Mrs Doris Rollinson and 750 copies of the medieval poetry anthology which accompanied the flower arrangements.

Prizes of three crystal engraved rose bowls were awarded to the families wearing the most authentic period costume and there was specially commissioned anniversary china and glassware available.

Treasurer Mr John Bradshaw said: "It has been most successful and the money raised will benefit the church for years to come."

KLG 30.3.90

Summer madness

THE GALLANT era of jousting and chainmail will be conjured up by pupils of Sarratt JMI School this summer in what promises to be a spectacular display of medieval games.

Pupils will be turning the clock back a few centuries in their contribution to the celebrations of Holy Cross Church 800 years' anniversary.

Enthusiastic headmaster Mr Chris Alexander is promising to enter into the spirit and is encouraging parents and pupils to do the same and to dress in period costume.

And there will be glittering prizes for the best turned out family.

Heading the procession from the village to the church on June 30 will be armour-clad Richard the Lionheart astride a white horse.

The King, who may just be recognizeable as Mr Alexander said: "Yours Truly will lead the parade in costume and on horseback. So if I can dress up and make a fool of myself, so can you."

Joining the children, who will act out games from the period spanning 1190 to 1400, are the Red Tails Falconry Display tea. They too will be in period costume and the falcons will be 'dressed to kill!'.

To aid parents, Mr Alexander has sent out five pages of sketches and drawings to the children's homes. Without their support and backing, I am going to feel very lonely and very silly!"

DAILY MAIL 27 JUNE 1996

Churchman leaves his wife for choir mistress's lovenest

A VICAR has scandalised his congregation by walking out on his wife and children to set up home with his choir mistress.

The Reverend Martin Culverwell fell for 41-year-old Miss Wendy Mauger during Wednesday evening hymn practices while his wife Jacqueline was cooking supper at home.

Parishioners were stunned when

By LUKE HARDING

the former naval chaplain suddenly announced his resignation from St Lawrence Church, in Rode, Somerset, three weeks ago.

Mr Culverwell, 48, left the vicarage where he lived with his wife and two teenage children and moved in with Miss Mauger, who also plays the church organ.

A close friend of Mrs Culverwell said she was distraught over her husband's infidelity.

'Jackie is devastated about this,' she added. 'I'd rather not say what I think of him, but it is a bit much that Martin is still living in the same village as Jackie.'

The Culverwells arrived in Rode with their children in 1991. The churchman had previously been a curate in London and was a chaplain in the Royal Navy between 1980 and 1983.

He first met Miss Mauger when she moved to the village from nearby Bristol two years ago. She organised a 12-strong children's choir in the 14th century church, which rehearsed every Wednesday.

Friends say it was then that the affair blossomed, unknown to Mrs Culverwell and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Yesterday Miss Mauger was reluctant to discuss the liaison. 'Martin is not here,' she said. 'And even if he were, he would not have anything to say.'

Mrs Culverwell now lives alone with her children, Rachel, 18, who is studying for A-levels, and James, 14.

She was also reluctant to discuss the affair yesterday, saying: 'You had better speak to Martin and Wendy.'

One parishioner, who did not want to be named, said: 'It came as quite a surprise to everyone. No one knew anything about it until the announcement.'



Sinner: Mr Culverwell and wife Jacqueline

A spokesman for the diocese said: 'All we know is that he has resigned.

'As far as we are concerned, Mr Culverwell left for family and personal reasons. You can draw your own conclusions.'

No one in the village could say what Mr Culverwell, who looked after three churches, will now do for a living.

Visiting priests will take services until the Archdeacon of Bath and Wells appoints a full-time vicar, which will take at least three months.

It is understood Mrs Culverwell has been allowed to stay in the vicarage until a successor is found.

DAILY MAIL 19 FEB. 1998

A DECADE ago there were only a handful of marriage breakdowns among Church of England clergy. Now there are more than 50 a year, and adultery by male priests is the main cause. Here the wives of two adulterous vicars tell their remarkable stories. Jacqueline Culverwell, 51, from Frome, Somerset, was abandoned by her husband, the Rev Martin Culverwell, 49, for his mistress Wendy Mauger, 53, 18 months ago. It was the second time he had had an affair with one of his parishioners. Jacqueline says:

by Helen Carroll

LOOKING back on the early years of our courtship and marriage, it seems unbelievable that Martin could have ultimately hurt me so badly.

The first time I saw him he was playing the organ at Trinity Church in Taunton and there was an immediate mutual attraction.

He was 19 and studying A-levels and I was 21 and training to be a nurse. He told me it was his ambition to become a priest and I thought the prospect of being a vicar's wife was quite exciting.

Martin had been immersed in the church from a very young age and I was brought up in quite a religious household.

Within two years of that first meeting we were married — we thought we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together.

A year later Martin got a place on a three-year training course at Wells Theological College. Our daughter Rachel was born in 1978 while he was a curate in Chelsea and our son, James, followed two years later, while Martin was working as a Navy chaplain in Portsmouth.

We were doting parents and they were very happy days.

Then in 1982 the Falklands War broke out and Martin was sent out there. He had to bury 11 men at sea and the trauma propelled him into a spiral of depression from which I don't think he ever recovered.

It was during his time at the Holy Cross Church in the picturesque village of Sarratt in Hertfordshire, where we moved in 1987, that his first affair began.

His mistress was a married mother-of-two training to be a lay reader. She was a few years younger than Martin but no beauty.

He spent a lot of time training and encouraging her. At first I didn't think there could be anything going on because she and her husband would come round to the vicarage for dinner and we would go over to their place.

But then some of the parishioners started dropping unsubtle hints about the amount of time the two of them were spending alone. I was working full-time as a secretary, so I had missed some of the signs.

Martin had often appeared distracted since his time in the Falklands, so I hadn't noticed any great change in his behaviour, but the fear and dread that he was having an affair started eating away at me.

One evening when he returned home from a training session with her, I confronted him about their relationship. I asked if they were having an affair and he simply said 'yes we are' and showed absolutely no remorse.

It was 1992 and I felt as though my world had fallen in. I didn't know where to turn, so the following day I went to see a retired priest who lived locally, thinking he would be able to give me some sound advice.

He was sympathetic but his main concern was limiting the damage the affair might cause the parish. He confiscated the church keys, the bishop was called in and Martin was suspended from duties for two years, common practice in the church after a misdemeanour as serious as adultery.

We slept in separate beds that night and he said: 'I will never forgive you for involving the bishop.'

The following morning he got up early, came into my room and announced he was leaving me for his mistress.

I was devastated. I naively believed that whatever happened in relation to his position in the Church we would be able to save our marriage.

HE WAS gone for a couple of weeks, and despite the hurt he had caused me I still loved him and wanted him back. So I arranged for us to meet. He was crying and told me he missed the children and I said: 'They're missing you and they need their dad. Come home and we will work it out.'

He did, and though it wasn't easy, I really tried to be the perfect wife clinging to the hope that I would get back the man I married.

But his behaviour became very strange — he would say coarse and vulgar things, swear and criticise the Church in an attempt to shock me — something he would never have done before his affair.

Then he was offered the rector's job at St Lawrence Church in Rode, Somerset, and accepted. It felt like a new start and I thought we would finally be able to put his affair behind us.

Although I enjoyed being a clergy wife I often feel saddened that I didn't have a career of my own. If I had used all the energy I put into the Church in my own chosen profession I often wonder just what I would have achieved.

The diocese has been very supportive and found us a three-bedroom semi, which they let to me at a manageable rent.

Now I'm trying to rebuild my life. For my vicar husband to have committed adultery once is bad enough but for it to have happened twice is going to take some getting over.

Thankfully Martin hasn't destroyed my faith in men and I think I would like to marry again one day.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1990
taken at Little Bragmans, Belsize by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	15th / 12.0	13,14,18/-3.0	14,18 /-5.0	30th / 15.0	104.4	
February	23rd / 16.0	16th /-2.5	16th /-5.0	6th / 14.8	115.8	Wettest Feb, 1981-2013
March	18th / 20.0	27th /-2.0	27th /-5.1	19th / 13.0	17.3	
April	30th / 22.0	5th /-4.0	5th /-8.9	2nd / 6.4	31.7	last air frost, 28th. Last snow, 3rd.
May	3rd / 26.0	---- / 1.0	10th / -1.9	11th / 0.6	1.6	Driest Feb, 1981-2013
June	27th / 24.0	7,8th/ 4.0	7th / -0.4	21st / 12.0	55.4	last ground frost, 7th.
July	21st / 30.0	3rd / 6.5	3rd / 1.0	4th / 8.5	19.7	
August	3rd / 34.0	31st / 7.0	31st / 1.5	19th / 11.4	30.9	
September	2nd / 24.0	27th / 2.5	27th /-1.5	29th / 11.5	36.0	1st ground frost, 26th.
October	13th / 21.5	8th /-3.3	8th /-3.3	27th / 13.3	65.0	
November	17th / 15.5	21st /-2.0	25th /-5.8	25th / 8.3	40.3	1st air frost, 21st.
December	26th / 11.5	6th /-3.5	6th /-7.0	25th / 20.8	69.4	1st snowfall of winter, 8th.

KLG 8/11/90

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE PAINTING PARENTS

By JONATHAN CLARK

A HEADMASTER, teachers, school governors and parents had to sacrifice their spare time on Saturday and Sunday last week when they repainted classrooms at Sarratt JMI School.

They took the task under their own wing because lack of funds meant they could not afford a professional.

Yet despite the DIY job at the school, the caring painters are now out of pocket after forking out £200 for the white paint used to redecorate the two classrooms and a cloakroom.

Headmaster Chris Alexander labelled it a "sad state of affairs" that teachers and parents were now having to carry out essential repairs and alterations themselves, all because of the lack of funding schools receive.

He told the Gazette: "It is typical of the state of things at the moment. The only answer you get from the county council is that it is only carrying out essential repairs.'

"But there was no way the children were going to come back in these rooms until they had been decorated — it has been years since it was last done."

The problem came to a head when the school recently had a new vinyl floor fitted.

Mr Alexander explained that it was pointless to lay a brand new floor covering whilst the walls of the classrooms were so tatty.

He therefore decided to take matters into his own hands, and letters were sent out to parents of the pupils explaining the situation.

"There was an immediate response. We are only a small school but we have had 12 parents come forward who have given up a lot of their time to help with the painting," the headmaster explained.

One of those who volunteered to help with the painting was Mrs Alex Ballard.

Having two young children at Sarratt, as well as being a school governor, Mrs Ballard has mixed feelings about the new DIY operation.

She said: "On the one hand I feel that the more parental participation you have then the better it is going to be. It shows children that we care enough about their education to help.

"But on the other hand it was an awful lot of work and I cannot help thinking that in the past the county council would have taken it under its wing.

"This is more than just an opportunity for us to help — it is fast becoming an obligation," she added.

However, the school's problems do not end there.

Mr Alexander went on to tell how they were still waiting for a £300 grant promised to them by the county council before Easter.

This was to pay for new school curtains made earlier in the year by two of the pupils' mums.

A spokeswoman for the county council's Education Department explained that money to decorate schools came from the maintenance budget, but said the amount was limited because the money was needed for more important work.

She went on: "Maintenance is prioritised in the interests of children's safety. There are things that have to be done first, such as ensuring the safety of playgrounds and classrooms, before we can look at things like redecorating."

However, the spokeswoman did point out that the county council had recently spent £30,000 on metal frames for the school's windows, as well as £2,000 for the new vinyl floor.

"Sarratt JMI is by no means being neglected," she added.

Now Mr Alexander is hoping to raise the outstanding £200 it cost to redecorate the rooms by holding a special Christmas draw.



● The volunteers busy at work at Sarratt JMI School. *Picture: 1680/90.*

Plex Ballard

1990

Duck signs planning permission drives them 'quackers'

KLG 2-11-90

A DISGUSTED crowd gathered at the Sarratt Parish Council meeting last week to protest at the taking down of the village's duck signs.

And a petition was also handed in to councillors demanding the signs be put back up in a bid to stop a recurrence of a recent incident when two ducks were killed on the road.

Chairwoman of the council, Mrs Alex Ballard, said: "We are all happy to have ducks on the pond but we have to consider the signs and I do not agree we should put them back.

"In view of all the publicity given to the subject, the Planning Department would be just waiting for us to do it."

The problem came to light when it was discovered planning permission would have to be granted by Three Rivers District Council if the small signs were to stay up.

This has angered many members of the parish council who feel that while they are waiting for permission to be granted, more ducks could be killed under the wheels of passing cars.

Councillor Jenny Dimond-Hewlett stormed: "It seems to me that Three Rivers is so far behind with all planning applications, that it is absolutely ridiculous for it to spend so much time on this subject."

Her disgust was also shared by a colleague, Councillor Valerie Cumming.

She wanted to know why the duck signs had to be taken down when other signs, such as those for the antique fair, were erected in the village without planning permission.

By JONATHAN CLARK

However, the arguing did not stop there and the chairwoman of the council went on to further infuriate both colleagues and members of the public who had gathered at the meeting.

Pouring oil onto fire, Mrs Ballard suggested that if people were so keen to see the signs re-erected, they should foot the £78 bill needed to buy proper signs if planning permission was eventually granted.

Some councillors felt so strongly about the issue that they even suggested putting the signs back up without planning permission.

However, the clerk interjected: "I am sorry but we sit here many times and we tell people it is an offence to have signs up without planning permission.

"Ours are not approved highway signs so we cannot put them up, and although it may be stupid, that's the way it is.

"We cannot have one law for the rich and one for the poor."

Finally, it was decided that Councillor John Gell would approach Three Rivers district councillors and ask them to look at the problem as soon as possible.

"There is no reason why we should not get planning permission and there is no reason why we shouldn't ask," he said.

"Let me have a word with the council and I think we will soon have this thing sorted out," he added.

Neighbours support pig farmer's change of use bid

KLG 22/11/90

A SARRATT farmer claims he may have to sell his home and business because of a council's "green tunnel vision".

Outraged Lawrence Chapman, of Green End Farm made his outburst after Three Rivers councillors refused to grant him planning permission to change the use of his land from a pig farm to light industrial use and storage.

by JONATHAN CLARK

This was despite considerable support from Mr Chapman's neighbours, he said, who organised a petition asking for the application to be given the go-ahead.

Mr Chapman, who has lived at the farm for 15 years, stormed: "I am sick of the whole thing because I have followed the Government guidelines to the letter, but all I have been met with is indifference and lack of concern.

"They (councillors) all seem to have green tunnel vision and haven't listened to public opinion because all the neighbours are for it. It is better than living next to a piggery," he added.

The decision which could force Mr Chapman out of business was made during a recent Planning Committee meeting in Chorleywood.

However, this meeting had previously been deferred from an earlier date after councillors decided they should visit the site in Sarratt for themselves.

Yet despite the support of neighbours and a local councillor, it was decided that permission could not be granted because it was Green Belt land.

Conservative councillor, Tim Williams, was one of those who voted to kick out the application.

He said: "Our only objection was that it was in Green Belt land. It is all very well having the public saying they are much happier, but if we allow this, we could then have a number of people appealing from all over the place.

"We cannot have Sarratt businesses in the middle of Green Belt land," he said.

However, Sarratt councillor, Tim Prizeman, disagreed with his colleagues' decision.

He explained: "Given the previous use of a piggery, the proposals would allow a reduction in traffic, particularly heavy vehicles in Church Lane delivering feed and the like.

"This change of use was suitable for a residential area, and landscaping would have allowed a visual improvement to the site. A piggery does nothing to enhance the area.

"Given its close proximity to the core of the village it is quite unsuitable that it should be left to go derelict," he continued.

Now Mr Chapman has just two options left open to him. He can either appeal against the decision which could take months to get off the ground, or he can bow out altogether and sell up.

"I might have to sell up before I can appeal because I cannot create any income," explained Mr Chapman.

"This is a totally unacceptable situation which has been going on for two and a half years now. It is an extremely worrying time because at the end of the day we may loose everything."

Caution: ducks crossing road — feathered friends win fight

DUCK lovers in Sarratt have won their fight to save birds who have made their home on the village pond.

A petition with hundreds of names was handed to parish councillors on Monday calling for a sign warning motorists to slow down to be re-erected.

The unofficial sign was taken down last month by the parish council because it did not have planning permission — within two days two ducks had been run over.

Even the village magazine Spotlight lent its support describing the episode as a "Slaughter of the Innocent".

At a meeting of the parish council on Monday, parish councillors gave their unanimous support for the sign to be put up after permission had been granted by Three Rivers District Council.

Some councillors suggested the signs should be re-erected in the hope that nobody would notice.

Clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, and the chairman Mrs Alex Ballard said such an action would be illegal.

"I'll go to prison," said Mr Ron Cox.

"I'll join you," said Mrs Jenny Diamond-Hewlett.

Mrs Diamond-Hewlett said if the district council had enough time to spend dealing with a duck sign they could not be very busy.

When the clerk reported that an official sign would cost money, Mrs Ballard made the unpopular suggestion that people who signed the petition should pay for the sign.

A spokesman for the council's highways department said the cost of erecting an official sign would be in the region of £150.

"The sign would not need planning permission but would require highways authority," she said.

"I don't know if there is a need for the sign," she added.

Villager Mr Frank Sims, who was originally asked to remove the sign said, "The sign served two purposes, first to protect the ducks and also to slow down the traffic."

Brownie bazaar at Holy Cross

BROWNIES in Sarratt will accompany Santa to the Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar tomorrow in the village hall.

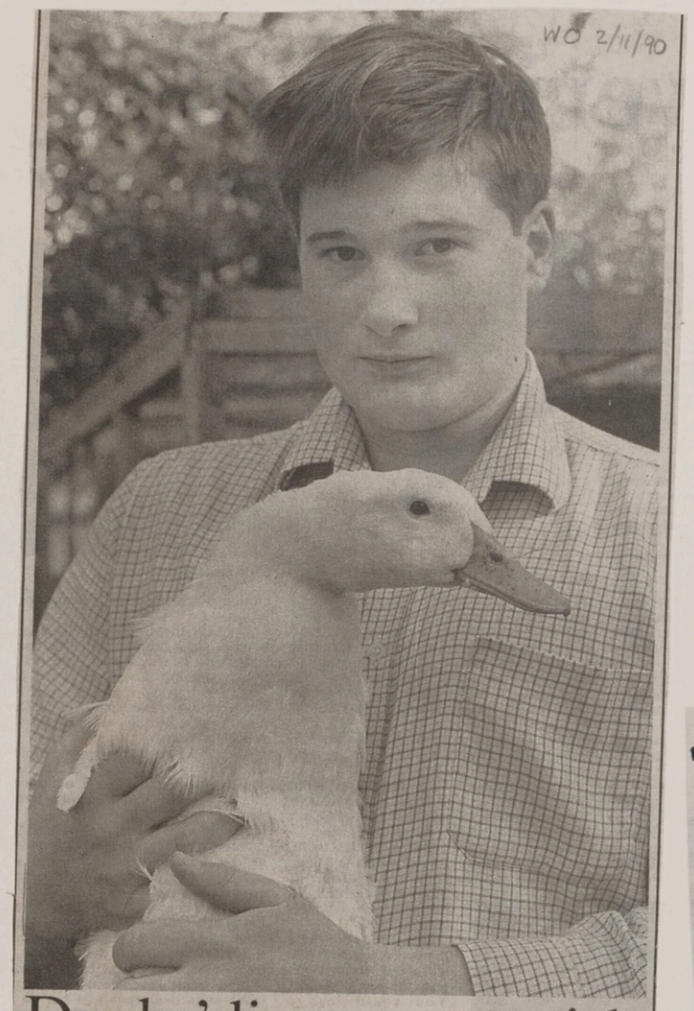
The fun starts at 2.15pm when a 1932 Bedford omnibus will bring Father Christmas to the bazaar.

Among the attractions will be games, a tombola, a giant raffle, bric-a-brac, cakes and of course, Father Christmas' Grotto.

In addition, to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Holy Cross, a special stall will be selling glassware and souvenirs of the event. WO 30/11/90



Valley Day Fancy Dress



WO 2/11/90

Ducks' lives put at risk

VILLAGERS in Sarratt have condemned the chairman of the parish council, Mrs Alex Ballard, after a sign warning motorists to drive slowly past a duck crossing was removed.

The parish council had agreed to take down the temporary sign at the end of November after the mating season, but last Monday villager Mr Frank Sims, who originally erected the notice, was asked to remove it.

By last Wednesday two of the ducks had been run over by cars.

Clerk to the council, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, said people were being very unfair to Mrs Ballard.

"She is a great lover of animals, and very concerned with the environment," she said.

Mrs June Jones, manager of The Cricketers public house, beside the pond, said she is concerned that more ducks will die before the parish council meets at the end of the month.

Mrs Jones said she intends to mount a petition and attend the next parish council meeting.

Pitured above is 16-year-old duck lover Steven Morgan with one of the threatened birds. WO G10636

BUCKS ADVERTISER W/Ending 9/11/90.

Car driver survived suicide bid

A MOTORIST who tried to commit suicide by driving straight into a double decker bus has been found guilty of reckless driving.

Adrian Thomas, 41, of Newtown Road, New Denham, was banned from driving for five years and ordered to retake his test before getting back behind the wheel. He was also fined £300 with £100 costs.

Isleworth Crown Court was told Thomas owed his life to the swift action taken by bus driver, Martin Kempster, 38, of Sarratt in Hertforshire who managed to swerve his bus slightly out of the Vauxhall Viva's path.

PC Raymond Williamson, who attended the scene of the accident in Uxbridge, on August 13, said: "The car was completely written off and the bus was a mess."

Prosecutor, Martin Stern told the court: "The car caught the nearside of the bus causing considerable damage to both vehicles. Mr Kempster suffered whiplash injuries and has suffered psychologically since the accident.

"When the car driver was challenged he said he was trying to commit suicide."

Thomas, who denied the charge, did not go into the witness box and no defence was offered for his behaviour.

Psychiatric reports were considered before the sentence was passed.

No to greenhouse plans

KLG 22/11/90

MANY Sarratt residents were celebrating this week after Three Rivers District councillors kicked out four "detrimental" planning applications destined for a Sarratt field.

But since some of the work has already been carried out, the applicant could now be landed with a hefty bill if the Planning Committee decides to enforce its decisions.

Mr Tim Norris, who lives in Watford, had applied to Three Rivers District Council for permission to put up a huge polythene-clad greenhouse on land west of Dawes Lane, Sarratt.

He also asked for permission to lay a water main, erect three horticultural sheds, and build a farm road on the site — all of which was done before planning permission was granted.

These applications had proved to be very unpopular with the parish council and many locals who had written letters objecting to the plans.

At a Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday last week, councillors decided to ignore three of the recommendations of council officers, and threw out all Mr Norris's applications on the grounds that they would be detrimental to the character of the village.

Sarratt councillor, Tim Prizeman, welcomed the decision with open arms.

"I know a lot of people in the village will be pleased with this result. I want no development of any kind on Green Belt land."

The councillor was especially pleased with the decision because Mr Norris had applied for planning permission after much of the work had already been done.

He went on: "If we accept that the work has already been done so should be left there, we would be setting a dangerous precedent for other people to do what they like in the future."

However, the councillors did not have everything their own way during the meeting.

One of the applications, for the laying of the water pipes, resulted in a split decision after some councillors feared more damage could be caused to the area if Mr Norris was forced to dig the pipes up.

However, this application was also thrown out after the chairman's casting vote.

Mr Peter Cumming, chairman of the Sarratt Preservation Action Group (SPAG), heralded the planning rejections as a victory for the village.

"I do feel it is a step in the right direction in preserving a particularly attractive and special site in the Chess Valley," he said.

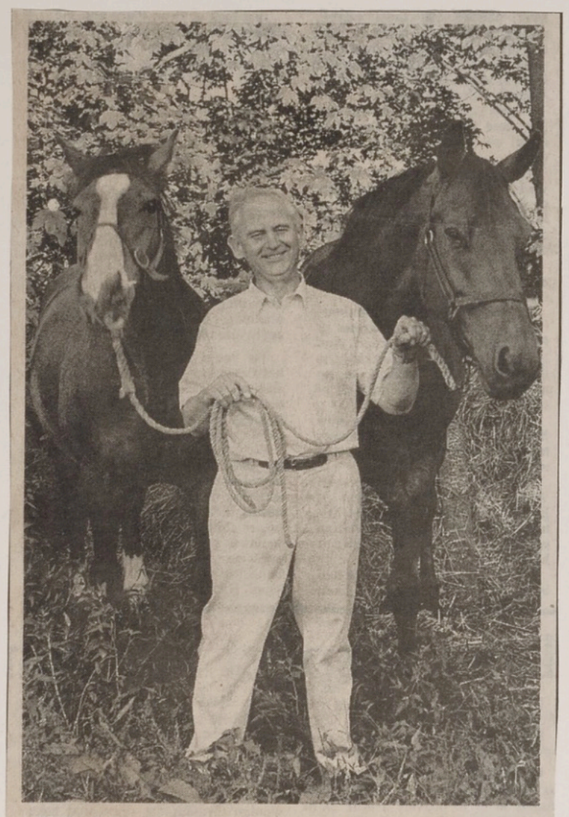
"This started out as an occasional camp site but then it became clear that it was going to become a horticultural application.

"It would have been detrimental to the character of the village, and retrospective applications are always dangerous because of the precedent they can set," he added.

Local councillor, John Gell, added that he, and Sarratt Parish Council, were also delighted with the outcome of the meeting.

Now Mr Norris must wait an agonising few weeks before hearing whether or not the Planning Committee forces him to un-do the work that has already been done to his field.

Mr Norris declined to comment on the matter.



We're in deep...

GARDENERS are invited to drop-in to a house in Sarratt to pick up as much manure as they like — for free.

The offer is being made by Mr John Lines of Red Lion Lane, who keeps two horses Toby and Jamie.

Toby is ridden by John in the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt and the Exmoor Foxhounds.

Jamie was ridden by John's children Douglas and Alison through the Pony Club, competing at Hickstead and Stoneleigh.

"Gardeners and allotment holders are invited to come and help themselves to the manure," said John.

Anyone interested is asked to telephone him on Watford 262294.

JULY/90 WO G6560

Santa takes a bus ride

SANTA Claus was surrounded by children when he arrived to open Sarratt's Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar on Saturday.

However, instead of arriving by his more familiar reindeer and sleigh, Santa instead decided to take the bus — a 1932 Bedford model known locally as 'Jenk's bus'.

The bazaar is the church's major fund-raising event of the year, and a lot of hard work went into preparing for it.

As well as the obligatory Santa's grotto, other attractions at the bazaar included gifts, games, bric-a-brac, cakes and tea stalls, along with a tombola and giant raffle.

And as the Holy Cross is celebrating its 800th Anniversary this year, there was also a special stall selling glassware and other souvenirs to mark the momentous occasion.

The total amount of money raised by the bazaar is yet to be counted, but it is expected to be high.

Santa is pictured meeting local children, having been dropped off at the village hall by the proud owner of the 1932 bus, Mr Dennis Jenks. Picture by John Child. *Photo number: 1883/90.*



KLG 6-12-90

Riders brave the storm



STRONG winds and heavy rain did not prevent 30 veteran cyclists completing the Boxing Day ride from Croxley Green to Sarratt.

It was the seventh year of the ride, which was organised by Mr Geoff Paine of the Chiltern Veteran Cycle Club.

A whole variety of early bicycles took part in the ride including the four Penny Farthings pictured above.

"It was very windy and we got completely soaked but it was a great day," said Mr Peter Paine, son of the organiser.

Anyone interested in joining the Chiltern Section of the Veteran Cycle Club can contact Mr Geoff Paine, telephone Watford 774026.

WO G12430

1/11/90 Mid Week Observer 'Free Observer'

2211, Classified 222323 WATFORD FREE OBSER

Village 'quackers over dead ducks



June Jones, with Frank Sims, alongside the sign they want put back up. *G10635*

SEATHING Sarratt villages have branded its parish council "quackers" after it removed a sign telling motorists to slow down for ducks crossing the road.

Feather were ruffled when the council took the sign down near the village pond and one day later two ducks crossing the road were run over by a car.

June Jones, manageress of The Cricketers pub next door to the pond said: "They are all quackers and round the bend."

The sign was put up by the council in June during the mating sesson when the ducks have to cross the road.

But June said they still cross the road and don't know their green quack code.

"The ducks are still crossing the road and the cars still thundering pass.

"If anything the ducks are crossing the road more than ever.

" We want to see the sign put back to save the ducks from getting killed.

"It's not a particulary big sign and it does do a good job."

A spokesman for the council said: "The sign was put up as a temporary measure and it was agreed that it would have to come down at the end of the mating season."

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1991

Politics or a perfect world?

IT is reassuring to hear that some people still feel there is no place for the detrimental back-biting of party politics in local government.

When Mrs Audrey Taylor said she would not make her declaration of acceptance as an elected member of Kings Langley Parish Council because of its "politicisation" she was trying to protect the lowest bastion of the British democratic system from the virus of political in-fighting

How many times has one sat at home watching Members of Parliament calling each other names in the House of Commons while people continue to sleep in cardboard boxes under railway arches?

Parish councils are too small, and too vital to village and town life, to allow their workings to be disrupted by the same kind of small mindedness.

Parish work must be done with the heart, not with a head full of doctrine and ideology.

Let us hope that all those involved in Mrs Taylor's departure see the folly of their ways and start working together for the good of Kings Langley — the job for which they were elected.

Shenanigans have apparently been going on behind the scenes of two other parish councils.

The walk-out of members of the public from the Sarratt Parish Council meeting when their choice for the chairmanship, Mrs Val Cumming, lost the vote to Mr John Gell, may have smacked of petulance.

It could suggest there may have been some justification for the accusation of secret meetings among parish councillors to thwart Mrs Cumming's ambitions.

We all know backstage lobbying takes place in the corridors of supposed power and more often than not it would be better if it didn't.

The murmurings of disaffection within Croxley Green Parish Council is of an altogether different matter.

Here there was a genuine attempt to keep the council apolitical, with candidates using the Residents' Association label.

But Mr Ray Withers shattered the illusion of a council without politics by standing under the Conservative banner for the district council.

How does one square that circle? Only by acknowledging that nothing is ever perfect and that politics will always rear its ugly head. It's about how much of the head protrudes over the parapet in the end.

Village and council divided

MAY I congratulate you on the depth of understanding demonstrated by your editorial on Friday, May 17.

You are so right — and unfortunately it is politics that is driving out those who genuinely want to help their parish council.

Until now Sarratt has maintained a "non political" status, but politics have overtaken village interests.

I can only take comfort and give many, many thanks to all those who clearly voted me top of the poll in Sarratt.

It is a great shame to Sarratt that the manoeuvring of council appointments should create such a divide between the village and the council.

I intend to continue my work. I care for the village and do not propose to allow petty mindedness to deter me from the duties I have undertaken by vote of the residents.

It is good to know that the Observer is going to keep us all up to the mark!

Don't forget Sarratt Village Day on Saturday, May 25, at 1.30pm onwards on the Green. That is the true Sarratt. — **Valerie Cumming, Parish Councillor and Committee Member, Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt.**

Villagers angry as valley scarred

UNAUTHORISED developments on green belt land in Sarratt sparked an emergency meeting of the village's preservation group.

More than 50 people attended the meeting in Sarratt Village Hall to discuss developments by Tim Norris of Mildred Avenue in a field off Moor Lane.

These include alleged destruction of hedges and the opening of a concreted exit onto the lane.

Villagers also complained that a horseriding arena had been excavated from a hillside without planning consent.

Chairman of the meeting, Ron Higgs said: "It is a disgrace to see a terrible scar on a wonderful green valley. It is totally out of keeping in the area and a terrible eyesore."

Val Cumming, a member of the Sarratt Preservation Action Group called for immediate action to stop any further damage.

"The unauthorised bulldozing of terraces is absolutely disgraceful and demonstrates complete disregard for the planning law and for Three Rivers Council," she said.

Jane Wilkinson, whose home, White Oaks Farm in Dawes Lane, is opposite the site was concerned development of the site would increase traffic and noise along the road.

A Three Rivers spokesman said there were a number of outstanding enforcement notices relating to unauthorized development and a public inquiry is due to be held in January.

Sarratt wins in planning battle

THREE RIVERS planners have voted to act to end a "blot on the landscape" in a picturesque part of Sarratt.

The move has been greeted as a victory by jubilant Sarratt residents who crowded into the council chamber for the meeting last week.

Now a "pole barn" constructed on the land next to Dawes Lane and which is part of the Chess Valley will have to be demolished and the removal of soil on the land exposing its chalk subsoil will have to be put right.

After the meeting a jubilant Parish Councillor, Mrs Val Cumming, a member of the Sarratt Preservation Action Group, told the Gazette: "This is a victory for the residents of Sarratt. We have been pushing to try and get something done about this for ages.

"People care about this area not only for themselves but for visitors.

"It is a privilege to live here and we are honour bound to keep it right for everyone else."

Councillor Tim Prizeman who voted for the action, told the Gazette: "This building is a blot on the landscape.

"The land is on a slope in the Chess Walk which can be seen from both sides of the valley. People in Sarratt as well as people from outside the village use the Chess Walk.

"Any building work sticks out like a sore thumb.

"We have all along made it clear we do not want this. There are plenty of other places people can put this sort of development."

At the mecting last Thursday councillors considered an alleged breach of planning control on land next to Dawes Lane.

After a discussion on the plans in which members of the public took part the councillors voted to:

- issue a "stop notice" on the construction.
- take enforcement action against any future development.
- seek legal advice on any future develoment.
- ask officers to monitor the situation.

Planning permission for a farm road, a polythene clad greenhouse, the laying of water mains, and the erection of three sheds for the storage of horticultural equipment was refused for the site in November last year.

All the applications are currently being appealed.

In July this year permission was granted for the erection of three loose-boxes and a store. Further planning applications have recently been submitted for the siting of a caravan for the storage of food and pharmaceuticals for livestock and for tea/toilet facilities on the land.

Sarratt residents demand action for councillor

ANGRY and disgusted Sarratt residents stormed out of a parish council meeting this week after a popular councillor failed to take the chairmanship of the council.

Now they say they will consider their next move to get the councillor the recognition she deserves.

The move echoes a long-running rift between councillors and residents in the village over the way ahead for Sarratt, with some wanting changes such as more local shops and others preferring to maintain the status quo.

At the first meeting of the newly elected council on Monday night, Councillor Val Cumming, who topped the poll in last week's local elections, claimed that as chairman of the council she would fight for the village.

She said she had spoken out in support of many local issues such as a local policeman, backed entry in the Best Kept Village competition which the village had failed to enter this year, and had won a grant of £2,000 for the village hall during her last spell as chairman in 1985.

Proposing her chairmanship, Councillor Charles Wood, said the council had generated a "lot of ill feeling" within its ranks.

He accused the meeting of preselecting councillors for official duties.

He said: "I was contacted on the day of the annual general meeting to ask what offices I wanted to take. It is out of order. It is unethical."

But outgoing chairman Councillor Alex Ballard insisted that: "Offices of the council are not predetermined by habit, precedent or any secret meetings."

She said she wished to reassure the public that: "No secret meetings have taken place to my knowledge.

"What has happened is a number of councillors have contacted me and spoken amongst themselves to get some indication of what areas of the council's work they might be interested in."

She claimed Mrs Cumming's accusations were "substantially incorrect".

She went on to nominate Councillor John Gell for chairman.

The councillor was voted in as chairman by "a majority" after a secret ballot.

Councillor Cumming also failed to secure the vice-chairmanship of the council.

After the meeting, local resident, Mr Robert Rickett, said: "I am disgusted. She is interested in the village and has the support of the village.

"This is undemocratic.

"We will have a meeting of the village to see what we are going to do about this."

And the Rev. David Dredge, of Holy Cross Church, who backed the residents, said: "I am very disappointed. Mrs Cumming has worked very hard for the village."

Another resident who preferred not to be named added: "This is a sad day for democracy. It is a culmination of something which has been brewing for some time in this village."

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THREE RIVE

MP steps in to stop land development

A BOMBARDMENT of letters from angry residents in Sarratt has prompted South West Hertfordshire MP Richard Page to step in and demand a stop to unauthorised development off Dawes Lane.

At a meeting of Three Rivers Council's Planning Committee on September 19, it was agreed to take enforcement action and issue a stop notice against Mr T. Norris after he carried out a string of developments.

Mr Norris roused the anger of some people living in Sarratt, particularly members of Sarratt Preservation Action Group, by building a barn, constructing a farm road and excavating land and exposing a chalk subsoil as a pony menage.

Since the planning meeting decision, however, villagers have seen little action taken by the council.

On Tuesday, Mr Page wrote a strongly-worded letter to Mr David Jones, the council's chief planning officer, saying that he was tired of receiving complaints from constituents who blame the Government for not giving the council enough power to deal with planning matters.

"The council doesn't even use the power that it has," he said.

He asked Mr Jones when the appropriate enforcement and stop notices were going to be issued.

"I am aware that the work that is being carried out was drawn to the council's attention many weeks ago," wrote Mr Page.

"I would like your comments as to why action has not yet been taken in order that I can inform my constituents in Sarratt."

A spokesman for the council confirmed that an enforcement notice was served on Mr Norris on Tuesday telling him to put right or demolish work he has carried out.

A stop notice was also served on Mr Norris relating to the barn, preventing further construction taking place.

The spokesman said: "We appreciate Mr Page's concern about the issue but we were already aware of local concern about the development and were acting upon it."

Money 'down the drain' says clerk

TRIPLICATION and bureaucracy in Sarratt is wasting public money, parish councillors were told on Monday.

The parish council holds separate committee meetings to discuss highways and footpaths, greens and recreation, allotments, planning and finance as well as full council meetings each month.

This follows a decision taken by the parish council in 1990 to hold formal committee meetings in line with the Local Government Act of 1972.

The result has been an unbearable workload for clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce.

Parish councillor, Mr Graham Peiser, said: "The clerk is becoming totally demoralised. There is an urgent need to do something to get the clerk out of her present morass."

Mrs Fordyce said the problem lay in the triplication of items, appearing on agendas to committees, in the minutes of the committee meetings, on agendas for full council meetings and in the subsequent minutes.

"We are just putting money in the drain," she said.

Members of the council discussed the recommendations of a working party formed to look into the increased time being spent by the clerk in producing paperwork for the council and the resulting costs.

It was revealed that the clerk's overtime increased from £88 between July and Septemer 1990 to £384 between April and June, 1991.

Parish Councillor, Mr Ken McArdle said: "I think this trend is indicative of the level of work and complexity of minute taking and secretarial matters carried out by the clerk."

The working party recommended that all permanent committees should be disbanded.

Parish Councillor, Mrs Jennifer Dimond-Hewlett said she was against the recommendation.

"I feel unhappy about not having committee meetings because I am now better informed. I am concerned that we will not communicate between council meetings," she said.

Mrs Fordyce said she felt the need of parish councillors to discuss items at committee and again at a meeting of the entire council was regrettable.

"If you cannot discuss things together there is something wrong with the relationship between councillors and not the working mechanism of the council," she said.

Members of the parish council agreed that committees should be suspended for a period of three months, except the planning committee, and instead, spokesmen should be nominated for various areas of work.

During that period the working party would take the views of all parish councillors in an attempt to find a long term solution to the crisis.

Third village day

TRACTION engines and vintage vehicles will be winding their way across country on Saturday to celebrate the third annual Sarratt Village Day.

One of the oldest will be an 1897 Fowler 10 ton agricultural engine, named Black Jack, owned by T.T. Boughton and Sons Limited.

Black Jack spent its working life in the Chilterns, threshing, sawing and hauling timber.

Festivities for the children start at 1.30pm with a fancy dress parade, with the theme Creatures from Outer Space. Each entrant will receive a Village Day mug.

There will also be opportunities for them to participate in sports organised by the village policeman, PC Phil Wynes.

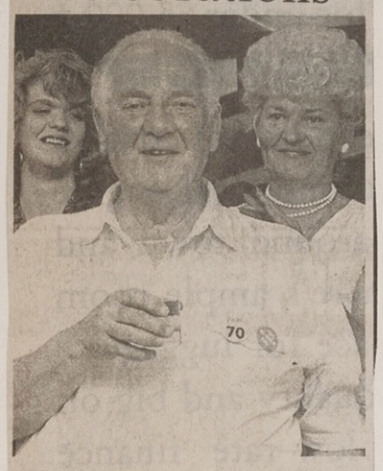
Other attractions include a display of Maypole dancing by pupils from Sarratt JMI School, a tug-o'-war competition, pony rides, face painting and various stalls run by Sarratt Horticultural Society, Cancer Research Campaign and Holy Cross Church.

One of the more off-beat attractions will be a can crushing event — using a steam roller.

Mr Vic Hodge will give children rides on his model traction engine and in the village school there will be a display of children's paintings, an exhibition by local artists and photographs of Sarratt.

All the money raised on the day will got towards projects in the village and also the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Ron's birthday celebrations



POPULAR Sarratt villager Ron Cox was not going to wait until he died before an opportunity arose for his friends and relatives to get together.

Instead he chose the occasion of his 70th birthday to throw a big party in the village inviting 48 of his relatives and 50 of his friends.

Ron forked out for a disco, food and a free bar to keep his guests entertained at the village hall on Sunday evening.

"We go to funerals, sit around, and everytime we say we should get together while we are all still alive. I wanted the funeral treat early," said Ron, who received more than 76 cards and presents.

WO G5048



Trolls make magic music

WHEN Bleeta Drong met Droople Screed at Sarratt JMI School, the consequence was.....

....a lot of fun, and two evenings which pupils, staff and parents won't forget for a long time.

Bleeta Drong, alias Rachel Powell and Droople Screed, Christopher Dunn, were the hero and heroine of 'Trolls', a new musical for children by Peter Skellern, which was presented at the school last week by some 40 pupils under the direction of head teacher Chris Alexander.

"All the children from the age of eight upwards are in it — they all have to take part!" he said.

"We love every minute of it — that's what it's all about!"

The musical was presented last Thursday and Friday in place of the school's usual annual concert.



1991



A leisurely ride on a traction engine was the order of the day for many of the visitors. H216026a





Village's runaway success

SO much fun was had in glorious Sarratt on Saturday that one felt the sun was almost shamed into making an appearance.

Held on The Green, Sarratt Village Day drew a large crowd who seemed to enjoy all the events on offer.

From the traditional Maypole dancing by pupils from Sarratt School to the children's races, from the stalls and tombolas to the display of traction engines and vintage cars.

The village was covered in such beautiful sunshine that many took the opportunity to bring picnics or sit outside The Boot and the The Cricketers pubs.

There was something for everyone, a bouncy castle, pony rides and small fairground rides for the children, to rides in a vintage Premier coach.

Among the clubs and societies represented on the day were the Cancer Research Campaign, Sarratt Tennis Club, The Multiple Sclerosis Society and Sarratt Horticultural Society.

Throughout the afternoon The Potters Bar Town Band entertained the crowd while overhead balloons wafted through the warm breeze, in a race launched by Sarratt Women's Institute.

Among the other attractions were a wheelbarrow race and a tug-of-war.

It was a delight to see a village celebrating itself at a time when so many are threatened by development and incursion from urban areas.

Pictures by TREVOR ADAMS

Above left: Ben Laley (left) went on to win this children's race. H216010a
Above: Clive Barnwell pushes Trevor Church to a third victory. H216017a



One young girl was enchanted by the display of steam organs on sho' H216032a



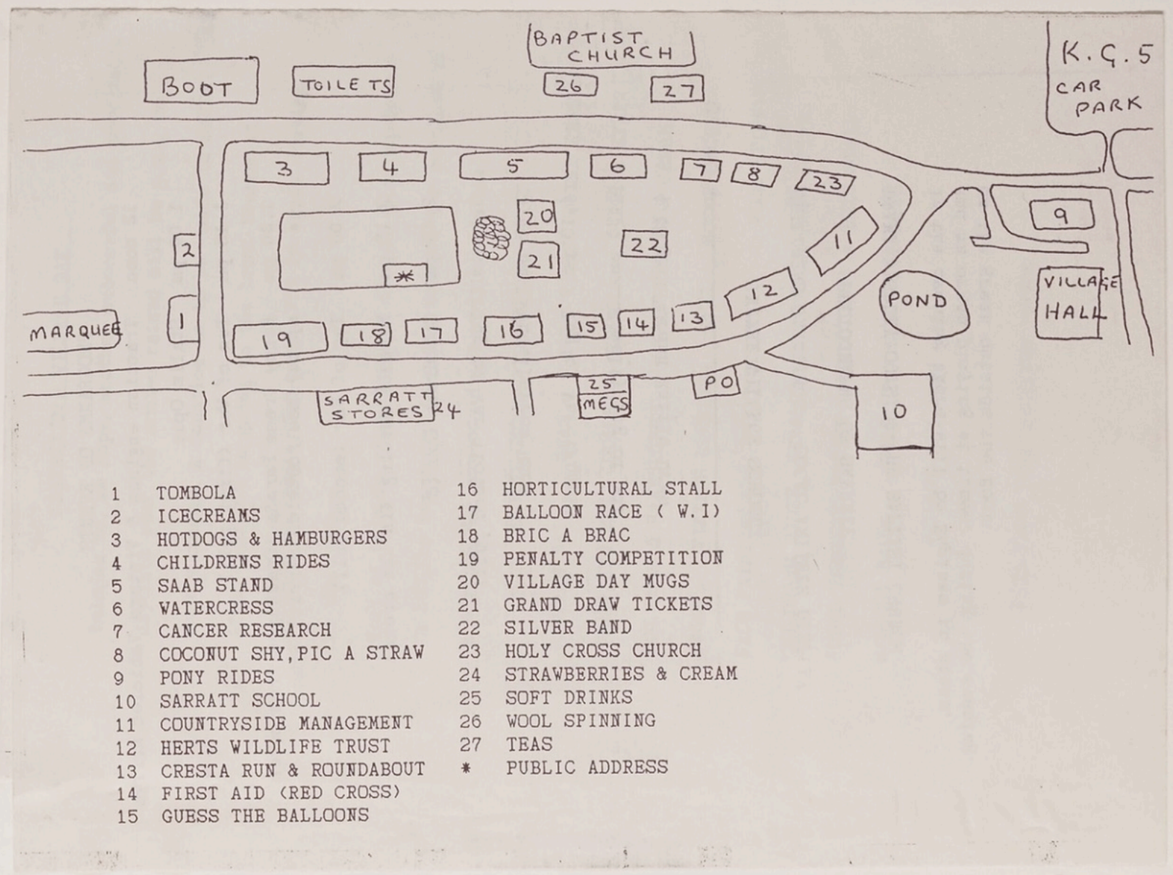
Taking the strain. H216019



An entertaining display of Maypole dancing. H216033



It was certainly too hot for a "pullover" — or so it seemed. H216014



1	TOMBOLA	16	HORTICULTURAL STALL
2	ICECREAMS	17	BALLOON RACE (W.I)
3	HOTDOGS & HAMBURGERS	18	BRIC A BRAC
4	CHILDRENS RIDES	19	PENALTY COMPETITION
5	SAAB STAND	20	VILLAGE DAY MUGS
6	WATERCRESS	21	GRAND DRAW TICKETS
7	CANCER RESEARCH	22	SILVER BAND
8	COCONUT SHY, PIC A STRAW	23	HOLY CROSS CHURCH
9	PONY RIDES	24	STRAWBERRIES & CREAM
10	SARRATT SCHOOL	25	SOFT DRINKS
11	COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT	26	WOOL SPINNING
12	HERTS WILDLIFE TRUST	27	TEAS
13	CRESTA RUN & ROUNDABOUT	*	PUBLIC ADDRESS
14	FIRST AID (RED CROSS)		
15	GUESS THE BALLOONS		

No. 6698 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1991 20p

Sarratt children in newspaper swoop



A GROUP of schoolchildren made a dawn raid on the Watford Observer last Friday and were seen leaving with newspaper blueprints, texts, page plans and dummies.

A spokesman for the Observer and Times Newspapers Group said yesterday: "The overall value of the goods stolen is not great, but the reasons for the theft are unclear. They were very well organised, knew exactly what they wanted and were led with commando-like efficiency by a lady in a balaclava."

Watford Police admitted this week that they were baffled. "We have few leads to go on but are currently liaising with Sarratt's Mobile Police Unit. We have had a tip-off which points to the village as the source of this raid."

Rumours in the vilage have abounded since "Sunday Sports" attempted and, as yet, abortive take-over of the "Sarratt Spotlight".

"The village has been divided over this take-over. There are some who feel that 'Sunday Sport' would change the whole focus on parish affairs, perhaps even giving a new slant to the concept, and they welcome this. But others feel that the change in advertising content, particularly those 0800 numbers would

by Carrie-Anne Phillips

change forever this bastion of rural life," said a spokesman for the village magazine.

"There are rumours that a reactionary group are trying to produce a more up-market magazine with the accent on swapping," he added. "You know, one conker for a Turtles badge. That sort of thing."

One reactionary group, Free Press for Sarratt, in an anonymous phone-call made from a box outside Megs Super Store, claimed responsibility for the raid.

My information suggests that the raiding party included the athletic blonde Michelle Kindell, keen horse-rider Clare Ward, red-haired Rebecca Holt, animal-lover Nicola Kemp, sports enthusiast Victoria Cooling, high-jumper Samantha Darvell, chat-show hostess Sophie Havercroft, Oscar-winner Linsey Clack, mighty atom Hannah Griffiths and fleet-footed Claire Cavalier.

In support were a group of boys also from Class 1 including leader of the Compton tribe, Martyn, mathematician Ben Barnwell, footballer Richard Waller, goalie Michael Wynes, actor Michael



Is this the mysterious 'Jan' captured on film outside the parish church?

McHugh, John Travlolta look-alike contest winner Stuart Allen, 'Mr Politeness' Darren Harrison, lead guitarist Toby Linnell and football fan Mark Cook.

The raid is believed to have been led by Jan "I turned down a part in Grange Hill" Mardling and three unidentified cohorts who made their getaway in four stolen Skodas.

Anyone seeing these characters or able to provide information with regard to same should flag-down PC 'Roadrunner' Wynes, whose attention is best drawn by offering him a Marathon.

In the event of such information leading to an arrest, the governors of Sarratt JMI have indicated that they are prepared to offer rewards. A copy of Joyce 'Shades' Newton's "Maypole Rap" will be given to anyone giving key information; two copies to anyone giving general information.

"There is no proof that these offenders have any connection with the school," said Headmaster Chris 'Please replace your divots' Alexander.

100-year-old's vivid memories of village



SARRATT'S most senior citizen, Mrs Lily Jane Burdett, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday.

Mrs Burdett spent a happy day with five generations of her family, including her grand-daughter's grand-daughter!

Born in Watford, she moved to Sarratt when she married in 1906, and has lived in the same cottage for the past 76 years.

For a long time a well in the front garden and a pump in the back garden constituted the water supply, and Mrs Burdett recalled: "Often in winter my apron would get wet as I pumped and it would be frozen stiff by the time I got back indoors."

But she added: "In spite of all its faults I liked Sarratt better in those days. It was so countrified and cows and sheep used to graze on the Green. There was no public transport. I used to walk to Watford and back to visit my parents, and do special shopping."

She still remembers walking the seven miles to Watford to buy some boots for her son, which turned out to be too tight, then walking all the way back to change them.

She also remembers the village women picking buckets of stones in the fields to spread on the muddy roads and said: "I used to think it was awful for women, many of them pregnant, to be lugging heavy stones for a small payment."

The better side of old Sarratt was the more active village life, the many cherry orchards, and the hayfields where children could play.

"I used to love helping with the haymaking, and loved the country life," said town-bred Mrs Burdett, who started her working life apprenticed as a dressmaker to Trewins in Watford.

The hours were 8.30 am to 8.30 pm with an hour for lunch and three-quarters of an hour for tea — and no pay at all for the first two years.

Mrs Burdett said: "The apprentices could earn a shilling a month by going in half an hour early in the mornings and picking all the pins out of the sawdust on the floor." Pin money?

She thinks that nowadays there is less poverty and old people are better looked after, but the village is much noisier with all the traffic and much less countrified.

Our picture shows her with her telegram from The Queen. She also had a present of a bottle of brandy and two crystal brandy goblets from the Langleys' Round Table, as well as several bouquets of flowers and other gifts.

SPOTLIGHT on Sarratt Parish

Local author is snubbed at signing

THERE was laughter at Dillon's High Sstreet, Watford, Bookstore on Wednesday night when pop star Elton John helped to launch Watford FC's new Centenary History Book.

More than 400 purchasers crammed into the store and queued while TV cameras caught the late night shopping launch.

"I'm happy to help the club in this sort of way," said Elton who signed over 600 copies of the 304-page hardback history of the club.

The author, Sarratt resident Oliver Phillips stood in the background but was gratified when a lady came up with two books.

"I was quite touched, or so my wife says," Oliver related. "The players and Elton were autographing books and here was a lady wanting me to do the same. When I had autographed the first, she brought me down to earth by explaining that she was sorry, but she thought I was working the till!"

Two other book-purchasers asked for Oliver's autograph later but it transpired they had got hold of his old cheque book and slipped it unnoticed in the fly-leaf.

"It seems I have written out a couple of cheques for over £5. They will bounce of course, but it was a close thing," he said later.

Woman's killing shocks village

WAT. OBS. 29-11-91

SHOCKED residents of Sarratt learned this week of the killing of Mrs Anita Coe, a well-known member of their tight-knit community.

The 36-year-old mother of two, from Deadman's Ash Lane, died at Watford General Hospital at 10.30am on Wednesday. She was found with multiple knife wounds around midnight on Tuesday.

Mrs Coe had two children, seven-year-old Debbie and Barry, nine, who both attend Sarratt village school.

A former pupil of the school, Mrs Coe was the secretary of the school's Parent Teacher Association and helped organise many fund-raising events.

Headmaster Mr Chris Alexander said: "The school is in a state of shock. Mrs Coe left an indelible mark on the school."

She single-handedly relaunched and ran the village 200 Club, aimed at raising funds for the school and the local playing fields through a lucky draw.

Mrs Coe was a member of the Village Day committee, playing an important part in establishing it as an annual event.

She was also a member of the King George V Playing Fields committee and contributed to the village magazine, Spotlight.

On Saturday evening Mrs Coe was cooking and serving food at a village hall fund-raising karaoke night.

British Telecom engineer Mr Geoffrey Coe, 35, was remanded in custody when he appeared at Watford Magistrate's Court yesterday, charged with the murder of his wife.

Chairman of the Magistrates Mrs Barbara Hartland remanded Coe in custody for seven days. He will appear at Watford Magistrates Court next Thursday.



Charities get cash handouts

W.O. 26-7-91

CHEQUES were presented by the Sarratt village day committee to a handful of charities last Friday, after more than £2,000 was raised from the May event.

Members of the committee who helped organise the village day are pictured with representatives from the charities, at a cheese and wine evening.

Mr William Prosser, from the Chesham Multiple Sclerosis Society, received a cheque for £500. Sarratt Care was given £50.

And children in Sarratt can look forward to a new playground after the committee donated £725 for equipment. The parish magazine Spotlight received £50. H296009

Lt-Col Denis Russell-Roberts

25-10-1991 DAILY TELEGRAPH

LT-COL DENIS RUSSELL-ROBERTS, who has died aged 82, was the author *Spotlight on Singapore* (1965), which challenged a number of assumptions about the Malayan campaign that had culminated in the capture of Singapore by the Japanese on Feb 15, 1942.

The book was followed by a television documentary in 1967 and a radio programme in 1975.

Russell-Roberts deplored the various misconceptions about the campaign. These, he argued, had been implanted in the public mind by Churchill, who knew perfectly well that once the Japanese had the use of the airfields in Indo-China and control of the seas up to the Indian Ocean the fall of Singapore was inevitable.

Russell-Roberts also observed that the fall of France in 1940 would have been a much greater disaster if the Navy had not succeeded in getting away three times as many survivors as were taken prisoner in Singapore — yet that was a "victory", while the loss of Singapore was reckoned an ignominy.

"There are many who fought and died as gallantly in the Malayan campaign as any of their fellow men in any other theatres of war," wrote Russell-Roberts. "Such men deserve better than to be associated with this stigma, which is likewise a gross injustice to the women who also died fighting."

In the 1960s he was involved in a lively correspondence in *The Daily Telegraph* after he had commented on the Hollywood film *King Rat* about a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. He also refuted the legend of "whisky-swilling planters", and gave examples of heroism by civilians.

Russell-Roberts emphasised that, after the sinking of the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* and the elimination of the small British Air Force, the ground troops had no alternative but to fight a delaying action, which they did extremely well, once forcing the Japanese to retreat. The campaign lasted 10 weeks — in contrast to the three weeks which the Germans had taken to overwhelm the British Expeditionary Force in France.

Denis Guy Russell-Roberts was born on July 28, 1909, and educated at Rugby and Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in 1930.

Although immensely proud of his regiment, which he said was the best and most successful in India in the 1930s, he decided to stay on in India when his comrades returned to Britain in 1939. Russell-Roberts was transferred to the 11th Sikh Regiment and almost immediately posted to Malaya as a member of a highly secret "Emu" force.

The other members of his regiment arrived soon after, and were in action almost continually until taken prisoners-of-war.

After retirement from the Army, Russell-Roberts worked for the Ministry of Defence at the School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield.

As a young man he had been a notable all-round athlete: he represented Sandhurst at rugby and lawn tennis, played tennis for the Army and Hampshire, and rugby for the Harlequins and Hampshire. In India he was a successful polo player, and also took part in a variety of field sports.

He married first, in 1934, Ruth McKecknie (also a talented athlete), who died as a PoW in Sumatra, where she had arrived after an attempted escape on a ship which was sunk off Banka Island; they had a daughter.

He married secondly, in 1954, Vivien *née* Thorne.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1991



Surprise win: President Mrs Dawn Pitts with her prize.
Photo number:890/91.

HANDING out the prizes to the class winners of the Sarratt WI Mini-Horticultural and Craft Show, the President Mrs Dawn Pitts realised that with the most overall points in the competition she had won the Jennings Trophy herself with her handicraft and baking.

Present at the garden meeting held in brilliant sunshine in member Mrs Toots Downer's home on Sarratt Green was Miss Patrician Frazer, General Secretary of Watford Animal Welfare.

Mrs Pitts presented her with a generous cheque from Sarratt WI of £175 raised at a coffee morning in May. JULY 1991



AS the spring sunshine breaks through winter's clouds this week's picture special picks the perfect place for a pub lunch — The Plough, Belsize. *Picture by PETER STEVENS*

1991

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - THURSDAY 2nd MAY

Introducing

GRAHAM PEISER

I am a Chartered Surveyor with over 20 years as a Partner of a major Practice of Chartered Surveyors in Central London. I have now relinquished my Partnership in order to set up my own business locally and be able to participate in community affairs.

I have lived on the Green for the last 9 years. I am a PCC member, a Sidesman and was actively involved in last years successful 800th anniversary celebrations of the Church. I am an Original Trustee and treasurer of The Friends of Holy Cross.

I feel that I can bring to the Parish Council a practical, realistic and business approach; together with time and considerable energy.

I am 51 and married with two teenage daughters. My leisure interests include my family, working with my hands, animals and the garden.

Published and printed by
G A Peiser, Pear Tree Cottage, The Green, Sarratt, Herts.

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SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION 2ND MAY 1991

ROY ETEEN Oakwood, Dunny Lane, Belsize. KL.269918.

I am 59 years of age and was educated at Ealing County Grammar School and completed my National Service in the R.A.F. I am co-owner of a small company based at London Airport handling import and export documentation.

I have lived in Belsize for 6 years with my wife Margaret who is President of Sarratt Evening W.I.

On moving to the area I took over as Group Scout Leader of 1st Sarratt Group and actively support the Sarratt Scouts and Guides. I believe that we should have strong local youth organisations so that all the children have the opportunity of participating in a variety of activities. Likewise I strongly support the idea of Village Day as this has brought all the organisations together for our mutual benefit.

I will endeavour to protect and improve the village amenities and balance the need for change with residents' wishes. In common with many residents I am strongly in favour of speed limits to keep our village safe.

My connection with Sarratt goes back to 1945 when my Harrow Scout Group camped throughout the year at Great Sarratt Hall Farm until 1955. My love for the village started from then and I am pleased to be able to try to ensure that it retains its rural identity and pleasant atmosphere.

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY R.ETEEN

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION THURS 2nd MAY

ALEX BALLARD

I am 40, married with two children, a teacher of English. I have lived in Sarratt for ten years, been a Governor at Sarratt J.M.I. for eight years, and a Parish Councillor for four years. I am a member of the Liberal Democrat Party, but like all Sarratt Parish Councillors, I strive to keep the Parish Council genuinely free of party politics.

Parish Councils have limited powers, but they can play a vital part in representing the community at District and County Council level, and in promoting and supporting local initiatives by the community.

My priorities are:

ROAD SAFETY; pressing for speed limit enforcement, traffic calming measures, off street parking.

LOW COST HOUSING; the provision of low cost housing for young people of the village, available only to them, and when they move on, for subsequent generations of local young people. A very small development will help to ensure the viability of our shops and school, without changing the nature of our village community.

CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT ; encouraging pride in the parish, through clean-up days, "Best Kept Village" competition, and management plans for common land.

TRANSPORT; support for existing bus services, and Dial-a Ride, investigation of new small vehicle services, provision of a bus shelter on the Green opposite Church Lane.

Parish Councillors must be accessible to be effective. If you would like to know more about this election, or to discuss any local issues, please do not hesitate to ring me on 262250.

Printed and published by Mrs. A. Ballard,
58,Church Lane, Sarratt, Herts, WD3 6HL.

Sarratt PARISH Council Election

VAL CUMMING

I have been involved in the village life of Sarratt for the last 20 years. 12 years ago I was honoured to be elected a Parish Councillor and I am equally proud of being a Governor of St Clement Danes School over the same period. I am an Original Trustee and Vice Chairman of Friends of Holy Cross.

I enjoy working for Sarratt and, like all candidates, I am standing in a purely non-political capacity. I have always maintained that the Parish Council is solely for the well being of Sarratt.

I have often fought for Sarratt's welfare - in Three Rivers after the Boundary Review (in my year as Chairman) ; and in the year 1990/1991 - raising a bid for the Chess Valley Water Meadows ; securing a wide response to the Hertfordshire Police Review (our Village Policeman is a vital part of Sarratt life and the happiness and security of the young and the elderly) ; helping to rescue the Family Clinic - now at the Baptist Church Hall ; and as Chairman of Highways arranging Speed Checks, work to produce a solution to our Parking problems, and the continuous battle to improve Road Safety and arrange a new Bus Service.

All that I believe in and work for has been demonstrated in the preparations over the last three years for the Sarratt Village Day - open discussion, positive cooperation, and more than a touch of FUN throughout meetings - plus Sarratt at its sparkling best on the two previous highly successful events.

We are a village and we don't want to lose our identity and character.

Published and printed by Mrs Val Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm. Sarratt, WD3 6BP.

NIGHTMARE TRIP



□Home sweet home: Pat and Cyril back in Sarratt.
Photo number: 801/91. W.L.Gaz 27-6-91

BY JONATHAN CLARK

AN elderly woman was flown home to England by air ambulance after a nightmare trip to Egypt.

Mrs Pat Petts, aged 75, is now recovering in her Dimmocks Lane home in Sarratt after spending the last two and a half weeks in Watford General Hospital after breaking her leg whilst on holiday.

It happened when she and husband Cyril, aged 74, were leaving a hotel in Luxor, Egypt. An automatic glass door closed on Pat, knocking her to the ground and causing the injury.

Although the hotel staff were extremely helpful, Cyril explained that conditions where his wife was first taken for treatment were far from ideal.

"At the clinic there was an ancient X-ray machine. A radiologist who X-rayed her found the head of the femur on her left leg was broken," said Cyril.

"They put her in a Thomas splint, something I haven't seen since I was in the St John Ambulance before the war."

Fortunately for the pair, they had adequate insurance and Pat was flown back to Luton Airport on a twin engined French jet with two doctors on board.

Speaking about her ordeal, Pat said: "The treatment here (England) has been marvellous and I will never complain about the NHS after seeing conditions in Egypt.

"And I will never complain about the insurance premiums either."

Although Pat enjoyed the first week of her holiday "tremendously", she says she is going to rest at home for a while before thinking of going off on another trip.

Sarratt in £50,000 bid to raise the roof

20-6-91

AN APPEAL to raise £50,000 to carry out essential ...arratt's Holy ... roof has been ... comes in the ... inspection by ... Philip Davies, ...ns who has in... ...airs be carried ... the next few ... meeting of ...ls held recently ...ommittee was ...organise fund ... ...irs to the roof, ...f £2,000, have ... carried out.

Mrs June Clark, a member of the Parochial Church Council, and a Deanery Synod representative for the parish, told the Gazette: "It is essential that the work is done within the next three or four years. The roof will start leaking if nothing is done soon. It could start getting dangerous and causing damage to the interior of the church."

Some of the events already organised by the Raise the Roof Committee in bid to save the 12th Century church got under way last week with a coffee morning at The Barn, Sarratt which raised over £200.

Other events later in the year will include an Old Tyme Music Hall, a talk on stained glass windows and a talk and demonstration on church bells.

Mr John Guy, Chairman of the Raise the Roof Committee, said: "The events have been designed to give pleasure to all those who attend as well as to raise funds for the preservation of Holy Cross Church."

The church, built in 1190, is thought to be part of a monastic settlement connected with St Albans Abbey. The church recently underwent extensive internal redecoration.

Sarratt Water Meadows

In December 1990 28 acres of Water Meadows were put up for sale and the guide price was £100,000. Concern was expressed by many people in Sarratt and Mrs Val Cumming contacted the leader of Three Rivers District Council, Councillor Charles Grindell who advised that a budget for such conservation purchased does exist. It was agreed that Sarratt Ward Councillor Tim Prizeman should take the suggestion forward via the Director of Environmental Services at Three Rivers. Meanwhile Mrs Cumming who is a supporter of Sarratt Preservation Action Group with special interest in the Chess Valley also contacted the Countryside Management Group based in Kings Langley, the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Hertfordshire County Council Nature Conservancy and Richard Page M.P. all of whom were concerned to help with any moves to protect the Chess Valley. Contact was also made with the vendor, Mrs Cayzer, who expressed sympathy with the objectives of SPAG.

In the event an offer in excess of the guide price was accepted at tender before Three Rivers Council were able to vote funds at their regular Planning Committee Meeting.

The Chess Valley contains areas of Special Scientific Interests and the Water Meadows is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is hoped that under new ownership the meadows will continue to be maintained and enhanced.

Flower power

A FLOWER festival will take place at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Saturday and Sunday to raise funds towards the church's £50,000 Raise The Roof campaign.

The event will end with a joint Evensong service with Chipperfield and Flaunden at 6.30pm at Holy Cross Church. W.O. 25-6-91

The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt

Calendar of Events 1991

Sarratt bus route threat in cost cuts

KLG. 4-7-91

A SPECIAL committee is to be set up by Herts County Council to look into public transport services.

The announcement comes as a local district councillor has spoken out in defence of a threatened bus service in Sarratt.

The 318 which runs twice weekly from the village to Rickmansworth could be axed to only once a week.

The proposed cut comes as county considers slashing its public transport bill for Three Rivers, Watford and Hertsmere by around £300,000.

Said Tim Prizeman, a member of Three Rivers District Council, and Vice-Chairman of the Transport Public Transport Sub-Committee: "This is a particularly unfortunate move bearing in mind the low level of bus services already serving Sarratt.

"This will affect a group of people who are dependent on public transport.

"The saving that will be made of around £2,000 will be negligible compared to the hundreds of thousands of pounds spent on public transport."

The Sarratt bus cut was given the thumbs down by Three Rivers District Council, last week which voted unanimously to recommend the service be saved.

The proposal will be considered by the county council in due course.

Mr Keith White, Team Leader of the Passenger Transport Unit at Herts County Council, said: "There will be a special committee set up to consider the review proposals in each area and we are consulting districts, and parishes at the moment.

"We will report back all their views.

"We know there is opposition to the proposal for the 318 from Three Rivers and Sarratt Parish Council, but we are committed to running the service until at least the end of Ooctober.

"It will depend on the views of the members of the county council whether it continues taking into account all the responses. A decision will be taken in September."

Drama students' starring roles

DRAMA students Michele Gaisford of Alexandra Road, Sarratt, and Paul Sargeant, of Owens Way, Croxley Green, have leading roles in the Stephen Sondheim Sweeney Todd Rock and Roll Show at Dacorum College, Hemel Hempstead, next weekend.

The presentation marks the end of the first ever performing arts course at the college.

The students have been rehearsing for two months for the show in which Paul plays Sweeney Todd, and Michelle is cast as Tobias.

Both are former Durrants School pupils and have appeared together previously in a production of Willy Hunter's play Blood Brothers.

Paul has appeared in Widowers' Houses at Watford Palace Theatre, as well as working behind the scenes, and his ambition is to make his career on the stage.

When Michelle has her BTEC Performing Arts Diploma, which has encompassed marketing, publicity and box office for the production, and training in dance, drama, directing and writing, she would like to concentrate on drama therapy for handicapped children.

Yacht sunk in fire

THE DAUGHTER of Sarratt residents Sir Christopher and Lady Staughton were relieved, this week, to learn of the safety of their youngest daughter, Sarah, after a fire sunk the luxury yacht she was to be working on board as cook in the coming months.

Sarah Staughton, 28, telephoned her parents to explain that a fire in the engine room of "Obsession" which had been docked in the South Of France, sank the vessel in just six minutes, although thankfully, all the passengers and crew managed to escape in a tender.

Currently staying with friends at Antibes, Sarah is looking for work which will take her cruising around the Mediterranean.

All things bright and beautiful



Photo number:1159/91.

In bloom: Audrey Griffith-Jones arranges flowers while Sir Christopher Stanton looks on.

A GIANT cabbage fetched a top price when it was auctioned at Sarratt Horticultural Show on Saturday.

The cabbage, a 12lb Robinson's had been grown by John Rickard, the show secretary.

Said buyer, Mr Peter Cumming, who paid £2.50 for the item: "This will keep us going for a week or two."

As well as the "big brassica", roses, dahlias, gladioli and hydrangeas were on view at the show held last Saturday.

The popular show, which is part of the tradition of the village, also included other vegetables and cooked items.

Said show secretary, Mr John Rickard: "The show has had the best display of vegetables ever and a very good rose display despite the early wet weather and the current spell of dry weather."

Winners of the Section Trophies were as follows: The Jenkinson Trophy (Early flowering Chrysanthemums) - John Lyons; The Arthur Pritchard Trophy (Roses) - Connie Barber; The Frederick Barber Trophy (Other Flowers) - Gareth Crockford; The David Osborne Trophy (Vegetables and Fruit) - Harry Neal; The Loader Trophy (Floral Art) - Noreen Singleton; The Elsie Collins Trophy (Cookery) - Agnes Bonwick; The Flight Cracknell Trophy (Handicrafts) - Peggy Baker; The A.E. Cox Trophy (Children's Exhibits) - Rachael Sceats.

The Sarratt Horticultural Society has its AGM followed by cheese and wine on Monday, October 21.



Delight in the best kept hamlet

PROUD residents joined landlady Mrs Janet Lefrere-Cooling to show off a silver rose bowl after Belsize was voted the best kept hamlet in west and central Hertfordshire for the second year running.

Mrs Lefrere-Cooling is the landlady of The Plough public house, where the rose bowl is now on display.

Belsize entered the competition in the hamlet class and in the first round was voted the best kept hamlet in its area, with a score of 95.5 per cent.

Then at the beginning of July the finalists of each area were judged again and Belsize came second overall in Hertfordshire.

Chairman of the Belsize Residents' Association, Mr Clive Linnell, said: "It is wonderful to live in such a pleasant hamlet especially at this time of year."

He has already urged residents to start planning for next year's competition.

Picture H295306 by TREVOR ADAMS

Farmer 'driven out by planners'

By SIMON BERLYN

A SARRATT farmer whose family have farmed in the area for hundreds of years has delivered the shock announcement that he, his wife Mary and their family are selling up and moving away.

Mr Michael Bell, who established what he believes to be Hertfordshire's only organic farm, said he had been driven out by restrictive planning policies that have affected his ability to run and expand the business.

Now he and his family are to sell the 28.5-acre Cherry Trees Farm at Olleberrie Lane, Belsize, and are considering a move to the Welsh Borderlands.

The farm stock, consisting of cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, ducks, geese and hens, will go with them, Mr Bell said.

Cherry Trees is being offered for sale by private treaty by Mayfair agents Jackson-Stops and Staff of Curzon Street. Mr Bell declined to suggest what the sale might raise.

Five years ago he successfully established the farm as a productive enterprise selling its own organically reared meat, free range eggs and organically grown fruit and vegetables.

A tea room and gift shop selling craft ware were successfully established in a converted, historic barn, and thousands of children, some handicapped and others from deprived inner-city areas, visited the farm.

The farm drew eulogies from teachers who visited with parties.

"Some of the parents said they didn't stop talking about it," said one — and an agricultural ministry permanent under secretary praised the Bell's "courageousness as small farmers".

The last straw, explained Mr Bell, was to lose a recent planning appeal, which upheld Three Rivers Council's decision to refuse permission to allow a farmworker's cottage to be built on the farm.

It was then, he said, that he and his wife made the decision to sell.

"We have to sell because we have had problems with getting the right sort of person to work here and accommodating them. We have had a succession of students who, as soon as they become successful, go: I know that is the point of having students," said Mr Bell.

"Our business is still expanding. I basically can't do any more. I need somebody skilled and obviously a skilled person, if reliable, is usually with a family. They need decent accommodation to live in.

"Without that accommodation there is no way. It is impossible to get council houses locally."

Mr Bell said he sought to find cottages on other farms to no avail, yet that the farmworker's cottage really needed to be at Cherry Trees to allow workers to look after the animals and attend to emergencies.

The decision to quit clearly involved much soul-searching.

Mr Bell said he was descended from the Nash family who had farmed in the area for generations and from whom Nash Mills took their title.

It was also clear the decision was a highly emotional one, charged with frustration felt at obstructions or lack of help the Bells said they faced from Hertfordshire County Council and Three Rivers Council.

"They have killed the last organic farm in Hertfordshire, and do you know what they said — we are 'non-agricultural'!" said Mrs Bell.

"We are going to a rural area where we are understood.

"All the thousands and thousands who have benefitted from this — not an ounce of help from the county council or the council. They have done nothing to help us."

Children Beth, Ted, Emily and William would all go with her and Mr Bell, she said.

Sale of Cherry Trees will include the new farmhouse built in a traditional style and incorporating an 18th Century timber frame barn.

The Bell's decision also underlines the severe depression in agriculture, several farms in the Sarratt area having recently gone on the market.

Come to lunch with a dish

THERE is a catch to Reverend David Dredge's invitation to his parishioners at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, to attend a harvest lunch in the village hall on Sunday.

Those attending have been asked to bring along some food.

Guests with surnames beginning with the letters from A to K have been asked to bring a savoury dish, and the remainder have been asked to provide the sweet.

The lunch, at noon, has been organised to raise money towards the Disaster Relief Committee for the starving in Africa.

Tough line taken to halt beauty spot violation

SCORES of Sarratt residents flocked to Three Rivers House last Thursday to protest against a series of unauthorised developments in an officially designated beauty spot.

They heard Three Rivers Council Planning Committee decide to take enforcement action and issue a stop notice against Mr T. Norris following the string of developments carried out off Dawes Lane over several months.

Sarratt parish councillor Mrs Val Cumming told planners more than 400 people had signed a protest petition.

Earlier, upward of 50 people attended a meeting at Sarratt Village Hall protesting against "the desecration of the Chess Valley".

The site is designated Metropolitan Green Belt and within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Anger was sparked by the excavation of an 18 metre by 15 metre area, the removal of top soil and exposure of chalk subsoil as a pony menage was constructed.

A pole barn, 11 metres by 6.5 metres and 4.6 metres high, was also built. A hedge was opened and concrete access constructed on to Dawes Lane.

Land in the Chess Valley was excavated and shaped into a terrace for intensive horticulture.

Enforcement action had already been agreed after Mr Norris constructed a farm road, laid a water main and built sheds, for which the committtee refused approval in November 1990.

Officers at that stage recommended approval of the road, sheds and water main, but refusal of Mr Norris's application to build a polythene clad greenhouse 40 metres by 80 metres.

The committee heard that an application for the site terracing was received, yet that another for stationing of a caravan for storage of food, livestock pharmaceuticals and as tea and lavatory facilities, was held pending receipt of the planning fee.

In his report, head of environmental services Mr Peter Brooker said the earthworks were detrimental to the Green Belt and Area of Natural Beauty.

He said the presumption was the committee would have refused the application and that restoration of the land should take place.

The pole barn was a piecemeal development, would have been refused for similar reasons, and should be demolished, he suggested.

As its construction was incomplete, a stop notice could be served.

Chief planning officer Mr Roger Pells said while an enforcement notice could be issued, and a stop notice at the same time, Mr Norris could submit a planning application to regularise the situation. If refused, he could appeal. He could also appeal against the enforcement notice.

Mr Pells said were Mr Norris to flouted the stop notice, the council could apply to the courts for imposition of daily fines and seek an injunction.

Committee chairman Councillor Mrs Ann Shaw attacked the Government over the provisions of the new Planning and Compensation Act, which, she said, was inadequate to deal with a situation echoed all around the district.

The committee agreed to take enforcement action, issue a stop notice and write to MP Mr Richard Page stressing "the inadequacies of legislation".

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

SARRATT

A list of Chalice Assistants, Coffee

Hostesses, Intercessors, Readers and Sidespersons.

Please notify Miss Joyce Newton, KL267291 of any

alterations to this list

IF YOU CANNOT FULFIL A DUTY ON THE ROTA COULD YOU PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A REPLACEMENT.

Thank you for the help which you all
give in sharing these tasks as a part of our worship

David Dredge.
Rector.

April 1991

1000 Parish Communion

Chalice Assistants.

Robin Gain	
Michael Hewlett	KL263803
Joyce Newton	KL267191

ee Hostesses.

Mary Bond	KL263561
Agnes Bonwick	KL265962
Connie Buller	HH 832517
Julia Cheetham	KL269083
Anita Coe	KL260094
Sue Crawt	KL265132
Shirley Downer	KL264040
Toots Downer	KL264670
Mary Finlay	KL267854
Anne Griffiths	KL265386
Sue Harrison	KL266897
Mary Lane	R721125
Heather Lench	
Janet Plummer	KL263123
Dora Richens	KL262734
Rene Sims	KL264165
Barbara Stallworthy	W32123
Jackie Stevens	
Anne Trenchard	CW284779
Daphne Tyler	KL264845

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Mary Bond	KL263561
Edna Gain	
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Michael Hewlett	KL263803
Joyce Newton	KL267291

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Guy	KL267549
hael Hewlett	KL263803
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istopher Staughton	KL262698
Timmins	W53832
e Trenchard	CW284779
Turvill	KL264087
Turvill	"

10.00a.m.

Readers

Prof. Geoff Bond	KL263561
Mr Peter Cumming	KL262920
Mr Dennis Jenks	KL262578
Mr Morton Neal	KL264321
Mr Eddie Rollinson	KL265461
Mr Gerald Tatham	KL263176

Sidespersons

Prof. Geoff Bond	KL263561
Mr Peter Cumming	KL262920
Mr Dennis Jenks	KL262578
Mr Morton Neal	KL264321
Mr Eddie Rollinson	KL265461
Mr Percy Saunders	KL267124
Mr Gerald Tatham	KL263276

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

FRI 8th SAT 9th NOVEMBER

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL 8PM

Doors open 7·15 pm

BAR

RAFFLE

BOOK NOW!



TICKETS from
Mrs D Rollinson
The Old Wheatsheaf
Sarratt. 26 5461 money
with order.

Fri – £10 (Oap's £6) **Sat – £10**

Including Bangers, Mash & Beans supper

Proceeds to the 'Raise the Roof' Campaign, HOLY CROSS

Dogs danger to ducks

KLG 12-9-91

DEFENDER of the Sarratt village ducks, Mr Frank Sims, is distressed because dog owners have not been keeping their pets under control.

He is nursing Snowy, a white duck, who was chased into the pond by a Spaniel four weeks ago and sustained a broken leg.

Said Mr Sims: "I took her to the vet in Rickmansworth where she was treated free of charge and her leg was splinted. I want to return her to the pond soon but I am anxious because a dog has worried a duck with six ducklings — she had seven, but one has disappeared."

In the meantime Snowy is enjoying the temporary pond created by Frank at his garden in Deadmans Ash where she enjoys meals of green barley and bread.

At present the village pond is home to four ducks and eight moorhens and Frank is determined that the numbers don't go down.

Two years ago he was instrumental in having signs put up to warn motorists to go slowly through the village after eight ducks were killed on the road.

Now his ambition is to see another sign requesting dog owners to keep their dogs under control near the pond to reduce the decimation of the village ducks.

He added he wanted dog owners to realise what could happen so quickly if their pets were not under control.

Englishness is tops in America

KLG 26-9-91



Gillian Burrows.

LOCAL arstist Gillian Burrows brought a touch of "Englishness" to America recently when she exhibited her paintings of local Sarratt scenes in California and Texas.

And says Gillian, some of her paintings of the village and the Chess Valley, were snapped up by hungry art lovers, despite the recession which is biting deep in the USA.

The watercolour paintings are still on exhibition at Walnut Creek San Fransisco and at the Pace Gallery at Houston, Texas.

This Christmas will also see one of Gillian's works on mantlepieces around the world, for a greetings card company has published one of her snow scenes of St Paul's in London and she is working on other designs for them.

Gillian, who lives off Sarratt Green, and who hopes to start a home art class for aspiring artists next month, told the Gazette: "The American market has quietened down somewhat. The recession is quite deep in America. Some of my smaller paintings did sell despite that.

"The Americans like the snow scenes of Sarratt and the Chess Valley. They liked the Englishness of it. The scenes represented a very traditional view of England and the countryside, which the Americans liked."

Gillian is inviting aspiring watercolour enthusiasts to unlock their creative self-expression and potential by attending a series of weekly workshops starting next Thursday, October 3, at her Sarratt home.

The course will cover understanding and exploring watercolour techniques, colour, composition and observation of nature in seasonal landscapes.



Covering up for a rainy fair

WDO. 1-10-91

MASKED visitors to Sarratt Primary School's Michaelmas fair on Saturday had their antics curtailed after rain forced all activities indoors.

Pupil Chris Dunn, art teacher Jan Mardling and pupil Carrie Anne-Phillips still managed to scurry around in their colourful disguises.

A display of gymnastics and majorettes took place in the school hall, while stalls and games moved into the classrooms.

Spokesman for the Sarratt Parents' Association, Mrs Julia Cheetham, said the fair was the major fund-raising event of the year.

"It went very well, considering the weather, and I think everyone enjoyed it," she said.

Among the attractions at the fair were a tombola, cream teas, craft stalls, games and a raffle.

Although almost £600 was raised in total at the event, the amount was less than last year's figure. H395609

WDO. 25-10-91

Message of luck to raise the roof

COMEDIAN Roy Hudd has sent his good wishes to the producers of the Old Time Music Hall, being staged at Sarratt village hall on Friday, November 8, and Saturday, November 9.

In a letter to Eddie and Doris Rollinson, Roy Hudd said: "If anything is guaranteed to raise the roof it is an evening of music hall, the only purely British entertainment."

The music hall is part of a series of entertainment being organised in the village by the Friends of Holy Cross, to raise funds for the 'raise the roof' appeal for the church which is in need of urgent repair.

Singing waiters, dimpled waitresses, close harmony singing, sketches and a bangers, mash and beans supper are included in the £10 tickets.

Members of the audience will be dressed in period costume.

The Saturday performance is sold out, but tickets are available for Friday evening at £10, (£6 for pensioners) from Mr Rollinson on 0923-265461.

Roy Hudd will be appearing at Watford Palace Theatre, on Sunday Noveber 11.



WDO 11-10-91

Riders' last chance

A GROUP of horse riders from Sarratt (above) helped raise thousands of pounds for charity when they took part in the Welsh Mounted Games Championships last month.

Lisa Keys, Sinead Conlon, Michelle Tipper, Gemma Haynes and Shirley Spencer, of the Old Berkeley Hunt North Prince Philip Senior team, were invited to the championships in Builth Wells.

The team, who are trained by Mike Keys at Hillmeads Farm in Chipperfield, finished 14th in the competition.

More than 300 ponies and riders took part in the sponsored event, which raised £5,500 for Barnados.

It was the final competition for three members of the Sarratt team — Sinead, Shirley and Gemma — because as they are now 15-years-old they will be too old to compete in next year's team.

Plea for leaders to launch mixed-sex Scout troop

Wat 6-12-91

PIONEERING female Scouts could be going where no girl has ever gone before if a mixed-sex Scout troop is set up in Sarratt.

In a bid to save the only uniformed organisation in Sarratt, Group Scout leader Mr Roy Eteen has suggested making the most of new Scout regulations and setting up a Scout troop made up of girls and boys.

The village's Guide group has been closed for a year and the Scouts will have to shut down in January unless new Scout leaders are found.

Steve Rickard, who has run the Scout troop for the last three years, has to give up running the Monday evening meetings in December.

Mr Eteen said at least one male and one female leader would be needed to run the proposed mixed group, which would cater for girls and boys from ten and a half to 15.

He called for people in Sarratt not to let the village lose its only uniformed organisation and help out as a leader.

"It would be a great pity if the troop closed and our second option could also help the girls to enjoy Scouting as well.

"We could then ensure we have somewhere to go for both the Brownies and the Cubs and could be one of the first Groups in the county to have a mixed troop," he said.

WDO. 13-12-91

Hungry animals wreak havoc in village

GRAVE-ROBBING rabbits and an over-populated duck pond in Sarratt are causing concern among villagers.

In a letter to the parish council, countryside manager Mr Andy Hardstaff warned that the large number of ducks could be damaging the village pond next to The Cricketers public house.

He added that the number of ducks was too high for the pond to sustain.

Mr Hardstaff told the council that although he counted 53 ducks at the pond, he had heard reports of there being as many as 70.

He said the ducks haved caused poor water quality, a boom in algae and a lack of marginal plants in the pond.

If the parish council wanted the pond to remain of conservation interest, the number of ducks should be reduced, he told them.

Parish councillor Mr Ron Cox said he believed the rising duck population was caused by people feeding them.

"If people stopped feeding the ducks they would go away. There were 72 ducks there when I counted them," he said.

The ducks are fed corn by villager Mr Frank Sims, the cost of which is supplemented by the parish council.

Parish Clerk Mrs Barbara Fordyce said a letter would be written to Mr Sims thanking him for all he has done, but adding that they would ask him not to purchase any more after his stock runs out.

"We don't mind the residential ducks, its the visitors we don't want," she said.

Rabbits are proving an altogether different problem for parishioners at Holy Cross Church.

They claim the rodents are eating flowers put beside graves in the churchyard.

Mrs Beryl Biggerstaff, whose father-in-law is buried in the churchyard, wants to see a fence put up around the graves to protect the flowers.

"We put flowers on the graves but they are gone the next day," she said.

"People started putting silk ones on because of the weather, but the Parson asked for no artificial flowers by the graves.

"You feel as if you are neglecting the graves if you do not put flowers on them."

Mrs Biggerstaff said if nothing is done about it she would start up a petition.

Vintage tribute to a motor mogul

Bucks. Exam, 15-11-91



Vintage car enthusiast Philip Buller with his prized Austin 7 at the Red Lion in Little Missenden. Picture by Avril Proctor.

THE romance of motoring in a bygone age rolled into Little Missenden on Sunday to commemorate the 125th anniversary of one of the village's most famous sons, *writes Frankie Theobalds*.

There wasn't a boy racer in sight as 20 vintage Austin cars turned up at the Red Lion pub to mark the birthday of Herbert Austin, founder of the car company, who was born in Mill Lane.

The resplendent vehicles, the pride of their owners' eyes, came from as far afield as Oxford and Surrey to help mark the occasion and even made a pilgrimage to the church where he was christened.

Enthusiast Philip Buller, from ~~Hemel Hempstead,~~ who arranged the rally with the Rev Jonathon White, another Austin owner, said: "I have been interested in Austins for 30 years.

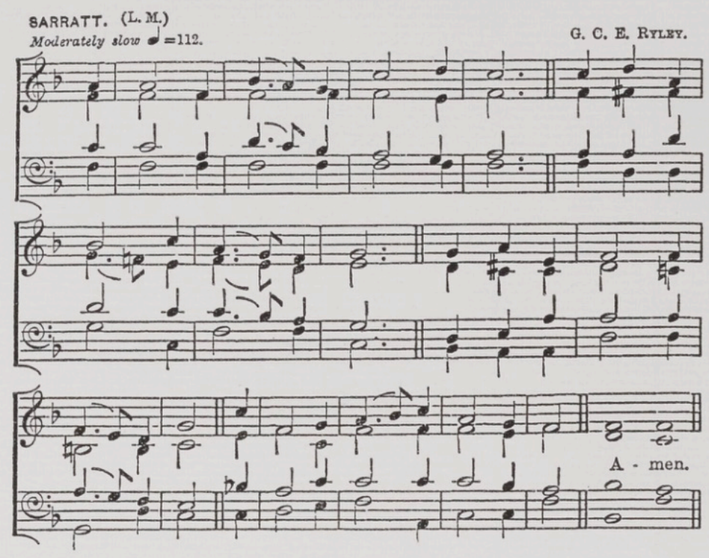
"We thought it would be nice to mark the birthday of a man who made such a big contribution to British car manufacturing.

"I think that Austins are popular because they are relatively easy to get hold of and parts are cheaper than most other vintage models."

PHILIP BULLER, LITTLE BRAGMANS, BELSIZE

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1991
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	1st / 12.0	16th /-6.0	16th /-8.2	1st / 17.0	84.4	
February	25th / 14.0	9th /-11.0	9th /-15.8	27th / 25.8	60.5	max snow depth;8,9 &13th, 9cms.
March	13th / 18.5	30th /-5.0	30th /-8.5	5th / 10.3	43.2	
April	12th / 20.0	6th /-1.5	6th /-5.6	29th / 31.7	70.5	heard 1st cuckoo, 27th.
May	21st / 23.0	9th /-0.5	9th /-6.5	3rd / 6.4	14.3	last air frost, 9th.
June	30th / 21.0	5th / 2.0	5th /-3.0	23rd / 17.1	109.7	last ground frost, 5th.
July	11th / 27.0	17th / 7.5	17th / 3.2	30th / 36.0	106.0	14th July - 5th Sept, 54 consecutive
August	26th / 27.5	19th / 6.5	19th / 4.0	23rd / 8.5	15.2	days with temp 20C or greater.
September	1st / 26.5	19,20,28/ 4.0	20th / 0.9	26th / 25.7	64.1	
October	10,11/19.0	20-23/ 1.0	20,21/-4.0	29th / 13.1	45.1	1st ground frost, 4th.
November	1st / 9.7	21st /-2.5	21st / -6.2	18th / 15.7	67.9	1st air frost, 6th.
December	22nd /13.5	12th /-9.0	12th /-13.1	17th / 6.2	17.2	Driest Dec, 1981-2013



0.515

HOLY CROSS

Tune: Sarratt (English Hymnal 34)

1. Our unknown ancestors we bless
   Who brought the Word along the Chess,
   And climbed our hill, and looked around,
   And traced the cross on Sarratt ground.

2. Eight hundred years the cross has stood
   Outlined in plaster, flint and wood:
   A building shaped to bring to mind
   The Death that ransomed humankind.

3. And through its doors our people filed,
   Grandfather, father, mother, child;
   And round its walls their bones were laid
   As in the holy cross's shade.

4. And by that cross upon the hill
   Spreading abroad its influence still,
   Though trees may mask it, houses hide,
   Our weekday world is sanctified.

5. O Christ, the Lord that is and was,
   Imprint us with the Holy Cross,
   That those for whom the Word is new
   May look on us, and turn to you.

(c) 1990 Michael Hewlett

* In the late 12th Century, Holy Cross Church was a cruciform building.

1992

SARRATT BAPTIST CHURCH

The Green Sarratt Rickmansworth Herts WD3 6BJ

12 May 1992

Please reply to;
Phillip Sansom
25 New Road
Croxley Green
Herts
WD3 3EJ

Tel: 0923 773635

Dear Friends,

Geoff & Betty Speed - 10:30 - 24th May 1992

After living here for about 25 years, during most of which time Geoff was the village constable, Geoff and Betty will be leaving Sarratt.

They have always been faithful members of the Baptist church and also supported many other village activities.

Their last Sunday in Sarratt will be on 24th May and I am inviting past members and friends to join us for the service at 10:30am and for light refreshments afterwards. We, and I am sure they, would be delighted if you could be amongst those who come to bid them God's blessing as they move to Norfolk.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Sansom
Church Secretary

Obituary

Mrs Elspeth Smith

W.O. 7-2-92

FORMER Sarratt resident Mrs Elspeth Smith, who died recently at Axminster in Devon aged 84, was brought back to be buried at Holy Cross Church last week.

Mrs Smith left the village six years ago following the death of her husband Jim, but she made yearly return visits to the village she had loved, staying with the Rev Michael Hewlett and his wife Jennifer.

Mrs Hewlett said last week: "The fact that she was brought back to be buried in Sarratt Churchyard made us feel that she had come home. She had particularly enjoyed Holy Cross Church's 800 years' anniversary celebrations in 1990 and joined in dressed as a medieval lady."

Mrs Pat Petts, a lifelong friend and neighbour, said: "With Elspeth's passing Sarratt village community has lost a much respected person who was a loved member of many village organisations. She was always smiling and pleasant. For more than 40 years she was a familiar sight on her bicycle. Her memberships read like a catalogue of local activities."

A member of Holy Cross Church, Mrs Smith was actively involved as a member of the church choir and the Mother's Union.

She was a WI committee member for many years and became president for one year.

Mrs Smith was also a member of Sarratt Horticultural Society committee, and the Sarratt Village Hall committee, helping to run the popular monthly hall sales. She also found the time to be a lunchtime helper at Sarratt JMI School.

Last week Holy Cross Church was full of her friends and neighbours who heard former Sarratt rector, the Rev Jack Tomlinson, pay tribute to Mrs Smith's wide involvement both in church and village affairs.

"She has left a great hole which will be difficult to fill," he said in his address.

The lesson was read by Mrs Smith's godson, a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral. The church choir sang a special anthem and the Rev David Dredge, Rector of Holy Cross Church, conducted the service.

Mrs Anita Coe

WO 7-1-92

MOURNERS packed into Holy Cross Church in Sarratt on Monday to pay their last respects to mother of two Mrs Anita Coe, who was found dead at her home in the village in November.

After the service, conducted by the Rev David Dredge, a cremation was held at West Herts Crematorium in Garston.

A former pupil of Sarratt School, 36-year-old Mrs Coe, who lived in Deadman's Ash Lane, was secretary of the school's Parent Teacher Association and helped organise many fund-raising events.

She single-handedly relaunched and ran the village 200 Club, aimed at raising funds for the school and the local playing fields through a lucky draw.

Mrs Coe was a member of the Village Day Committee, playing an important part in establishing it as an annual event.

Residents and friends in Sarratt are considering setting up a memorial fund in Mrs Coe's name.

Painting will be memorial

WO 7-1-92

A FUND has been set up by Sarratt School to commission a painting in memory of former headmaster Ken Green.

Mr Green was headmaster of the primary school for 20 years, from 1955 to 1975.

He died last year in Australia, where he had gone to live with his daughter.

Mr Chris Alexander, who replaced Mr Green as headmaster, said the school aimed to commission a painting of the old school building to be hung in the school in memory of Mr Green.

He said : "Mr Green was not only involved with the school, he worked very hard for the village."

Former pupils or staff who want to donate to the fund should contact the school on Watford 262003.

Appeal launched

AN APPEAL has been launched to help the two young children of Mrs Anita Coe, who was killed at her Sarratt home last year.

Friends of Mrs Coe, an active member of the Sarratt community, have decided something should be done for Barry and Debbie Coe.

Donations will be forwarded, as soon as possible, to assist with the immediate financial cost of re-settlement and maintenance of the children.

Donations will be welcomed by Mrs Daphne Tyler (0923-264845), Mrs Julia Cheetham (0923-269083) and Mrs Gail Compton (0923-266545), or they can be sent to Sarratt JMI School, where the children were pupils, or to Sarratt Rectory. WO 14-2-92

WO 21-2-92

Villagers at odds over their day

A SCALED-DOWN village day will be held in Sarratt this year, after villagers reached stalemate over whether or not the occasion should become a biennial event.

Eighteen village representatives met last week at King George Pavilion to vote on whether to hold the village day on alternate years.

There were nine votes either way.

Many people said it would be better to hold the event once every two years because it was usually the same people putting in all the work.

Sarratt WI representatives said they would like a rest this year.

Mr Bill Fenning, of the Friendship Club, felt it would be just as successful if village day was held on alternate years.

Treasurer Roger Atkins said a break would keep enthusiasm going and encourage new blood.

After reaching stalemate, village day committee chairman Mr Mal Biggerstaff saved the day by proposing this year there could be an alternative.

As a result, the group agreed to hold a scaled-down event on May 23.

There will not be any children's races or a fancy dress parade.

But the Chiltern Traction Engine Club will be invited to take part, and craft, charity and market stalls will be welcomed.

The tug-of-war and wheelbarrow races will continue, and there may also be Morris dancers, a brass band and a pig roast.

Village bobby leaves Sarratt

VILLAGE bobby Geoff Speed has got a view of Sarratt — his beat for 21 years — in his new home in Croxley Green.

The view from steep North Hill where PC Speed used to push his bike daily until he retired last week was painted by local artist Mrs Agnes Bantock and presented to Mr and Mrs Speed along with a cheque for £530 on Saturday.

The money was collected and presented by one of the oldest villagers, Mr Percy Saunders.

More than 50 well-wishers gathered at Sarratt Baptist Church hall for the official farewell.

Both the village Rector, the Rev. Jack Tomlinson, and Baptist Minister, the Rev. Walter Mackie, paid tribute to PC Speed as a friend as well as keeper of the peace.

Mr Mackie also spoke of a man set for rapid promotion within the police force who chose to remain a village bobby to help his wife care for a very handicapped young son.

This week Mr Speed started his new job as buyer for Cassio College Food Industry Department — still on a bike!

After handing in his official police bike, Mr Speed resurrected an old one to help him keep fit on the new job.

The police were due to interview potential successors for the job as Sarratt village bobby this week.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt

Flower Festival

27-29 June 1992



WRAPPING PAPER BOUGHT BY MRS. CONNIE BULLER IN 1990/91/92.
[OF LITTLE DRAGHAM]

Holy Cross Church design

"BRING & BUY"
COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 17 JUNE

10.30 am - 12 noon

Transport from Flag Pole 10.20 am to :-

Moor Lane House

Moor Lane , by kind permission

of Mrs V. Lawrence

BRING & BUY, PLANTS CAKES, RAFFLE

Entrance 50p inc. coffee

Proceeds to Holy Cross Flower Fund - Flower Festival on 27-29 June



P92



SPLAT

presents

Snow White & Some Dwarfs

in

Sarratt Village Hall

on

16th 17th & 18th Jan. 1992

at 7·30 pm

Programme 20p

1992

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1992



Barbed debate on barbed wire obstruction. Woodman's Walk: A sore point for Chenies and Sarratt villagers.

Picture J061430 by JOE SHEEHAN

Villagers stake their claim on ancient woodland path

VILLAGERS from Sarratt and Chenies gathered at a three-day public inquiry last week, to oppose the closure of a footpath.

In 1990 Buckinghamshire County Council made an order stating that the footpath through Mountwood, which runs parallel to the River Chess in the parish of Chenies, should be a public right of way.

A public inquiry was called after the owners of the woodland, the Spearman family of Sarratt and Mr and Mrs David Cottingham of Chenies, formally objected.

Access to the ancient track is now prevented, as the gates at both ends were barricaded with barbed wire by the owners.

The county council made the order because it claimed the public had used the path without being obstructed for more than 20 years.

At last week's inquiry, Lt Col Guy Obbard, the Inspector appointed by the Department of the Environment to determine the status of the footpath, heard evidence from Mr Alan Lambourne, Buckinghamshire County Council's principal rights of way officer.

Residents packed into Sarratt Village Hall on Tuesday morning to hear Mr Lambourne recount the history of the path, known locally as Woodman's Walk.

The saga began in 1932, according to Mr Fred Sturch of Little Chalfont, who regularly walked the disputed path from 1932 until 1978.

He drew the county council's attention to the path by submitting a claim to have it officially marked as a public footpath.

In 1954, when the land was owned by the Duke of Bedford's estate, a public inquiry was held.

The order to make it a public right of way was lost because the county council could not prove 20 years' public useage.

In October 1979, the late Sir Alec Spearman put up two notice boards indicating there was no right of way.

He wrote to Buckinghamshire County Council saying the object of putting up the notices was not to prevent people walking through the wood, but to attempt to prevent it becoming a public right of way.

The notices were almost immediately torn down by prominent Sarratt resident the late Lord Fletcher, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, who wrote to Buckinghamshire County Council informing them of his action.

He wrote: "This is the appropriate, and indeed the only, remedy open to members of the public whose rights are threatened by a notice improperly erected."

Lord Fletcher advised the public that "they have a perfect right to continue to use this path. They should ignore verbal warnings that they are trespassing".

Then Sir Alec Spearman wrote to the county council, again saying that he did not wish the path to become a right of way.

In 1980, Dr A. Emery, chairman of The Chiltern Society's Rights of Way Group, wrote to the Department of the Environment expressing concern that the footpath was not in the county council's 1979 Draft Revised Definitive Map.

Mr Emery wrote: "It is a much-used footpath and forms part of a continuous walk from Rickmansworth along the west side of the River Chess."

He added: "Evidence of public use of this path goes back much longer than the statutory period of 20 years required under the provisions of Section 34 of the Highways Act 1959."

The Department of the Environment was inundated with letters supporting the claim that the path should be included on the definitive map.

Following the death of Sir Alec, ownership passed to Lady Spearman and their five children.

By 1989 Mr Andrew Spearman took full control of the matter and in 1990 wrote to Mr Lambourne at the county council formally objecting "to the creation of a new right of way".

Up until then, the public were still able to walk the footpath unhindered.

In August 1990, the county council made an order under the 1981 act that the path should be a public right of way.

Around the same time, the owners of Mountwood wood sealed off Woodman's Walk to the public.

There is currently barbed wire at both ends of the path preventing walkers from using it.

Mr Lambourne said some people still use the footpath by climbing over the wire.

At the public inquiry, Lt Col Obbard explained that he would hear all supporters and objectors who wished to put their point forward and they were welcome to accompany him on a site visit after the hearing.

Mr Roy Ward, owner of Wards Nurseries in Sarratt, said he was surprised to hear that there was any risk of the pathway through Mountwood being closed as a public right of way.

He said: "I have used this footpath on numerous occasions for the last 57 years. No-one has ever stopped us or prevented us using it."

Representations were also made in favour of the path becoming a public right of way by Chenies Parish Council and Sarratt Women's Institute.

On Friday, more than 40 supporters met the Inspector to visit the site at Mountwood.

Supporters and objectors will now wait to learn the result of the Inspector's report in a few months time.

RIDAY, MAY 22, 1992

Walkers win to keep footpath

By FRANCES LEWIS

JUBILANT villagers from Sarratt and Chenies have won a 14-year battle against local landowners to make Mountwood footpath a public right of way.

The result of the public inquiry, held in January to decide the long-running saga, was announced by the Department of the Environment last week.

The path, known as Woodman's Walk, runs for nearly a mile through Mountwood, starting at Holloway Lane in the Parish of Chenies and running alongside the River Chess towards Chorleywood.

In his report, Inspector Lt Col Guy Obbard, said: "The public have enjoyed the use of this path as of right for a full period in excess of 20 years prior to 1978 and, therefore, under the provisions of Section 31 of the Highways Act 1980 the path can be deemed to have been dedicated as a highway."

The public inquiry result means the order, made by Buckinghamshire County Council in 1990 stating that the footpath should be a public right of way, is confirmed.

January's inquiry was called after the owners of the woodland, the Spearman family of Sarratt and Mr and Mrs David Cottingham of Chenies, formally objected to the county council's order.

Mr Fred Sturch, 81, of Little Chalfont, who initiated the campaign to re-open the path in 1978 and had used the path for about 50 years, said he expected to win.

"The owners failed to publicly let it be known that it was not a public right of way and the Inspector accepted this," said Mr Sturch, an area secretary of the Rights of Way group responsible for maintaining and way-marking in the Three Rivers district for 15 years.

Mr Sturch drew the county council's attention to the path by submitting a claim to have it officially marked as a public footpath in 1978.

He was helped in his campaign by prominent Sarratt resident the late Lord Fletcher, former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons.

Lord Fletcher tore down notices, put up in 1979 by the late Sir Alec Spearman, indicating there was no right of way.

After the death of Sir Alec, his son Andrew took full control of the matter and in 1990 wrote to the county council formally objecting to the creation of a new right of way.

Around this time, the landowners sealed off the path to the public.

Mrs Dawn Pitts, president of Sarratt Women's Institute, one of the groups represented at the public inquiry, said it was good to have the matter settled at last.

"It's lovely to have this walk which will enable people to walk the circular route of the Chess Valley. It is a very beautiful wood," she said.

Members of the public are now free to use the path.

However, Mrs Pitts warned walkers to keep to the path and not stray elsewhere in the wood, to preserve the wildlife and respect the owners of the land.



Sarratt Women who stepped in to keep Mountwood footpath open. J211429

Couple's bid for peace fails again

W.O 17/1/92.

By FRANCES LEWIS

AFTER eight years of disturbed sleep a couple from Sarratt are determined to fight on to rebuild their home away from the noise of heavy lorries.

Planning permission for a chalet bungalow, to be built on a half-acre plot at the back of Charles and Susan Bennett's garden, was turned down by members of Three Rivers Council's Planning Committee last week.

The couple are desperate to build and move into the bungalow, away from the noise of heavy lorries on the private road just feet away from their bedroom.

Mr Bennett said they lived peacefully in their Church Lane house for 19 years until heavy lorries started using the lane, adjacent to their house, in 1982 to get to Adam's Nurseries.

He said lorries now use the road day and night.

"The traffic disturbance, including continental juggernauts, is at all times of the day and night, and has intensified during the past eight years.

"Our bedroom and our two main living rooms are just 12ft from the road. It means we are aware of every vehicle using the road. And it's not just the noise that is disturbing, it's also the vibrations."

Mr Bennett said he and his wife have so far had 1,037 disturbed nights' sleep.

"It has caused us considerable stress. We feel very aggrieved and find it difficult not to be bitter," he said.

Their latest planning application was the couple's third, for a bungalow on the former builder's yard site at the end of their garden. It had the support of neighbours because the land is screened by trees and hedges.

But the plan was turned down because the site is in the Green Belt, the development would detract from the character of the Conservation area in which it is located, and would be badly sited in relation to the existing houses.

In 1989 the couple appealed against the refusal of planning permission, but the appeal was rejected by the Department of the Environment on Green Belt grounds.

Mr Bennett, a registered osteopath, said he treats 233 patients in Sarratt and 33 in Church Lane, carries out emergency cover and makes home visits to acute patients in pain and patients without transport.

"We have a special case for living in Sarratt and therefore our application is valid under the conditions of the district plan," he said.

He added: "We are in the core of the village, it's infilling because there is a house beyond us, and it's not reducing open land."

Mr Bennett said that after last week's meeting he was very puzzled by the attitude of some of the planning committee.

"We feel that we are being made a scapegoat in this affair and the whole proceedings seemed neither fair nor democratic.

"We have been made to feel that we are predatory speculators when all we want is to live in peace and quiet. We will pursue this. I don't give in when there's injustice," said Mr Bennett.

Sarratt Councillor Tim Prizeman said the planning application should not have been rejected for the reasons it was.

"Why didn't the report consider policy 101 of the district plan that allows in certain circumstances development in the core of Sarratt and Bedmond villages. It is a policy that is open to interpretation, but it should have been considered," he said.

Sarratt Parish Council opposed the application because councillors considered it would set a precedent.

Sarratt Councillor Peter Cumming said he understood the parish council's point of view but felt this was a special case.

He said that as an oestopath Mr Bennett provided a valuable service to the rural community of Sarratt and this could be considered an exception within the Green Belt policy.

Residents fail to stop homes plan

By RICHARD ARQUATI

PLANS to build eight low-cost houses on Green Belt land in Sarratt were given the go ahead on Thursday, despite strong opposition from residents.

Members of Three Rivers District Council's Planning Committee approved the application submitted by English Villages Housing Association to build the homes in Church Lane.

Councillor Mrs Ann Shaw supported the association's application, saying villages and rural communities needed affordable housing.

"This committee has accepted the principle and I do not think there are any planning grounds for refusing the application," she said.

The decision was slammed by residents in the village who claimed the Planning Committee paid scant attention to their 225-strong petition, presented to committee chairman Councillor Roy Clements last Monday.

Church Lane Residents' Group member Mr Ian McClelland said the points raised on the petition were never discussed at the meeting.

"One of our members has written to the council chairman complaining about the way it was steamrollered through and I have written to the Department of the Environment," he said.

Another letter has been written to South West Hertfordshire MP Mr Richard Page.

The residents' group is also looking at the possibility of getting the Local Government Ombudsman involved.

Councillor Mrs Shaw launched an attacked this week on Mr Page, claiming he first welcomed news low-cost homes would be built in Sarratt and then cast doubt on the project.

She said: "No wonder people have a low opinion of politicians when it is apparently regarded as appropriate to try and secure votes by welcoming a project in April, but casting doubt on the whole principle of the housing development and criticising the council for processing it in September."

Mr Page said he had welcomed the news earlier this year housing credits would be released for low-cost housing in the village.

On September 5, however, Sarratt residents visited him at his surgery and made a number of complaints about the application.

They expressed fears it was being "bounced" through.

Mr Page said he responded by writing a letter to the council's chief executive Mr Alastair Robertson, drawing to his attention their concerns.

"This is part of the role of a Member of Parliament, something which Councillor Mrs Shaw does not understand," he said.

"My position is quite clear. I welcome low-cost housing, but was asking questions on behalf of constituents and on behalf of myself on precedence to be sure it would not put unnecessary development pressures on Sarratt."

Work on the eight two-bedroomed homes on grassland between The Old School and the doctor's surgery is expected to begin soon.

The Department of the Environment agreed funding approval for the scheme, to be completed by April 1993.

When finished, six of the homes will be rented and two made available for shared equity sale for local families on low incomes.

● Planning applications also granted permission by Three Rivers District Council's Planning Committee on Thursday, subject to conditions, were:

Demolition of farm buildings and the conversion of a barn to a house, with new garage and parking area, at Newhall Farm, off Deadmans Ash Lane, Sarratt, for Mr and Mrs Nichols.

Change of use from warehouse and auxiliary offices to repair and servicing of goods vehicles and auxiliary offices at the rear of Railway Terrace, Kings Langley, for E.J. Masters and Sons Limited.

Single storey side extension to create a self-contained granny annex at Woodlands Road, Maple Cross, for Mr and Mrs Cole.

Change of use to garden on land behind 63 The Crescent, Abbots Langley, for M. Halford.

Single storey and first floor extension at 5 Upper Tail, Carpenders Park, for Mr and Mrs Grindell.

Retention of new shop front, refurbishment of store and retention of single storey rear extension at 54-60 High Street, Rickmansworth, for Iceland Frozen Foods.

3 April 1992

llage to get six low-cost homes

By RICHARD ARQUATI

PEOPLE connected with Sarratt look set to get first refusal to rent six new homes about to be built in the village.

Land owned by Three Rivers District Council at the back of Sarratt village hall is to be used as the site for the homes, which are due for completion by April 1993.

The idea to build low-cost rented accommodation followed a village appraisal by the parish council in 1990.

Hundreds of villagers responded to the appraisal and it became apparent there was a probable need for low-cost housing for young people to rent in the village.

A housing survey was subsequently carried out by the parish council confirmed this need.

It is also understood there were fears the future of Sarratt JMI School could be threatened if young families with children were not attracted to the area.

As a result, the parish council discussed with the Rural Housing Trust and Three Rivers District Council the possibility of affordable housing in the centre of the village.

The trust and the Aldwyck Housing Association applied to the Government for credit approval, which has now been received.

The credit approval enables the district council to release £202,641, which it would otherwise be unable to spend on housing, to finance the scheme.

Once the homes are built they will be handed over to the housing association for management.

The next stage is for a planning application to be submitted to the district council, with a request for a section 106 Agreement giving certain people priority.

First priority will be given to people who have a local connection with Sarratt and, secondly, if they have a connection with nearby parishes.

If the homes are still not filled, people from anywhere in Three Rivers district would be entitled to apply to rent the homes.

Despite the parish council's involvement in starting the scheme, members claim they would not be determining who is ultimately successful in obtaining the low-cost housing.

Chairman of the parish council, Mr John Gell, said: "The whole idea of doing this was so that people who left Sarratt because they could not afford to live here would be able to come back."

Housing officer for the Rural Housing Trust, Mrs Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, said the Government's approval of the scheme was a coup for the parish council.

She said: "Last year the Government released £50 million nationwide for small rural rented schemes and this year the figure is £30 million.

"Three Rivers is fortunate in that it is mainly an urban area and there are therefore not many places which qualify for the supplementary credit approval. Only settlements of under 3,000 population qualify."

Mr Gell said people in Sarratt would welcome news about the new homes.

"We hope the result is that young families will move into the village," he said.

Community mourns shop owner's death

March 1992

THE community of Sarratt is grieving over the death of one of its most popular village characters.

Mrs Andrea Margaret Atkins, of The Green, Sarratt, died on Tuesday after suffering a massive brain haemorrhage the previous week. She was 49-years-old.

Mrs Atkins owned and managed the hardware and clothing shop, Meg's, for the last ten years and was a well-known character to villagers.

"Her shop on The Green was a social gathering place," said neighbour the Reverend Michael Hewlett.

"Everybody dropped in to have a chat and meet up in Meg's. Mrs Atkins was very much a focal point for the community.

"The village has been badly hit by her death. Not just because of the suddeness of it, but because she died at no age at all.

"We heard that she had been rushed to hospital and then into London to see specialists.

"Her condition was very serious and she was put on a life support machine, but even then she did not survive.

"She was a very lively and determined person and I know the village will miss her," said Mr Hewlett.

Mrs Atkins was taken ill on Friday night and rushed to Watford General Hospital.

She was transferred to The National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London, where she died on Tuesday.

Mrs Atkins leaves a husband, Roger, and two sons Desmond and Dale.

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, March 11, at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, at 2.30pm.

Only family flowers are requested, but if desired donations can be sent to The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, c/o James Peddle Limited, 65 High Street, Rickmansworth.

Parish conflict ends as clerk drops bombshell

W.O. 15-5-1992

STORM clouds that have slowly been gathering over Sarratt for some months finally struck on Monday.

It left the parish council one member short and without a clerk.

Regular visitors to its meetings would be forgiven for thinking there was no love lost between the council's clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, and parish councillor Mrs Valerie Cumming.

Monthly meetings have, for a time, been punctuated with acrimony, and it was not rare for bad feeling to permeate the air.

With the decision to appoint Mrs Cumming as this year's chairman, Mrs Fordyce obviously saw this as the signal to leave.

"Enough was enough," she said after the meeting.

The factors leading up to her decision to resign as clerk after 25 years were two-fold.

These were the apointment of Mrs Cumming and the refusal of her husband, Three Rivers District Councillor Peter Cumming, to apologise after making what Mrs Fordyce described as "inaccurate statements" about her professional conduct.

This dispute arose after a public discussion earlier this year over whether Sarratt's common ranger, Mr David Baker, was insured to lop and fell trees.

In a letter to the then chairman, Mr John Gell, district Councillor Peter Cumming expressed his unhappiness about the discussion taking place in public and made remarks the clerk felt could be libellous.

Tendering her resignation on Monday, Mrs Fordyce said: "In view of the election of Mrs Cumming to the chairmanship of Sarratt Parish Council, and the continuing refusal of district Councillor Peter Cumming to apologise, I confirm my decision to terminate my employment on July 12."

"My good name and experience has been called into question," she told the meeting.

Parish Councillor Mr Ron Cox, clearly disappointed by the clerk's decision to resign, said: "If we had all worked together, this would not have happened."

He said the atmosphere at meetings had been very bad during the past few years and that people in the village were laughing at the parish council.

He called for an end to the "backbiting" that has prevailed at many past meetings.

There was nothing left for the parish council to do except reluctantly accept Mrs Fordyce's resignation.

Tributes to Mrs Fordyce were quick in coming.

Mrs Jenny Dimond-Hewlett said the clerk had, "a unique local knowledge", and Mr John Gell said it would be difficult to replace her.

Mrs Cumming described the announcement as "a bombshell".

The problem of how to replace Mrs Fordyce is an immediate one.

Resolving the underlying question of why almost everyone on the parish council knew of Mrs Fordyce's resignation prior to the meeting, except possibly Mrs Cumming and the new vice-chairman Mr Charles Wood, will have to wait.

● Sarratt parish councillor Mr Ken McArdle resigned with immediate effect on Monday after serving for only one year.

He said pressure of work had led to his decision to stand down.

EDITORIAL: RICHARD ARQUATI 8th May 1992 W.O

Great Westwood is a real treasure

ONE of the most outstanding properties in South West Hertfordshire has been relaunched by estate agents Faulkners this week, 18 months after it first appeared on the property market.

The house, which is listed Grade II for its architectural and historic interest, was renowned for its shooting parties with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor being among its regular visitors.

It is approached via a long gravelled driveway, and is part of a former 1,500 acre estate believed to date back to the 15th century.

Accommodation in the main house includes a reception hall (17ft by 17ft), drawing room (38ft by 16ft), sitting room (17ft by 11ft), Dining room (26ft by 21ft), library (35ft by 25ft), a loggia (20ft by 11ft), cellar, gun room (16ft by 15ft), butler's pantry (18ft by 14ft), kitchen (19ft by 18ft), flower room (13ft by 13ft), laundry room (18ft by 12ft) and a playroom (17ft by 13ft).

The master suite comprises a bedroom (37ft by 16ft), with dressing area and bathroom. The guest suite includes a bedroom (18ft by 18ft) and a bath/dressing room.

Housed in the Windsor Suite is bedroom three (17ft by 12ft), bedroom four (18ft by 16ft), both with accompanying bathrooms.

On the second floor is located bedroom five (16ft by 16ft) with en suite bathroom, bedroom six (16ft by 8ft), bedroom seven (16ft by 15ft), bedroom eight (18ft by 12ft) with en suite bathroom and a further bathroom.

A baize door leads to the secondary bedroom accommodation comprising bedroom nine (18ft by 10ft), bedroom ten (11ft by 10ft), bedroom 11 (12ft by 10ft) and a bathroom.

A staff flat is approached from the laundry room and consists of a sitting room (14ft by 12ft), a kitchenette, bathroom, and bedroom (17ft by 13ft).

The gardens are landscaped and lie principally to the south and west. A York stone paved terrace and path leads to lawns, part wall and hedge enclosed.

Beyond is a grass avenue of chestnut trees and a further area of lawn, studded with a variety of trees including laburnum, weeping cherry and rhododendrons leading to an all-weather tennis court.

A kitchen garden lies on the eastern side of the main driveway enclosed by brick walls clad in pear and fig trees. There are also three greenhouses, two peach houses and a timber and corrugated iron potting shed.

To the north, west and east of the house are two level pasture fields extending to about 40 acres forming a park-like setting.

Also situated in the grounds of the house is the Great Westwood Cottage.

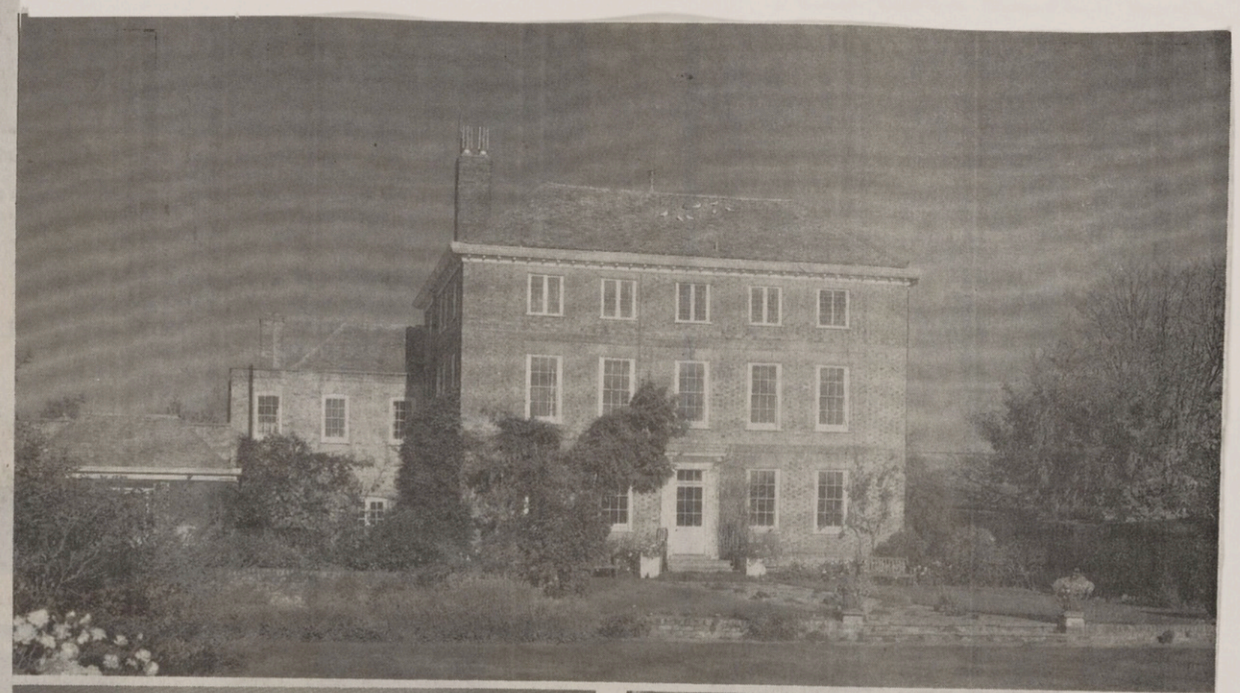
This was converted from a former barn about five years ago and the accommodation is arranged on two floors embracing an entrance hall, sitting room (24ft by 13ft), dining room (13ft by 10ft), a kitchen (16ft by 15ft) and a cloakroom (11ft by 8ft).

Located on the first floor is bedroom one (19ft by 16ft), a bathroom, bedroom two (12ft by 12ft) with en suite bathroom.

At the entrance to the main driveway is a brick lodge comprising an entrance hall, sitting room (23ft by 10ft), kitchen (10ft by 6ft), bathroom, bedroom one (10ft by 9ft) and bedroom two (12ft by 12ft).

Outbuildings include a Listed 18th century barn (60ft by 25ft), a swimming pool (53ft by 22ft), a double garage, a timber and tile barn (70ft by 25ft), a former cow house, dairy and kennels.

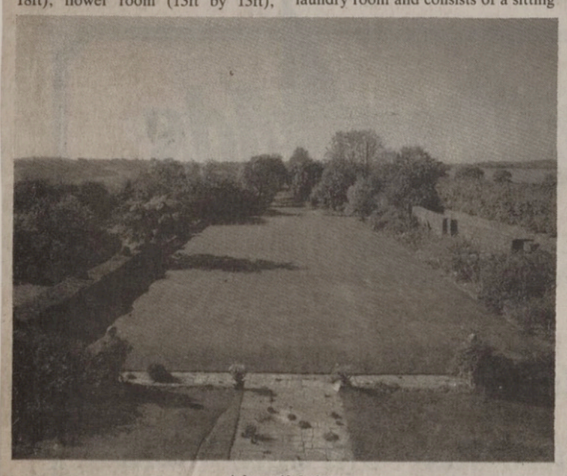
Further information about Great Westwood can be obtained from Faulkners Estate Agents inHigh Street, Kings Langley, or telephone them on Watford 268166.



A superb dining room



The magnificent drawing room.



A beautiful vista.



Celebration on Sarratt Green

Photograph by Mrs P. White, Sarratt W.I.

W.O 12-4-92

Parish gets grilling over accounts

DUCKS, parking, speeding cars and access to information were among the issues discussed at the annual meeting of Sarratt Parish Council on Monday.

Despite the bad weather, up to 60 people attended the meeting in the village hall to question members of the parish council.

Having listened to reports from parish council chairman, Mr John Gell, and the chairman of the finance committee, Mr Ken McArdle, the villagers were critical that the council's unaudited accounts had not been made available to them.

They asked how they were expected to question the council on financial matters without being given copies of the accounts.

Members of the parish council gave a number of reasons why they had not been provided, the least convincing being because of the prohibitive cost of reproduction.

One member of the public offered to pay the £4.50 he believed it would cost to provide copies.

It was up to the parish clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, to reiterate that while the parish council was not obliged by law to provide copies of the accounts, they were available for public inspection.

Despite this and after further pressing by the public, members of the parish council conceded that with hindsight more copies should have been provided.

By comparison, questions such as the "deplorable" state of a road sign at the bottom of Deadman's Ash Lane and the timetable for future work by Mr Andy Hardstaff and Mr Jonathan Iles of the Countryside Management Service, were easy pickings for the council.

Mr Gell told the meeting that the sign were being repaired, while Three Rivers District Councillor Peter Cumming said a walk on Dawes Common had been organised by Mr Hardstaff and Mr Iles for Sunday at 10am to look at areas which needed attention.

Both the parish council and members of the public were united in condemning drivers who used the car park in King George V Way as a "skid-pan".

Parish councillors were asked to look into the possibility of locking the gate to the car park at night to deter the practice.

Finally, one member of the public asked parish councillors if a fence could be put around Sarratt pond to prevent foxes from attacking ducks.

He said he was nursing one duck who lost a leg two weeks ago and another had been killed on Friday.

Although members of the parish council did not wholeheartedly support the suggestion, they said they would look into it.

W.O. 29-5-1992

Not just engines steam on Green

By RICHARD ARQUATI

WHILE villagers in Croxley Green had to contend with 13 gipsy caravans on The Green last weekend, people in Sarratt enjoyed a rather more welcome invasion.

Taking the place of the popular Sarratt Village Day on Saturday was an event called Steam on the Green.

It involved a remarkable array of steam engines, stationary engines, tractors, vans and cars of yesteryear congregating on The Green.

There was plenty to look at and enjoy, including rides on a miniature steam engine, displays of working engines, a 28-year-old Austin Healey 3000 MkIII and a much older Morgan Aero (1929).

Other attractions included a bouncy castle for the children, bric-a-brac stalls manned by charities such as the British Red Cross Society and Cancer Research Campaign and a tug-o-war competition.

For the third year running, The Artichoke public house in Croxley Green pulled all opposition before them to win the competition, this year against teams from The Boot public house, The Chiltern Traction Engine Club and Dale's Banger Boys.

Visitors to The Green were also entertained with a performance by members of the Potters Bar Town Band.

Regardless of the event, however, the beautiful weather showed the village of Sarratt at its best and for many it was a joy just to sit out and watch.

There was the bustling village pub, the elderly people seeking shade under the trees and children dragging parents to the nearest ice-cream dispenser.

But for the helicopter circling above and a few other distractions, Steam on the Green provided something of a time warp, with it being difficult to imagine life having changed much in the village for many years.

Organiser Mr Mal Biggerstaff said the event was very successful and raised about £1,000 towards local charities and the village hall.

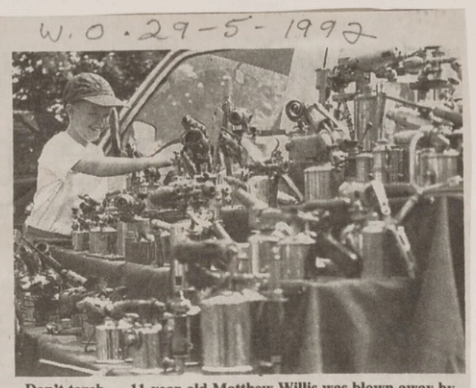
He said he hoped the village day and Steam on the Green events would run on alternate years to allow those arranging village day to take a well-earned breather.

□ Licensee of The Boot, Mr Alan Grant, was presented with a water-colour of the pub on Saturday by villagers in Sarratt.

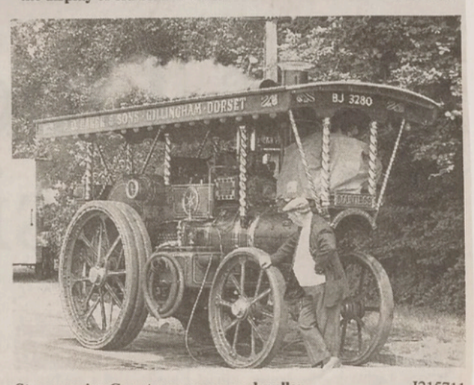
The picture was painted by local artist Mr Norman Truscott.

After 17 years at The Boot, Mr Grant is leaving next month to take over The Old Shepherd in Chorleywood because the brewery is making the former a managed pub.

Mr Grant said the collection by villagers was a total surprise to him.



Don't torch — 11-year-old Matthew Willis was blown away by the display of old blow torches. J215733



Steam engine Countess was a crowd-puller. J215711

1992

Chiltern Society Newsletter 1992

A forgotten *church*

The Chess valley between Chesham and Chenies is a particularly attractive area of the Chilterns. One sunny Saturday afternoon I walked along the footpath which starts off as LT 20 and then becomes FD 10. This path runs east from just north of the bridge over the Chess which lies to the south of Latimer. It will take you to Chenies Bottom along the north bank of the Chess through a wide open valley with woods on the slopes to the north. No doubt there were hedges here in the good old days but now, instead, there are barbed wire fences. Man's cruelty to man is equalled only by his cruelty to the countryside.

But complaining about farmers is not the object of this exercise. After I had walked about a quarter of a mile along this path, I came to a patch of rough woodland lying between the Chess and me. This was the object of my walk, because on the Ordnance Survey map, this little spinney is shown as containing **Church (rems of)**. The same thing is indicated on our Chiltern Society Footpath map Number 5. A little research revealed that the ruins were those of St Mary Magdalene of Flaunden, which now stands on the hill to the north of the Chess but, in the 13th century, stood around where this spinney now stands. The church was built in the middle of the 13th century and served the village until 1838, by which time the village had departed up the hill and built a more convenient church there. The old church was then left to look after itself. There are various records and photographs of it since then and at the beginning of this century it was still quite a substantial ruin. Even after the last war, the walls still stood about five or six feet.

Before taking my walk, I had not realised that it was private land and all I could do was peer through the wire fencing, but I could see nothing of any ruins. I later traced the owner, who kindly gave me permission to enter the spinney. So I came back another day but, at first, I could find nothing at all, except a few small pieces of masonry. The spinney has been left very much to its own devices; there are no paths and plenty of nettles and undergrowth. But, after determined searching, I found some rough mounds which marked what little is left of the church.

Old churches are not infrequently left to fall down and eventually disappear but there are two (at least) rather unusual features about this church. The great majority of old churches, if they were cruciform at all, were in the form of a Latin cross, that is, with one limb, which would be the nave, markedly longer than the other three. But the old Flaunden church was built in the form of a Greek cross, that is, with all the arms equal. There are measured plans of its dimensions, and this form can still be recognised in what little remains of the building. The second unusual feature is its size: both the length and breadth of the church (being equal) are about 36 feet. In addition, there were medieval wall paintings, which usually, by themselves, attract considerable attention.

It is very difficult to discover who is responsible for such ancient monuments. In this particular case, the site lay in the county of Hertfordshire but, in 1991, for reasons best known to those gentlemen who govern our lives and who always know best, a small strip of land along the north bank of the Chess, in which our church lies, was transferred from Herts to Bucks. The Bucks County Museum now holds the records of the site but it was during the guardianship of Herts that the church was listed as a scheduled ancient monument in 1967.

It is my intention, with the help of the HWBG, to restore this church as much as may be possible. At the moment, trees are growing directly out of the foundations and must be removed. As the site is in a Conservation Area, this is not going to be easy, but I have had a lot of encouragement from many sides. Please contact me if you would like to help in the restoration. Otherwise, watch this space.

John Wellsman

1992



Starry-eyed pupils jump to the challenge

BRITAIN'S Olympic athletes are not a patch on these youngsters from Sarratt School (above) who have all won sporting awards.

Thirty four of the primary school pupils have received three star badges and above from the Amateur Athletics Association.

Seven of the pupils were awarded five star badges.

The children were tested in running, high jump, long jump and throwing for the awards, which are based on the child's own individual ability in relation to targets set for different age groups.

Headteacher Mr Chris Alexander said the help of parent Mrs Anne Griffiths, a gymnastics instructor, was one of the main reasons so many children achieved awards.

"The restrictions of the National Curriculum don't give us the time to do things like this in school, they have to be done after school, and the help of Mrs Griffiths has been absolutely invaluable," he said.

Picture J305028 by TREVOR ADAMS.

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1992



Parishioners get patchwork quilt stitched up

FOR the past eight months, parishioners at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, have been in stitches — 250,000 to be exact.

Members of the Friends of Holy Cross Church have been making a patchwork quilt to be raffled next year in aid of a trust fund formed last year by the Friends to care for and preserve the 12th Century village church.

The idea for the quilt came from Lady Staughton and it has been organised by Mrs Barbara Fordyce. Mrs Doris Rollinson organised the patchwork.

It is a mixed fabric quilt with plain and flower patterns featuring a mouse, a dragonfly and several birds.

Measuring 9ft by 7ft, the quilt will be edged with quilted Tudor roses based on a Tudor stud found in Holy Cross churchyard.

Once completed it will be embroidered on the reverse side with the names of all the needlewomen, the date and "Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt" to authenticate its source.

A parchment certificate in hand-lettered script will further authenticate the quilt for the lucky winner.

Picture J452236 by JOE SHEENHAN

AUGUST 1992



Stepping into print

MEMBERS of Sarratt Women's Institute stepped into pastures new this week with the publication of their third booklet of walks around their village.

Mrs Breda Tieran, who devised the ten walks included in the booklet and wrote most of the text, is pictured (above) with fellow members of Sarratt WI on Wednesday.

The group's president Mrs Dawn Pitts said publication of the 36 page booklet, called Further Afield, was a team effort.

Mrs Irene Rogers drew the illustrations and Mrs Pamela White and Mrs Pitts researched the historical and natural history details.

The booklet covers walks in Sarratt and its outskirts, towards Chenies, Kings Langley and Chipperfield.

The first two walks booklets, published by Sarratt WI in 1982 and 1989, were a sell out.

Mrs Pitts she is thrilled to bits to have a third booklet published.

"We are very keen on the local environment and we have a very strong walking group who meet to walk once a month," she said.

Further Afield is on sale at Sarratt's Post Office Stores on The Green, priced £1.

J342017

Adopt a footpath

RESIDENTS of Sarratt have been invited by the parish council to help maintain the village environment by adopting one of the footpaths around the area.

There are 28 miles of footpaths in the parish.

Adopting a footpath would involve light clearing and reporting any serious defects to the parish council such as surface damage, broken gates and stiles and overhanging trees and vegetation.

Anyone interested should contact parish councillor Jenny Dimond-Hewlett on 0923-263803. W.O. 13/11/92

WAT, OBS. 14th AUG 1992



Historic club house



A MAGNIFICENT house near Chipperfield which was used as a Royal Air Force officers' club during World War Two is on the market with estate agents Faulkners for £325,000.

Tudor House, in Commonwood, dates back to the early 1900s with additions continuing to be made up to the 1930s.

Materials from many old houses including panelling from Cassiobury House, located in the main reception room, have been introduced.

Fireplaces of many periods appear in the bedrooms and reception rooms while windows reclaimed from an unknown church give a Gothic theme to the split level landing area.

During the last four years the present owners have refurbished the property. It has been completely rewired and replumbed and a new central heating boiler has been installed.

Ground floor accommodation includes a drawing room (48ft by 19ft), kitchen (22ft by 9ft) and inner hallway.

A large trap door leads to the cellar, which accommodates three antichambers.

An oak staircase rises from the inner hall to a half landing area and returns to the main landing area off which is located bedroom one (24ft by 19ft) with shower, bedroom two (19ft by 17ft) and a bathroom (16ft by 9ft).

A second staircase rises to the second floor on which is situated bedroom three (18ft by 10ft) and bedroom four (24ft by 10ft).

The front of the house is laid with lawns, flower borders and a gravelled driveway. The rear garden is secluded and measures approximately a third of an acre.

For further details about Tudor House visit Faulkners estate agents at 49 High Street, Kings Langley, or telephone 0923-268166.

Open verdict on hanged killer 22/5/92

A MAN who stabbed his wife to death at their home in Sarratt hanged himself because he could not bear the thought of his children and neighbours discovering what he had done.

He was found hanging in a prison cell by his tracksuit bottoms shortly before being due to appear in court to face the charge of murdering his wife, St Pancras Coroners Court heard on Tuesday.

Geoffrey Simon Coe, 36, of Deadman's Ash Lane, had spent four months in Pentonville since being remanded in custody in November.

He had become "agitated and concerned" at having to tell his nine and seven-year-old children what had happened to his wife, Anita, said his brother Robert.

But he believed a visit from his brother's barristers to discuss his forthcoming appearance at the murder trial may have been "the trigger" to his hanging himself.

Coe was found hanging from the top bunk of the beds in his cell by his tracksuit bottoms on the morning of March 6 this year — the morning after he met the two barristers who were to represent him in court.

The jury, by a seven to four majority, recorded an open verdict.

Mr Robert Coe told the inquest his brother "could not come to terms with his own isolation and the fact he had put his children and family into the situation they were in".

Originally, his brother had been told his trial was likely to be at the beginning of May but his solicitor had then told him it may be brought forward to the end of March.

Robert Coe said: "I think this brought home to him the nearness of having to stand up in court and explain what he had done. This could have been the trigger."

He said he thought the prison could have considered moving Geoffrey back to the hospital ward, where he had spent the first two months on remand, because of the obvious stress he was suffering.

Prison officer Tony Heath said he and another officer found Mr Coe hanging from the top bunk of his cell on D-wing at 7.35am on March 5. He was obviously dead, he told the inquest.

Captain Michael Collyer, assistant Chaplain at the prison, said Mr Coe "seemed shocked and concerned" at the way people in Sarratt might react to press reports about evidence at his trial.

Captain Collyer said he believed the precipitating factor in Mr Coe's death may have been the meeting with his counsel, which might have underlined his worst fears.

Doctor Jack Hajioff, senior consultant psychologist, interviewed Mr Coe for a pre-trial medical report three days before his death.

He concluded Mr Coe was fit to stand trial and was not a suicide risk.

But, he added: "Suicide can often be an impulsive act and for a man in his particular situation and what he was facing, anything that reminded him of what he had done and what he might face in the future, could have triggered a suicidal act."

W.O. 19-6-1992

Shock as old clerk goes for parish job

CLERK to Sarratt Parish Council for 25 years, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, who resigned from the post in May, has taken the unusual step of applying for the position she made vacant.

Mrs Fordyce, the most experienced parish council clerk in Three Rivers, confirmed her resignation during the annual meeting of the parish council last month.

Her decision stemmed from a dispute with Three Rivers District Councillor Peter Cumming earlier in the year, which led to accusations of libel.

Over the years there has also been a number of unconcealed clashes between her and Parish Councillor Mrs Val Cumming.

Last month's decision by members of the parish council to elect Mrs Cumming [illegible] appeared to be the straw that

By RICHARD ARQUATI

broke the camel's back.

"Enough was enough," Mrs Fordyce said at the time.

Since announcing her decision, Mrs Fordyce said a number of people have appealed for her to reconsider.

"After taking the decision to resign, I had pressure from several forces in Sarratt whose opinions I respect. I have a duty to them," she said.

"I think a fresh start can be made by putting the past behind us. I would like to continue to use my experience for the benefit of the village."

On Tuesday, however, Mrs Fordyce received a letter from Mrs Cumming which stated: "In view of previous events, it would be inappropriate to reinterview you for the post."

Mrs Cumming refused to discuss individual applicants for the position.

"We have had many applicants for the position and not all those who have applied will be interviewed," she said.

She added the final decision on the appointment of a parish council clerk would be taken by all members of the council.

Parish Councillor Mr Ron Cox said Mrs Fordyce was a good clerk and in some ways it would be good to have her back.

But he feared there would be no end to the rivalry between the chairman and the clerk if Mrs Fordyce was appointed.

He said her application for the position "shook Val rigid".

● A meeting of Sarratt Parish Council will be held in the village hall on Monday at 7.30pm.

W.O. 28-8-1992

Gipsies fall foul of planning law

TRAVELLERS who bought land in Sarratt to build a bungalow and settle down have slammed Three Rivers District Council for refusing to support them.

Peter and Sally Chapman bought a large plot of land at Fir Trees, Dawes Lane, in 1984 and lived in a mobile home on the site.

Four years later the family was refused permission to continue living on the land and was given 15 months to move away.

"We were told that by then a permanent gipsy site would be built in the area where they could move to, but there has been no site made," said Mrs Chapman.

By RICHARD ARQUATI

The family went back on to the road and submitted a planning application in August 1991, which was turned down.

A planning inquiry was held in June at which the appeal was turned down by an Inspector from the Department of the Environment.

The Chapman's cannot understand why permission has been granted for building to take place on land either side of their property, but they have been refused.

"Councils want travellers off the roads and want them to buy their own homes, but they will not support us," said Mrs Chapman.

"We were encouraged to settle down originally, but are now getting no help whatsoever.

"We will do anything to live here. All we want is a bungalow on the land in whatever style the council wishes."

According to the Department of the Environment spokesman, the Chapman family refused an offer of temporary accommodation from the council "while holding out hope of settling on their own land".

"The argument that the family have a special need for accommodation in this area is weakened by their rejection of the offer of assistance from the council and a real prospect of a pitch on a permanent gipsy site later in the year," he said.

Mrs Chapman denied she was offered bed and breakfast accommodation, claiming environmental health officers told her she was better off living in a caravan.

The Inspector added that although he sympathised with the family's desire to live on their land, he could not lightly set aside policies.

The land is in an area classified as a Landscape Conservation Area, is within the Metropolitan Green Belt and close to an area designated as of Outstanding Natural Beauty, he said.

"There is an indication Mr Chapman was misled at the time of purchasing the site into believing that the land could be developed," he said.

Tough new proposals outlined in a Government consultation paper published last week are set to make the lives of travelling families such as the Chapmans' that much more dificult.

The paper proposes removing local authority responsibility for providing gipsy sites, such as the one planned for Langleybury, and enabling councils to confiscate caravans if they are illegally parked.

Vice chairman of Three Rivers District Council's Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs Ann Shaw, said: "If the proposals contained within the Government's consultation paper become law, we shall have many more cases like this.

"It will be impossible for us to reconcile our planning policies and the needs of individual travelling families."

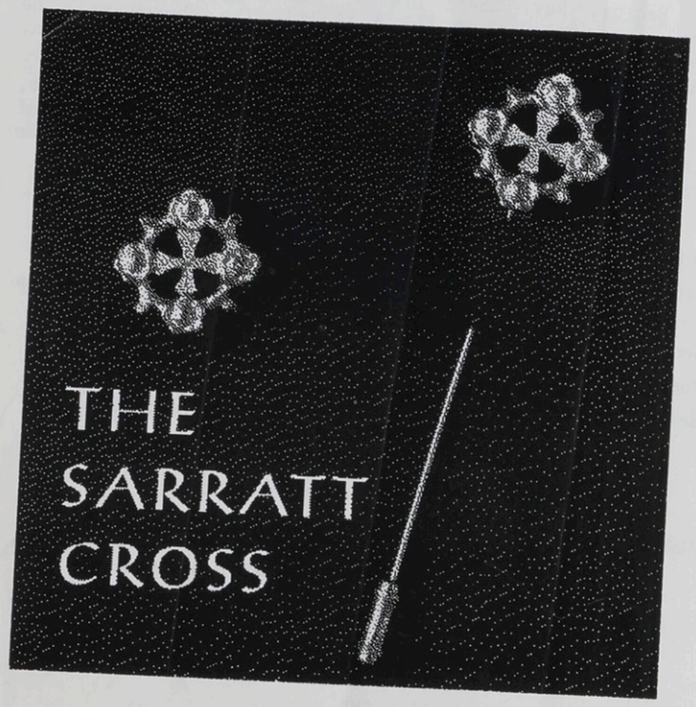
Sarratt Ward Councillor Tim Prizeman said the Inspector was correct in upholding planning policies.

"There is plenty of building land in other parts of the district," he said.

A Three Rivers District Council spokesman said there had been a long history of planning applications and appeals against refusal with regard to Fir Trees.

"Although the council does feel some sympathy for the Chapmans, its policies are quite clear," he said.

AVAILABLE AT THE 1992 FLOWER FESTIVAL



This gilded pewter lapel pin and scarf pin has been specially commissioned by the Friends of Holy Cross Church. It features a cross enclosed by a true replica of the Tudor bronze stud (circa 1520 AD) found in Sarratt Churchyard by the Rector, Edward Ryley, in the 19th century.

The Sarratt Cross lapel pin and scarf pin will be available on the Friends of Holy Cross Stall at the Flower Festival.

Price: £9.95 each





Holy Cross Church Flower Festival

June 27-29 1992



Colours of the Bible

Obituary

Mr Jeremy Clutterbuck

RELATIONS and friends of Mr Jeremy Clutterbuck, of Sarratt, who died in August on the day before his 75th birthday, attended a memorial service at Holy Cross Church in the village last week.

With the death of Mr Clutterbuck, Hertfordshire has lost one of the few remaining members of an illustrious family.

The congregation heard tributes from his widow Jan and Mr Bill Cowan, a lifelong friend of Mr Clutterbuck, both read by Mr Ivor Faulconer.

The lessons were read by Mr Benjamin Meadows Clutterbuck and Mr Jasper Meadows Clutterbuck. The service was conducted by the Rev David Dredge and the Rev Michael Hewlett. Anthems were sung by the choir from St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London.

Among the mourners were Mr and Mrs Hugh Meadows Clutterbuck, Mr and Mrs Jasper Meadows Clutterbuck, Mr and Mrs Timothy Meadows Clutterbuck, Lady Poole, Lady Spearman, Mr Nigel Scott Plummer, Mr and Mrs Rowland Absalom, Mr and Mrs Simon Scott Plummer, Mrs Morton Neal, Mr John Livingstone-Learmouth and Mr Richard Edmonds.

Born in London, Jeremy Rupert Humphrey Clutterbuck, was the son of Captain Thomas Rupert Clutterbuck and one of a family whose name is listed as early as 1591, when a Clotterboke of Kings Langley was mentioned in Berry's Geneologies of Hertfordshire.

The name Clutterbuck is connected with the well known brewers, Clutterbucks of Stanmore, a firm which was sold by Jeremy's father in 1933.

Jeremy Clutterbuck lived at Micklefield Hall near Sarratt, where he farmed 300 acres until he moved in 1970 to Sarratt village with his American wife, Jan, the celebrated water colour artist.

Educated at Harrow and Cambridge he joined the Coldstream Guards and later became a Lovat Scout. Invalided out of the Scouts in 1943 he joined the American Red Cross as a driver and it was while stationed in Ireland that he first met Janette Diefendorf, an American Red Cross girl.

Five years later when he met Jan in New York he proposed to her on their first evening together.

They married at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, in 1952 and have a son, Benjamin Meadows Clutterbuck, who owns a London property company, and a daughter, Camilla Mary Clutterbuck, a theatre stage manager.

Jeremy Clutterbuck loved fishing on the Spey, shooting, reading, and walking and spent many happy days at his second home at Aberlour in Banff.

In her tribute him wife Jan said that for the past two years her husband had an illness which he bore with great fortitude and courage.

"He never complained although he couldn't walk or speak. He was a modest, gentle and a very private person, who loved the countryside and nature, but because of his extreme shyness and modesty he often didn't convey all that he knew about wildlife or his knowledge of trees, but they were deeply ingrained in him."

Mrs Clutterbuck concluded her tribute: "He was a typical old-fashioned countryman who felt that the past was more important than the present."

†

JEREMY RUPERT HUMPHREY CLUTTERBUCK

21st August 1917 — 20th August 1992

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

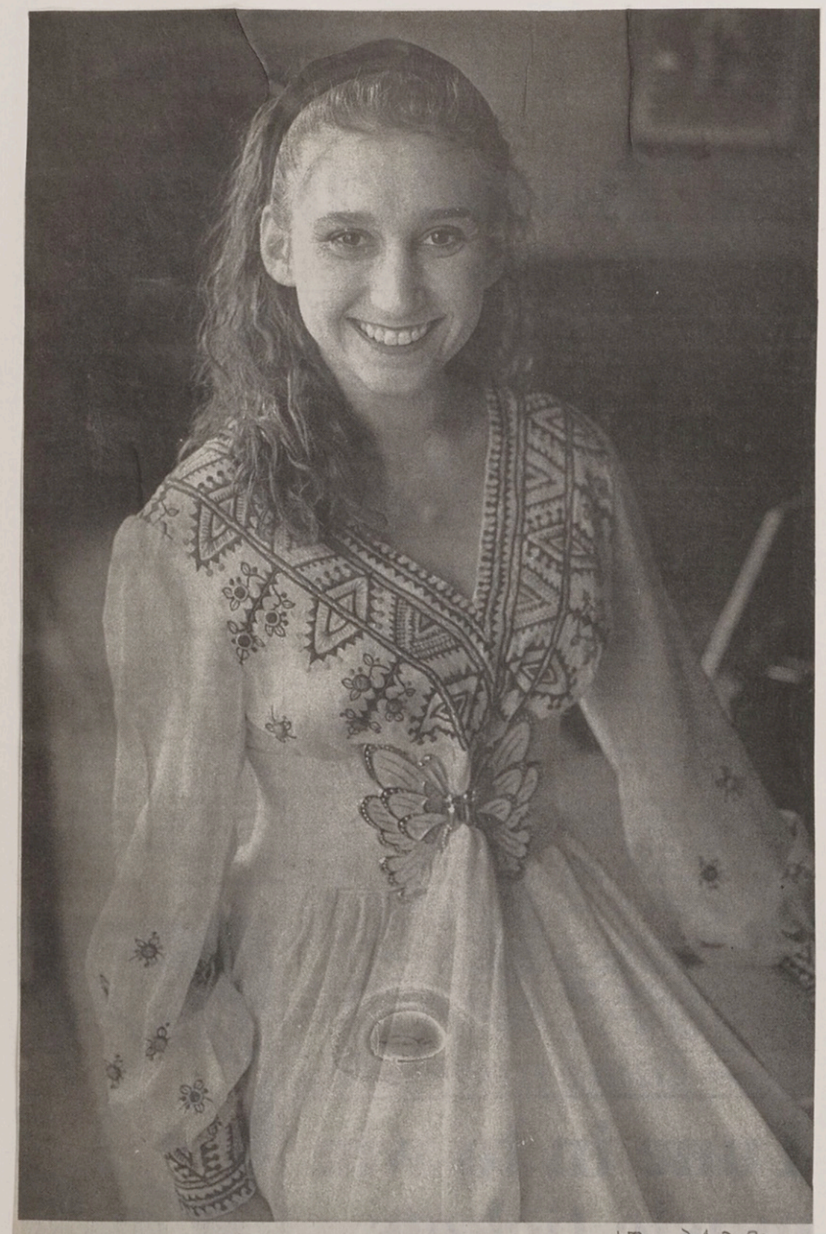
Sarratt

nford

Thursday, 24th September 1992

2 p.m.

1992



WD 22-2-92

Village shows off young star

ENCHANTING the audiences in last weekend's sell-out pantomime Snow White and Some Dwarfs in Sarratt was 18-year-old Michele Gaisford (above).

Village talent, including the policeman, headmaster and rector's wife, united to perform in the smash hit show, which was written by Sarratt's Tony Bond with lyrics by the Reverend Michael Hewlett, of Holy Cross Church.

Police Constable Phil Wynes played Guildenstern, village headmaster Chirs Alexander had a singing role, the rector's wife Mrs Joan Dredge performed as Grumpy and Holy Cross Church organist David Clough was musical director.

Hero of the show for the youngsters was Steve Parry, as Fairy Liquid, while his wife Di, playing the evil queen, ran a close second.

Budding actress Michele took the role of Snow White.

A former student of Durrants School and Dacorum College, Michele's ambition is to star in children's television or a soap opera.

"The audience loved it and we are hoping to get another production together this year," she said.

The panto, performed at the village hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, was produced and directed by Ann Rickard.

Julia Sadler and Ann Griffiths were the choreographers. J042111

Gentle giant laid to rest in village

POPULAR 30-stone giant Mr Brian Hunt was buried in Sarratt on Wednesday, after suffering a heart attack on Boxing Day.

Mr Hunt, 43, of Downer Drive, Sarratt, was affectionately known as "Oddjob" because he used to carry out various work for people in the village.

He was also employed by the parish council as common ranger for six years.

The casket carrying Mr Hunt had to be left at the rear of Holy Cross Church while a service was held, conducted by the Reverend Michael Hewlett.

He was later carried to the graveside by six pallbearers.

Mr Hewlett said Mr Hunt was a large, jovial and very popular man and acted as anchorman to The Boot public house's tug-of-war team.

"It was a sudden and unexpected death. He was a very typical countryman, a down-to-earth character who did his own thing," said Mr Hewlett.

A friend of Mr Hunt, Mr Ron Cox, said: "He was a very good bloke and will be missed very much.

"As common ranger he cleared litter bins and generally kept the common tidy.

"He used to mark the football pitches and he would do any odd jobs in the village."

Shedding light on beauty of stained glass

WD 13-2-92

STAINED Glass Through the Ages will be the subject of an illuminating talk by Alfred Fisher at Sarratt Village Hall on Saturday evening.

Alfred has earned a worldwide reputation for design and craftsmanship in stained glass. Examples of his work are to be found in such places at St Thomas's Cathedral in New York; the Royal Palace, Katmandu, and, closer to home in Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, and in Bovingdon and Pinner.

He and his colleagues at the Chapel Studios in Hunton Bridge have carried out restoration work on many fine buildings, including Exeter Cathedral, and Kings College, Cambridge. They are currently renovating a stained glass window at The Mansion House in the City of London.

A special cake to mark the occasion has been baked by Doris Rollinson. It is decorated with a detail of a dove taken from the stained glass window in the chancel of Holy Cross Church, illustrating the Resurrection, a window designed by Alfred.

The cake will be raffled during the evening, which has been arranged by the Friends of Holy Cross Church in aid of the church's Raise the Roof campaign. Admission is free, but donations to the appeal will be welcome. Coffee will be served at 7.30pm, and the talk begins at 8pm.

Cross to bear

KLG 16-4-92

A VIVID reminder of the first Good Friday will take place in Sarratt on Friday when the Rev David Dredge and members of the congregation of Holy Cross Church will carry an eight foot wooden cross over the village green.

The Procession of Witness was started last year by Mr Dredge and looks like becoming a regular Easter feature of the village.

The teak cross weighs 33 kilogrammes and was made at the Goole shipyard in Humberside. For many years the Rev Dredge carried the cross around his Humberside parish.

The route for the Sarratt procession will be from the Old Wheatsheaf to the Baptist church where there will be a family service.

The witness is set to start at 9.30am tomorrow, Good Friday.

On Easter Sunday there will be a dawn celebration of holy communion at 5.00am. Holy Cross Church will be scented with the Easter lilies traditionally placed there by people in remembrance of their loved ones.



The Coes' home in Deadman's Ash Lane, scene of November's stabbing

WD 13-3-92

Murder charge man found hanged in cell

A FATHER-OF-TWO from Sarratt, who stabbed his wife to death last year, was found hanging in his cell at Pentonville Prison on Friday.

Mr Geoffrey Coe, 36, was charged with murder in November after his wife Anita suffered multiple knife wounds in a bedroom at their home in Deadmans Ash Lane.

A Police spokesman said the knife had been taken from the kitchen drawer downstairs. Mrs Coe died the next day at Watford General Hospital.

Mr Coe, who was known as Simon, worked as a British Telecom engineer. He was on remand at the London prison awaiting trial.

The couple had two children, nine-year-old Barry and seven-year-old Debbie, who are now living with relatives.

Mr Chris Alexander, headmaster of the village primary school, where the two children were pupils, said: "We are totally struck dumb as we look on helplessly at a family hit by disaster.

It's another blow to the village following on the death of Anita, and village shop owner Andrea Atkins last week.

"It leaves you speechless and I hope it's an end to what has been a dreadful chapter in the history of the village.

"Our main concern at the school has been for the children, to make sure they are supported and that the people who are supporting them are supported themselves."

An inquest into Mr Coe's death was opened and adjourned at St Pancras Coroner's Court on Monday. A routine inquiry will be held at Pentonville Prison following the incident.

His funeral will take place at West Herts Crematorium at 12 noon on Thursday.

Vicar of Holy Cross Church in Sarratt, the Rev David Dredge, said it was a terrible waste of a life.

Mr Dredge said he formed a friendship with Mr Coe after visiting him several times at the prison.

Mrs Coe was a very well-known member of the Sarratt community. She was secretary of the village school's parent-teacher association, member of the village day and playing fields committees and single-handedly ran the village 200 club.

After Mrs Coe's death a number of her friends from Sarratt got together to raise money for the immediate needs of the couple's two children.

Co-ordinated by Sarratt Primary School, the fund has so far raised £3,000.

Mrs Julia Cheetham, who is helping to organise the fund, said Mrs Coe's death had rocked Sarratt completely. She said money had come in from both inside and outside the village.

"It just goes to show how widely known Anita was," she said.

Don't lose heart!

KLG 9-4-92

SARRATT could die unless more young people are attracted into the village, it has been claimed.

A new low-cost housing scheme could help to keep the village growing and alive.

But parish council chairman Mr John Gell says he would like to see more such schemes which would breathe life into the village.

"Sarratt will become an old people's village. Young people will have moved out. It will become a dead village," he told the Gazette.

"We are already reduced to two shops, and we are also concerned about the viability of the school.

"The numbers have gone down dramatically in recent years.

"We are concerned that if things get too bad then the school would have to close. It would be disastrous for the village."

Mr Gell said new improvements in the village like play equipment on King George V playing fields and the extension of the pavilion would go to waste unless they were used.

The latest scheme for six low-rent houses behind the village hall has recently been approved by the government.

This has allowed Three Rivers District Council to spend £200,000 on the scheme.

The idea was featured in a comprehensive village appraisal report which was set up by the parish council.

It is hoped that young people who, until now, could not afford to live in the village will be able to benefit from the project.

And further schemes would be welcomed by the parish council, said Mr Gell.

"We do not want to give the impression that we want to build all over the place, but if another site does come up we would look favourably at the idea."

Panto boost for charity groups

WD 12-4-92

THE pantomime Snow White and Some Dwarfs, which packed Sarratt Village Hall on three nights in January, was re-lived last week when the cast and backstage crew watched a video of the show.

During the video, members of the Sarratt Pantomime and Light Alternative Theatre Group (SPLAT), agreed to split the show's unexpected £400 proceeds between the Sarratt School Computer Fund, the Sarratt Scout Troop, the Voice for Amy Golden Appeal and the South West Herts Samaritans.



WD 17-4-92

Judging the joys of spring flowers

FLOWER show judge Mrs Ann Power (above) examines one of the entries in Sarratt Horticultural Society's spring show, held on Saturday.

Daffodils dominated the show, which saw show secretary Mr John Rickard declaring himself the overall champion.

Trophies were presented by Mrs Joan Dredge, the Rector's wife, whose own floral art arrangement, depicting Holy Cross Church, won first prize.

The Pinnaroo Trophy for daffodils was won by Gareth Crockford, who was second in the overall show placings. Mrs Margaret Stratford came third overall.

First place for his chicken, duck and goose eggs and vegetables earned Mr Toby Biggerstaff the Roy Ward Trophy.

The cookery award went to Mrs Noreen Singleton, Mrs Judy Gooding was the floral art winner, and Emily Tims was top in the children's classes.

A prickly prize-winner was Graham Peiser's 25-year-old cactus and 'Toots' Downer's amazing Amaryllis scooped a first in the flowering pot plants class.

At the end of the show, Sir Christopher Staughton conducted an auction of exhibits to raise money for society's funds.

Show secretary Mr John Rickard said: "Sarratt spring flower show has become an established lively event in the calender of this lively village."

Picture J157904 by PETER STEVENS

The Gazette 2.4.92

Tudor design to help raise roof

THE EFFORTS of a 19th century churchman are to help boost a Sarratt charity.

At the turn of the century Rev Edward Ryley, then rector of Sarratt, found a Tudor artefact in the grounds of the church.

Now the design of that historic piece is to feature on lapel and stick pins and proceeds will go to help restore the roof at Holy Cross Church in the village.

Mr John Guy, Chairman of the Trustees of the Friends of Holy Cross, said: "We have just received the first batch of the pins. They bear the emblem of a garland of four roses surrounding a cross. They would make a very attractive present for confirmations, baptisms or weddings."

Holy Cross trustees face a daunting task of raising £50,000 to repair the church roof.

The work has been recommended by the architects who warn that the roof could be dangerous unless it is repaired within the next few years.

Pins are £9.95 each.

Set for Steam on the Green

WD 22-5-92

STEAM engines from as far away as High Wycombe will converge on Sarratt on Saturday to take part in a fun-packed day out for all the family.

They will be joined by a number of vintage farm tractors, vintage cars, lorries, motor bikes and cars from the Morgan Club for the first Steam on the Green Fair to be held in the village.

Other attractions include a children's fun fair, craft stalls, a market stall and stalls run by national charities.

There will also be a tug-o-war competition between The Boot public house, The Artichoke public house, Croxley Green, The Chiltern Traction Engine Club and Dale's Banger Boys.

Musical entertainment will come from a brass band, and a fair organ brought by Mr Teddy Reed, one of three which survived a large fire last year.

Among the refreshments available will be hamburgers, jacket potatoes, seafood, doughnuts, tea, biscuits and ice cream.

In addition, a grand draw will be held and the popular Sarratt mugs will be on sale.

Chairman of the Sarratt Village Day Committee, Mr Malcolm Biggerstaff, said: "This will be a fun day out for all the family and there is something for everyone.

"This is the first of many Steam on the Green events to come. It will be run on alternate years to Sarratt Village Day.

"The Green will be full of lots of fun things to do, so please come along. The more the merrier."

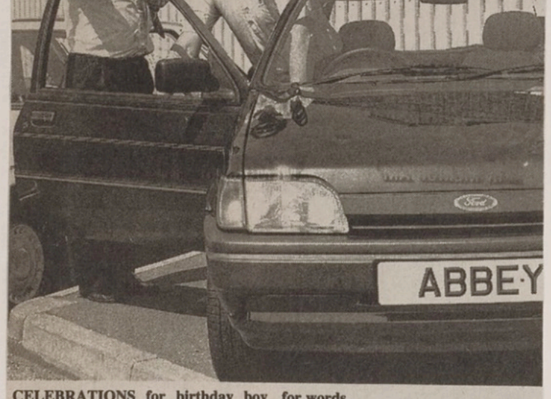
All the money raised will be donated to village projects, in particular the village hall rebuilding fund.

The fun will start at noon and continues until early evening. There is free admission and a large car parking area.

The owners of any vintage vehicles or any vehicle of interest are invited to take part and can either turn up on the day, or telephone Mr Biggerstaff on 0923-262845.

Good golly, it's Oli!

WD 22-5-92



CELEBRATIONS for birthday boy and Watford Observer Sports Editor Mr Oli Phillips got a kick-start on Friday, when he won a gleaming Ford Fiesta during a prize draw.

In addition to scooping the major prize of the evening at Watford Football Club's Development Fund Treasure Hunter's ball on Friday, Mr Philips also won £100 cash earlier in the evening.

Chairman of the fund Mr Peter Cox told the audience it was the first time he had ever seen Mr Phillips lost for words.

Mr Phillips is pictured here with Mr Peter Charlesworth, business manager of Abbey Motors of Hemel Hempstead. But after some deliberation he decided to keep his old wheels and opted for the £5,000 cash prize instead.

It will be the last score-draw Mr Phillips will enjoy for some time. The football club's development fund run by a team of supporters is being taken over by the club itself from now on. J212813

OLLIE PHILLIPS - WELL KNOWN SARRATT INHABITANT

Musical evening to give cash help

A FUND-RAISING musical evening to benefit three young people will be held in Sarratt Village Hall on Friday.

The evening entertainment will consist of songs, dance and comedy by Sarratt singer Roger Rufey and his family, as well as children from the Carol Kristian School of Dancing in Chorleywood.

Their combined talents will raise funds for Deborah and Barry Coe, in memory of their mother and father who recently died in tragic circumstances.

Sharing half of the proceeds will be Roger's 18-year-old daughter Anna, to help with the costs for her seven-week world tour with the National Youth Choir in July.

Tickets for the musical evening can be obtained from Roger and Julia Rufey on 0923-263456.

WD 15-5-92

Small is beautiful . . . and tough!



Mrs Peggy Pearce (right) and Mrs Connie Chong-Tai still open for business. They look to the future with some optimism as business confidence starts to trickle back into the area.

THROUGHOUT the recession survival has been the name of the game for countless businesses up and down the country.

For Peggy Pearce and Connie Chong-Tai their long established and thriving employment agency took a nose dive as unemployment figures soared.

Before the recession the agency occupied a modern suite of offices and employed four staff, a personal achievement for Peggy, who started the agency working from home, and now has 25 years experience in the business.

Joined by partner Connie five years ago, they successfully matched candidates to jobs using the slogan "big enough to get the right jobs, small enough to find the right people" — small was beautiful, but small rapidly became synonymous with closed.

Connie said: "Rather than give up, we sat down and worked out how we could survive. The saddest thing was telling loyal staff that we couldn't employ them any longer."

The comfortable suite of offices had to go as Connie and Peggy retreated into "the broom cupboard".

Peggy said: "Our aim was to keep the business going. We learnt how to use all the equipment ourselves and now do everything. It's amazing what you can do when you try!"

Cramped in their tiny office on the High Street in Bushey, it has been business as usual in a professional — and very cheerful atmosphere.

A tinge of cautious optimism is also in the air as signs of business confidence start to appear.

Peggy said: "Already a few small companies are moving back into the area and older established clients are starting to ring us again.

"One of our clients has diversified products and appears to have found a market for new ideas, which is very encouraging for the future."

Peggy went on to explain how employers were asking for people with experience, as funds for training new employees were few and far between.

Her advice to job hunters is to look carefully at the training courses available and take advantage of them.

If you are looking for secretarial, administrative or catering opportunities, contact Peggy and Connie on 081-950-0441. You will be guaranteed personal service!

CONNIE (NOW CONNIE BULLER) LIVES IN BELSIZE



WO 37-7-92

Starry-eyed pupils jump to the challenge

BRITAIN'S Olympic athletes are not a patch on these youngsters from Sarratt School (above) who have all won sporting awards.

Thirty four of the primary school pupils have received three star badges and above from the Amateur Athletics Association.

Seven of the pupils were awarded five star badges.

The children were tested in running, high jump, long jump and throwing for the awards, which are based on the child's own individual ability in relation to targets set for different age groups.

Headteacher Mr Chris Alexander said the help of parent Mrs Anne Griffiths, a gymnastics instructor, was one of the main reasons so many children achieved awards.

"The restrictions of the National Curriculum don't give us the time to do things like this in school, they have to be done after school, and the help of Mrs Griffiths has been absolutely invaluable," he said.

Picture J305028 by TREVOR ADAMS

From the Book of Recipes

WO 7-7-92



TALENTED cook Mrs Mabel Tindall created the icing on the cake at Sarratt Flower festival last week-end after baking a scale model of the parish church.

Hundreds of visitors went along to Holy Cross Church on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and helped raise £3,000 for the Raise the Roof appeal fund.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, who had masterminded the three-day event, were delighted with the figure, which was £800 up on last year.

People thronged the church admiring the flower festival arrangements created by Mrs Doris Rollinson, secretary of the Friends of Holy Cross, and her team of helpers.

This year's theme was colours of the Bible and the church was transformed with glorious flower arrangements in green, blue, white, purple, gold and red.

The Yew Tree stall outside the church raised funds with the sale of plants, produce and books, sold by Mr Percy Saunders and Mrs Jenny Dimond-Hewlett.

Overseas visitors from Peru, Australia and South Africa were among those attending the event.

Mrs Joan Dredge, the Rector's wife, Mrs Janet Plummer and Mrs Noreen Tatham and a team of helpers served up countless ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas enjoyed by visitors sitting at tables in the church field.

At the home-made cake and pie stall Mrs Mary Richardson and Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones sold the hundreds of cakes which had been donated by kind hearted cooks in the village.

But the star attraction was the iced cake representing Holy Cross Church made by Mrs Tindall of Loudwater. She used a scale model made by Mr Graham Peiser, as well as photographs of the church, to create her masterpiece which was correct down to the very last detail.

The cake was raffled and won by Mr Doug Reeve of Neasden.

On Saturday evening an audience packed the flower filled church to listen to Music for a Summer Evening, a concert arranged by church organist and choirmaster Mr David Clough. The flower festival evensong was led by the Rev. Bruce Driver, the Rural Dean, on Sunday evening.

Chairman of the Trustees, Mr John Guy, said: "All the hard work of the flower arrangers, stallholders and helpers has proved worthwhile for hundreds of visitors who have enjoyed the festival."

Mr Guy said the Friends have a target of £50,000 to raise funds for the care and preservation of the church.

The Friends' next fund raising event is a demonstration by a stained glass craftsman on Wednesday July 22.

J265908



School friends help out Leanne

WO. 17-7-92

LUCKY Leanne Tasker from Sarratt is fortunate to have such caring school friends.

Parents and pupils from the village held a sponsored walk in April and raised £600 towards the cost of a wheelchair for Leanne, aged five, who suffers from arthrogryphosis, a muscle disorder.

With the help of the Variety Club of Great Britain, which helped pay for the rest of the wheelchair, the Sarratt Junior School pupils were able to officially present Leanne with her wheelchair on Friday.

Leanne's mother Janet said the new chair will enable Leanne to get around more freely.

She said: "I think the children were absolutely wonderful to accept Leanne, who is one of the first physically handicapped children at the school for some time.

"We are very pleased and thankful to everyone." J285028

True colours are revealed

STUDENTS Karin Hignett and Sue Baumbach from the City and Guilds of London Art School, are currently restoring the Kingsley Memorial in Holy Cross Church, Sarratt.

Last year an alabaster obelisk fell from the monument and was shattered. The fragments were collected together with loose portions of the memorial and stored until this year.

Sue and Karin have undertaken a painstaking cleaning operation that has revealed the original colours of the figures showing William Kingsley wearing a black cloak, a gilded collar and white ruff.

His wife and daughter are wearing black gowns, white ruffs, black hats. The six sons are wearing black cloaks, black breeches and black doublets.

All are kneeling on red and green cushions.

The students are doing the work as part of their three year Conservation and Restoration Diploma Course under the watchful eye of their course leader Frances Halahan and their tutor Nick Durnan.

The memorial, which commemorates William Kingsley, his wife Katherine, their six sons and one daughter, is located on the south wall of the chancel and shows the family in an act of prayer.

The family lived at Rosehall, Sarratt, and William Kingsley was a Cursitor of the Court of Chancery having been called to the bar in 1595.

"When the stone is all cleaned it will look stunning. Working here gives us a chance to gain practical experience on site. We are learning things that we wouldn't otherwise have known about," said Karin.



Ducklings take off

WIOES. 25-9-92

HARD at work on Monday was one of the youngsters who attended the first day of Sarratt's new playgroup.

The playgroup, called The Sarratt Duckings, is held on Monday and Friday mornings in a classroom at Sarratt School, run by leader Mrs Julie Humphrey.

It was set up by Sarratt School Playgroup Management Committee.

Chairman Mrs Janet Michell said the playgroup, for three to five-year-olds, was formed in response to a demand by parents in the village.

"We are all very excited. It has taken a lot of hard work to get off the ground. It is a major day in the life of Sarratt," she said.

Mrs Michell said one of the key thoughts behind the playgroup is to keep the village alive by having educational facilities within Sarratt.

She said the aim of the group is for structured play in a caring and happy environment, to help the transition from playgroup to school easier for children.

Mrs Michell added it is a complimentary service to the existing playgroup, run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the village hall.

Thirteen children attended the opening day of the playgroup and sang songs, painted pictures and made trains out of old boxes.

There is also a home corner and a dressing up corner.

The group is still looking for equipment, including painting easels, telephones, a sand tray and a portable slide.

If you can help, telephone Mrs Mitchell on 0923-265754. J390202

Fund-raisers for a special week

WO 8-5-92

FIVE fund-raising events will mark Christian Aid week in Sarratt.

The week will begin tomorrow (Saturday) with a coffee morning at The Rectory from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

There will also be a bring-and-buy stall, raffle and refreshments.

The mother and toddler group will be holding a cake stall at the Baptist Church Hall on Monday, from 2.15pm to 3.15pm.

Bread and cheese will be on the menu at the Baptist Church Hall on Tuesday, at a charity lunch from noon to 2pm.

On Wednesday there will be a bric-a-brac stall outside the Baptist Church from 10am to 3.30pm.

There will also be a lunch time toy sale at Sarratt JMI School on Friday, from noon to 1.30pm.

All proceeds from the events will go towards Christian Aid and its work in the Third World.

The cup that cheers

WO 3-2-92



A CUPPA helped members of Sarratt Care celebrate their place in the finals of the Hertfordshire Village Ventures competition.

The voluntary care group is among the finalists in the competition organised by the Community Council for Hertfordshire and aimed at recognising community initiatives in villages of less than 5,000 people.

Sarratt Care has already put the village's defunct Meals on Wheels service back on the road and also provide a variety of support for people in need.

Liz Young, Zena Newell, Eileen Adams, Noreen Tatham and Mary Bond are pictured with competition judges County Councillor Betty Goble and Mr David Purves from Shell, the competition's sponsors.

Pensioners tuck in

WO. 30-11-92

A NEW luncheon club got off to a good start in Sarratt last week when 40 pensioners went along to the village hall.

Organised by the voluntary group Sarratt Care, the idea is to get people with time on their hands to meet regularly for a simple lunch and a friendly chat.

A Christmas lunch is planned for the over 60s club, which will be run on a fortnightly basis.

Mrs Mary Dewar, one of the guests, said the meal of Shepherd's pie and apple tart and cream was delicious.

Anyone interested in joining the club should telephone Mrs Eileen Adams on 0923-264463 or Mrs Noreen Tatham on 0923-263176

Headteacher to retire next year

WO. 30-11-92

CHANGES in the education system are among the reasons why Mr Chris Alexander, headmaster of Sarratt JMI School, has decided to take early retirement.

Mr Alexander will complete his 18th academic year at the village school before he leaves in July.

The process of recruiting a replacement has already begun.

School governor and former parish councillor Mr Tony Bond announced the news in a report to Sarratt Parish Council on Monday evening.

Mr Bond said Mr Alexander has stressed his decision is no reflection on the school, the pupils, parents or governors, but rather about on the changes in education in recent years, along with personal reasons.

By FRANCES LEWIS

"The Governors are, of course, deeply disappointed by this and respect his decision," said Mr Bond.

"We can only reflect that Chris is not alone locally in feeling this way and wonder at a situation where highly respected and experienced teachers feel driven out of our education system."

Senior team manager from Hertfordshire County Council's Education Department Mr Bart Taylor, who was attending Monday's parish meeting, said it was sad the headmaster was leaving.

"I knew Chris Alexander well and and I know something of his reasons for wishing to retire early," said Mr Taylor.

"The nature of headship has changed a great deal and there can be great difficulties of operating small schools within formula funding."

Mr Alexander is one of four full-time staff at the primary school, on The Green, which has about 80 pupils.

Chairman of the parish council Mrs Val Cumming said Mr Alexander has been a super headmaster.

"He has been very supportive to the village. It couldn't be a better school. It is the lifeblood for the village," she said.

Mr Bond also said in his report due to falling numbers at Sarratt School, the two retiring governors, Hilary Waller and Harry Entwistle, are not being replaced.

A spokesman for Hertfordshire County Council said Mr Alexander's decision to retire is very much regretted by the education department.

"We are sorry to see him go," she said.

The spokesman added head teachers are under a lot of pressure at the moment with the many changes to the education system.

"But we don't see it as particularly unusual for someone who has had that length of service to be considering retirement," she added.

Mr Alexander was on holiday this week and unavailable for comment.

Professional theatre first night in village

WO 30-10-92

AN ENTERPRISING Sarratt resident has invited a professional theatre company to present a show in the village, fresh from its London transfer and success in Edinburgh.

The Entire Company, which specialises in fast-moving revue with songs and sketches, is performing in the village hall tonight at 8pm.

When Mrs Ann Rickard, of Church Lane, saw the group's revue After Eight Stint, she enjoyed it so much she decided to invite the company to her village.

She made all the arrangements for this first visit to Sarratt by a professional theatre company.

Tonight the company will be performing its third show, a revue called Let's Do (Late) Lunch!

Tickets are on sale from Meg's Store in Sarratt or by calling Mrs Rickard on 0923-266913.

The show is part of Mrs Rickard's campaign to bring theatre to Sarratt.

As founder of SPLAT! (Sarratt Panto and Light Alternative Theatre!) she was responsible for last year's Snow White and Some Dwarves and is now putting the Sarrattonians through their paces for this year's show.

Fond farewell to Old Ron

WO. 26-12-92

RON COX, a former winner of the Watford FC Supporter of the Season Award, died on Saturday.

Over the past 18 months, Ron, who was 72, attended few matches because of his failing eyesight and health but he continued to follow the Hornets fortunes from his home in Sarratt.

For many years he travelled with me to every away game, occasionally featuring in my column under the sobriquet 'Old Ron'. He had followed Watford since childhood, recalling the greats of the 1930's and post-War era and then revelled in the Graham Taylor years, repeatedly stressing to younger fans that they did not know how lucky they were.

After a home defeat by Southampton in early March 1988, Ron told me: "We were very quiet leaving the Rous Stand. We all knew that, that was that. The First Division days were over and we would probably never see their like again."

I hope Ron was wrong, but after almost 50 years following the club in the lower divisions, you take the lower status for granted and that is why he always told younger fans to enjoy the success of Taylor's days while it lasted.

He was a veteran of sundry unusual away trips, and I well remember him brushing the snow off his shoulders as we travelled back from Coventry in biting cold after a journey in which the roof had blown off my Dormobile. He sniffed with the cold and then reflected: "Wouldn't it have been a terrible day if we had lost."

As a winner of the Supporter of the Year Award, having been a regular at Reserve and Junior games as well as all first team matches and friendlies, he appealed to the club to offer more for pensioners and longed to see the day when his old stamping grounds at the Vicarage Road end are covered.

Ron died shortly after 3.30pm on Saturday afternoon. In actuality, it was just a couple of minutes after Paul Furlong had given the Hornets the lead. I would like to think Ron quit, while they were ahead.

1992



Fond farewells to publican

W.O. JUNE 1992

CUSTOMERS and friends of publican Mr Allan Grant gathered at The Boot public house in Sarratt on Sunday for a farewell party.

Allan is leaving The Boot after 17 years and moving to Chorleywood to become licensee of The Old Shepherd on the Common.

During the barbeque and party on Sunday afternoon, a cheque for £2,000 was presented to Senior Sister Kevina Tarr, of Michael Sobell House at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Allan is pictured (above) with Sister Tarr and Mr Francis O'Loughlin, chairman of the League of Friends at Michael Sobell House, Mr Bill Pitt-Ford, chairman of the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund, and customers of the Sarratt pub.

They raised the money during the past year by taking part in sponsored aeroplane jumps, sponsored slims and other fund-raising events.

Allan leaves The Boot on June 17.

The owner, Allied Breweries, is making The Boot into a managed house following the current shake-up of the brewery industry.

Allan said it will break his heart to leave Sarratt and he is very disappointed with the way the brewery has handled it.

But now that he has made up his mind, he is looking forward to the challenge of running The Old Shepherd.

"I'm part of the village and I've made so many friends over the years. I've had a wonderful time in Sarratt," he said.

Last month during the village's Steam on the Green day, Allan was presented with a painting of The Boot by Chipperfield artist Mr Norman Truscott.

The picture shows the pub on St George's Day, when every year Allan would raise a flag on The Green.

Last week Allan was made a life vice-chairman of Sarratt Football Club. J226632

Homes threat to village life

92

OPPOSITION is mounting in Sarratt to plans to build three detached houses on land next to Green End Farmhouse, The Green.

The proposal, submitted by Mr David Rees, is for three houses, two backing on to Dimmocks Lane, and a private drive on an existing access.

At a meeting of the parish council on Monday, Mr Graham Peiser described the development as "totally unacceptable".

He said: "We have a village here which we all like and we live here because it is as it is.

"This development will so fundamentally change the end of The Green it cannot be desirable.

"It is against everything the majority of people stand for."

Parish councillor Mrs Jenny Dimond-Hewlett said she was concerned that the development would adjoin the listed Green End Farmhouse, which she described as one of the oldest buildings in the village.

There was some disagreement as to how the parish council should register its disapproval of the scheme.

Parish Councillor Graham Peiser said the council should express its disapproval of the design.

Members, however, felt that to do this would display a weakness.

Parish Councillor Mrs Val Cumming said: "We've all agreed we don't want it and there should be no ifs and buts about it."

The council's grounds for recommending refusal of the plans are that the site is on Green Belt land, that it is further intensification in the area and would detract from that part of the village which is within a conservation area.

Other objections were that the development was inappropriate and was badly sited in relation to the exisitng houses and in particular to Green End Farmhouse.

If reports are completed by officers, Three Rivers District Council could determine the application at a meeting of the Planning Committee on Thursday, February 13.

District of Three Rivers

Parish of Sarratt

Notice of Casual Vacancy

Notice is hereby given that a casual vacancy has occurred in the office of Parish Councillor for the Sarratt Ward of the Parish of Sarratt by reason of the death of Ronald E. Cox, a member for that Ward.

An election to fill this vacancy will be held if notice in writing of a request for such election is given to the undersigned by ten local government electors for the above Ward not later than 4 March 1993.

Dated the 12th February, 1993.

Alastair Robertson
Chief Executive

Three Rivers House,
Northway,
Rickmansworth,
Herts WD 1RL

WAT. OBS. 25/12/92

Mr Ronald Ernest Cox

THE man described as the doyen of Sarratt, Mr Ron Cox, the former chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, died in hospital on Saturday. He was 72.

"He was a very good friend to the village and the villagers. He cared for Sarratt and was amazingly dedicated to every cause for the advancement of the village and the villagers," said Mrs Val Cumming, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council.

Ronald Ernest Cox, who was born in Belsize, was an active sportsman in his younger days and contributed greatly to the post-war resurrection of Sarratt's cricket and football clubs, whose ground was mutilated when a bomber crashed into the middle of the playing fields.

The progress and development of King George V Playing Fields, of which he was a permanent trustee for many years, was close to his heart. He worked tirelessly during his spare time on the pitches, wicket and surroundings as unofficial groundsman.

No sooner had one target been reached than he was agitating for the next. "If you pause for breath or stand still, you go backwards. You have to move on," was his maxim..

He campaigned for and spearheaded fund-raising for the introduction of a pavilion, a tennis court, children's play area and in more recent years was the driving force behind the substantial pavilion extension and the introduction of a "carpet" bowls club.

Sadly, upon its completion, a stroke rendered Ron Cox incapable of playing bowls, but the villagers now compete for a trophy named after him, which he was hoping to present to the winner this week.

He served on the committee of the local ex-serviceman's club and was a parish councillor for more than 25 years, being elected chairman in 1970.

One of his major concerns was the maintenance of Sarratt Green, the woods and Dawes Common and he remained dedicated to this cause, liaising with the common ranger until his recent, brief illness.

His life revolved around the village.

He met his late wife Barbara as she worked on the searchlight battery in Belsize during the last war. Later, in the Army, Ron saw action in Normandy after the Allied landings and was among the first people into the Belsen concentration camp.

"It was my responsibility to arrange transport and collect the local German civic dignitaries every morning from their town hall steps and take them to the camp where they reluctantly performed cleaning duties," he used to recall.

A cricketer and footballer with Sarratt, he was also a lifelong supporter of Watford FC, receiving the Supporter of the Year award in 1987. He completed an unusual double by being voted Clubman of the Year at Chipperfield Cricket Club that summer.

He leaves three sons, David, Derek and Brian and five grandchildren.

The funeral takes place at Sarratt's Holy Cross Church on Tuesday, December 29, at 12.30pm. Flowers to Hempsall's, Harwoods Road, Watford.

● See Sport Page 1.

Picture gift

98

CHAIRMAN of Sarratt Parish Council, Mrs Valerie Cumming, presented a painting to the clerk, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, on Monday following the clerk's decision last month to resign from the post.

M-way talks

11/12/92

A REPRESENTATIVE from the Department of Transport is to attend Sarratt Parish Council's February meeting to talk to councillors about the implications of widening the M25.

Bulbs present

ONE thousand bulbs have been donated to the parish of Sarratt by garden centre Wards Nurseries. They will be planted on grass verges in and around the village by councillors and the village ranger.

18/9/92 WO

Builder fights for house on Green Belt farmland

By ANDREW FRENCH

REFUSAL by Three Rivers District Council to allow a house to be built on Green Belt land in Sarratt was challenged at a public inquiry this week.

The inquiry on Tuesday was told Mr David Rees, of Caroon Drive, Sarratt, was refused permission to build a detached house and garage on his land at Green End Farm, Sarratt.

He was told it conflicted with Green Belt policies and there was not sufficient reason for flexibility.

The council's assistant planning officer Mr Anthony Turk told Department of Environment planning inspector Mrs Deirdre Burrows the site is in the long-established Metropolitan Green Belt.

"This is an area of great pressure for new development. The district council's policies clearly attempt to ensure new housing development is concentrated in urban areas," said Mr Turk.

"The district and county council have policies which introduce some felxibility in providing housing with the Metropolitan Green Belt for particular identified local needs.

"The development in question here does not comprise the form of development envisaged in these policies."

Green End Farm is a Grade Two listed building and the subject of a tree preservation order.

Mr Ernest Powdrill, representing Mr Rees, asked the planning officer if, aside from Green Belt policy, one more house on the site would be offensive.

"There would be no adverse effect on the listed building, but the site contributes to the character of the lower green and a house could have impact upon that end of the green," said Mr Turk.

Mr Powdrill suggested that, if the inspector was satisfied the plans were not in breach of any policies, the sole test would be if the house did any demonstrable harm.

"What Mr Turk is saying is that even with keeping vegetation, brick walls and trees, one house would cause demonstrable harm," he said.

Mr Rees, managing director of local builders D.B. Rees (Builders) Limited, has 24 years' experience in the trade and said his plans met with local demand.

"I pay careful attention to market requirements and building trends. The one factor which seems to have been overlooked is the construction of family dwellings," he said.

Mr Rees produced a scheme for nine low-cost units on the appeal site, but Sarratt Parish Council selected an alternative site.

He then applied for permission for three four-bedroomed houses and was refused.

Mr Rees appealed, but then withdrew and put forward plans for the one house in question.

"I believe it will satisfy a local need for family housing and be in character with the listed building and immediate surroundings," he said.

Mr Ronald Perrin, of the Royal Town Planning Institute, indicated a survey by Sarratt Parish Council which showed 45 per cent of villagers felt more housing was needed and 25 per cent felt there should be more private purchase accomodation.

He also said the development was not contrary to the purposes of a Green Belt, as outlined in Government planning policies.

Mr Robert Jameson, representing Three Rivers District Council, said although the appeal site was not contrary to the purposes of a Green Belt, it did not justify building on it.

"It is not the right approach to judge every application against the aims of a Green Belt," he said.

"Once it is determinsed where a Green Belt is going to be, it should not be possible to whittle bits away.

"If inquiries continually yield to the argument that one dwelling does not undermine Green Belt aims, sooner or later cumulatively it will."

In summing up, Mr Powdrill said in conservation areas, developments must preserve or enhance their surroundings.

"This development, in the council's opinion, would not do either, but would do demonstrable harm. That must be justified though, it can't just be said," he said.



Father Christmas comes to Sarratt December 1992

(Laurie Young - 8yr)

1926 AUSTIN 7 CAR OWNED & DRIVEN BY ANDY MEADOWS, DURRANTS DRIVE, CROXLEY

Young dancers

A CHILDREN'S disco has been organised by Sarratt Conservatives at the village hall on Friday. Admission is by free ticket only from Mrs L. Hopkinson on 0923-265835.

Special service

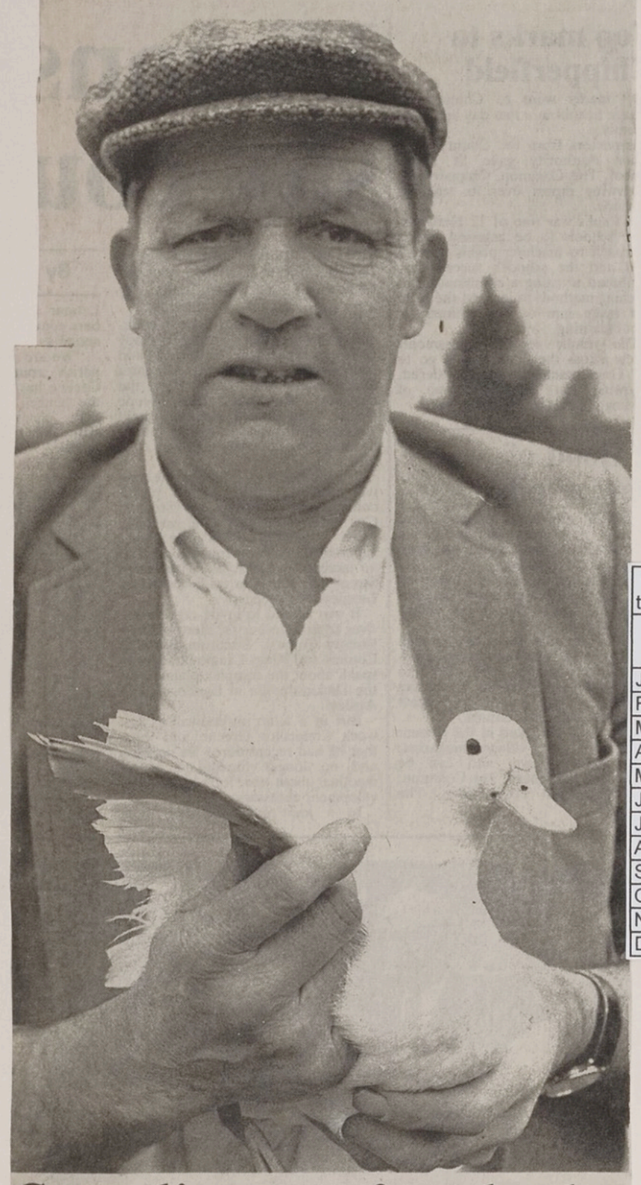
CHRISTINGLES will be given to children attending the Christingle Service at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt on Sunday. A collection will also be taken for The Children's Society.

11/12/92

Village party

YOUNG children in Sarratt are invited to a free party from 3pm to 5pm this afternoon at the village hall organised by Sarratt Parent's Association.





Standing up for ducks

DUCK defender Mr Frank Sims (above) is keeping a vigilant watch over Sarratt pond after one of his feathered friends had its wings clipped.

Frank, of Deadmans Ash Lane, has now brought the duck home to nurse her in his shed to prevent a fox attacking her.

"It's really cruel to clip their wings and I would love to know who has been doing it," he said.

Frank, who used to work at the Ovaltine factory in Kings Langley but had to retire because of ill health, has taken the cause of feathered fowl in Sarratt under his protective wing.

Every day he feeds corn to the ducks, he has put up string around the pond to keep the foxes away and, in the winter, Frank breaks the ice so the ducks can get to the pond water.

In the past few years the number of ducks on the pond has risen considerably and Frank has been instrumental in having duck warning signs put up after several birds had been slain on the road.

He also created a temporary pond in his garden to nurse the birds after Snowy, a white duck, was chased into the pond and injured by a dog.

Money is raised to help feed the ducks from a collection box in Sarratt village shop.

Frank is now anxious to avoid further decimation of the Sarratt duck population and will be keeping a careful eye on the pond.

Picture J081723 by MALCOLM ORVIS

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1992
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max	total	
January	5th / 12.0	22nd /-7.0	23rd /-8.9	8th / 4.2	20.5	
February	27,29/ 13.0	21st /-4.0	21st /-8.6	10th / 6.7	24.8	1st snow of winter, 16th. Last snow, 19th.
March	20,22/ 14.5	9th /-1.5	9th /-6.5	30th / 9.5	60.2	
April	20th / 19.5	5th /-1.5	5th /-5.5	6th /10.3	58.5	last air frost, 5th. Heard 1st cuckoo, 21st
May	21st / 25.5	10th / 2.0	3rd /-2.0	29th / 75.4	147.1	last ground frost, 10th. 29th-wettest day
June	29th / 27.5	19th / 6.5	19th / 2.1	9th / 11.5	32.9	I've ever recorded.
July	31st / 25.0	22,30/9.0	22nd / 5.0	20th / 23.8	75.2	
August	1st / 25.0	31st / 5.5	31st / 3.0	13th / 26.2	134.5	
September	29th / 21.5	5,6,18/5.0	5th /-0.1	22nd / 53.7	102.8	1st ground frost, 5th.
October	1st / 18.5	19th /-0.5	18th /-5.0	2nd / 13.4	68.2	1st air frost, 19th.
November	6th / 14.5	14th /-1.5	14th /-7.3	10th / 17.9	147.9	
December	2nd / 12.0	30th /-6.0	30th /-11.2	18th / 13.8	55.4	





1993

WATFORD OBSERVER



Requiem for a public house

OLIVER PHILLIPS looks back over some of the highlights of being a regular The Cock Inn, Sarratt, now sadly closed — an example of the erosion of the texture of life.

WAS it really only a year ago that The Cock Inn, Sarratt, ceased trading? Standing outside the pub opposite the village church the other day, it seemed incredible that a once warm, thriving hostelry is coldly, no more.

It is said that pubs can become a way of life and that was true for me with regard to The Cock Inn, still a Grade 2 listed building but now boarded up. Each pub is special to the customer, who enjoys the individual ambience and, for that reason, I was a regular at The Cock for most of my life.

Looking through the cracks the other day, I could still see the pumps that once spewed forth the finest ale in the locality, drawn up by engines from casks just a few feet in the cellar below.

Standing there, peering in, reminded me of days long ago when considerably shorter in stature and trousers, I peeped through cleaner windows at The Cock, holding a bottle of Vimto and a packet of Smiths' best, replete with the blue salt bag. As with all children left occasionally to while away their time outside a pub, I wondered, as Frankie Vaughan was to put it subsequently, "Green Door, just what's that going on in there."

That was in the early 1950s and that door to the old Taylor Walker pub was green but by the end of the decade I had discovered the answer. Coming out from Watford we stumbled on this small pub, sat in front of a roaring fire, supped the landlord's best mild and bitter and remarked on his amazing similarity to Snudge of the Army Game TV comedy. Then we cycled in an unsteady fashion back across Whippendell Woods, the golf links and through Cassiobury Park and home.

It was the start of a happy association with the late Bert Moore, bald-headed, often cantankerous landlord, teller of seemingly tall tales, with a punch which even when he retired aged 75, could numb your arm despite being delivered in friendly fashion.

It also signalled the start of a regular migration from Watford and the surrounding area, of a cosmopolitan crowd of young people. It was a pot pourri of white and blue-collared workers who had found common ground in the old Watford Mocha Bar coffee house, The Dog and the High Street's Green Man — all long-since defunct as well. Was someone trying to tell us something?

To outsiders The Cock was a "cliquish" pub situated "opposite a bone orchard" but to us it was just one big family, populated by acquaintances and friends, which swelled, doubled and trebled as the years rolled by, drawing fresh recruits from afar and the village itself. You had your own coterie of friends like a sub-committee of one large organisation and, unusual for its time, girls would feel comfortable driving out there and ordering a drink, assured of the fact there would be friends to talk to. That factor alone increased the pub's popularity!

Some met their husbands/wives, their lovers, their mistresses there, became engaged and had a final pint before heading for the aisle. And drowned their sorrows when it all broke up.

Tuesday nights were a regular favourite but Friday and Saturday evenings were so packed that the journey to the outside toilet could take an age. By the time you reached it, everyone would know your religion, and you could return later brimful of anecdotes, gossip and observations.

Then, at Christmas, Bert's wife Pat would dispense presents of toileteries to the girls and Bert would recount another tall tale and turn to the barman and say: "Isn't that right Ted?" And Ted would affirm the accuracy of what we regarded as another exaggeration, saying "Yuss Sah", like a smiling military automaton, before reaching for another Colne Spring.

These were days when the only 'bag' you blew in was to check anxiously for holes and so no one thought anything of driving with a few pints or shorts inside them. Before the breathalyser was introduced in 1967, the requirement to prove sobriety was the ability to walk down a white line in the centre of the road. Yet strangely, and we discussed this at a reunion early in the autumn, I can only recall one alcohol-inspired crash throughout those years.

It was in The Cock that I first heard news of Kennedy "being shot while riding" and, in my mind's eye, pictured woods of silver birch and the President on horseback, before clearer confirmation came through that evening about the assassination in front of the Book Depository.

It was from The Cock that we used to nip down the rat-runs at 10.30pm closing time on Friday nights to grab a final pint at Flaunden's Bricklayers Arms for that Dacorum-based pub did not close until 11.

It was at The Cock that we saw the film stars and then later watched them shoot the scenes for The Dirty Dozen in the valley below and in the surrounding countryside.

And it was from The Cock that a few carloads of us decided to forego the final Friday Flaunden pint and drive up to London to join the midnight vigil and witness Sir Winston Churchill's lying-in-state.

It was at The Cock, a group of us made a beer-provoked vow to visit Abilene, inspired by the song current at the time. Years later, I made it and sent cards to the others but it was lip-service really. I was the one always vowing to travel but noted with irony that I sent my cards from that Texas town to former drinking buddies living all over the world. Then, holiday over, I went back to Sarratt and another pint or two.

By the end of the 1960's our numbers had become depleted by the marriages, pregnancies and the appalling number of people I seemed to transport to the airport and watch wistfully as they emigrated.

But there were new arrivals such as Bert's macaw, who had a penchant for imitation, absorbing the mundane, chirping out "Yuss Sah" and "That will be one and tenpence" at inappropriate moments. Its favourite was the discourse between Bert and a cheque-changing customer who would, it seemed, inquire every day: "Any money Bert?" Bert would invariably ask where the last cheque-load had gone.

One day it escaped its cage and flew off into the neighbouring trees. There it survived, certainly for one summer, scaring local walkers and ramblers who would seek the reassurance of a quick stiffening drink at the pub and relate how, suddenly, they had heard a voice from the foliage scream out: "Any money Bert?", "Where's it all gone?", "Yuss Sah" or "That will be one and tenpence."

A younger element started to strut across the threshold, talking about "mater and pater", and "oating" and, it seemed, ending everything with the observation of "What a Hoot". We christened them Hoots, challenged them to a game of football in a thinly-disguised attempt to kick lumps out of these poseurs and finally, over a few years, they were absorbed into The Cock community.

Stan and I even made films of our annual match, shown to audiences of 150 plus, embellishing them with commentaries and extra footage, all of which may seem crass now. Then we looked around for fresh scenes to capture on celluloid until we littered the village with other events such as wheelbarrow races, tug-of-war turd races and bicycle jousting in medieval gear. Was I ever that young?

As a counterpoint, I remember once a young American relative who had lost her husband in Vietnam, sitting there marvelling at the atmosphere and our unreal world. "You see," she explained, "in our equivalent group back home, one in eight of you in this bar would be coming back in a casket from Nam."

Yes, we did have it easy; the rocking fifties, the swinging sixties, the flair-trousered seventies. Even my video-consuming kids, feasting on the plethora of celluloid reprises of the 50s and 60s, jealously inform me I was so lucky to have lived through "those best years".

But it was at The Cock that we sat one night trying to come to terms with our first real death, a car crash taking one of our larger-than-life personalities on his sober way home from work.

The real world had reached in and touched us in that oasis of pleasure. Such is the way of life that there would be more deaths later, but nothing touched us quite as deeply as when Mick died: that was the first cut.

Originally Pat and Bert Moore used to cater for a more genteel crowd, which included the actor Roger Livesey. So we must have been quite a confusing addition to the twilight of their business lives.

I remember once, when squiring a young German girl, I inquired innocently if Bert had been to Germany. He explained briefly and with such venom the word "twice" that I knew that the dates of his bitter, lengthy visits had coincided with the history books.

They retired in 1974, Bert dying within the year and at the funeral I met people from his earlier life who actually witnessed many of the events we once dubbed as the old boy's tall tales. What a character he was; they truly broke the mould.

The beer continued to flow, the pub changed hands a few times, and the likes of Malcolm, Richard and Jim would fly back to England and drop in as if returning to their "club", before going back to their homes overseas.

The breathalyser had prompted me to move to the village itself. There were Christmas carols on Christmas Eve, a few late-night parties, some memorable New Year's Eves and Sheila's superb Sunday barbecues as we sat a little more sedately and maturely, watching our infants play in the garden.

There was one special Christmas Eve when my friend John and I, tired of walking, decided to commute between the three local pubs on our children's bicycles, weaving an increasingly unsteady path, the banks of Church Lane acting like the sides of the Cresta Run: Compo and Cleggy lived!

There were marquees in the garden and some splendid wedding feasts; Sarratt Cricket Club held a summer ball that is still recalled with pleasure and it was only 18 months ago that Julie Felix played to a fair audience in the gardens one summer's evening. Watford's footballers too, used to sup well on Val's marvellous buffets in the pub's barn after the annual cricket match against the village side, but all good things . . . or so it is said.

The breathalyser undoubtedly eroded the viability of country pubs and some would claim that unrealistic brewery rental increases have ravaged the returns and profitability for publicans seeking a fair income for a job entailing horrendous working hours.

Then there is the rising cost of a pint. The days when beer was the sterling equivalent of 8p a pint and spirits were nearer 13p have long gone and beer is now the more expensive item: the breweries too have something to answer for.

Sadly we are seeing part of the texture of traditional English life eroded. Once there were too many: 22 pubs in Watford High Street alone, while 15 served Sarratt — small wonder there was a temperance league. Now, there are two in the village and the days when such hostelries survived on beer and skittles have long gone. Now food is the bottom line in the fight for survival and clattering knives, forks and plates do not gell well with the concept of the reflective supping of a pint at the end of a busy day.

Briefly there was the hope that The Cock would become a free house but, as a councillor put it, potential buyers and the landlord lost interest, the beer lost its lustre and finally the pub closed: death by inaction and inertia.

More recently, the phone lines were busy and the middle-aged came from far and wide to another local pub to attend a reunion of the Cock days of 1960-70. Pat had died earlier in the year but this was such an unusual gathering, almost unique. That 45 customers should meet up after, in some cases, as much as a 30-year absence, confirmed in my mind that those days were indeed special.

The brewery sold the pub and, a few weeks ago, an application by the purchaser to build a house or two in the grounds was turned down. Now it lies idle as the result of a game-plan beyond my perception.

Dear dead days, I reflected at the end of this nostalgic but alcohol-free binge outside what was my favourite pub. Sadly, no Christmas cheer being dispensed here. No examples of the Lord working in mysterious ways with patrons suddenly inspired to make a late dash for communion at the church opposite. And no discordant sounds of Christmas carols echoing out into the night this year either. Usually regulars, having spent varying durations of applied consumption during the day, tried to find the common ground of an erratic harmony in the evening.

Those reflecting on more significant lives and events, such as fighter pilots visiting old bases, are usually portrayed on such visits with the strains of Bless Them All playing in the background.

For me, the sound of those opening notes of Roger McGuinn's 12-string, before launching into the Byrds' Tambourine Man, immediately transports me back to the halcyon days of The Cock Inn. Certainly, after some nights before, there were a few "jingle jangle mornings" after.

Since then the Byrds, like that macaw, have flown, disbanded to leave just a memory as poignant as yesteryear's pub.

Presumably Roger McGuinn had some prior engagement and was not available the other day to play a musical backdrop to my mental meeting with the ghost of summers and Christmas past.

Instead, the only sound was the leafless branches as they pitched in the cold winter wind and creaked. For a moment they sounded almost human and I shook myself from the reverie to focus on now and tomorrow.

Anyway, I told myself, that old macaw would be long-since dead. Sentiment and flights of fancy: this is what becomes of standing outside a pub for half an hour without being able to drink.

Even so, I reflected as I drove away, those branches did conjure a sound very much akin to that squawked but pertinent inquiry, "Where's it all gone?"



The Cock Inn as it is today — a sad reminder of times gone by.

1993

Thursday, March 18, 1993 VFD 61,601 copies weekly (July-Dec 1992) Serving West Herts When sold 25p

Animal sanctuary horror

By SEAN HOARE

A VICIOUS hate campaign may close an animal sanctuary in Sarratt.

The Sweetpea Animal Sanctaury opened two years ago, run by Joe Preto of Bushey on two acres of land off Church Lane.

Joe and his wife have spent a lot of time and money building pens and stables for their animals.

But their dream of offering a haven of peace and safety to unwanted or mistreated pets has been wrecked by a series of sickening incidents.

In November, a pony was stolen and weeks later a goat was killed. Chickens have been slaughtered and just two weeks ago another goat died in suspicious circumstances.

Joe said: "I think the goats were poisoned, because when I saw them the day before they were fine. Someone is coming here and doing these terrible things.

"A while ago one of the ponies had its bridle tied to the handle of a compressor.

"The chickens had their necks broken. It could not have been a fox because it would have killed the lot and they would have been covered in blood."

Joe believes someone wants him and his animals off the land.

"There is a campaign to get me off, but I wish I knew why," he said. "I find the whole thing heartbreaking: I love my animals.

He said: "I do not want to close the sanctuary but I can not stay up here 24 hours a day keeping an eye on things. I am really fearful that something else will happen to them."

Joe wants to hear from anyone who may be able to offer a solution to his nightmare. He can be contacted on 0923-242238.

WO JULY 1993

Gunshots fired on new estate

by Simon Ricketts

GUNSHOTS were fired on Monday night from a housing estate in Sarratt opened just days before by The Princess Royal.

As Sarratt parish councillors met in the village hall, on the Green, a woman interrupted the meeting to inform people of the incident.

She told them the front door of her house, in Church Lane, and that of her neighbour, had been peppered with air rifle pellets.

Glass was shattered and the wooden doorframe was splintered.

The woman believed the shots had come from the gardens of Clutterbucks, the new low-cost housing estate opposite her house.

The estate was completed in May and officially opened by The Princess Royal on Friday.

One eyewitness to the attack said: "I saw a group of people just stood facing the houses and firing a gun in this direction.

"We are always having problems with the estate opposite.

"It is no wonder we were against them building it in the first place."

Parish councillor Mr Graham Peiser said at the parish meeting: "This is not the first trouble we have encountered with air rifles in the village."

Police were called to the housing estate when the incident happened at 9.30pm.

Village beat officer Police Constable Phil Wynes said: "An air rifle was fired at some houses across the road from Clutterbucks housing estate.

"A person from the estate owns an air rifle and had been conducting target practice in their back garden earlier on, which they are legally allowed to do.

"Unfortunately, for some reason an unknown person decided to shoot across the street and has damaged the glass and frames of two houses in Church Lane.

"At the moment we have not arrested or charged anyone, but our investigations are continuing."

Constable Wynes said a licence was not required for the possession of an airgun.

It is still not clear whether the rifle was .177 bore size or .22 bore, but the police think the damage inflicted on the door indicates the larger .22 size rifle.

One nearby resident was inside her house when the shots were fired.

She said: "I was coming down the stairs and heard one bang then another.

"The window smashed and glass came into the house.

"It could easily have hit me."

Constable Wynes describing the shooting as "not the usual sort of firearms incident".

He added, however, a pellet from a .22 rifle could have caused serious injuries if it had hit someone.

Constable Wynes denied Sarratt had a problem with air rifles.

He said: "Recently a car in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, had its window smashed by an air rifle, but I would not describe this as a particular problem."

Chairman of the parish council Mrs Val Cumming described her disappointment at the shooting.

She said: "We were all very happy to see our royal visitor come along to the village and open the Clutterbucks estate.

"We are all very sad, however, that this incident has happened."

Clutterbucks is a low-cost housing estate that was built in conjunction with Rural Housing Association Trust.

Parish councillors backed the idea and pushed for funding from Three Rivers District Council.

Residents of the estate must have a Sarratt connection to be housed there.

Rules were set on tenants to ensure those with ties to the parish got first refusal for the flats.

1993

SARRATT BOWLS CLUB
FOUNDING
MEMBERSHIP CARD
FEBRUARY 1992

NAME Mr P. CUMMING
DATE 16-2-1993
MEMBER'S SIGNATURE P. Cumming

WILD FLOWERS
for
COMMONWOOD

Can you help on SUNDAY
16th MAY??
Countryside Management Service
are bringing a special mower
and need VOLUNTEERS for
raking and clearing the grassy
areas to encourage wild flowers
butterflies and birds.

All tools & advice provided

MEET AT THE "CAR PARK" 10.00am

Val Cumming Tel:- 2262920



PERCY SAUNDERS

Insert in Spotlight, May 1993

SARRATT J.M.I. SCHOOL
THE GREEN
SARRATT
RICKMANSWORTH
HERTFORDSHIRE
WD3 6AS

1 May 1993

For the attention of:
All Parents, Ex-pupils and other Friends of Chris Alexander

Dear All

Surprise Party for Sarratt School's Headmaster

On behalf of the Governors and Staff, we are very pleased to invite you to attend a party for Mr Alexander, which we hope will be a most enjoyable surprise for our guest of honour.

The party will take place at Sarratt Village Hall on Friday, 16 July, beginning with refreshments at 7.30pm. There will be a short entertainment at about half past eight before the presentation of our farewell gift to the Headmaster. Pupils will be making their own collection and holding a party at School for 'Sir' on a separate occasion when they will give him their present.

Chris Alexander, who retires at the end of the Summer Term, has served our community as Headmaster of Sarratt School for 18 years. We are sure that many of you will want to show your appreciation by attending this surprise party for him and by making a contribution to the thank-you present. Because space in the Village Hall is limited, admission tickets will be issued on receipt of acceptance slips on a first-come, first-served basis. Please pass the word to those who live outside the village, whom you know would like to be invited, and ask them to phone either Joyce Newton or Agnes Bonwick.

We hope you will be able to attend the party and / or contribute towards the leaving present. Please complete and return the acceptance slip below as soon as possible before Monday, 1 June.

Yours sincerely

John Guy — Joyce Newton — £10

John Guy
Chairman of Governors

Joyce Newton
Deputy Headteacher

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1993
Polling Day Thursday 6th May

IN TOUCH WITH HERTFORDSHIRE

Chorleywood Division



THE CONSERVATIVE CHOICE

Four years of Conservative policies have transformed the County Council and its services.

We have:

- brought the budget under control while increasing spending on front-line services
- spent your money wisely - always seeking best value for money
- kept bureaucracy to a minimum with central administration costs taking less than a penny in the pound
- kept you better informed and given you a bigger say in local decisions
- published the Hertfordshire Charter - and have also won a National Chartermark under the Citizen's Charter
- worked closely with voluntary and community groups

In the next four years we will continue these policies and priorities.

We will:

- ensure top quality services for Hertfordshire's million residents
- manage your money as carefully as you would yourself
- strive to give you greater voice and greater choice in local decisions that affect your lives.

Having represented Chorleywood and Sarratt at County Hall since 1967, I seek your support to continue to serve you for a further term.

Resident in the County for 38 years (the last 30 in Sarratt) local problems are well known to me.

My interests and actions have primarily been in education and law and order. I have been Chairman of the Education Committee and currently am Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police Authority. As the last named, I represent the Association of County Councils and Hertfordshire on several national committees.

You will agree it is vital to maintain the character and nature of the areas, in which we have chosen to live. Increased traffic and the speed at which it travels on roads and lanes requires constant monitoring and control. There is need of more and better street lighting in our area and parking facilities.

You will agree the increase in crime and vandalism must be countered. We need more police officers, equipped with modern technology.

There is no immediate answer to these problems, but with your support, I pledge myself to be freely available and ensure the needs of Chorleywood and Sarratt are not overlooked at County Hall.

FRANK J. COGAN

VOTE FRANK COGAN X

Published by G Harris, 25 Church Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. Printed by Arlon Printers, Arlon House, Station Road, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 8LF

1993 VEC

Cock Inn, Sarratt

Article captured pub's charm

MAY I, both personally as a resident of Sarratt and as chairman of the parish council, thank you as Editor for the article by Oliver Phillips on the closure of the Cock Inn, Sarratt.

We all fought hard, both in the parish council and at Three Rivers District Council planning committee, to suggest that the Cock was and still could be, a lively attractive part of both the atmosphere of Sarratt village life, and of the distinctive character that makes Sarratt "what it is" for both residents and visitors.

Oliver Phillips has captured the atmosphere and attractiveness of The Cock as it was for all who knew its welcome, its uniqueness and its value.

To accord The Cock "front page" treatment gives us both the warm inner glow of happy reminiscence and the hope that somehow The Cock may emulate the phoenix and rise once again to its former glory.

The brilliant article and the amazing artist's impression of the last 40 years in the life of The Cock has caused much conversation in Sarratt and congratulations to Oliver Phillips.

This article will certainly go into the great Sarratt scrapbook! — **Valerie Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt.**

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING ON MONDAY 10TH MAY

AT 8.30PM

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS:

TRAFFIC IN AND THROUGH SARRATT PARISH INCLUDING THE 1993 FAIR - COMPLETE WITH LOCAL VIDEO.

TRAFFIC POLICE WILL ATTEND

PLEASE COME AND GIVE YOUR VIEWS.

VAL CUMMING - CHAIRMAN - SPC

Editorial, Advertising, Watford 242211, Classified 222323

TH

Shock as old clerk goes for parish job

By RICHARD ARQUATI

CLERK to Sarratt Parish Council for 25 years, Mrs Barbara Fordyce, who resigned from the post in May, has taken the unusual step of applying for the position she made vacant.

Mrs Fordyce, the most experienced parish council clerk in Three Rivers, confirmed her resignation during the annual meeting of the parish council last month.

Her decision stemmed from a dispute with Three Rivers District Councillor Peter Cumming earlier in the year, which led to accusations of libel.

Over the years there has also been a number of unconcealed clashes between her and Parish Councillor Mrs Val Cumming.

Last month's decision by members of the parish council to elect Mrs Cumming chairman appeared to be the straw that broke the camel's back.

"Enough was enough," Mrs Fordyce said at the time.

Since announcing her decision, Mrs Fordyce said a number of people have appealed for her to reconsider.

"After taking the decision to resign, I had pressure from several forces in Sarratt whose opinions I respect. I have a duty to them," she said.

"I think a fresh start can be made by putting the past behind us. I would like to continue to use my experience for the benefit of the village."

On Tuesday, however, Mrs Fordyce received a letter from Mrs Cumming which stated: "In view of previous events, it would be inappropriate to reinterview you for the post."

Mrs Cumming refused to discuss individual applicants for the position.

"We have had many applicants for the position and not all those who have applied will be interviewed," she said.

She added the final decision on the appointment of a parish council clerk would be taken by all members of the council.

Parish Councillor Mr Ron Cox said Mrs Fordyce was a good clerk and in some ways it would be good to have her back.

But he feared there would be no end to the rivalry between the chairman and the clerk if Mrs Fordyce was appointed.

He said her application for the position "shook Val rigid".

● A meeting of Sarratt Parish Council will be held in the village hall on Monday at 7.30pm.



14/5/93 G.O

Villagers offer traffic solutions

RESIDENTS packed into Sarratt Village Hall on Monday night to discuss traffic problems in and around the village.

More than 70 villagers attended the parish council meeting to talk about traffic congestion and parking problems in a lively debate.

"It was a case of standing room only for the late arrivals," said chairman of Sarratt Parish Council Mrs Val Cumming, who called the meeting to discuss the situation.

"I called the meeting to discuss the serious traffic congestion in the village during the recent May Fair, but also gave every opportunity for wider concerns about traffic to be expressed by people living in nearby Belsize, Bucks Hill and Chandlers Cross."

Although no automatic solutions for traffic at future May Fairs were found, several constructive ideas came out of the meeting.

These included suggestions to have more police officers on duty during the fair, getting volunteer traffic stewards to help with parking, restricting parking to one side of Church Lane and parking fair trailers off the Green.

Other topics raised were traffic calming measures, such as installing cobbled areas, and why the police did not seem to enforce the law with parked cars causing an obstruction.

Although village Police Constable Phil Wynes attended, officers from the traffic division failed to turn up.

Inspector Barrie Warner, who covers the Sarratt area, said he had been unable to attend the meeting and that an officer from traffic division, who had been invited, had been called to a traffic incident at the last minute.

The parish council said it will be investigating all the comments and suggestions and reporting details of the meeting to the traffic division police.

IN SHORT

Craft fayre

A CRAFT Fayre is being held tomorrow from 10am to 4pm at St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth.

Village puzzle

MYTH and magic will come to Sarratt this weekend with a giant 60 foot maze on The Green. The puzzle is just part of the attractions planned for Sarratt Village Day. Fun starts at noon and lasts all afternoon.

K.L. 29/4/93 Newsdesk Tel:

WI chairman in 'go green' call

A SARRATT community group is on the look out to protect the local environment.

Patricia Downing, president of Sarratt Womens Institute, and colleagues have set up their own "green" sub-committee in a bid to protect the village's environment.

The aims of the committee will be

● the conservation and improvement of the environment.

● education of others and ourselves to achieve this.

● to be observant and aware of any detrimental changes in the locality and be ready to act as necessary.

Branch members voluntarily cut scrub and erect guide posts on Dawes Common and at Commonwood in the village.

Several are taking part in a survey aimed at recording the different types and numbers of butterflies in the village.

■ Society reports, page 10

Flood peril work nears completion

VITAL work to prevent rainwater flooding a Chipperfield road is set to be completed next month.

The worst hit area is near the Windmill pub in The Common, Chipperfield, where the water swamps the road right up to the garden walls of nearby cottages.

Owners have complained that water has been splashed on to their front windows by passing traffic.

The issue has been repeatedly raised with Herts County Council by Chipperfield Parish Council.

Parish clerk John Pringle said: "We have been assured that the matter will be completed within a month."

A spokesman for Herts County Council western transportation division said: "The work should be completed by the middle of May.

"We will be lowering one of the existing gullies and putting an additional gully on the other side of the road."

'Home win' hope in housing rush

THE CRUCIAL decision on who is to occupy eight new two-bedroomed homes in Sarratt is set to be made soon.

Applications to live in the homes in Clutterbucks just behind Church Lane, Sarratt have flooded into the offices of the Rural Housing Trust over the last few weeks.

The houses have been earmarked for people with a strong Sarratt connection in a bid to "keep the village alive".

"We should know the names of the people who have been chosen within a few days. As well as the connection with Sarratt the housing need will also be taken into consideration," a spokesman for the Trust said.

Six of the houses are for rent and two have already been sold in a special shared equity scheme.

The land was originally owned by the Clutterbucks, a well-known Sarratt family.

Peter Cumming, a district councillor for Sarratt on Three Rivers District Council, said: "Hopefully this will keep the village alive."

OBITUARY

1/9/93

Frank Cogan CBE



COLLEAGUES and friends have expressed their sadness after a distinguished local politician, with a career spanning six decades, died in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Deputy Lieutenant Frank Cogan CBE was being treated in Mount Vernon Hospital for a cancer, but developed pneumonia while in care.

Mr Cogan, of Dimmocks Lane, was an extremely well-known and respected man in the Chorleywood area, being a resident of the village since 1955.

Married to Edna, with two children Frances and Patrick, Mr Cogan was a proud grandfather of two.

Born in June 1921, Mr Cogan served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for six years, during World War II, including a four-and-a-half year stay in India.

He reached the rank of Warrant Officer, Class One.

After the war, Mr Cogan was appointed Conservative agent for the Central Division of Kingston-upon-Hull in 1947 prior to his move to the south west Hertfordshire constituency.

Mr Cogan conducted twelve General Election campaigns, two in Hull and ten in Hertfordshire.

He was also a campagner in five parliamentary by-elections.

After moving to the south of England, Mr Cogan was elected to Hertfordshire County Council in October 1967.

One of Mr Cogan's longest standing friends since his move southwards was Mr John Hudson, who campaigned alongside his Conservative colleague.

Mr Hudson said: "Frank was an excellent agent for the party, he got on with people very well, and he made a fine chairman.

"He was a very distinguished man and will be sorely missed by many, many people.

"My wife, Joi, and I regard the news as a personal loss and we are saddened to lose a very dear friend."

Mr Cogan was a county councillor for 25 years before losing his seat in the May elections of this year.

Fellow county councillor Dr Iain Anderson said: "This news is something which, I think, all of us in the county, regardless of political persuasion, will be very sad to hear.

"Frank's political record is simply outstanding.

"One of the things I will always remember about Frank is the way he faced the flak about school closures without ducking the issue and by trying to explain the situation to the public.

"He had a wonderful way of dealing with debates and was very practical and pragmatic.

"Frank was a very strong, positive and individual man, who was a devout Catholic but never let his religion interfere with his work.

"He faced his illness with the same quiet dignity as he faced every task.

"We will miss him sadly and our condolences go to his family."

Mr Cogan was rewarded for his service to the community in June 1987 when he was awarded the CBE.

In 1991, he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.

During his distinguished political career, Mr Cogan held many key positions including vice-chairman and chairman of the county council, Conservative group leader, and chairman or vice-chairman of many committees including the education committee.

He was elected as chairman of Hertfordshire County Council in 1984, a position he held until 1987.

Mr Cogan last served on the county council as vice-chairman, and then chairman of the Police Committee.

Chief Constable Baden Skitt said: "We shall remember him as a man of great insight and experience into public life.

"His friendliness towards members of this force at all times will always be appreciated, but at the same time he was able to be both professional and objective as the Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police Authority.

"We shall miss him greatly."

Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council Mr Brian Briscoe said: "Frank Cogan spent his life working for the good of the local community and he will be sadly missed.

"Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Edna, and his family."

Mr John Gell, of Three Rivers District Council, said: "I have known Mr Cogan since 1970 and he was a very likeable man and a great character.

"The county council was his life and I am extremely sorry to hear the sad news."

Mr Cogan's funeral will be held on Tuesday, September 7, at 9.30am.

Mrs Cogan has requested family flowers only, with any donations in remembrance to the Marie Curie Research Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood.



1993

Village turns out for a special day

by Richard Arquati

THE sun shone down on Sarratt Green on Saturday as visitors bustled among the many village day attractions.

One of the pleasures of the event is that for such a small village there was so much to see and do.

On one section of the Green was a display of vintage cars, buses, tractors and lorries, drawing a large number of onlookers.

More up-to-date was a display of Saab cars situated at the opposite end of the Green.

Also taking their part in the village day festivities were traditional traction and steam engines, which proved a particular delight among the children.

Some older villagers outside The Boot public house were enjoying "steam" of a different kind, while basking in the Bank Holiday sunshine.

Those who preferred a more sedate atmosphere were able to enjoy tea served in Sarratt Baptist Church.

Throughout the first part of the afternoon some of the Green was dedicated to a six-a-side football tournament, attracting a large body of support.

Teams taking part were Bovingdon A, Sarratt, Bovingdon B and Chorleywood. The overall winners after a spirited competition were Bovingdon A.

The games were followed by a dog show, which attracted a large number of entries. Best dog in the show was won by Lily, owned by Joeldi Humphreys.

During all this, bargain hunters were able to browse around many of the stalls positioned on the perimeter of the Green.

Among those represented on the day were the Countryside Management Service, Sarratt Village Hall Playgroup, The British Red Cross Abbots Langley Centre, Cancer Research Campaign, Sarratt Conservative Association and the parish council.

Other attractions included a display of wool spinning, a bouncy castle, fairground rides courtesy of Sarratt School Parents' Association and a temporary maze run by Sarratt Tennis Club.

Members of Potters Bar Town Band also played during the afternoon, the icing on the cake of this marvellous traditional country village celebration.

One of the most popular attractions on the day, and certainly the most engaging, was an area set aside for Animal Outing, which brought along pens containing sheep, goats, calves, ducks, guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens.

Children's faces glowed as they bottle-fed the goats, cuddled the rabbits and stroked the sheep.

The animals provided for some of the most touching, educational and fun moments of the day and even this reporter could not resist feeding the sheep.

Proceedings throughout the day were commentated on by Three Rivers District Councillor Peter Cumming, who successfully kept events running to time and was one of those who very ably managed this tasty slice of country life.

His wife, and chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, Mrs Val Cumming said: "Everyone thought the day was magical. England at its best."

She paid tribute to all the hard work carried out by the chairman of the Village Day Committee, Mr Mal Biggerstaff.

Proceeds from the day will go the village hall rebuilding fund and the South West Hertfordshire Hospice Appeal.



It didn't take long for children to get the fairground bug. K216610



The tug-of-war team from The Artichoke pub take the strain. K216618



Competitions on the Green delighted both young and old. K216622



A display of animals proved a popular attraction at Sarratt village day. *Picture K216601 by TREVOR ADAMS*







THE BEST OF HERTFORDSHIRE – JUNE 93

Lush countryside – stunning church

by RICHARD ARQUATI

ONE of the most striking things about Sarratt when you approach it is the amount of lush green countryside surrounding it.

The village is almost central to the triangle created between Watford, Chesham and Hemel Hempstead and has an excellent network of footpaths between neighbouring villages.

Sarratt is the traditional sleepy village that has occasionally found itself fighting against modern day pressures that threaten its identity.

Fortunately, with a strong parish council and various other interested groups in the village, unwanted developments have been vigorously fought in an attempt to retain this beautiful corner of Hertfordshire.

The main feature of the village as you enter it from the long, winding Sarratt Road is the picturesque green, which recently hosted the annual village day celebrations.

These celebrations bring together much that is treasured in village life and help to strengthen the already close-knit community.

Refreshing the village are three public houses, The Boot and The Cricketers on The Green and The Cock in Church Lane.

The latter, however, closed earlier this year and the signs are it is unlikely ever to reopen as a pub.

The spiritual aspect of the village is served by two churches, Sarratt Baptist Church on The Green and the stunning Holy Cross Church in Church Lane.

There has apparently been a church on the Holy Cross site for eight centuries and in 1990 villagers celebrated its 800th anniversary.

The church was a monastic building and features a baptistry, bell tower and chancel.

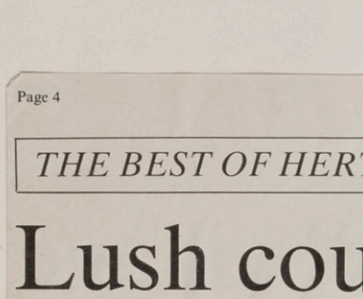
The 19th century organ is housed in the nave as is the eagle lectern, which dates back almost 100 years.

An alabaster memorial to Sir William Kingsley and family, of Rose Hall Manor, also resides in the church and is dated 1502.

Sarratt is not renowned for its variety of shopping outlets though Meg's Store, The Haircutter's Cottage and Sarratt Post Office do provide many of the basic necessities for villagers.

If you are contemplating visiting Sarratt it is well worth putting aside an afternoon in which to take in its beauty at a leisurely pace.

Among the items that might be of interest are The Old Slaughter House by the Post Office, the duck pond by The Cricketers with its friendly Ducks Crossing warning sign, and the delightful old row of cottages opposite Holy Cross Church, built by Mr Ralph Day in 1821.



There's nothing bashful about Sarratt . . .



An unusual old church is the flintstone edifice of Holy Cross.

If the weather is fine, walk along George V Way and hope a traditional, country cricket match is being played in the playing fields.

The well-sheltered recreational facility is also home to the cricket pavilion and a children's play area.

Now is a particularly good time to visit Sarratt as it is looking its best in anticipation of judges from the Best Kept Village Competition dropping in to view the village anytime in June or July.

In adition to this, The Friends of Holy Cross Church will be holding its annual flower festival on the weekend of June 26 to June 28.

Should you fancy a leisurely stroll then cross the green from The Boot Public House and walk along the lane past an attractive little common on the right and down to Sarratt Bottom where runs the River Chess.

It is difficult to imagine a more idyllic spot.



Wheeling out the barrow at Sarratt.

Sex motive to attack

THE woman attacked while out walking her dogs on Chipperfield Common last Monday has made good progress and could be home from hospital soon.

Mrs Linda Hardy, 43, of Tower Hill, Chipperfield, who was battered beyond recognition in the savage attack, regained consciousness last Wednesday evening and has been able to talk about her ordeal.

Detective Sergeant Alan Shannon said: "It is difficult for her to communicate because of her severe injuries but she has been able to talk for short periods. Mrs Hardy remembers the event quite clearly and she has been able to tell us what happened."

The detective said the attack had a sexual motive.

"We believe the man responsible for the incident saw Mrs Hardy sitting at the bench at Apostle's Pond and he went up and threatened her with his gun. It became apparent that the motive was sexual and that there was a considerable struggle and it is possible the man was injured during the attack.

"The lady put up a determined struggle but was victim of a very savage assault. It is fortunate we are not dealing with a murder."

A huge police operation is being carried out with more than 30 officers making house to house inquiries.

The attacker is described as a white youth or young man, clean shaven, of stocky build, about 5ft 9ins. He was wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers.

"My instincts say the man has local connections. This man could have confided in somebody and we ask anyone with information to come forward," said Mr Shannon.

Police also want to trace a light coloured Ford Transit van parked at the edge of the woods on the morning of the attack.

1 June 1993

Traffic trouble at the fore

100 9/7/93

TRAFFIC speeding through Sarratt is a cause for concern, according to parish councillors.

At a meeting between police and parish councillors held in the village hall on Monday afternoon, officers of the traffic division acknowledged there is a considerable problem.

The traffic concerned was both local and passing, using Sarratt roads as an alternative route.

Traffic division officers said this was now being tackled with more speed checks and the imposition of fines, but it was a problem that could not be solved easily.

Officers explained that physical features, like humps, are needed in the roads and these can only be installed with street lighting.

Council hopes for move into church

TALKS are going ahead to secure an office for Sarratt Parish Council in the Baptist Church on The Green.

The parish council is the only one left within Three Rivers that does not have a permanent base.

Current clerk Mrs Doreen Boast runs the council affairs from her home in Watford, but all looks likely to change.

The councillors have been working towards getting the office for several months but have been reluctant to announce any news until they are sure of securing the office.

This week, however, a planning application has been drafted to be sent to Three Rivers District Council for its approval.

It is not expected to be refused by the district council's planning committee and should be official very soon.

The office will part-use two of the church's back rooms and will only slightly cross over with other church activities.

Mrs Boast said: "I have been working as the clerk for two years from my own home and the clerk before me did the same.

"This office will be a huge boost for the council because the villagers will be able to come into the office and discuss any queries, and the councillors will be able to have a base to pick up information from."

Mrs Boast announced her retirement from the post several months ago but has agreed to stay on until the office is up and running.

She said: "We cannot expect another clerk to come in and run the office from scratch, so I will stay around until the change is complete."

The parish council and the church have already forged strong links, with an historic drum being presented to the council by the church at the last parish meeting.

Speaking at her last meeting as chairman of the council, Mrs Val Cumming said: "We are very near to completing talks with the church and agreeing on a site for the office.

"If it goes through, we believe it will make a whole lot of difference to this council and give us a more public face. We are looking forward to a happy conclusion."

WATFORD OBSERVER,
FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1993

THREE RIVERS

Cock could lose out to housing

by Richard Arquati

A CHESHAM businessman has made public his designs on an historic public house in Sarratt that has been closed since Christmas.

Mr Tony Power bought the six-and-a-half acre pub site, in Church Lane, last month from Benskins Brewery for an undisclosed sum.

He has since submitted two planning applications to Three Rivers District Council for permission to change the listed building into a house and build two further four-bedroomed homes on the site.

Mr Power, who has in the past owned The Bricklayers Arms in Flaunden and The Rose and Crown in Hawridge, said The Cock was no longer viable as a business.

"My research has shown there are 26 pubs within three miles of the centre of Sarratt. The area is saturated," he said.

He believes the cost of buying the pub and the need to make the necessary improvements to reopen it would be prohibitive.

"The only way of saving the structure is to develop it," he said.

Four years ago The Cock was a thriving pub but more recently has fallen on hard times.

The new plans involve the building of a detached house in the car park and another in the pub's garden.

"We do not intend to develop any of the paddock area, just the curtilage and the existing pub, hard car parking area and the domestic garden," said Mr Power.

He believes villagers will benefit from the reduced number of cars going along the lane and a reduction in the amount of nuisance caused.

"The Cock is a beautiful building and should not have been allowed to get into such a state," he said.

"If permission is given I will make this corner the most picturesque part of Sarratt.

"I do not intend significantly altering the actual structure of The Cock so people will still be able to appreciate the beauty of the building."

According to the Department of the Environment's catalogue of listed buildings of special architectural or historical interest, The Cock was build in the mid to late 18th Century and was extended in the 20th Century.

The two storey building is made of whitewashed brick with "a hipped tile roof" and has three windows.

Mr Power said he was keen to develop the pub, which has suffered two break-ins during the past month.

Proposals for the future of the pub are due to be considered by Three Rivers District Council's Planning Committee in July.

Anyone wishing to view the designs can do so at Sarratt post office or at the council offices at Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth.



Site for housing development: The Cock in Sarratt. K232217

Owner 'misled' over sale of pub

THE former owner of The Cock public house in Sarratt has hit out at plans to develop the historic building.

Mr Les Davies, of Church Lane, said he sold the pub to Mr Tony Power on the understanding it would reopen as a pub.

"The whole idea of him closing the pub is disgusting," said Mr Davies.

"Obviously it needs money spent on it. The brewery hasn't spent very much money on it during the past nine years."

He said he made a back-to-back sale of the six-and-a-half acre pub site last month for a figure in the region of £200,000.

"The pub was making money up to two years ago. That is when the brewery gave me notice to quit or buy it. Things went slightly wrong after that," said Mr Davies.

He added he made very little money from the sale of the pub and only bought it because the brewery was threatening to sell it.

"I think without a shred of doubt the brewery would have sold the pub on as a private house. That is why I went and bought it," he said.

Mr Davies said he could have made more money from the sale if he had sold it as a private house.

"I didn't think it was my right to close the pub down. It is part of the village and deserves to stay there," he said.

Mr Power claims he did not feel the pub was a viable concern.

He said poor road connections and the fact it was a closed pub when he bought it emphasised its unviability.

"The road we have chosen to go down, we think, is the only way to preserve this Grade II Listed building," he said.

Mr Davies disagrees.

He said: "The pub is viable if you clean it up and spend a bit of money on it."

He is opposed to the planning application submitted to Three Rivers District Council by Mr Power to build two additional houses on the site and to develop the pub building.

"I want the village to know this is not my fault. I am not guilty of selling their heritage," said Mr Davies.

"I am not being vindictive towards Mr Power, but from my point of view he misled me."

W.O. 18/6/93

Opening the countryside to walkers

11/2/93

THE new southern area of the Countryside Management Service is up and running under the management of Simon Walsh.

The new area includes Watford, Rickmansworth, Bushey and Sarratt.

Simon is busy with his immediate plans for the area, and has been closely involved with the development of the London Walks network, particularly the orbital routes.

In 1989 he put forward the idea for the North London Way, which has since grown into the idea of the "Walkers' M25", a plan which is set to turn into reality through the work of the London Walking Forum, with over 600 miles of waymarked walks in and around London proposed for the near future.

Simon, a founder member of the forum, was at last week's official launch of the London Walk Network at the House of Lords, hosted by London Planning Advisory Committee chairman Baroness Hamwee.

The southern area CMS team has been particularly active in preparing the ground to link the various sections of the North London Way which opened last year.

Other important projects for the team include completing improvements to the disused railway line between Rickmansworth and Watford, working closely with Watling Chase Community Forest team, and promoting the Grand Union Canal Walk for opening in April.

Simon, a marine botany graduate, has been with the CMS since 1987 and was formerly manager of the green belt management area.

Before joining the CMS, he was a warden at Slapton Ley Nature Reserve in Devon, and an intertidal rocky shore surveyor in the south west of Ireland.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

HOLY CROSS CHURCH SARRATT

26 - 28 JUNE 1993

"A WEALTH OF SKILLS AND TALENTS"

Welcome to our Flower Festival'. The theme is based upon crafts, skills and arts which are part of our natural and acquired talents. I hope you will enjoy the time you spend here, looking at the arrangements, sharing in our worship or having refreshments.

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Thanks to all who have planned and created this event.

Rev. David Dredge
Rector of Holy Cross Church

SERVICES

Friday 25 June
7.30pm - A Service of Dedication

Sunday 27 June
8am - Holy Communion
10am - Parish Communion
6.30pm - Evensong (Preacher, The Rt. Rev. Brian Skinner)

Friendship quilt goes in the draw

VISITORS to a bring and buy coffee morning in Sarratt last Thursday discovered that bees wax, dedication and a quarter of a million stitches went into one of the items there.

The morning was an opportunity for people to see Sarratt's Friendship Quilt, which measures nine feet by seven feet and has been entirely handstitched by 17 local quilters.

Wax from Sarratt bees was used to treat the quilting thread, which took a quarter of a million stitches to join 2,649 hexagons together.

On April 16 next year there will be a grand draw for the quilt, with 50 runners up cushion covers.

Draw tickets for the quilt raised £116 for the Friends of Holy Cross Church Renovation Fund, while the coffee morning raised £330 to buy flowers for the village flower festival.

WONDERFUL weather drew the crowds to Sarratt at the end of last month to enjoy the three-day Flower Festival at Holy Cross Church.

Hundreds of people flocked to the church, which was filled with 27 floral arrangements on the theme of crafts, skills and arts.

Reverend David Dredge was delighted by the response of people who visited the festival.

He added: "The arrangements are certainly the best since I have been here. It's wonderful to see such a lot of people working so happily together to create such a splendid display."

The Sarratt Friendship Quilt, which displays the village's country gardens, the green and the Chess Valley, was also on view in the church.

Handstitched by 17 local quilters, the quilt shows a feast of colours and animals.

Tickets for raffling the quilt were sold at the festival and the draw for it will take place next spring.

Proceeds will be given for the care and preservation of the church, including the restoration of the roof.

Also on sale were Sarratt Cross lapel pins, prints of the old tithe map and the History of Sarratt book on the Friends of Holy Cross stall.

On Saturday evening the flower-filled church was packed with an audience who listened to Music for a Summer Evening, a concert arranged by church organist and choirmaster Mr David Clough.

The following evening the Flower Festival Evensong was led by Reverend Brian Skinner.

On Monday the festival continued on a quieter theme with many elderly visitors, including a party from Croxley House, visiting the church.

"At one point we had 12 people in wheelchairs and it was very worthwhile continuing on Monday as it gave us a chance to talk to them and show them round," said Mrs Joan Dredge, the rector's wife.

Chairman of the trustees Mr John Guy said all the hard work of the flower arrangers, stallholders and helpers had been rewarded.

"All the effort proved worthwhile because we raised more than £3,000," he said.

"It was certainly a good idea to make it a three day festival because lots of people turned up on Monday when it was a little quieter."

The next fund-raising event by the Friends of Holy Cross Church will be the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Sponsored Bicycle Ride on September 11.



SARRATT

IS TAKING PART IN THE 1993

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

COMPETITION

We won in 1982 and were Second in 1981 and 1989
After a year or so of "resting" let's go for a 1993 WIN!

• • •

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Lawns cut, hedges trimmed, tidy gardens and where needed a fresh coat of paint. If you need help call us at 262578.

2. On the roads and footpaths and in all public areas the problem is litter - paper, plastic and cans much of which is indestructible. Please adopt an area near your home and make it litter free.

Enthusiasts please sign on by phone to:
Dennis Jenks (262578) Jenny Dimond-Hewlett (263803) or Percy Saunders (267124)

ALL MUCK IN - AND WE WILL WIN

Dimond Imprint Ltd 4/93



The Friendship Quilt

Size approx. 9' x 6'. Hand-sewn by parishioners of Sarratt in 1992/93 for The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt to raise funds for the care and preservation of the building including the restoration of the roof.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt. Registered Charity 1018991

Floral show proves money-spinner

W.O. 9-7-93



The floral arrangements being admired at Sarrat K26041



CHURCH funds got a welcome boost in Sarratt over the weekend as hundreds of visitors poured into St Paul's Church for the village flower festival.

Twenty-seven impressive arrangements were on display in the church on the Green, bringing gasps of admiration from visitors.

There were also teas served in the church field and festivities included two special services and a concert of summer music on Saturday night.

The aim of the festival was to raise as much as possible for urgent repairs to the church roof, as well as for general restoration work.

WL 6&2 9-7-93



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The Friends of Holy Cross Church-Sarratt. Registered Charity 1018991

From Dennis Jarvis.

Little Sarratt Hall
Sarratt
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 6BT

Tel. 0923 262578
Fax. 0923 270935

JULY 31st 1993
(APOLOGIES FOR DELAY — HAVE BEEN ON THE TROT).

TO — AREA TEAM LEADERS AND ALL WHO HELPED IN THE -----

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

NOT A WIN ... BUT WE WERE RUNNERS-UP IN OUR GROUP. POTTEN END WERE THE WINNERS. COUPLED WITH THIS WE WERE PLACED 6TH IN THE WHOLE OF HERTFORDSHIRE OUT OF 85 PARTICIPANTS. COPY OF OUR "SILVER" CERTIFICATE AND DETAILED RESULTS ENCLOSED.

THE VILLAGE LOOKS ALL THE BETTER FOR OUR EFFORTS SO A MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR THE WORK AND ENTHUSIASM OF YOU AND YOUR HELPERS.

I WILL BE IN TOUCH SHORTLY WITH THE LUCKY(?) WINNERS FOR THE AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION VINTAGE BUS TRIP TO EPSOM RACES.

PIP PIP.

Dennis

H.C.S.

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 1993

Certificate presented to

Sarratt

Runner-up

Group 2

Central/West Area Preliminary Round

THE HERTFORDSHIRE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Best Kept Village Competition

VILLAGE ..... SARRATT. .....

AREA ..... C/W. ..... GROUP ..... 2 .....

JUDGING POINTS	MAX MARKS	MARKS GAINED	JUDGE'S REPORT AND COMMENTS
1. Absence of litter and refuse dumps. Provision of litter bins.	15	15	No visible litter and good provision of bins.
2. General appearance and tidiness of trees, hedges, fences, walls, roads and verges within the judging area.	10	9	Well-cut and cleared verges.
3. General appearance, tidiness and condition of public open spaces such as playing fields, village greens, wild life areas, footpaths, ponds and allotments.	20	19	Excellent pond and playing field. Allotments appeared unkempt (despite organic use). Greens good (flora areas noted).
4. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of communal buildings such as village halls, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and schools.	15	13.5	Outside of scout hut untidy and overgrown. Some litter by ex-servicemen's club.
5. General appearance and tidiness of residential property and gardens.	15	13.5	Church Lane properties would benefit from some attention.
6. General appearance and tidiness of the outside of places of worship, war memorial, graveyards and cemeteries.	10	8.5	Holy Cross Church excellent, Cemetery well-mown except around grave stone edges. Baptist Church slightly weedy, hardcore unattractive.
7. General appearance and tidiness of shops, public houses, workshops and garages.	10	9.5	Garage and Public Houses neat.
8. The upkeep and appearance of signboards and notice boards, and the restraint shown in advertisement displays.	5	3	Village hall board requires painting. Several odd formal and informal advert displays, some flapping and torn.

TOTAL 100 91%

NOTE: In the event of a village not having one or more of the above judging points, the total marks scored will be expressed as a percentage of the total possible marks.

Date judging took place 14/6/1993.

Judge's Signature J Kentish

Hillvalley
A member of the Swift Group of Companies

CALOR

The Friends of
Holy Cross Church
Sarratt

FLOWER FESTIVAL
1993

26-28 June

Parish takes action over car parking

PARKING and driving problems in Sarratt are being put under the microscope.

The village's centre is struggling to cope with the number of people trying to park there, leading to complaints from residents living next to Sarratt Green.

These have the backing of an official by-law, which prohibits people parking in the area.

Parish councillors have now responded by introducing a warning system to rogue parkers.

This take the form of notes left under the windscreen wipers of cars.

On them, the warnings say: "You are probably unaware that you are breaking a parish by-law by parking on the Green.

"To avoid cost of prosecution, both to you and the council, we would be grateful if you would refrain from this practice."

Speaking at Monday night's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council, chairman Mrs Val Cumming said: "People are parking on the Green without having the right to do so.

"One of our objectives this year is for people to realise that this is wrong. Some people are perfectly reasonable about this, but there are others who are not."

One possible solution that was put forward, a village car park, seems unlikely to come off the drawing board in the foresseable future.

Councillors at the meeting heard they could apply for a grant of up to £2,000 towards the cost of developing a site.

But the council would still have to find half the costs itself, which councillor Mr Charles Wood said was "very unlikely".

He said: "There is no money in the precept for this sort of grant.

"We are getting all our money from outside assistance.

"You can discuss yourselves blue in the face, the answer will always be no. There is no money."

Mr Wood also spoke up about another matter vexing drivers in the village when he criticised work being carried out in Sarratt Road.

He claimed lighting being used to warn drivers of the roadworks was inadequate because they lay just round a sharp corner.

He said: "They are right in front of you when you come round the road a bit sharpish. It is very dangerous."

Village blooms at festival

PREPARATIONS are well under way for Sarratt's Flower Festival from next Friday, June 25, to Monday, June 28.

The festival is being held to raise money for the restoration of Holy Cross Church.

During the three full days there will be flower displays, plant, cake, pie, preserves and Friends of Holy Cross stalls.

On Friday night there will be a dedication service at 7.30pm.

The festival will then be open from 10am to 5.30pm on Saturday, 11.30am to 5.30pm on Sunday and 10am to 5.30pm on Monday.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

HOLY CROSS CHURCH SARRATT

26 - 28 JUNE 1993

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Rev. David Dredge
Rector of Holy Cross Church

WATFORD OBSERVER 16-7-93

THREE RIVERS



Retiring headmaster Mr Chris Alexander sitting pretty among the children and staff of Sarratt JMI School. *Picture K280304 by TREVOR ADAMS*

Headteacher quits school under cloud of sadness

by Lesley Hitchen

DISILLUSIONED headteacher Mr Chris Alexander has hit out against the Government's education policy on the eve of his retirement from Sarratt JMI School.

Mr Alexander, 52, will leave the education service in August after 18 years as headteacher of the village school.

He admits he has lost faith in the system and the way teachers are now being treated.

"I think most people who know me in the village know that I am leaving because I have become disillusioned by the way the education service is being run," said Mr Alexander.

"It is very definitely a case of the system that I am leaving, not Sarratt.

"I have always loved the village and the school, but have had enough of all the bureaucracy."

Mr Alexander joined the school in 1975 after the previous headteacher, Mr Ken Green, left to emigrate to Australia.

"When I was appointed here all those years ago we were asked and trusted to do the job and regarded as professionals," said Mr Alexander.

"We were told it was our school and we could run it the way we wanted, but in the last five years things have changed.

"As far as I am concerned, nowadays teachers and heads have no opportunity to impress their personality onto a school and that is a real shame."

Frustration at not having enough time to teach finally led Mr Alexander to his decision to take early retirement.

"In a small school like this the headmaster has to teach and I enjoy doing it, but now so much management responsibility is piled onto us there is not enough time to teach as well as deal with all the administration," he said.

Despite his feeling of desperation, Mr Alexander said he will be sad to leave the school.

"I shall really miss the children, the people and the village. It has been such a wonderful place to work in and if it was not for the nature of the job I would dearly love to stay," he said.

"My leaving is no reflection of the school, staff or children, but just my own frustration at not being trusted or treated as a professional in the system any longer."

During his 18 years in office Mr Alexander has seen considerable changes to the school.

"When I first came to the village in 1975 the school was split between two sites, 200 yards apart from each other," he said.

"It was no fun having to get between the two, especially in winter when it was freezing.

"Luckily a few years later two extra classrooms were set up on the present site and everybody was finally in one place."

As a keen golfer Mr Alexander is looking forward to being able to spend more time on the fairway and sorting out his vast stamp collection.

"I love playing golf and am pleased I can devote more of my time to doing just that," he said.

"I am also very excited about becoming a grandfather at Christmas and no doubt that will keep me very busy."

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council Mrs Valerie Cumming said the village will be sad to see Mr Alexander leave the school.

"Mr Alexander has done a super job and I know we are all going to miss him," she said.

"He has always been very interested in village life and most supportive to the parish council. He has been a great credit to the school."

Mrs Julia Saddler, of Alexandra Road, whose two teenage children attended the school and seven-year-old son is presently a pupil there, paid tribute to Mr Alexander in his years as headteacher.

"Basically I could not have been happier with my children's start in life at the school," she said.

"Chris has always been respected in the school, the children love him and he loves the kids and it will be sad to see him go."

The new headteacher will be Mr Gary Eccles, who is currently deputy headteacher of Brockswood JMI School in Hemel Hempstead.

● Staff and pupils of Sarratt JMI School unveiled a memorial on Tuesday afternoon in honour of former headteacher Mr Ken Green.

The memorial, a picture of the old school building in Church Lane painted by local artist Mrs Mary Finlay, was hung in the school in honour of Mr Green, who died in Australia in 1991.

THREE

Village split o childcare plan

CARE plans for Croxley are dividing the village arges of wasting thousands ds of taxpayers' money.

y Green Parish Council has, past year, been discussing r helping parents whose finish school before they can ted.

tion seemed to lie in setting er school childcare scheme in e.

gations were carried out into where the scheme could be

ese arguments have taken a tack after claims the scheme cost the village between nd £100,000 over the course xt five years.

ay some parish councillors, is ey cannot afford to spend on nly 15 children, especially milar schemes run with no n other villages.

eements on the proposals n earnest when a plan was to spend more than £100,000 e-year lease of the former Bank in New Road, Croxley

by Adam Parsons

That project was voted down at last month's meeting of the parish council, but the group is now discussing an alternative.

This time, the council is faced with a £40,000-plus subsidy package to keep the group going for five years.

The money would go towards the wages of three full-time staff as well as paying the rent for any meeting place.

Children, aged between eight and 12, would be able to go to the centre after school before being picked up by their parents.

But, according to parish councillor Mr Ray Withers, it is much more than the council needs to spend.

Only £3,000 was set aside for the project in the council's budget estimate last year, but Mr Withers said he thinks that is sufficient.

He said: "Other places manage to get by with mothers and friends running after school care, but we seem to be trying to run ours like a business.

"We are saying we are committed to three full-time staff, but there is no guarantee we will ne people.

"If the scheme is a does not get used, we v carry on paying wages same rate."

Mr Withers wants to follow the example Bushey run by volunt munity hall.

That group runs wit cil subsidy, but made a last year.

Mr Withers said: "If team of women toget sure we can, people are come up with ideas success of it.

"We do not need t money on hiring pe terms. All we need is good management."

Olive

Customer to fight ag

DEFIANT South O have vowed to fight down-grade Prestwic office.

The post office will an agency-run office

WD 9/7/93

Funsters may be sent one way after car trouble at May fair

PARKING problems at Sarratt May Fair led to a special meeting between representatives of the parish council and traffic police in the village hall on Monday.

In the past there have been few severe objections to the fair, but this year, two separate lots of equipment overhanging the busy road through the centre of the village were criticised for causing a possible threat to pedestrians and motorists.

Police also heard that parking in Church Lane had caused a problem during the fair.

Although residents had placed cones in the road, these had been ignored, with some found dumped in gardens and elsewhere in the village.

Parish councillors said the annual problem would not be solved unless alternative parking could be found.

It was suggested Sarratt farmers and landowners might wish to hire out their fields for parking purposes.

Parish councillors recognised the fair is a popular event, attracting people from far afield. They, along with fair operators, need to park their vehicles.

It was suggested fair operators be allowed to park one car only on the Green, and that they and those attending the event should park other vehicles further away.

It was also suggested a one-way system should be organised around the village during the event next year.

It will be necessary for Three Rivers District Council to issue a Temporary Traffic Order for this to be done and parish councillors recognised it could be expensive to provide appropriate signs advertising the temporary alteration.

Police agreed to investigate the options and to report back at the next meeting.

Parish vows to stop pub extension plan

by Catherine Cain

WORRIED villagers in Sarratt are determined to fight plans to extend The Boot public house and build a car park behind it.

They fear the proposed alteration, which looks set to increase the pub by 63 per cent and attract hundreds of customers, will bring about a drastic change to the spirit and character of the village.

The proposal to alter the listed building is still very much in its early stages.

An outline planning application and a listed building application have been submitted to Three Rivers District Council.

At Monday's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council, a large number of concerned residents packed the Village Hall to make their opinions known.

Parish councillors discussed the proposal, which comprises plans for a two-storey rear extension, a substantially increased bar and a car park at the rear.

It was felt these changes were totally out of keeping for a small village pub.

Reading from a letter sent by a Sarratt resident who lives next to the pub, parish councillor Mr John Gell listed various points of opposition.

He told the meeting:

● The extension would create a huge increase in noise and traffic affecting those living nearby.

● Arc lighting would invade neighbouring houses and gardens.

● Increased loading activity to stock the enlarged bar would create additional noise disturbance.

● Doubling the size of the bar would increase trade, bringing with it the burden of extra cars and parking problems — already a cause for concern in the area.

● Tree protection should be taken into account.

● Noise from the cellar at night, already great, would be increased.

● Agricultural and horticutural requirements could be contravened by the conversion of the back field into a car park.

● Toilets in the proposed extension would overlook neighbouring houses.

● The proposal would spoil a peaceful Hertfordshire village.

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council Mrs Val Cumming told the meeting: "I have had many phone calls from people expressing great concern over the plans."

She was particularly anxious about the parking implications raised by The Boot's proposed enlargement.

"It irritates us already that they park everywhere on the Green and now they are asking for all these extra spaces that will never be used," she said.

Mr Gell suggested the siting of dustbins in the pub garden would affect neighbours living to the right of the pub, while those on the left side would be subject to noise from barrels sliding down a ramp into the cellar.

Mrs Cumming then took the unusual step of throwing the meeting open for five minutes to allow members of the public to express their opinions.

"Outrageous," said one, while another voiced the fear The Boot was destined to become a "motel or hotel".

The Boot neighbour Mrs Robson said: "I feel it will be the ruination of Sarratt. We live in a quiet, rural English village in the middle of the Green Belt.

"I think the whole thing would alter the village as it is. What is the enhancement to Sarratt? It is all for people coming from outside

2 July 1993 Watford Observer

THREE

Village doctor retires after 35 years



TWO traditions of family and village medicine came to an end on Wednesday with the retirement of Sarratt doctor Dr Michael Scorer.

Dr Scorer has treated patients in the village for the past 35 years, but has decided to retire just before a reorganisation of health care in the area.

It will also mean the end of a family line, with Dr Scorer's father, Stephen, having been a partner in a Watford surgery as well as working at hospitals in the town.

Dr Michael Scorer, educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and St Bartholemew's Hospital in London, began working in Sarratt in 1959 after national service in the RAF.

A year later, after the death of partner Dr Martin Doyle, he carried on single-handedly in the village and has been there ever since.

Dr Scorer's retirement comes at a time when the Sarratt practice is being amalgamated with that in Croxley Green.

He said: "I will certainly miss working in the village because I have made so many friends and got to know just about everybody.

"There is one family, for instance, that I have seen grow up through five generations. They were all daughters, though, so the name has changed each time."

Villagers from Sarratt and Croxley Green paid tribute to the doctor last month when they said goodbye to him over a cup of tea in Sarratt.

They also took the opportunity to present the doctor with an array of leaving gifts, including a pastel drawing of a boating scene by artist Paul Maze.

He said: "My strongest memories are of the happiness of the patients I have treated over the years.

"The joy of working in a single-handed practice is that you really do get to know everybody over the years."

Dr Scorer and his wife Joyce will carry on living at their home in Loudwater, although they are hoping to use the time they now have to do more travelling.

"SPOTLIGHT" JULY 1993



DR SCORER OPERATES ON HIS JUNE REES CAKE

1993

Mrs Mary Dewar

W.O. 22-1-93

FORMER teacher Mrs Mary Dewar, a member of the Sarratt Women's Institute and the Sarratt Care Luncheon Club, died in Watford General Hospital earlier this month.

Mrs Dewar was cremated at West Herts Crematorium in Garston on Tuesday, when the service was taken by the Rector of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, the Rev David Dredge.

Mrs Dewar, who was born in Cardiff in 1916, married her first husband, Major Tom Griffith-Jones, in 1941 and the couple lived at Oxhey for five years.

She taught at Little Furze School, Oxhey for several years before becoming assistant head teacher at Sarratt JMI School.

Widowed in 1971, Mrs Dewar returned to her native Wales leaving her home at Loudwater in Rickmansworth. She married Mr Reg Dewar in 1984.



She returned to the South West Hertfordshire area when she was widowed in 1990 and lived with her son Gareth and his wife at Sarratt. She became a member of the village's Women's Institute and the Sarratt Care Luncheon Club.

Mrs Dewar was due to join the golden wedding celebration at Hampshire on January 9 of her oldest friends Ron and Mildred Roberts, at whose wedding she had been matron of honour.

Mrs Dewar died at Watford General Hospital on January 6.

At this week's cremation the mourners included Mr and Mrs Gareth Griffith-Jones, Mr and Mrs Huw Griffith-Jones, Mr Richard Glenister, Miss Caroline Glenister, Mr David Thomas, Mr and Mrs Ewart Rees, Mrs S. Whittaker, Mrs G. Preece, Mr Jonathan Miller and Mr W. Simpson.

Villagers take to the panto stage

SWAPPING uniforms for costumes, Sarratt's rector, assistant curate and village policemen took to the stage last week for three nights of pantomime.

Dick Whittington and His Cat was performed in the village hall on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Rector of Holy Cross Church, the Reverend David Dredge, cast aside his cassock to play Grandad.

Mr Dredge also wrote the pantomime's lyrics. His wife Joan made an appearance in the show.

Safari-suited assistant curate Michael Hewlett was great guns as the big game hunter and Sarratt Policemen Constable Wynes did double duty as the Luton Man and the Grand Wazir.

Proceeds from the pantomime, directed by Julia Rufey and produced by Ann Rickards, will be donated to charity.

WO 29.1.93

Carol's award gives signpost for future

W.O. 9-4-93

A SARRATT woman is celebrating her success in passing one of the highest examinations in sign language.

Mrs Carol Gaisford, of Alexandra Road, has just achieved Stage Three of the British Sign Language Examination awarded by the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP).

A mother of two teenagers, Mrs Gaisford received her certificate from the Right Honourable Nicholas Scott, Minister of State for the Disabled, at the CACDP's presentation ceremony in London earlier this week.

She was among 76 other sign language users from around the country who received certificates.

Working at Heathlands School for Deaf Children in St Albans, Mrs Gaisford is now hoping to become a sign language interpreter.

"It has taken me three years to complete this course, which has given me a valuable insight into sign language and the deaf community," she said.

"I'm sure what I have learnt will be of great benefit in my job."

Having just registered with the CACDP as a trainee sign language interpreter, she can now act as a trainee interpreter for deaf people in everyday situations like meetings or sports events.

For the next couple of years she will undergo further training to become a full-trained interpreter.

CACDP is a national charity committed to the advancement of the welfare, status and opportunities of deaf people through improved communication.

It is the national examining board for communication skills such as sign language and holds the register of sign language interpreters.



GP retires after 30 years

W.O. 5-3-93

PUTTING his feet up ready for a well-earned retirement after 30 years as a Watford GP is Dr Robin Gain.

The 60-year-old, who was a partner at the Suthergrey Surgery, St John's Road, Watford, binned his stethoscope after enjoying a retirement party with his colleagues and patients last week.

Dr Gain, of Sarratt, said he would miss his work and all his "super patients" — but added that he was looking forward to entering a new phase of his life.

He was born in Dulwich and spent much of his childhood as a wartime evacuee in Rutland and Hitchin.

From a very early age he knew he would be a doctor and cannot now remember a time when he did not want to enter the medical profession.

He won a scholarship to Dulwich College and then trained at Guy's Hospital in London, eventually qualifying in 1957.

Dr Gain spent three years in the Royal Air Force as a medical officer, spending much of that time as a junior surgeon in a German hospital.

After returning to Britain he got a GP post with the practice he has served for almost 30 years.

Then the practice was based at the corner of Cassio Road and Rickmansworth Road in Watford and the other partners were Dr Phyllis Kay, who is now 91, and Dr Dennis Duckworth.

In 1967 they amalgamated with another practice — and ten years ago they all moved to the new premises in St John's Road.

Now Dr Gain is planning to pursue many of his lesiure interests during his retirement.

He is a member of the Watford Rotary Club, and several years ago was a chairman of Watford Round Table.

He is also treasurer of the parish church in Sarratt, a member of the Samuel Pepys Society, a member of the Apothecary Society and a Freeman of the City of London.

Dr Gain is also a trustee of the South West Hertfordshire Hospice Appeal and he is currently trying to research his family's history.

He has been married to his wife Edna for 36 years and they have two sons, one of whom is a GP, and two daughters, one a midwife.

The couple now also have six grandchildren. K083510A

Landmark removed for restoration work

Wo 13/8/93



Gently does it: Mr Carl Baxter finalises the delicate operation under the watchful gaze of Mr Graham Bedford (right) and Mr John Robertson. *Picture K320108 by PETER STEVENS*

by Adam Parsons

ONLOOKERS had a shock on Monday when a Sarratt landmark was brought to ground.

The good news was the lychgate, outside The Barn on Sarratt Green, did not so much come crashing to earth as gently lowered.

The reason for all this activity was the discovery that foundations holding the building up had gone rotten.

The history of the lychgate is rather cloudy to present owners of The Barn Mr Philip Gooding and wife Judith.

They moved into the house, and so inherited the care of the landmark, about seven years ago.

Lychgates are normally found in churches, where they were used for storing coffins before burial.

Mrs Gooding believes it was probably bought to the house simply because it looked attractive.

She said: "It almost certainly came from somewhere else because this house used to be a barn and certainly not a church.

"It is a pretty young lychgate compared to a lot of others, but a people would really miss it if it were not there."

She said the house brought with it the responsibility of looking after the building and that was something the Goodings were prepared to carry out.

Mrs Gooding said: "Something had to be done very quickly. It really was on its last legs."

The lychgate, a favourite with artists and visitors, began gently leaning a few months ago, prompting its worried owners to look for a way to reverse the damage.

They called in builder Mr Graham Bedford to help sort out the problem and he decided to call on the services of a carpenter, joiner and a large crane.

That crane, under the control of Mr Carl Baxter, turned up on Monday morning and proceeded to lift the roof clear of the building.

Wooden struts sticking out of the bottom of the structure were removed and, very gingerly, it was placed on the ground.

Mr Baxter described it as an "unusual and very interesting job to be involved in".

He said: "The whole thing was leaning over so we lifted off the lychgate and let other people do the work on the foundations.

"We are coming back next week to put it on again, which is going to be just as tricky.

"We had to be very, very careful because we did not want it to collapse in a pile of timber and tiles.

"People would have been very upset if anything had gone wrong."

The bricks making up the base of the lychgate were then individually numbered and taken apart so workers could reach the crumbling foundations.

These were cleared out and dug again and then, just as carefully, the bricks were put back together.

Mr Bedford, charged with overseeing the whole operation, said he was confident there would be no problems.

He said: "Everybody passes it by and everybody knows what it is.

"It is obviously important, but there should be no problems."

Now, with its foundations built more solidly, the roof is about to be returned.

The crane is to return after the weekend to make one of the village's most popular landmarks, hopefully stronger and better than ever.

Two in a row for Sarratt

SARRATT suffered a second successive defeat when the lost by seven wickets in an all-day game at home to Rosslyn.

They were two wickets down with only six on the board before big-hitting Dave Birchenall (47) and Jeff Chislett (55) rallied the cause.

Portly Roger Ruffey showed the benefits of sticking to a light lunch, by helping to speahead a late rally with a stubborn 30 and Sarratt finished with 180.

They nabbed two quick Rosslyn wickets but at 34 for three, Rosslyn commenced a club record fourth wicket stand of 147, despite Sarratt's view that Kala (93) was caught very early in his knock.

W.O. 13-8-93



Sarratt CC line up before Sunday's game with Rosslyn. K316820

Modesty silences top show winner

TOTAL entries were down at Sarratt Horticultural Society's Autumn Show on Saturday, but organisers said the standard was still high.

Many of the top exhibitors were unable to attend the village hall.

Show secretary Mr John Rickard announced the winners of the various classes, but failed to mention the overall show winner — himself.

Society secretary Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones said: "I think he was too modest to announce that he had won."

Sir Christopher Staughton came second with 42 points and Mrs Joan Dredge was in third place with 25 points.

Dr Michael Scorer, a keen gardener himself, presented the trophies to the winners.

Winner of the Loader trophy for floral art was Mrs Dredge and winner of the Elsie Collins trophy for cooking was Mrs Agnes Bonwick.

Mr Rickards won the David Osborne trophy for his fruit and vegetable entries, while young James Fermont was top in the children's class and carried away the A.E. Cox trophy.

Sir Christopher and Lady Staughton triumphantly went home with three trophies — the Arthur Pritchard trophy for roses, the Frederick Barber cup for other flowers and the Flight Cracknell trophy for handicrafts.

The Three Rivers trophy for the family with the most points was awarded to Mrs Noreen Singleton and Miss Rachel Powell, her granddaughter.

Sideshows at the show also proved successful.

Mrs Connie Barber and Mrs Pat Petts were in charge of the raffle, Mrs Ann Rickards and Mrs Joan Dredge sold plants and garden items and Mrs Joan Thomas, Mrs Noreen Singleton, and Mrs Linda Nott served teas.

Show auctioneer Mr Gareth Griffith-Jones auctioned goods donated by the exhibitors.

The shows and stalls raised some cash for the horticultural society.

New members are always welcome at the society, which is holding its annual meeting at Sarratt village hall on Monday, October 18, at 8pm.

Early Christmas

CHRISTMAS shopping started early in Sarratt this year with the sale of wrapping paper and Christmas cards in aid of Cancer Research.

A coffee morning on Monday was organised by the Rickmansworth branch of the charity and £1,224 was raised at the event in Sarratt Village Hall.

Branch chairman Mrs Val Cumming was delighted with the result.

She also thanked the members who had baked cakes, made preserves, grown plants, ran the bring and buy stall and served coffee to raise funds.

Wo 17/9/93

Problem posed by village trees

GROUND on Sarratt Green may have to be levelled out if a plan to plant four lime trees is carried out.

Posts have been put up on the green to mark the places where the trees are being pencilled in.

But, according to parish councillor Mr Charles Wood, the four of them would not survive on the sloping piece of ground that has been chosen.

He said: "Experience shows one of them would get all the water at the expense of the other three."

Chairman Mrs Val Cumming, also speaking at the council's meeting on Monday night, added: "There is a general feeling the trees should be moved further north."

Wo 13/8/93

The new Council Tax in Three Rivers

The new Council Tax is to come into force next April as a replacement for the controversial Community Charge.

It is based on the value of each individual property as well as people's individual circumstances.

Properties have been banded according to their value. The greater the house's value, the greater the banding and the higher the subsequent charge per household.

Property Band	Property Value	
A	Under	£40,000
B	£40 —	£52,000
C	£52 —	£68,000
D	£68 —	£88,000
E	£88 —	£120,000
F	£120 —	£160,000
G	£160 —	£320,000
H	£320,000+	
?	Information unavailable	

Sarratt

Alexandra Road: 1-14 (E), 15 (C), 16 (E), 17 (C), 18 (E), 19 (C), 20 (E), 21 (C), 22 (E), 23 (C), 24 (E), 25 (C), 26 (D), 27 (C), 28 (D), 29 (C), 30 (D), 31 (C), 32 (D), 33 (C), 34 (D), 35 (C), 36 (D), 37-49 (C).

Belsize: Belsize Farm (G), Belsize House (G), Sunchat (G), The Bungalow (G), Melody Cottage (G), Lonmay (F), Walnut Cottage (F), The Plough (C), Cherry Oak (G), Purbeck (G), Clouds Hill (G), Limone (G), Clarendon (G), Whitedell Farm (H), Bragmans Farm (G), Little Bragmans (G), Belsize Cottages 1-5 (D), 6 (E), 7 (D), 8-9 (E).

Bottom Lane: St Georges Cottage (G), Briar Cottage (G).

The Briars: 1-13 (G).

Bucks Hill: New Hall Farm (G), Hill View (G), Bucks Hill Cottage (G), Bucks Hill House (C), High Spring Cottage (G), Ainsworth Cottage (G), Allendale Cottage (F), Little Hilbre (F), Ramblers (E), Knowle Cottage (F), Sunnyside (E), Orchard Bungalow (G), Trackside (G), Bucks Hill Farm (H), Hedgeside (E), Dartrey (E), Greys (H), Rodings (G), Woodcroft (E), Hollymead (G), Grasmere (G), White Leaf (F), Gable End (E), Langdale (F), Mill House (F), Silverfields (G), Bucks Croft (G), The Ash (G), Greenville (G), Buck House (G), The Homestead (F), Kynance (F), Bucks Hill Bottom House (H), Bucks Hill Bottom Cottge (H), 1-2 Flint Cottages (G), Griffinhurst (G), Blenheim (G), Hill Top (G), Westwood End (G), Baytree Farm (G), Shepherds Lodge (G), Little Callipers (H), The Old Post Office (G), West View (G), Friars Cottage (F), Lane End (F), Greencroft (G), Holmwood (G), The Old Gate (F), Watendlath (F), The Nook (G), The Oak (F), The Hollies (F), Roseleigh (G), Gyfres Farm (H), Gyfres Barn (F), Little Westwood (H), Westwood Farm (G), Great Westwood Cottage (G), The Bungalow (?), Entrance Lodge Great Westwood (F), Great Westwood House (H), The Lodge Great Westwood (F).

Caroon Drive: 1-6 (G), Upshire (G), Hunters Mead (G), Stocks (G), 8 (G), Sandpipers (G).

Chandlers Cross: Chandlers Farm (H), Chandlers Farm Cottage (?), The Nurseries (A), Coniston (G), Yasme (G), The Laurels (G), Freeholme (G), Red Roofs (G), Popescroft (old) (?), Popescroft (G), Glenview (G), Potten Farm House (G), Leeswood Cottage (G), Yew Court Farm (H), White House Lodge (G), White House (H), Sarum (G), Hillcrest (G), Owlet (G), Little Acre (G), Breinton (G), Temple Pan Farm (G), Poplars (F), Beechcroft (F), Templepan Studios (G), Green Hedges (G), Kesma (G), The Apiary (D), By The Way (G).

Chipperfield: Woodmans Farm (H), Callipers Hall (H), The Coach House (G), Callipers Lodge (G), Callipers Hall Farm (G), Wynchwood (G), Woodlea (G), Little Winch (G), Penmans End (H), Mahogany Hall (H), Brackenhurst (G), Mole House (G).

Church Lane: 1-3 (E), 3A-5 (G), 7 (F), 8 (D), Maytime (F), 10 (D), 11 (F), 12 (D), 13 (F), 14 (D), 15 (F), Ferndale (G), 16 (D), 17 (F), 18 (D), 19 (E), 20 (D), 21 (E), 22 (D), 23 (E), 24 (D), 25 (E), 26 (D), 27 (E), 28 (D), 29 (G), 30 (D), 31 (F), 32 (D), 33 (G), 34 (D), 35 (F), 36 (E), Brendon (G), 38 (E), 39 (G), 40-44 (E), 45 (F), 46 (E), 47 (F), 48 (E), 49 (G), 50 (E), Willow View (G), 56-58A (G), The Old Manse (G), 62 (G), 64 (H), "Bevington" (G), 70-74 (G), Tanglewood (G), Woodlands (G), Gandria (G), Wickets (G), Nobles Cottage (G), Nobles (H), Little Nobles (G), 89 (F), The Old Rectory (H), The Old Rectory Cottage (G), 91-93 (G), Green End Farm (G), 95-97 (G), Greystokes (H), Church End Cottage (G), The Cock (C), Almshouses 1-6 (C), Goldingtons (H), The Lodge Goldingtons (F), 1 Goldingtons Park Cottage (F), 2 Park Cottages (F).

Commonwood: Framptons (H), Tudor Court (G), Middle Tudor (G), Tudor Loft (G), The White House (G), South Wing (G), The Folly (G), The Cedars (H), The Well House (G), Tudor House (G), Tudor Lodge (G), Merrydown (H), Beeches (H), Long Roofs (G), Manesty (H), Commonwood Cottage (H), Norcot House (H), The Old Cottage (G), Verity (G), The Cart & Horses (C), The Lodge (G), Woodside (E), Commonwood Farm (G), Barn Cottage (H), Halfe Acre (G), Cherrytrees (G), Quickmore Cottage (G), Cotoneaster (G), White Gates (H), The Hollies (G).

Dawes Lane: 1-2 (E), Camellier Cottage (F), Jasmine Cottage (F), Kewferry CottagE (F), 3-6 (E), 7-11 (D), 12 (E), 13-20 (D), 21 (E), 22-26 (D), 28-50 (E), Green Belt (G), 52-54 (E), Fir Trees (G), Sandfield (F), Chess Bungalow (F), Spinney Bungalow (F), White Oaks Farm (H), The Laurels (G), The Firs (G), Flat at Wards Nurseries (C), Three Crofts (G), Dawes Cottage (G).

Deadmans Ash Lane: White Gates (F), Mossmere (F), The Bungalow (F), September Cottage (F), Harvest Cottage (F), The Wishing Well (F), The Hollies (G), Flint Cottage (G), High Croft (G), Gable End (G), Ash Tree Cottage (?), 7-14 (E), 1-4 Old Cottages (F), Oak Tree House (H), Tobys (G), Highfield (G), Lea House (G), The Woodyard (?), Meander (?), 1-2 West Drive (F), 1-16 (E).

Dimmocks Lane: Hedgerow (G), Merrylea (G), Holly Cottage (G), Laurel House (G), Syringa (F), Latimer (F), Peel Cottage (G), Green Hill Cottage (G), Little Heddon (F), Crossrigs (G), Crestyl (G), Tinkers (G), Belford (F), Medina (G), Pinnaroo (G), Abercothi (G), Trevennah (F), Green Acres (F), The Caravan (A), The Conifers (G), Burnham Cottage (F), Morar (F), Briar Bank (F), Forth (G), Greenways (F), Wyvern (F), Westcott (G), The Whispers (G), Simar (G), Willow Tree (G).

Downer Drive: 1 (E), 2 (C), 3 (E), 4 (C), 5 (E), 6 (C), 7 (E), 8 (C), 9 (D), 10 (C), 11 (D), 12 (C), 13 (D), 14 (C), 15 (D), 16 (C), 17 (D), 18 (C), 19 (D), 20-36 (C).

Dunny Lane: Tarn (G), Sousciel (F), Whitburrow (E), Anderley (G), Badgers Mount (G), Treelings (F), Maybury (G), Oakwood (G), Durlston (F), Beechwood (F), Wynchfield (G), Hilcot (G), Green Hedges (G), Ashlea (F), Nasus (E), Kintyre (G), Ellesmere (F), Overdale (E), Green View (F), Sunset (E).

Fir Tree Hill: Country Place (H), Chandlers Cottage (G), Hilcot (G), High Firs (G), 1 Pinewood (E), 2 Pinewood (D), Falster (G), Bessboro (F), Glyndedale (F), Ridgehurst (G), Innerleithen (F), Springfield (G), High Oaks (G), The Grove Lodge (H).

Flaunden Lane: The Dale Farm (F), New House Farm (G), Moonshine Farm House (G).

The Green: 1 (D), The School House (F), Old School (F), 1-4 Dell Cottages (D), The Cricketers (C), 1-6 Myrtle Cottages (E), Ivy Cottage (E), Russell Lodge (E), Rosebush Cottage (E), The Forge (G), Post Office Stores (C), The Old Butchers Shop (G), Simmond House (G), Oak View (F), Croft Cottage (E), Wood Cottage (E), Byways (E), Holly Tree Cottage (F), Lanterns (G), Holly Tree Farm (F), Shrublands (H), Mortons Cottage (G), Jalna (G), Homeland (F), Cranbourne (F), Hillview (F), Greenwood (G), Chevins (H), The Nook (G), Wayside Cottage (G), Virginia Cottage (F), The Old Cottage (G), Elm Trees (G), Highways (E), Green Close (E), Middle Cottage (E), Greenside Cottage (E), Honeycomb Cottage (E), Barley Cottage (E), Chaloners (F), Willowcot (F), Trevellas (G), Sarratt Stores (C), Ramillies (F), Victoria House (G), Jasmine Cottage (F), St Amant (E), Atlantis (F), Roseleigh (E), Flint Cottage (E), The Laurels (G), Vine Cottage (G), Wingfield Cottage (E), Greenview Cottage (F), Rosneath (F), The Woodyard (G), Cherry Tree Cottage (G), High Rising (G), 1 Wheatsheaf Cottages (F), 2 Wheatsheaf Cottages (E), The Wheatsheaf (G), North End (G), 3-5 Wheatsheaf Cottages (E), The Barn (H), Lynbern (G), Farthings (G), Old Red Lion Farm (G), Red Lion Cottage (G), Silfield House (G), Pentlands (H), Sarratt House (G), White Cottage (G), Green Pastures (H), The Old Boot (C), Peartree Cottage (H), Great Wheelers Barn (G), Great Wheelers Farm (G), Great Wheelers (H), Little Wheelers (G), Hollymead (G), Follys End (G), Little Gables (G), Robins (G), Cherrywood (G), Wheelers Cottage (G), The Bungalow Great Wheelers (E), Rose Cottage Green End (F), Green End Farm (H), Green End Cottage (E), The Rectory (G), Police House (G), Easton Grey (H).

The Grove: 1-3 Old Farm Buildings (D), West Lodge (E), Bothy Cottage (E), 2 Timber Cottages (F), 1 Pool Cottage (E), Nainsmith Cottage (F), Wisteria (F), Clarendon Park Farm (F), Management Training Centre (D), Main House (D), Chefs Flat (D), The Bungalow (D).

Grove Mill Lane: Old Mill House (H), Upper Flat 2 Old Mill House (D).

Little Green Lane: Waterdell House (H), Little Waterdell House (H), Coachmans Cottage (H).

Little Windmill Hill: Farthings (G), Corndean (G), Great Winch (G), Highlands (G), Penmans Croft (G), Marston (F), Treetops (F), Penmans Piece (G), Windmill Hill Hut (G), Toad Hall (G), Hillview (G), Helvellyn (G), Fairways (G), Woodside (G), Little Paddock (G), Mapledown (G), Boricos (G), West Winds (G).

Long Pightle Caravan Site: 1 (A), Long Pightle (G), 2-14 (A).

Moor Lane: Moor Lane House (H), 1-2 Long Meadow Cottages (F), 1 Albert Cottages (D), 2 Albert Cottages (G), Old Cart & Horses Cottage (F), Hillsdown Cottage (F), Valley Farm (G), Moor Cottage (F), Cakebread Cottage (G), Half Sarratt Bottom Cottage (F), 3 Sarratt Bottom Cottage (F).

Old House Lane: Old House Cottage (G), Paddock Cottage (G).

Ollieberrie Lane: Ollieberrie Farm (H), The Cottage, Ollieberrie Farm (G), Holly Hedges Farm (F), Cherry Tree Farm (G), Oaklea (F), Two Oaks (F), Birkwood (G), Cherrytrees (G), Oakland (G).

Penmans Green: Hilltop (G), Doggetts (H), Heather Cottage (G), Woodruff (G), Lamington House (G), Hillmeads Farm (H), Hillmeads Farm Cottage (F), Willow Cottage (G), Hunterswood (H), Hunterswood Lodge (G), Penmans (H), The Coach House (?), The Poachers Retreat (G), West Callipers (H), Red Tiles (G), Whiteway Field (G), Callipers Cottage (G), Gable Cottage (G).

Plough Lane: Old Plough House (G), Plough Cottage (G), Spring Cottage (G), Dellfield Cottage (G), Dellfield Farm House (G).

Poles Hill: Hill Brow (G), Windy Ridge (G), Poles Hill House (G), Three Ways (G), Ataahua (G), Inglewood (G), Hillside (G), Brendon (G), Newton Cottage (G), Green Acres (G), Foyers (G).

Quickmoor Lane: Glenesk (G), Spindle Cottage (G), Quickmore Poultry Farm (G), Hazel Oak (G), Harrietts End (G).

Redhall Lane: Clarendon Arms (?), The Lodge (G), Potten Farm Cottage (G), Cottage Farm (G), Annexe Cottage Farm (E), Red Hall Cottage (G), Barn Cottage (?), Red Hall (H), Grooms Cottage Red Hall (G), Little Orchard (G), Wyatts Cottage (G), Afton (H), High Gables (G), Corner House (G).

Red Lion Lane: Meadow Lodge (H), Ashfield (F), Green Gates (F), Shaldon (F), Warnham (F), Bramley (F), Willow Lodge (G), Red Lion Farm (H), Minstead (G).

Rose Hall: Rose Hall Farm House (G), Rustic Cottage (F), Rosehall Cottage (E), Forestry Cottage (G), The Monastery (G).

Rousebarn Lane: Blacketts (D), Blacketts (G), Blacketts Nursery (G).

Sarratt Hall Area: Little Sarratt Hall (H), Great Sarratt Hall (H), Flat at Great Sarratt Hall (D), Great Sarratt Hall Farm (G), Sarratt Hall (H), Orchard House (H), Sarratt Hall Cottage (G), The Old Forge (G), Springfield (G), Toledo (G), Little Toledo (G), Sarratt Lodge (G), Great Sarratt Hall Cottage (G).

Sarratt Mill: Sarratt Mill Cottage (F), Sarratt Mill House (H), The Lodge (F).

Sarratt Road: Coltspring Sarratt Road (G), Corner Lodge (G), Cherry Tree Lodge (H), Cherry Tree Lodge Farm (F), The Farmhouse (H), Tythe Barn (G), 1-2 The Stables (G), York House School (E), Oak Farm (G), Redheath Lodge (G), Model Farm (G), The Bungalow Model Farm (F), The Hut (D), Rosend (G), Merlins (H),Micklefield Green 1-2 (E), 3-4 (F), 5-6 (E), Micklefield Green Farm (G), Micklefield Green House (H), White Cottage (F), 1-2 Greatwood Cottages (G), Micklefield Hall (H), North Lodge Micklefield Hall (H), Lower Lodge (G), 1-2 Cherry Tree Walk (F), The Old Farmhouse (G), The Farm Cottage (G), Cherry Trees (G), Scrubbs Cottage (G).

Solesbridge Lane: 1-4 New Cottages (E), 1 Flint Cottages (F), 2 Flint Cottages (E).



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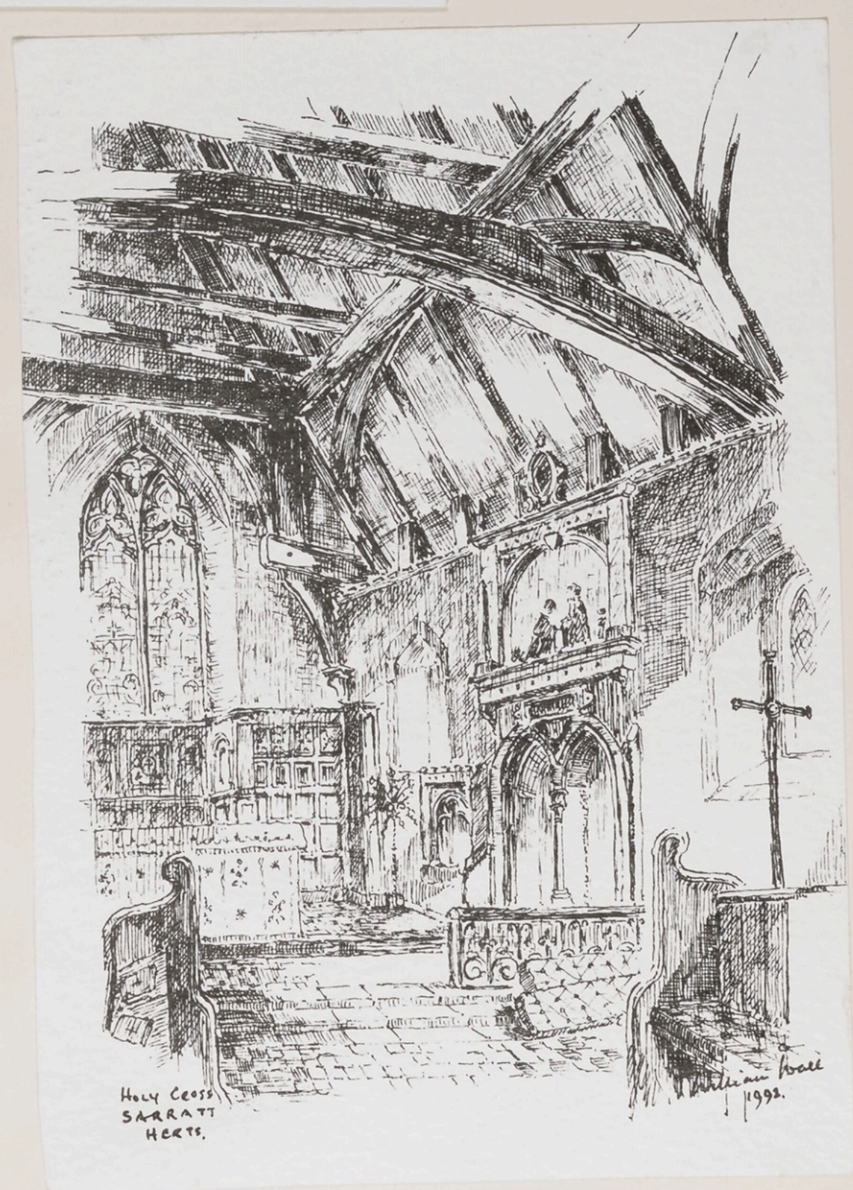

1993

The Best of HERTFORDSHIRE

Your free supplement with the Watford Observer — *June 1993*

Lush countryside – stunning church

ONE of the most striking things about Sarratt when you approach it is the amount of lush green countryside surrounding it.

The village is almost central to the triangle created between Watford, Chesham and Hemel Hempstead and has an excellent network of footpaths between neighbouring villages.

Sarratt is the traditional sleepy village that has occasionally found itself fighting against modern day pressures that threaten its identity.

Fortunately, with a strong parish council and various other interested groups in the village, unwanted developments have been vigorously fought in an attempt to retain this beautiful corner of Hertfordshire.

The main feature of the village as you enter it from the long, winding Sarratt Road is the picturesque green, which recently hosted the annual village day celebrations.

These celebrations bring together much that is treasured in village life and help to strengthen the already close-knit community.



There's nothing bashful about Sarratt . . .

by RICHARD ARQUATI

Refreshing the village are three public houses, The Boot and The Cricketers on The Green and The Cock in Church Lane.

The latter, however, closed earlier this year and the signs are it is unlikely ever to reopen as a pub.

The spiritual aspect of the village is served by two churches, Sarratt Baptist Church on The Green and the stunning Holy Cross Church in Church Lane.

There has apparently been a church on the Holy Cross site for eight centuries and in 1990 villagers celebrated its 800th anniversary.

The church was a monastic building and features a baptistry, bell tower and chancel.

The 19th century organ is housed in the nave as is the eagle lectern, which dates back almost 100 years.

An alabaster memorial to Sir William Kingsley and family, of Rose Hall Manor, also resides in the church and is dated 1502.

Sarratt is not renowned for its variety of shopping outlets though Meg's Store, The Haircutter's Cottage and Sarratt Post Office do provide many of the basic necessities for villagers.

If you are contemplating visiting Sarratt it is well worth putting aside an afternoon in which to take in its beauty at a leisurely pace.

[illegible]ong the items that might be of interest [illegible] Slaughter House by the Post [illegible] by The Cricketers with [illegible]rning sign, and [illegible]pposite



An unusual old church is the flintstone edifice of Holy Cross.

If the weather is fine, walk along George V Way and hope a traditional, country cricket match is being played in the playing fields.

The well-sheltered recreational facility is also home to the cricket pavilion and a children's play area.

Now is a particularly good time to visit Sarratt as it is looking its best in anticipation of judges from the Best Kept Village Compe[illegible] dropping in to view the village anytime in June or July.

In adition to this, The Friends of Holy Cross Church will be holding its annual flower festival on the weekend of June 26 to June 28.

Should you fancy a leisurely stroll then cross the green from The Boot Public House and walk along the lane past an attractive little common on the right and down to Sarratt Bottom where runs the River Chess.

It is difficult to imagine a more idyllic spot.

26/11/93

Village supports pub plan refusal

MAJOR changes planned for The Boot public house in Sarratt have been turned down, much to the relief of villagers and parish councillors.

A large number of Sarratt residents, along with nearly the whole parish council, attended Three Rivers District Council's planning committee meeting last Thursday to see the plans refused.

The proposals would have meant drastic alterations to the listed building sited on The Green.

According to planning officers, an additional 48 car parking spaces would have been added, the bar space would have been increased by 150 per cent and traffic would have increased sevenfold.

The issue had raised a large amount of public interest, with more than 50 people attending.

One member of the public, Mr Frank Watts, was allowed to speak at the meeting.

He said: "For 17 years this has been a succesful pub and now the brewery want a piece of the cake.

"We are anxious to protect Sarratt by opposing the developments.

"Villagers like the pub as it is, they do not want an overdesigned plastic eating house that was thought up in Birmingham."

He urged the committee to refuse the plans, saying: "Sarratt doesn't want it, the customers do not need it and if the brewery had any sense they would realise that."

The committee refused the plans, but brewery Ind Coope could appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision.

This point was taken up by district Councillor Peter Cumming.

He said: "I must recommend to the committee it ensures a tight defence in case of an appeal.

"It has been a great day for the world today, but it could be a bad day for Sarratt if we do not make sure of our reasons."

Councillor Mrs Ann Shaw said: "This development would have totally changed the character of the building and the village.

"It would be completely unacceptable for everyone concerned.

"I fully agree with this decision to refuse the development and believe we acted totally in line with the district planning policies."

Mr Simon Crichton, spokesman for Ind Coope that submitted the plans, said: "I realise now I am probably not the most popular man here tonight.

"It is very disappointing to hear the comments that have been made against this development.

"We are trying to match the drastic change in customers' demands for the pub trade and this development would have turned The Boot around from being a small unprofitable pub into a large, profitable one.

"All I can say is if the number of objectors here tonight were regular customers of The Boot then we would not have to invest in the premises."

Mr Crichton would not say whether an appeal was being lodged, but stated: "We will wait and see the full written judgement from the committee before deciding."

Sarratt Parish Council had opposed the massive overhaul for several reasons, including traffic parking on The Green, Green Belt development and the change of agricultural land to car park use.

Parish councillor Mr John Gell said: "We as a parish council and as residents of the village are very pleased to hear this news and so are the many residents who have come here tonight or made it plain they are against the proposals."

● A fire broke out in The Boot on Tuesday afternoon, which took firefighters from Rickmansworth one-and-a-half hours to control.

The blaze was thought to have started in the chimney of the listed building.

by Simon Ricketts



The Boot public house in Sarratt: expansion plans turned down. K473907

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The Green, Sarratt, Herts.



We are pleased to offer for sale this attractive family home situated in a prime location on the Village Green. The property was formerly one of the many village pubs and has been substantially extended within the last 20 years and now offers generous accommodation which briefly comprises, 3 reception rooms, a large kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, cellar, 4 bedrooms and bathroom. To the rear there are delightful 'cottage' gardens of approx. 60ft. We would strongley recommend an early viewing to avoid disappointment. NEW INSTRUCTIONS, FULL COLOUR DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

4 Beds 13'x12'5 12'8x10'6 10'4x8'4 12'x7'
3 Recs 22'6x14' 13'9x12'9 21'6x11'9
1 Bth 1WC

Parking Off-Street

Heating Gas C/H

Kitchen 17'6x12'7

Utility

Price : £265,000

Offices also at: 37 St. Albans Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 1SH. Tel: 0923-242201 Fax: 0923-210242

These particulars are believed to be correct but their accuracy is not guaranteed and they do not form part of any contract

WATFORD OBSERVER, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1993

Village battle to retain church record

HISTORY buffs are racing against time to save a unique record of Sarratt.

The village's scrapbook, detailing 128 years of events in Sarratt, is being restored and rebound to ensure it lives on into the 21st Century.

But the fragile tome, measuring more than two feet long and one-and-a-half feet wide and weighing 38 pounds, needs urgent attention that will cost about £1,600.

Repairs could be carried out by Hertfordshire County Council, but county archivists would want to keep hold of the book for their own records and villagers say they are not prepared to give it up.

Now they are appealing for Sarratt villagers to help them raise the cash and keep the scrapbook where it belongs.

The book was started by former rector Rev G.C.E. Ryley as a memorial to his father, Rev Edward Ryley, who was rector of Holy Cross Church in the village between 1859 and 1912.

Since then, the pages have been the home for newspaper cuttings, maps and photographs to such an extent the librarian of the London Guildhall, who is an expert on antiquarian books, described it as a "unique record of the 20th Century history of the church".

"It should be retained for future generations," he added.

Saving the book will mean dividing it into two sections before rebinding it. Glue and adhesive tape will also have to be replaced while the contents need to be restored.

A contribution of £200 towards the cost of repairs was set aside at a past Sarratt Village Day and another £200 is expected to be donated by the village's parish council.

While more funds are being sought, further achive memories are being hunted to help make a new scrapbook and to add to the existing one.

Plans are also being made to put pages from the book on to compact disc so they can be displayed on screen.

To help both of these, a historical evening is going ahead on Wednesday, November 24, to round up support for the project.

In the mean time, anyone who thinks they can help should get in touch with Mrs Val Cumming on 0923-262920.

S P A G

Sarratt Preservation Action Group

Meeting at the Village Hall - Wednesday 13th October 8.00 pm

There will be a meeting of SPAG supporters in Sarratt Village Hall on Wednesday 13th October at 8.00 pm - anyone interested will be welcome.

A number of issues will be discussed and in each case a short summary of the current position will be given followed by questions and discussion. There will also be a brief outline of the aims and recent work of SPAG. There is no formal Membership but anyone interested in preserving the character and beauty of Sarratt and the surrounding area is welcome to participate.

There will be an opportunity for informal discussion at the end of the Agenda.

The Agenda will include:-

The Cock Planning Application for conversion to three private Houses.

The Boot Planning Application for extension of premises and Car Park.

The Grove Planning Application for Golf Course.

(We expect these applications to be discussed on Thursday 21st October - we may have confirmation by 13th.)

We will also summarise current Enforcements and Appeals.

Any questions to Old Red Lion Farm or 0923 262920

Peter Cumming
October 1993

Official Opening by HRH The Princess Royal
of the new housing development at Church Lane, Sarratt, Herts
for the Rural Housing Trust on Friday 5th November 1993

PROGRAMME

1.00 pm — Guests arrive at Village Hall

1.15 pm — Selected Guests (Civic Dignitaries plus Moira Constable, William Gosling, Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, Parish Council Chairman and Aldwyck HA Chairman) proceed to site

1.20 pm — HRH arrives at Clutterbucks by car. Received by Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Mr Simon Bowes Lyon.

The Lord Lieutenant will present:

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire (Mr T Harvey)
The Chairman of 3 Rivers DC (Mr T Palmer)
The Chairman of Herts County Council (Mr M Colne)
The local MP (Mr Richard Page)
The Assistant Chief Constable, (Mr Cansdale)
The Chief Executive of the RHT (Moira Constable)

Moira Constable will then present:

Deputy Chief Executive of RHT (William Gosling)
Senior Housing Officer of RHT (Elizabeth Fitzsimmons)
Parish Council Chairman (Mrs V Cumming)
Chairman of Aldwyck HA (Mr W Reiners)

A young resident will present HRH with a posy.

Guests move to Village Hall, escorted by Mr William Gosling.

Moira Constable and Elizabeth Fitzsimmons will then accompany HRH on a tour of the scheme, following which they will proceed to House No. 3, where HRH will meet Mr D Botwright and Miss S Rycroft. Time permitting they will then proceed to House No 7 where they will meet Mr and Mrs Pegg.

1.40 pm — HRH escorted to Village Hall by Moira Constable.

Moira Constable will then invite HRH to take light refreshments and will present a number of guests. During refreshments, Miss Constable will invite HRH to unveil a plaque:

Wording to be:

This plaque was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal, President of the Rural Housing Trust, to commemorate Her visit on 5th November 1993

2.30 pm — HRH, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant, will leave the Village Hall.



21/8/93

Father and son drown at 'safe' beach resort

A COUPLE from Sarratt have lost their son and grandson in a holiday accident in "safe" waters in Spain.

Chartered surveyor Mr Edward Turvill and his schoolboy son Peter drowned after going into the sea off the resort of Llanes, in the Bay of Biscay, at the weekend.

Mr Turvill's wife Jenny was with her husband and son on holiday.

She is said to be "in a state of shock".

Mr Turville's parents Teddy and Mary Turvill, of The Green, Sarratt, left the village on Wednesday morning.

They are now staying with their daughter-in-law in the London home she shared with her late husband and son.

The family is believed to have travelled to the resort on the advice of Spanish tourist officials after being told it boasted one of the country's safest areas for swimming.

The Spanish Tourist Board in London said yesterday, however, the beach at Llanes had not been awarded one of the EC's Blue Flags, which are used to signify the safest bathing areas.

Spokesman Miss Caroline Glazebrook-Sack also revealed red danger flags were being flown along the coast at the time of the accident to warn of the dangers of strong undercurrents.

Mrs Jean Morgan, a close friend of the Sarratt couple, said: "It is a terrible accident to have happened.

"Mary and Teddy have lost two generations of their family.

"They are very angry they were told it was a safe area when it turned out not to be."

Mr and Mrs Turvill have lived in Sarratt for about 20 years.

They lived in Chorleywood for many years before that, which is where their son, nicknamed Little Ted, spent much of his childhood.

Insurance firm Travellers Medical, based in Petworth, Surrey, is now preparing to return the two bodies to Britain.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "The matter is being dealt with by the insurance company. We have not been involved."

It is just six weeks since Bushey holiday-maker Mr Ronald Drake, 37, died in a similar accident off the coast of Javea, on Spain's Costa Blanca.

On that occasion, Spanish officials accused coastguards of being unprepared for the influx of tourists to the beaches.

17-12-93

Crash at danger junction claims teenager's life

TEENAGER Danny Chapman died on Monday after his car crashed in Chorleywood Road.

Mr Chapman, 19, of Dawes Lane, Sarratt, was driving in the direction of Rickmansworth, away from Chorleywood, at 11.20am when the accident happened.

As he passed the M25 traffic lights and approached the junction with Chestnut Avenue, Mr Chapman's Ford Fiesta car left the road and hit the front wall of a large house.

His car kept moving and hit a wall and a tree in the neighbouring property.

Firefighters and police were called to the scene of the crash and spent 20 minutes cutting him from the wreckage.

The road was closed for an hour-and-a-half as the emergency services attended to him.

Mr Chapman was taken to Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, but died shortly after 1pm.

Police are now looking for witnesses to the crash to help them work out how Mr Chapman's car ended up leaving the road.

In particular, they want to speak to the driver of a car that was turning right into Chestnut Avenue at the time of the crash.

Although the car, believed to be a red Mini Metro, is not thought to have been involved in the crash, officers say the person may have seen what happened to Mr Chapman's vehicle.





Flowers were left at the spot where Danny Chapman crashed on Monday

Mr Chapman had one brother, Peter, aged 17, and two sisters, Claire, 20, and Irene, 21.

He moved with parents Sally and Peter to Sarratt eight years ago and studied at Kings Langley Secondary School.

His father said: "Danny was a lovely lad and he was very well liked in the area.

"He worked with me as a tree surgeon and was hard-working and ambitious.

"His social life was always busy and he had a lot of friends all over the area — it seemed everyone knew him."

Sport played a big part in the youngster's life. He regularly kickboxed, along with his brother, and kept fit by weight training.

The Chapman family, described as "very close", was stunned by the news.

Mr Chapman said: "It is very painful to talk about this, Danny was such a lovely boy."

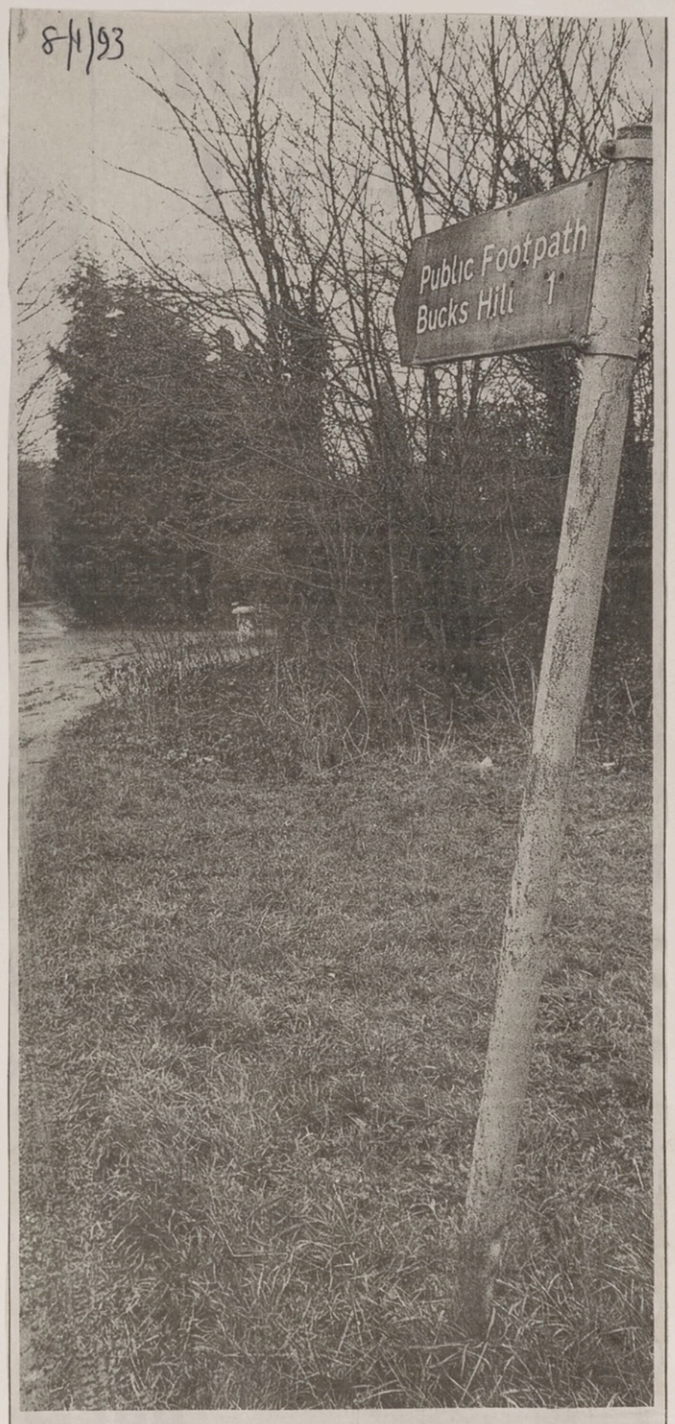
The turning from Chorleywood Road into Chestnut Avenue is regarded as a difficult one by residents because of the poor visibility and the speed and density of traffic.

One householder, Mr Roy Athill, said: "It is a most dangerous area. You have to wait and wait until someone lets you out and then you have to cross another line of traffic.

"At peak periods it is nearly impossible to get in and out of Chestnut Avenue and people end up stranded in their cars."

An inquest will be held in Uxbridge in the New Year.

8/1/93



Path scheme launched

POINTING the public in the right direction, members of Sarratt Parish Council are launching a scheme next week to encourage villagers to adopt a footpath.

The council is one of the first to be awarded a grant from the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme run by Hertfordshire County Council.

Residents are invited to go along to a meeting at the village hall on Monday.

Details of the scheme will be explained there by Mr Peter Garrett, the county council's parish paths liaison officer.

The scheme was set up to encourage parish councils throughout the county to re-instate and maintain footpaths within their boundary.

Sarratt has 28 miles of footpaths, 117 stiles, 27 gates and 77 footbridges running to Chipperfield in the north, Watford to the east, Croxley Green in the south and Sarratt Bottom to the west.

Parish clerk Mrs Doreen Boast said volunteers will be needed to run the scheme successfully.

"Some of these people are already members of volunteer groups, such as The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, but other interested parties will be needed to take part in the clearing and general maintenance of footpaths within the parish," she said.

Monday's meeting will start at 8pm, after the parish council committee meeting, which will begin at 7pm and is also open to the public.

Mrs Boast said it is will not be necessary for volunteers to work on the footpaths, but a large number of people will be needed to keep a check on the paths and report any necessary maintenance work, such as the clearing of overgrown bushes.

Sarratt Parish Council chairman Mrs Val Cumming said the scheme is very exciting, particularly because it is a partnership between the two councils.

"We have struggled to look after the footpaths," she said.

"It's nice to feel Hertfordshire County Council is helping and guiding us and that we are introduce a scheme that will get everyone more involved in looking after the area." K012607

1993

The Rural Housing Trust

is pleased to invite

Cllr Mrs J Dimond-Hewlett

to be present in
Sarratt Village Hall on 5th November 1993
after the official opening
of the new housing development at Clutterbucks

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal,
President of The Rural Housing Trust
will visit the hall
and unveil a plaque to commemorate the occasion

Please arrive no later than 1pm and bring this card with you

Royal guest at house party

YOUNG families in Sarratt welcomed the Princess Royal into their homes last Friday when she paid a visit to a new housing association development.

Residents of Clutterbucks, which is behind Sarratt village green, opened their doors to the radiant Princess after she arrived at the eight-home estate in the driving seat of her Bentley.

Dressed in a steel blue swing coat and matching knee-length skirt, she wandered around some of the homes and talked to each of the families.

As President of the Rural Housing Association Trust, Her Royal Highness was in Sarratt to open the development and unveil a special commemorative plaque.

Hundreds of local schoolchildren and villagers lined the streets cheering as she walked by and six-year-old Craig Allen, of Clutterbucks, presented the Princess with a posy of mixed fresia.

The Princess spent a few moments chatting to Craig, asking him which house he lived in and whether he liked his new home.

Craig said: "I wasn't very nervous before meeting her, just excited. I never thought I would ever meet a princess."

The new homes were completed in May of this year after residents in Sarratt complained there were very few starter homes in the village for the younger generation to rent or buy.

The parish council suggested that Three Rivers District Council and the Rural Housing trust got together to provide homes for young families with a Sarratt connection.

The district council provided the land for the new estate and initial Government funding meant the rent payments on each home could be kept to a minimum.

One of the homes the Princess Royal visited belonged to Mr Daniel Botwright and Miss Sally Rycroft.

They have two children Damon, three, and Jake, four months.

Mr Botwright said: "She came in and we showed her around the house. She was very nice and very easy to talk to.

"She seemed to like the house and she thought our back garden was especially big."

Before making her way to the village hall, where the plaque was to be unveiled, Her Royal Highness paid a visit to Mr and Mrs Steve and Joanna Pegg, who have two children, Jamie, four, and Holly, two.

Mr Pegg said: "She asked us what we thought of the property and if we liked our new home.

"I know she has to talk to people all the time, but she really is very professional. She made us very relaxed and talking to her was easy once she had broken the ice.

"Originally, I am not from Sarratt, but Joanna is. I have lived at several addresses during the last 11 years, but this is the nicest by far. It is very quiet and we love it here.

"All of Joanna's friends and family are here, so it is good for her and the children."

After the Princess unveiled the plaque she spent time talking to members of the trust and local dignitaries at a special buffet put on by residents.

Vice-chairman of the trust Mr John Hearth said he had met the Princess Royal on numerous occasions when she had opened the association's new developments across the country.

"We are very pleased to be offically opening Clutterbucks today," he said.

"I would like to think we can build more in Sarratt, but it depends on the dictrict council and whether or not we can get grant funding.

"Next year we plan to build 650 homes countrywide, so who knows, some of them may be near here?

"Today has been very enjoyable. We have had a good day, and I think I can speak for everyone when I say the Princess Royal is marvellous."



Six-year-old Craig Allen and his mum Carmen present The Princess Royal with a posy. K444429



The Princess signs the visitors' book.



The new development where eight young, local families live. K450817



Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Simon Bowes Lyon greets the Princess.



The Princess greets council leaders and members of the housing trust. K444422



In Sarratt village hall the Princess unveils a plaque to commemorate the opening. K444518



The Princess Royal chats to Mr Steve Pegg, of the Clutterbucks. K444452

Princess visits play centre

THE Princess Royal learnt about the pros of play and the life-giving qualities of leisure at the Planet Resource Centre in Radlett on Friday.

Planet, based at Harperbury in Harper Lane, is part of the Play Leisure Advice Network.

It is a joint project funded by Save the Children, Mencap and The Spastics Society. As President of Save the Children, the Princess Royal was invited to the centre to learn more about its work.

Planet's aim is to increase access to play, leisure and recreational opportunities for all children, teenagers and adults with learning disabilities.

Her Royal Highness was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Simon Bowes Lyon, who introduced her to the Mayor of Hertsmere, Tony Gattward, and the Mayor of St Albans, Sheila Burton.

She also met directors of the three charities and some of the project staff before seeing a presentation on the work of Planet.

The Princess was told that Planet acts as a resource centre for local authorities, organisations and carers.

It is a place they can use to get advice and information on setting up play and leisure facilities.

After the presentation, the Princess Royal had a tour around the centre, spending quite a lot of time in the display room looking at the various toys and objects which visitors can try out and use to gain ideas.

One toy that caught her attention was a furry parrot which repeated everything she said to it.

The Princess then signed the visitors' book before joining the other guests for a buffet lunch.



Michael Taylor, director of UK and European Save the Children, greets the Princess. K444119

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1993 taken at Little Bragmans, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	13th / 12.5	3rd /-6.5	3rd /-12.0	10th / 19.3	105.3	1st snow of winter, 4th.
February	17th / 11.0	2,5,6/ 0.0	23rd /-6.2	25th / 3.6	8.1	Driest Feb, 1981-2013
March	15th / 17.5	27th /-3.5	27th /-8.9	31st / 9.0	17.8	last snowfall, 1st. Last air frost, 27th.
April	30th / 20.0	2,3,4/ 0.0	2nd /-5.5	1st / 31.1	111.2	
May	11th / 23.0	many/2.0	5th /-3.1	20th / 12.9	43.3	last ground frost, 19th.
June	8th / 26.0	4th / 7.0	15th / 3.0	11th / 16.0	56.9	
July	3rd / 26.5	11,13/5.0	12th / 0.8	15th / 11.4	61.5	
August	19,21/24.0	13th / 4.5	13th / 1.1	11th / 9.4	34.6	
September	1st / 23.0	30th / 3.0	30th /-1.5	12th / 16.9	108.9	1st ground frost, 30th.
October	11th / 17.0	14th /-2.0	17th /-7.0	12th / 37.7	105.3	1st air frost, 16th.
November	4,5th/ 15.5	23rd /-4.0	22nd /-10.0	13th / 21.5	64.6	1st snowfall of winter, 20th.
December	19th / 13.5	25,28/-1.5	28th /-7.0	12th / 18.4	120.0	



FEB 1994

Spotlight turns on new parish face



Mrs Brenda Lines

NEW Sarratt parish councillor Mrs Brenda Lines took her seat this week after being drafted onto the council.

Mrs Lines, 60, of Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, replaces Mr Graham Peiser, who resigned last year.

She will take over Mr Peiser's duties after being co-opted onto the village authority.

There were no election candidates for the post, so the other councillors asked Mrs Lines if she would be interested in taking the position.

Mrs Lines agreed to become a parish councillor and was welcomed by the chairman, Mrs Val Cumming.

Mrs Cumming said: "We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Lines as the new parish councillor and hope she will enjoy her new position.

"Brenda has a very good knowledge of the village and has its best interests at heart. We hope she can help the council."

Mrs Lines has lived in Sarratt parish for 20 years and she was brought up in nearby Chipperfield.

She is married and has a son, Douglas, and a daughter, Alison.

Mrs Lines said: "I decided to take the position because I am very concerned about the preservation of Sarratt.

"Most people are far too busy to spare the time and be a parish councillor but I thought, seeing as I am not, it would be good to get involved.

"I am looking forward to becoming involved in parish affairs and my particular concern is the Green Belt in and around Sarratt.

"I used to attend meetings as a member of the public and am looking forward to having my say."

Mrs Lines is a part time receptionist at a local doctor's surgery and has studied for a Batchelor of Arts degree with the Open University.

She is already known to many villagers for her contributions to Spotlight, the parish magazine.

Parish blocks way for pub re-opening

FEB 11-1994

THE owner of The Cock public house, Sarratt, has run into problems over his idea to extend and re-open the building.

Mr Tony Power, who bought the pub last March, was dismayed to discover Sarratt Parish Council has taken a stand against his plans.

Parish councillors have recommended refusing Mr Power permission to extend the pub and build a house within its grounds.

Mr Power also wants to refurbish the interior of the pub, which is a Grade Two listed building.

A decision will be made by Three Rivers District Council's planning committee on Thursday.

Mr Power said: "I thought the council would be pleased to see the area smartened up because the pub is very run down for a number of reasons and needed money spent on refurbishment.

"In order to re-open the pub, which the parish council would like, it needs to be refurbished and extended.

"You need a food facility with a pub nowadays and I have made certain proposals for extending the pub, which the council has approved in principle."

Mr Power explained he wanted to "hive off" a third of an acre to fund work on The Cock.

Sarratt Parish Council chairman Mrs Val Cumming said: "The parish council objected to the plan because it is development on an area of outstanding natural beauty and is in the Green Belt."

Mr Power said he is prepared to enter into an agreement with the district council promising not to develop the land any further.

He said: "It is a simple matter of economics — if I cannot get planning permission, The Cock will not re-open."

Parish clerk calls it a day

WD. 25-3-94

PARISH clerk for Sarratt Mrs Doreen Boast has handed in her resignation and, at the same time, started the search for her replacement.

Mrs Boast, of Cassiobury Park Avenue, has decided to step down after nearly two years at the helm of the parish council.

She said: "Sadly, I have not got enough time to give to the job because of changing circumstances.

"I have really enjoyed my time as clerk and I will stay on in the post until we can find a suitable replacement.

"It is an interesting and varied job, in which you get to meet a lot of people and play a part in local affairs.

"I will miss the job and the people and hope we can find a suitable replacement."

Sarratt Parish Council chairman Mrs Val Cumming was sad to see Mrs Boast go, but was quick to thank her for her work.

She said: "We are sad Doreen has resigned, but we are very grateful to her for all she has done for the parish.

"We will all miss her and wish her well."

The parish council has not yet advertised the position, but if anyone is interested they should contact Mrs Boast on 0923 252179.

Riders pose threat to green

29-4-94

ABUSIVE horse-riders are threatening to ruin the peaceful village atmosphere of Sarratt.

Angry parishioners called for the by-laws to be changed in the village to prevent horses from galloping or cantering across the village green.

The calls came at the parish's annual meeting, held at a packed village hall on Monday night.

Former parish councillor, Mr Graham Peiser, who still lives in the village, said: "Just today I caught sight of a horse and rider going full pelt across the green, kicking up divots and ruining the surface of the grass.

"When I ran across and challenged the rider they said to me 'There is nothing in the by-laws to stop me from doing it', and they are, I'm afraid, correct.

"Surely there is a way to prevent our beautiful green from being churned up in this way?"

Parish councillor John Gell, who is the chairman of the by-laws committee, said: "We are currently looking at ways of alleviating this problem but it is a very sensitive issue.

"We do not want to stop horse-riders using our village, but our green is a prized asset and needs to be protected."

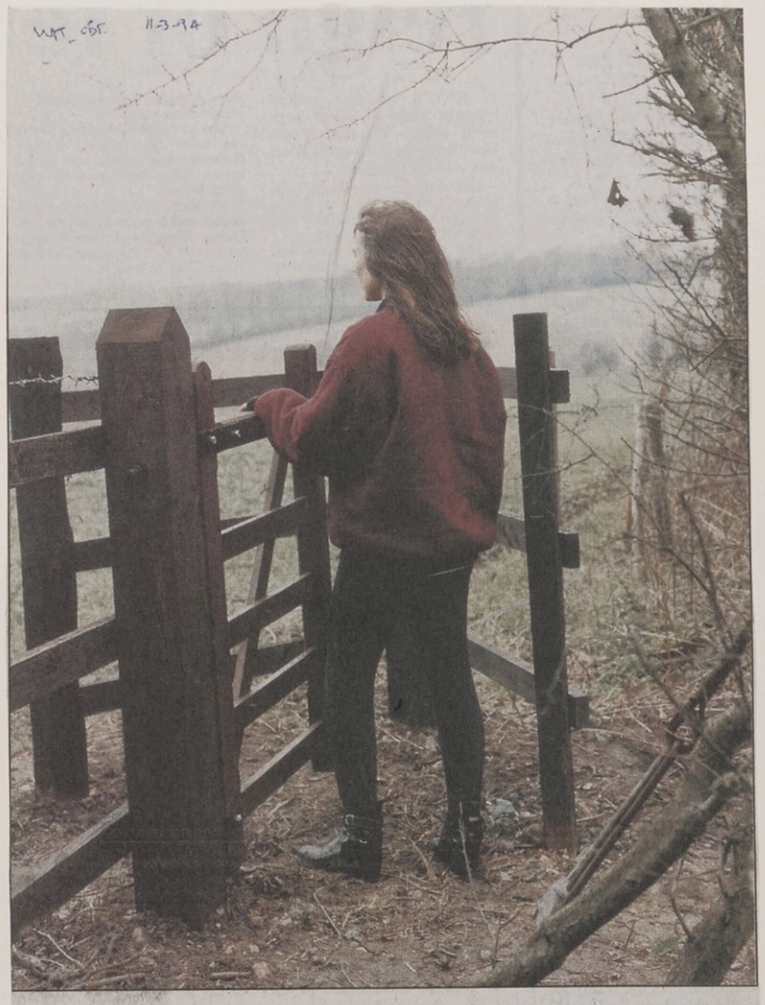
Mr Gell talked of various ideas that have been discussed, including a horses-only track, closing the green to horses for selected periods, or putting a "no galloping" order on the green.

Mrs Judy Bartlett, who is involved with the Bridleways Association, said: "I am very sorry to hear about this problem, but I can assure everyone here it is a very small minority that are abusing the system.

"We have just heard from the parish council about how the parish has 68 footpaths. Well, I can only think of one bridleway in the parish, which says something."

Mr Ron Higgs, who owns one of the largest riding schools in the area at Redhall Farm, said: "It has always been an unwritten rule that you are not allowed to canter on the green.

"I am afraid there are some abusive riders, and I can only call them abusive, who do not stick to the rule and perhaps we will have to cater for them."



WAT_OBS. 11-3-94

Gate opens up parish path

AMBITIONS to open up the countryside around Watford for walkers and nature lovers came a step closer this week.

The country path from White House Farm, off Chandlers Lane, through Bucks Hill, affectionately known as Footpath Three, has been re-opened to the public.

The stile at the beginning of the path had fallen into disrepair, leaving the path unaccessible, but a brand new "kissing gate" has now been installed.

Volunteers and neighbouring landowners worked on the project and gave the gate an official opening at the weekend.

The "kissing gate" is just one of the projects being tackled by a new county-wide initiative.

The Parish Paths Partnership is a collaborative venture between Hertfordshire County Council, the Countryside Commission and Sarratt Parish Council.

Sarratt is one of the first parishes to sign up for the scheme.

Volunteers have been working on footpaths in and around the parish to make them easier and more attractive to use.

The volunteers are spearheaded by a three-person steering group, Mrs Dawn Pitts, Mr John Goodman and parish councillor Mr Laurie Young.

Mrs Pitts, who is a member of Sarratt Women's Institute, said: "The new gate at Footpath Three was paid for by the people who own the neighbouring farm, the Newell family.

"Our team of volunteers helped install the gate, but we are very grateful to the Newells.

"They are keen to help us maintain the footpaths on their land and I wish all landowners would take the hint from them."

W.O. MARCH 11 1994

A policeman happy with his lot

BURGLARS in Sarratt had better be quick off the mark, because community policeman Phil Wyens is a champion runner.

When he is not in uniform pounding the streets of his 'beat', he is pounding the village's rural lanes in his jogging shoes preparing for the next big police race or marathon.

Constable Wyens lives with his wife, Fiona, and two sons, Benjamin and Michael, in the police house on the green.

He has been the area's community policeman for the last 11 years, and hopes to remain in Sarratt until his retirement from the force in ten years time.

Unlike his town-based colleagues, 39-year-old Constable Wyens usually works alone, covering his very broad patch on foot or by bike.

He says the role of a community policeman is: "To mix in, and generally get involved with everything going on in the community."

As a football referee, secretary of the Chipperfield Corinthians Youth Football team, and welcome face at the bar of the village's finest hostelries (off duty naturally), Constable Wyens has certainly made Sarratt his own.

Tall, unflappable, approachable and blessed with the faint traces of a Norfolk accent, he is most definitely most people's blueprint of the perfect "village bobby" - although that's probably not a term approved by the modern police force.

However, there is something reassuringly old fashioned about Constable Wyens' job.

Like most country villages, the pace of life seems slower and calmer in Sarratt. It wouldn't come as a total surprise to see the community policeman overtaken on his bike near the green by Margaret Rutherford driving a Morris Minor.

But that's not to say the village is free of crime.

Constable Wyens said: "I do have a more relaxed role here, but basically I'm on call any time of the day.

"The main problem is theft from vehicles. People park their cars in picturesque beauty spots and when they come back they find that their handbags and stereos have gone. Visitors say amazing things like 'We didn't know crime happened outside London'".

He added the problem had got worse since the opening of the M25.

"It's a main access route and it's easier for them to get away," he explained.

Constable Wyens climbs on his bike to cover a patch that includes Belsize, Commonwood, Bucks Hill, Chandlers Cross and Sarratt Bottom.

He finds his police work is now very different compared to early days in Watford, when he was based at the Central Police Station.

Born in Norfolk, Constable Wyens moved to Hertford when his father took a farm job near Ware. He joined the force at the age of 19 and worked in the north of the county for two years before joining Watford Police.

His ambition was always to be a community policeman and he clearly loves both his role and his life in the village where he is fully involved on the sports and social scene as well as in his uniformed capacity.

"Obviously it's part of my brief to get stuck in every way possible. It's great to feel that people can approach you and have a chat, especially children," he said.

Contact with schools is important. His sons are both pupils at Clements Dane School where their father is now a familiar face.



Village bobby on the beat - a day in the life of community policeman Phil Wyens.

Picture L095734: SIMON JACOBS

Phil Wyens has been community policeman in the village of Sarratt for the past 11 years. He answers this week's TWENTY QUESTIONS

I asked if they were set to follow in his bootsteps.

"No I don't think so," he laughed: "Benjamin wants to be in sports physio, and Michael, rather worryingly, always said he wanted to be a burglar.

"He went off that and decided he wanted to be a vet instead."

Twenty Questions takes the particulars of community policeman Phil Wyens.

1. What gives you most satisfaction in your work?

A. Being able to help the public and answering their problems on the spot.

Really, just being available for them at any time...and I mean ANY time, we even had one caller at the front door here at 4.40am. At night, if I hear an alarm go off in the village or nearby, I usually go out and see what's up, especially if I know the family are away.

2. What do you find most difficult?

A. I think getting to grips with all the modern computers used by the police now. All the new technology stuff came in at the same time, about five years ago. Never having used a computer before in my life it's been fairly difficult to get used to.

All the records are kept on computer now and a lot of the paperwork is done that way. The computer is over at Rickmansworth Police Station, the main office for Sarratt. We've all been sent on courses, but I can't take in all this new technology. Actually, the children are better at it than me.

3. Do you feel that you are an integral part of the Sarratt community?

A. Yes I really think so. I would say I know 95 per cent of the people in the area. Obviously you never get to know the whole lot. I would definitely miss it if I moved, it's a different way of life completely.

When we go into Watford shopping I always notice the change in pace just after what we call the 'Croxley Wall'. We didn't even know where Sarratt was before we moved here, but we wouldn't swap it now for anything.

When I applied for this job, 12 other applications were put in, but I was fortunate enough to get it. The great thing is that I now see children who were five or six when I started, out on the roads learning to drive, and ones who were slightly older getting married. It's nice that youngsters aren't afraid to come to the door and talk to you and tell you things they've seen. It's a lovely feeling of belonging.

4. As you live and work in the village, are you ever off duty?

A. No, never. I'm on duty 24 hours a day apart from when I'm on holiday (I have 29 days off a year now - it's just gone up after my 20 years service). I'm in uniform eight hours of every working day.

5. When you aren't in uniform, how do you relax and unwind?

A. Sport mainly. I do cross country running , refereeing and football. When I'm not actually doing it, I'm watching it. I support Norwich City. We do have a few footballing arguments in our house. Michael supports Watford and Ben supports Liverpool.

I go out and jog too, about four to five hours a week. I run with another policeman who lives nearby - Peter Hern stationed at Watford. It's a lot easier in twos, while you're talking you don't notice the big hills. I've done quite a bit of marathon running. I've done the Paris, Rotterdam, Berlin, and Dublin marathons and I'm doing one in Bruge next year and one in Boston in 1996.

6. What is a typical day like for you?

A. That depends on whether I'm on earlies or lates. I go into the station at Rickmansworth once or twice a week for paperwork and reports and other than that it's mostly a question of getting on my bike and heading off where the mood takes me. I regularly deal with things like alarms, checking out suspicious events, neighbourhood watches, and involvement in schools, but it's generally a case of being there, being seen, and being accessible.

I do think that being seen around on my bicycle and on foot is a deterrent. Believe me, it can take me up to an hour to get to the shops some days the number of people I meet.

We do get specific problems in a rural area; poaching still goes on and in the last three or four years, badger baiting.

7. Do you patrol on foot, bicycle or by car?

A. Mainly foot and bicycle...yes, it does keep me fit, I use the bike a lot.

8. In the last 11 years you must have come across some amusing situations. Can you repeat any here?

A. Well...oh yes, the sheep. I hadn't been here very long and I was riding up Red Lion Lane on my bike when I was confronted by this herd of sheep coming up the road towards the green. Someone had left a gate open and they'd all escaped. Anyway, I got off my bike and tried to get them back in the field but I wasn't very successful. I rushed home, which was quite near, and said to Fiona, if you see a herd of sheep coming, shout. Luckily I knew the farmer so I phoned him and together we eventually managed to get them all back in the field. But I was covered in muck and mud I can tell you. Very different to Watford.

Another lady phoned 999, got through to me and called me round to her house in the village. When I got there she said: "Officer, I want my toe nails cutting."

9. Has the atmosphere of Sarratt changed since you began here?

A. Yes it has. You're getting the younger generation moving in and they're not getting involved in village activities. I think they should. The thing is, they're not locals and yet they move here and expect everything to be done their way. They don't like the bonfire on the green, they don't like the May Fair - and these are events that have happened for years in Sarratt.

To me it's all a part of village life, but they don't understand. Some of them move here and just can't cope, they move out again after two years. It takes time to be accepted and to settle in. We had to get used to it. What I think is sad is that it seems to be becoming a looser community.

10. Have you noticed any changes to your own work or role in the community?

A. No, not really. It's pretty much still the same. To be honest I don't think police work ever changes. Crime has increased, although not violent crime, it's more theft. Mind you that's not just in Sarratt, it's all over.

I hate crime in the village. I feel personally responsible. I do get affected, because at the end of the day it's down to me.

11. If I were to give you a blank ticket to any destination in the world where would it be and why?

A. I wouldn't mind going to Australia or New Zealand. I don't know why. I think it might be because New Zealand looks very rural. Failing that, a Caribbean cruise would be very nice. I know the boys would like to go to Disneyland.

12. What did you want to do when you left school?

A. To be honest, I left school at the age of 16 with no qualifications and I had no idea what I wanted to do. My best friend joined the Police Cadets and basically I followed him. It was when I was in the cadets that I got all my academic qualifications. My best subjects at school were Maths, German and French - but it wasn't until I left that I passed any exams. My friend is still a policeman too, over the other side of the county.

13. What makes you angry and what makes you happy?

A. Angry? If I'm interrupted while I'm watching football on TV, I get quite annoyed. I think the main one though is people lying when I know they are. Sometimes you catch a child doing something, take then home to their parents and see them deny it in front of you - that really bugs me.

Norwich winning makes me very happy, and running well in a big race. In the Police Cross Country championships I'm usually the first home for Hertfordshire. It's never too late to get into it. A good run makes me feel good; that and a good result at work - if the punishment fits the crime.

14. Who or what makes you laugh?

A. I like Dave Allen and Michael Barrymore and our friends Carol and Tony Gaisford. I want to say here that she cheats at Trivial Pursuit. She and my wife do sign language and they used to give each other silent clues while they were playing. Tony and me didn't sus it for ages, we couldn't work out how they got all the answers.

15. What would your ideal meal be?

A. Anything except Indian food. Basically my favourites are beef and lamb and plenty of it. You wouldn't believe it to look at me I know, but I do eat a lot. I like a home-cooked Sunday dinner, although with working shifts, I don't always have time for it.

16. If you watch television what do you always make a point of tuning in for?

A. Sports mainly - any sport. I like football especially and rugby. Other than that I like the House of Eliot although I haven't see much of this series, Peak Practice and any good documentary like Cutting Edge.

17. If you could swap places with someone for just one day, who would it be and why?

A. I don't know to be honest. I'm quite happy as I am. No, that one's stumped me I'm afraid.

18. What do you regard as your greatest achievement in life so far?

A. I would think that one of them has to be going under three hours in the Rotterdam World Police Marathon. I did two hours, 54 minutes and came 79th. I trained non-stop for 16 weeks to go under three hours and knocked 21 minutes off my time. Also, getting this job after 9 to 10 years of hard work. I knew that I always wanted to be a village policeman so it was a lifetime ambition fulfilled.

19. Is a policeman's lot a happy one?

A. Yes it is for me, but there are a lot of changes going on in the force which are not all good. It will take a bit of adjusting to. Personally I'm very happy here in Sarratt and I wouldn't want to swap it for anything.

20. Do you have a motto?

A. I suppose really it's got to be "slow and steady always wins the race". I always start off marathons like that, run the first part slow and then pick up speed. It fits in with my running and it fits in with my work. Yes, I think you could say that more or less sums up my life.

1994

Go

Watford Observer Arts and Entertainment Section

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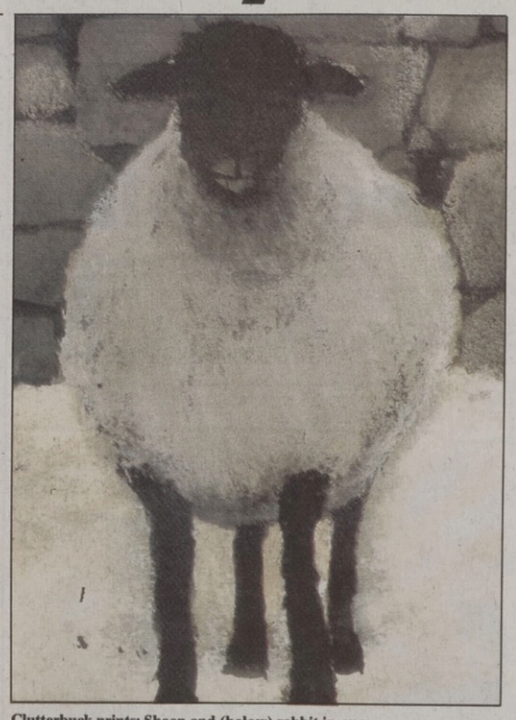
Edited by GRELLE WHITE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1994

Jan's at home with English country life

American Jan Clutterbuck found life in rural England left her with time on her hands. Time she spent teaching herself to paint. **GRELLE WHITE** visited Jan at her home in Sarratt



Clutterbuck prints: Sheep and (below) rabbit in snow.



FOR all its apparent charm, English village life presented young American bride Jan with quite a culture shock when she arrived in Sarratt some 40 years ago to take up all it meant and involved to be and become Mrs Jeremy Clutterbuck.

The Manhattan to Sarratt transfer was far from smooth.

To be the wife of a gentleman farmer, whose widowed mother still held the manorial right to appoint the next vicar, must have been akin to a commoner marrying into royalty.

Unnamed things are expected and all eyes are upon you, some half-wishing you will put a foot wrong.

"I was taken salmon fishing, grouse shooting and deerstalking. Can you imagine!"

The vision of Jan doing battle with hook, line and sinker in mid-stream or crunching her way through the woods clutching whatever one clutches for deerstalking, does send little shivers through the cosy kitchen of her now smaller, but still imposing village home where we are sipping tea in front of the Aga.

"So you see, I had to do something."

I see quite easily: young career-girl working for Time magazine in New York finding herself part of the Chess valley wilderness and a social scenario far removed from skyscrapers, cultural debates, cocktail parties and being anonymously your own whenever-you-wish.

Jan Clutterbuck took up painting.

"Well, first of all I found there was an American school at Denham so I went and offered to teach, although I wasn't a teacher," she admits with a twinkle at the recollection of being desperate enough to go for something she really wasn't qualified for.

She got the job, but then came the children, Camilla and Benjamin, and young Mrs Clutterbuck was back home again with time and creative energy on her hands.

That was when the first brush strokes were submitted to paper for what has now made Jan Clutterbuck a name in her own right.

Her delicate watercolours have become widely known and admired. She exhibits and sells at London galleries and made her own successful foray into the wilderness of the art world to be selected for the Royal Academy.

But that was back in the 70's. Jan Clutterbuck has passed a few milestones since and has arrived at the most satisfying of them all:

"I no longer have to be first!" she suddenly smiles, as the talk round the big pine table in the Clutterbuck kitchen turns to the subject in hand — the Exhibition of Arts and Crafts to be held at her home this weekend to help raise funds for the preservation of The Great Sarratt Scrapbook.

Leader of that particular project, Valerie Cumming, is excited about Jan showing her work — and donating a painting for the raffle. She has news that a certain person, who already owns several of Jan's watercolours, will be coming . . .

"I'm only doing it for the village," says the artist. She has made her mark. For the moment, she is far more inclined to talk about the others, well-known local artists like Marion Perkins, Gillian Burrows, Elizabeth Ogan, Mollie Binfield, Annalee Pope, Pat Cox.

"Oh, and the hats. One lady is bringing the most amazing hats and someone will be showing and selling jewellery. We will also have glass engraving, pottery and scarves."

It is the first time Pentlands, the first house on the right in Red Lion Road off The Green, will be completely open. Normally visiting is restricted to the upstairs gallery and studio.

"We have arranged parking on the Green," interjects Val, breaking news from the parish council meeting the previous night.

Bits of friendly gossip flow into the stream of conversation from time to time. Jan shares a recent discovery, one of those strange snippets of law and tradition that fascinates foreigners and frequently locals as well.

If a coffin is carried from homestead to church along a footpath, the footpath belongs to the family from then on.

True or false?

Someone will know or someone will find out in the wake of the resurgence of interest in The Great Sarratt Scrapbook.

Villagers are talking about local history and traditions and sharing memories and folklore.

It started in earnest with a fund-raising Sarratt Historial Evening at the village hall back in November, sponsored by and in aid of the Great Sarratt Scrapbook Initiative with slide show and photos of the village and its people past and present.

A display of historic local photographs will also be on show at the arts and crafts exhibition over the weekend.

And no one is likely to be more eager to find out and learn than the hostess. Jan Clutterbuck has settled down to the charm of village life.

Moving to the village encouraged her to develop a skill. Now she is anxious to play and pay her part in all that forms and holds together its fabric.

For the curious outsider it is still a mystery how the young gentleman farmer from Sarratt found his bride on Manhattan Island.

"We met in Ireland during the war. Jeremy was in the Coldstream Guards and I was driving for the American Red Cross. We met at four o'clock in the morning," Jan recollects with the air of sharing a private romantic moment.

"He was very glamorous and attractive," she adds.

She had joined the Red Cross at a time when all her girlfriends were getting married and having babies and she still hadn't cured a desire to do something adventurous with her life.

While they were both stationed in Northern Ireland, Jan often came back to Micklefield Hall with Jeremy, but purely as good friends.

"I went on to France and then back to work in New York."

It wasn't until years later, in 1952 when Jeremy visited New York, the idea of a life-long alliance was mooted.

"He asked 'How about marriage?' and I heard myself say: 'Right, sure'. I was 32 and in between boyfriends, which probably changed my mind that I was not yet ready to get married. Also I knew what I was coming to. He was comfortable to be with and I knew and loved his mother, too."

She had not quite envisaged herself living at Micklefield Hall with butler, footman and servants in the main house and a lifestyle totally foreign to her own.

Jeremy Clutterbuck died last year. A faded photograph of the couple taken when they were first married stands within view of Jan's easle.

We have retired to the upstairs studio, an otherwise unsentimental room where Jan now paints from photographs and sketches rather than braving the outdoor elements for hours. She also sells printed cards of her works from this room.

Her preference for space and stillness manifests itself in winter landscapes and, lately, scenes with sheep. One of her hallmarks is landscapes devoid of modern intrusions like telegraph poles.

"I like isolation."

But no matter how steeped in village life, she has become, Jan Clutterbuck still recalls with amazement an incident from when she first came to Sarratt and she had to drive for people on polling days.

"I picked up one woman, who had never been out of the village."

It gives her great pleasure, however, that her own daughter has chosen to stay in Sarratt in a cottage not far from the family home for the time being. Now in her thirties, Camilla Clutterbuck has followed in her mother's footsteps as an artist.

"But much better," Jan quickly insists.

You can see — and judge — for yourself this weekend.



Jan Clutterbuck at home in her first floor studio at Pentlands in Sarratt. *Picture: JOE SHEEHAN*

Art exhibition

Mrs Jeremy Clutterbuck will be "at home" for an Exhibition of Arts and Craft with other artists to help preserve The Great Sarratt Scrapbook, at Pentlands, Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, tomorrow (Saturday) from 10am to 4pm and Sunday from 11am to 4pm. Admission is £1. Raffle and refreshments will be available.

The 'Domesday' Book of Sarratt

IT'S on ice in Scotland, but The ~~Great~~ Sarratt Scrapbook will soon be back where it belongs and put to the use for which it was intended: to record village history as it happens.

The ~~Great~~ Sarratt Scrapbook, which covers nearly 150 years of village life, measures 25in by 18in and weighs 38lb, is being expertly restored by Riley Dunn and Wilson, conservators and bookbinders in Falkirk.

The scrapbook was started in 1912 by the Rev Gilbert N. Ryley as a memorial to his father, the former rector of the parish, the Rev Edward Ryley.

Early entries in the book include a photograph of Sarratt Paper Mill (now the Mill House) from around 1870 and chronicles the mammoth undertaking of restoring the village church, Holy Cross, back in 1850-60.

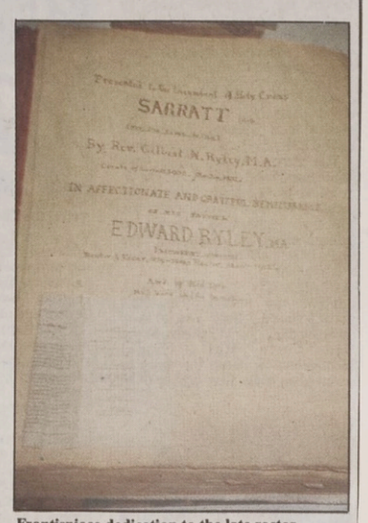
The total bill of £1,358 3s. must have stretched villagers' fund-raising ingenuity to the limit and makes the £1,600 now needed to preserve and ensure the future of the scrapbook itself seem like a small price to pay to keep historical records of such original quality

Luckily for Sarratt, a few villagers became aware The ~~Great~~ Sarratt Scrapbook had fallen out of view and into disrepair like a familiar piece of furniture you barely notice.

Parish councillor Val Cumming and her husband Peter set up The Great Sarratt Scrapbook Initiative with a three-pronged attack on the problem: emergency renovation and rebinding of the existing book; collection, collation and research of new material; and transferring to microfilm and indexing information.



Val Cumming discusses the ~~Great~~ Sarratt Scrapbook with experts in Falkirk



Frontispiece dedication to the late rector.

For Val in particular, preserving and perpetuating Sarratt's 'Domesday Book' has become a personal passion.

As a relative newcomer to the village, her hunch that the scrapbook is something special was confirmed when she sought advice from London City's Guildhall, where experts advised on restoration and referred to the book as being "unique".

Mindful that £1,600 might be a lot for a small community to pay, someone suggested the book could be deposited with Hertfordshire County Record Office.

That got up Val's hackles and the battle to preserve and keep the book began in earnest.

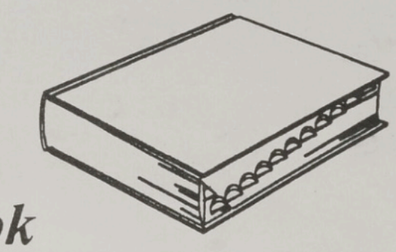
With a small group of equally dedicated villagers, she embarked on a fund-raising scheme that in itself has generated interest in village history and Sarratt's sense of self.

A string of fund-raising events were arranged, including a Sarratt Historical Evening, and the buzz in the village hall beamed up the Intiative Committee for further initiatives.

Meanwhile the object of all these exercises, The Great Sarratt Scrapbook, is languishing in a freezer in Falkirk (the way to dry out damp paper!) as page by page, the book is restored and preserved and preparing for a return to its rightful home in prestine conditions, two volumes, with a third to record future history of Sarratt.

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF

The Great Sarratt Scrapbook



An

Exhibition of Arts & Crafts

Including a special display of historic local photographs

on

Saturday 12th February 1994 • 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Sunday 13th February 1994 • 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

at

Pentlands, Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, Herts.

by kind permission of Mrs. Jeremy Clutterbuck

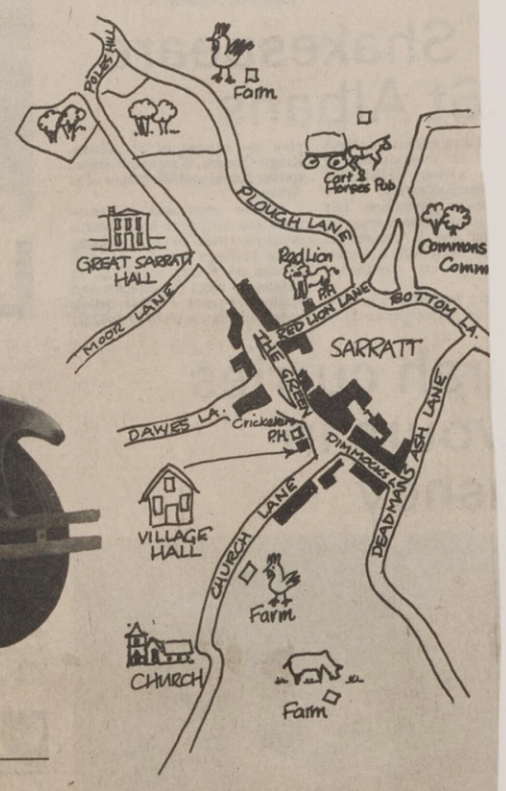
Admission £1 **Raffle** **Refreshments**

"Bring a Friend"

WAT-obs. 8-4-94

All aboard for a free ride Under the Heavens





It's SPRINGTIME IN SARRATT with open cottage gardens, free bus rides in a vintage bus, tea in the village hall and one of the first public appearances by the new High Sheriff of Hertfordshire — all for the sake and sale of raffle tickets of a very special Friendship Quilt to preserve the fabric of the local village church.

Springtime in Sarratt

Saturday, April 16

Free bus rides starting from The Green, stopping for set down and pick up at five cottage gardens (entrance free) through Under the Heavens and Belsize, from 1.30pm.

From 3.30pm: teas in the village hall.

5pm Grand Draw of Raffle by the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in Sarratt Village Hall.

'At home' first for for new High Sheriff

LADY Staughton, who will draw the winner of Sarratt's Friendship Quilt, next Saturday, became High Sheriff of Hertfordshire last week, so one of her first public appearances an 'at home', more so, as helped create the quilt.

Lady Staughton's family has lived in the village for nearly 500 years. She inherited her home, Sarratt Hall, from her father, who never lived in the house, although her mother still owns a cottage next door.

Lady Staughton is married to a member of the Court of Appeal and has two grown-up daughters.

Among a string of public positions, she is Chairman of the Hertfordshire Family Health Services Authrity, President of Watford Relate, Vice President of the Hertfordshore Alcohol Problems Advisory Service, A Council member of the Child Accident Prevention Trust, a Board Member of the National Children's Bureau, a Justice of the Peace, sitting in the Youth and Family Proceedings Courts in London, Governor of the two Francis Holland Schools and a Council member of the British Heart Foundation.



LIKE all little boys Dennis Jenks at one time wanted to grow up to be a bus driver.

Unlike most big boys, Dennis now drives a bus, and, better than that, he owns it. The cream and brown A 1932 Bedford single decker is his very own toy, a treat for the former captain of industry, to be seen in and around his home, Little Sarratt Hall, ferrying family and friends on festive trips.

"It seemed like a good way to go on special outings, like the races, so we could all be together," explained Dennis, who had no sooner expressed the idea four years ago than a friend located the very thing coming up at an auction.

It adds a little spice to retirement for the man, who spent 30 years building brands as head of his own company, The Jenks Group, specialising in herbs, spices and pet foods.

"I'm useless at do-it-yourself and needed something to do."

A slight understatement. Dennis Jenks is still involved in business, plays tennis, is a black run skier and can also be seen pedalling a bicycle round Sarratt lanes.

But he would really rather drive his bus.

So Springtime in Sarratt next Saturday will see one young-at-heart man indulge his fancy.

Dennis will don a cap and drive his bus in a way that conjures up visions of Postman Pat doing his rounds in a toytown landscape.

Villagers and visitors are invited on free rides from The Green in Sarratt to Under the Heavens (local term for the lanes leading to Belsize). The bus will stop at five cottage gardens, open to the public for the afternoon on Saturday, April 16.

Bus rides and garden visits are free — but it will be considered good form to buy a ticket, a raffle ticket, for The Friendship Quilt, a splendid piece of needlework in traditional flower garden design made with loving care — and thread covered in local beeswax — by 17 ladies of Sarratt to help preserve Holy Cross, the ancient parish church.

Inspired and led by Doris Rollinson, the women worked in best village tradition, creating something beautiful and durable which just one lucky person will be able to carry away from Sarratt Village Hall next Saturday.

The quilt took nine months to create and is insured for £5,000. Raffle tickets have been on sale for months, but Springtime in Sarratt will be staged as a last boost for sales — and funds for the fabric of Holy Cross Church.

Adding more than a little importance to the occasion will be the draw itself, performed by the new High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Lady Staughton.

Lady Staughton lives in Sarratt — and helped make the Friendship Quilt.

The quilt will be on show in the village hall during the afternoon where visitors will also be able take tea, from 3.30pm, while anticipating the draw at 5pm sharp.

To ensure not too many people leave the village disappointed there are 75 additional raffle prizes: 50 patchwork hand-embroidered cushions, each worth £15, and 25 Schwartz spice and herb racks, valued £10 each.

Tickets for grand raffle are £1 each and will be on sale absolutely everywhere, on the bus, in the cottage gardens, the village hall . . .

But you can enjoy a free bus ride and a browse round pretty cottage gardens for nothing. Just turn up on The Green in Sarratt (bottom end by Deadman Ash Lane), where Dennis Jenks will be donning cap and smile and his special toy for as many joyrides Under the Heavens as he can fit into the Springtime afternoon in Sarratt.

Report by
GRELLE WHITE.

Pictures by
JOE SHEEHAN

A true village craft creation



TAKE 17 women (11 pictured), 2,600 hexagons of fabric, and a quarter of a million stiches and nine months later, you end up with something quite unique, a Friendship Quilt insured for £5,000.

Made with loving care to help preserve the ancient village church, Holy Cross, of Sarratt, all the thread used for the quilt was given a protective coating of locally produced beeswax.

The fabrics are a mixture of plain and flower patterns and feature a mouse, a dragonfly and an owl.

The colours are predominantly shades of apricot, yellow and green, inspired by the village of and the surrounding countryside.

The edges are quilted in a rose design inspired by a Tudor button brooch found in Sarratt churchyard in Victorian times by the Rev Edward Ryley, Rector of Holy Cross.

The Tudor brooch is featured in the emblem of the Friends of Holy Cross, who raise funds for the care and preservation of the building, parts of which date back over 800 years to the reign of Richard the Lionheart.

The quilt measures nine by six feet and will be raffled at S arratt Village Hall on Saturday April 16 at 5pm.

Pictured with their labour of love (left to right) 'Sarratt's First XI', ladies who hand made the Friendship Quilt: Daphne Tyler, Barbara Fordyce, Rosemary Campbell, Pam White, Dawn Pitts, Doris Rollinson (leader), Edna Sansom, Joanna Staughton, Liz Young, Judy Gooding and Linda Clough.

Friendship gesture for church





Busdriver Dennis Jenks welcomes you



Villager Bernard Downer made the frame to display the 9' by 6' Friendship Quilt

№ 000730

Friends of Holy Cross Church
The Friendship Quilt Draw

№ 000730

THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH, SARRATT

Raising Funds for the Care and Preservation of the Building including the Restoration of the Roof

★ **THE FRIENDSHIP QUILT DRAW** ★

★ FIRST PRIZE — The Friendship Quilt ★

A Unique Hand-sewn Quilt size 9' x 6' approx. in a Traditional English Flower Garden Design

Fifty ★ Other ★ Prizes

★ Hand-Sewn Patchwork Cushion Covers ★

Tickets £1 Each

The draw will take place on Saturday 16th. April 1994
Promoter: C. J. Welsh, Mortons Cottage, The Green, Sarratt, Herts.
The Friends of Holy Cross is a Registered Charity No 1018991
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1994

GREAT SARRATT SCRAPBOOK INITIATIVE

MINUTES

of a Committee Meeting

6th April 1994

Apologies:- AR, MS, MC, MH, JM.

Present:- MT, DP, VC, DJ, PC.

1. VC (Chairman) welcomed Michael Tiernan and explained his very relevant experience. The Minutes of 2nd February were agreed and signed.

2. The Art Exhibition raised £1,800 and total funds now stand at approximately £3,000. It is hoped that the Treasurer will give a full report at the next meeting.

3. We have applied for the "Village Ventures Competition", sponsored by Glaxo, First Prize £400. DJ has link to Glaxo which will be considered when we start fund raising for Phase Two.

4. DP wrote confirming we wish a full record on Microfilm for further copying and then direct use and (probably) conversion to Microfiche for academic etc. use. We need to confirm that we require the first new/blank volume as soon as possible. DP.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

5. Grant Application Group to list and draft Phase 2 and prepare Report for Rural Action before June 18th. Grant APP GP.

6. Training - we need two members (AR & DP) to attend training course as soon as practicable. AR & DP.

NEW VOLUME

7. Ideas from everyone will be called for at the next meeting eg. layouts, contents, types of material, referencing & cross referencing - no holds barred. (Genuine brainstorming - we need a leader and a scribe!) ALL.

"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SARRATT"

8. DJ's suggestion sparked unanimous support as an activity-filled start to the new volume. Proposal for next meeting to be drafted DJ.

9. Location of Scrapbook - must be accessible to the public - mainly through microfiche for researchers but actual Book for casual like minded visitors. Action group required - Volunteers

FUND RAISING

10. CONGRATULATIONS! Letters received from Art Exhibition commented on the "Community Spirit" - as did many visitors from outside the Village.

11. Whist Drive - Saturday Evening 9th April - Jean Newell.

12. Race Night - promised by Roy Eteen.

General

13. Spotlight binding of back issues - agreed but local quotes to be checked (£127 per 12 quoted so far). Watford College printer trainees to be asked.

PRIORITIES

4.

Training Courses	DP
Home for volumes	VC
Fund raising ideas	All
Report Phase 1	APP Gp
Full entry for Village Ventures Comp	App Gp
Application for Phase 2	App Gp
TRIUMPHAL RETURN OF GSSB Evening	VC plus ideas please

15. In answer to a direct question MT opined that the Initiative had been given "very professional treatment". The meeting closed on that note - at 10.25 pm.

NEXT MEETING 27TH APRIL

PWC

AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETING

OF

GREAT SARRATT SCRAPBOOK INITIATIVE

OLD RED LION FARM 8.00 PM - WEDNESDAY, 27TH APRIL 1994

1. APOLOGIES
2. PRESENT
3. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING
4. TREASURER'S REPORT — £3689-82 balance
5. REPORT OF PHASE 1 - FOR RURAL ACTION — Initiative Diary
6. APPLICATIONS for money for Phase 2
7. SPONSORSHIP ? of Catering cupping of Herts Dunning Group
8. TRAINING
9. HOME FOR VOLUMES
10. NEW VOLUME - NEW IDEAS - BRAINSTORM.
11. "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SARRATT"
12. FUND RAISING - REPORT AND SUGGESTIONS
13. SPOTLIGHT BINDING
14. RETURN OF GSSB - A NIGHT OF TRIUMPH!!
15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Committed
Redmaing £1600
New Vol £170
Microfilm ? £500 *
Training course £700
Preservation materials £30
X? glass microfiche
? Total £4500

PWC



Greenwood
The Green, Sarratt
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 6BH
Tel: 0923 267549

25 April 1994

Rev. Michael Hewlett
Jasmine Cottage
The Green
Sarratt

Dear Michael,

Sarratt Scrapbook and Archives

I enclose my file of press cuttings for possible inclusion in the next volume of the Sarratt Scrapbook.

Frank Tyler gave me the document folder enclosed. Its contents are as follows:

1. Summary of letters relating to transfer of Sarratt Green and Commonwood Common to the Parish Council from T. Clutterbuck.

2. Copy of letter (E) from Mr Clutterbuck to his solicitor, Mr P Wilson, requesting transfer of the control of the Green with the other rights of the Lord of the Manor to the Sarratt Parish Council.

3. Copy of letter (G) from Mr T Clutterbuck to Mr P Wilson, dated 30/1/38, stating that he would prefer all rights of the Lord of the Manor, so far as they concern the control of Sarratt Green and Common Wood, to be transferred to the Parish Council.

4. Copy of Letter (J) from R A Simpson, Clerk to the Parish Council to Mr Clutterbuck, dated 24/12/38, thanking him for the gift to Council.

continued/

5. Letter from The General Post Office, London, dated 18 January 1907, to Mr W Mathews, stating that arrangements have been sanctioned for erecting a letter box and affording a second delivery of letters at Sarratt Bottom.

6. Manor of Sarratt. List of Copyhold Tenements 1914.

7. Manor of Sarratt Conditions of Sale Poster, dated 1867.

8. Plan of Sarratt property and land for sale, 1896.

The box file, which is enclosed, was given to me by Stephen Statham. It contains various items relating to the history of the village.

I am pleased to pass these documents to you, for the village archives.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

John

John Guy

1994

Jan Clutterbuck

Feature had joy and humour

I WRITE on behalf of all the participants — artists, stall holders, helpers and the great and generous public of the district — to thank you, the Watford Observer staff and in particular Grelle White, for the magnificent full page in the Go magazine in your issue of February 11.

Her description of Jan Clutterbuck and her life and work was a joy to read.

It was balanced, beautifully phrased and with a combination of humour, interest and the unexpected — without a hint of the unpleasantness which characterises so many newsworthy items these days.

If ever an article deserved a journalistic "Oscar" this one did.

Everyone was talking about the article and that was why they came to the exhibition and a lot of them had come miles!

The combination of the story of Jan, from her arrival in Sarratt to her pre-eminence in the art world, led so beautifully into the report on the Great Sarratt Scrapbook Initiative.

Everyone involved, public and exhibitors alike, attributed the noticeable happy and exciting atmosphere and the splendid result — £1,600 for the scrapbook initiative — to the stimulus and joy of the Go full page.

One gentleman arrived five minutes before the exhibition closed on Saturday. He had been reading the Watford Observer, read the Go article and leapt up to get to the exhibition on time.

Our committed expenses for phase one — the professional restoration of the scrapbook — are now covered and the committee can now start the work of safeguarding the future of the ancient volume and organising the dedicated future work for the next 150 years.

Thank you so much. — **Valerie Cumming, Chairman, The Great Sarratt Scrapbook Initiative, Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt.**

29-4-94

One-way traffic system for fair

POPULARITY is a burden the annual Sarratt May Fair has had to bear - but this year the police are imposing a one-way system on the village.

The traffic management has come about because the village is often full to the brim with cars, bringing families to the funfair on the green.

Villagers were getting fed up with the congestion and will be pleased to see better traffic flow during the popular event.

Starting at 8am on Friday morning, the one-way system will stay in place until midnight on Bank Holiday Monday.

Clerk of the parish council, Mrs Doreen Boast, said: "We have struggled in the past because the fair is so popular.

"The parish council, with great help from the police, has decided to enforce a one-way system and encourage people to park on the outskirts of the village and walk onto the green."

The basis of the one-way system is a clockwise flow of traffic around the green, with cones marking off the roads.

Police will be manning the roads to ensure everything goes well.

Other points for motorists to note are:

- Alexander Road cannot be entered from the green, and there is no right turn onto the green.
- Parking is provided, weather permitting, at King George V playing fields in Georges Way, and the British Legion, in Church Lane.
- No fair traffic will be allowed into the heart of the village.
- Parking on village roads is strictly prohibited.
- Police will be on duty all day on Monday to question drivers.

The funfair, organised by Topsy Smith, promises to be a very popular attraction as usual.

It starts at 6pm today (Friday) and reopens at 2pm on Saturday.

Although closed on Sunday, Bank Holiday Monday promises to bring the bumper crowds as the fair opens all day.

W.obs 27-5-94



Lush approach to the late Georgian house

Grinning trees at Great Sarratt Hall

THE trees at Great Sarratt Hall were postitively grinning on Sunday.

The long wet weekend was a real treat for the moisture-loving trees that form the main feature of Morton Neal's beloved garden.

By day heading up the famous building contractors, by night and especially weekends Morton finds solace and satisfaction in creating striking beauty on four acres of satisfying Sarratt soil.

"We are so lucky. At the very bottom of the Chiltern hills we have acid soil and only streaks of chalk.

"Chalk restricts you desperately," he helpfully points out in response to the puzzled look on my non-gardener's face.

"Chalk is useless for rhododendrons, azaleas and camelias," explains the keen gardener, speculating he would never buy a house where the soil wasn't acid.

Hmmm, maybe not the most important factor in the average househunter's priorities.

But then Morton and Cecilia Neal are not exactly average or in the habit of moving house, having lived at Great Sarratt Hall for more than 30 years.

Thirty years that have not only provided them with a beautiful late-Georgian home, but also given "headgardener" Morton the satisfaction of seeing plans and plantings coming into fruition.

His garden was a victim to the Dutch Elm disease disster 15 years ago.

All the elms went, about a dozen huge trees and the hedge separating the formal garden from the paddock now graciously grazed by a picturesque herd of Jacobs sheep.

One stump of a former giant is left by the pond almost as a memorial to the disaster but, resorting to unsentimental honesty, Morton Neal admits that the loss, sad as it was for the Hertfordshire countryside, has ultimately been his gain.

"It gave the trees I have planted a chance," he said, enthusing about a conifer from Kashmir, a red cedar from California and a Chinese fossil tree.



Talking about trees, like listing members of the United Nations, he reveals the creation of an arboretum and an enthusiasm akin to landowners who, in days gone by, planted Britain's parklands with exotic species of trees that have matured into majestic growth and fascinting landscapes.

Some of the things planted now could not have been planted then, Morton points out.

There has definitely been a change in climate for the milder. He is now growing plants at Great Sarratt Hall he couldn't hope would succeed 20 years ago.

One success he is particularly proud of is the Cornus Controversa Verigatum, an American tree with limecoloured leaves and branches growing in "layers", a new ring forming every year.

It is an attractive feature from the house and main terrace with its tubs of plants mostly not yet in flower, which fleetingly makes you wonder why Morton Neal has chosen to open the garden for The National Gardens Scheme now.

There are banks of attractive bloom and plenty of colour contrast provided by trees and shrubs, but the paddock, a former cherry orchard still inhabited by thousands of daffodils, must have been a sight to persuade many a visitor to return year after year, or the time when the rhododendrons and azaleas were at their peak a few weeks ago.

The reason is quite endearing. Morton Neal likes to show off the kitchen garden and share cuttings and now is the best time for that.

Over the years his plant sales have proved popular and been a useful little earner for the charity he supports. Some of the cuttings waiting in the green house you would be unlikely to find in the average nursery. One that is quite a feature of the garden, the pale blue Abutilon, I have not seen anywhere else.

The kitchen garden traditionally separated from the formal garden by an attractive brick wall is a feature Morton feels is particularly nice for children. It even has a huge asparagus bed and a pungent heap of manure and compost due to be planted with marrows.

Who will scale the soggy heights to reap the harvest, I wondered.

Certainly not Cecilia Neal.

The drawback with a big kitchen garden and a keen gardener husband is heaps of wet spinach and, if ignored, wooden beans.

Oh, for the trip to the freezer store.

But she is only kidding, although earnest, when she insists that one gardener is quite enough in any family.

The theory probably doesn't hold with the majority of people, judging by the growth of interest in gardens.

"We open the garden for the National Gardens Scheme every year and the growth in numbers has increased incredibly, with a lot of people coming back to see the progress year after year."

The numbers of visitors have risen from 200 on a bad day 20 years ago to 2,000 on a particularly sunny Sunday more recently.

- The garden at Great Sarratt Hall is open on Sunday, May 29, 2pm to 6pm. Admission £1.50, children free. Approaching from Watford, go through Sarratt towards Kings Langley. Great Sarratt Hall is on the left just after you have left the village.
- Also open in aid of the National Garden Scheme on Sunday afternoon: Steet Farm, Bovingdon (between Bovingdon and Chipperfield).



Village pub's future hangs in the balance

W.O 20/6/94

by Adam Parsons

VILLAGERS were divided this week over new proposals to extend The Boot public house in Sarratt, after brewery Ind Coope announced it was still looking to develop the building.

A presentation of their proposals was made at the pub on Tuesday night.

The meeting, called by brewery officials, saw the new plans unveiled.

The plans come after a recent planning application to extend the pub by 75 per cent was turned down by Three Rivers District Council.

Scaling down its expansion, Ind Coope is now looking to extend the pub by 25 per cent, using the existing building and bottling facilities to develop a restaurant area in order "to increase the number of transactions per week".

But brewery officals came under heavy fire from villagers when they claimed the pub needed to be made "more viable".

Some villagers blamed the decision to transfer the pub into a managed house as the reason for its downfall.

The pub was transferred after popular and long-time licensee Mr Allan Grant left two years ago.

Not all villagers agreed, however, saying that although the new plan effectively increased the licensed area by half, most of those villagers against the plans hardly ever used The Boot pub beforehand.

They also argued the extra business generated by the proposed development would not exceed the facilities enjoyed by the pub during its more profitable days in the early 1980s.

Car parking spaces for the pub worried a lot of the residents, who believed the extra customers' cars would spill out onto the surrounding roads.

The current plan only provides car parking for 17 vehicles.

Villagers were interested to hear what the extension would do for the village.

Ind Coope's retail sales director, Mr Martyn Greasley, who headed the evening, said the brewery was faced with three options.

He said: "It can either look to progress the original application by appeal, submit the newer plans for a reduced development, or look carefully at its involvement with The Boot pub."

He explained there would be an extra bedroom and an extension to the cellar would be dug, as part of the development.

The concern over The Boot has been heightened by the closure of nearby pub The Cock, in Church Lane.

Sarratt Parish Council chairman Mrs Val Cumming, who was representing Sarratt Parish Action Group said: "The brewery had the courtesy of coming to us and making a good presentation.

"It was so well attended that they are coming back on June 7 to speak again.

"We are hoping to arrange the meeting at the village hall where everyone can hear and make their views known."

Steaming Green

2-6-94



AN AIRSHIP lent festivities at Sarratt's Steam on the Green on Saturday an extra touch of glamour, even though its visit was totally accidental.

There were nine steam engines on show on the village green as well as a number of vintage cars.

Around £250 was raised via stalls, rides and other activities.

The money will go towards the village hall rebuilding fund.

Organiser Sue Biggerstaff said: "The stalls had to be moved indoors because of the bad weather, but we had a good day despite the rain.

"The airship caused a bit of excitement. Some people thought we had arranged it specially."

Our picture shows young Henry Glasspool at Steam on the Green with the traction engines as the airship flies past.

Cock fight set to rage on

W.O. 28/5/94

THE battle of The Cock public house in Sarratt will continue, it was announced this week, as the owner vowed to take his planning wrangle to the Government.

Mr Tony Power revealed his decision after Three Rivers District Council's planning committee refused permission for a separate house to be built in the pub garden.

He was hoping to get a house built alongside the pub in Church Lane and, after its sale, be able to fund the renovation of the popular village inn.

But, although the council allowed permission for the pub renovation, it would not allow the house to be built next to The Cock.

Describing his disappointment, Mr Power said: "I am left with no choice but to appeal against the decision and go to the Secretary of State.

"I bought the pub two years ago and hoped to renovate it back to its former glory with a restaurant and bar, but I cannot pay for it myself.

"The plans for a house are solely to fund the pub, but the district council wouldn't let me build it."

Turning down the house on Green Belt grounds, planning committee officers consider the development not to be "essential for the purposes of agriculture or other uses appropriate to the rural area".

They also considered the new house would detract from the setting of The Cock, which is a Grade Two listed building.

Mr Power said: "I cannot believe the house detracts so much from the Green Belt. We have consciously designed it to be within the confines of the old pub garden so it would not be obtrusive.

"The garden is six-and-a-half acres of land, it would not be affected that badly.

"The villagers were consulted and none of them replied to object to the plan, it just seems to be a few parish councillors who have stirred up the trouble."

Mr Power has owned two pubs before. One of them was The Bricklayers Arms, Flaunden, which he completely refurbished.

He said: "I have a lot of experience in the renovation of pubs and if you look at the Bricklayers, for example, I think it is a pub to be proud of.

"I could be forced into a very tight corner if my appeal fails."

Mr Power has separate planning permission for the pub, which means he can legally turn it into a house if he wants to.

Although it is not his intention, he says he might be forced to do this.

He said: "I have to face the fact that I may have to convert The Cock into a house.

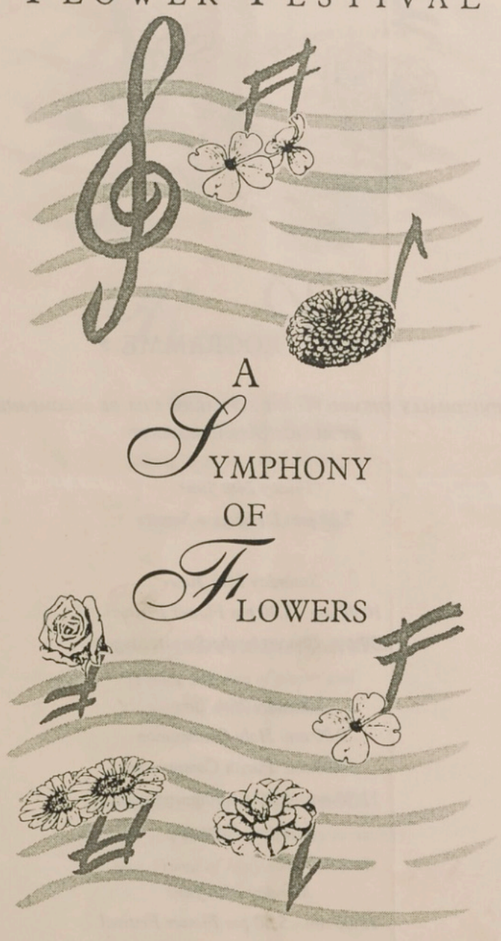
"It would be an extremely unpopular decision and the villagers would not be happy at losing the pub, but I might have no option.

"I just hope my appeal is successful and I am allowed to reopen The Cock and build the house."

Planning committee chairman Councillor Mrs Ann Shaw said: "There are so many dangers to our Green Belt we have to stand firm and protect it.

"Developers and builders often have the most persuasive of arguments for their case and it is a shame about The Cock pub, but the Green Belt has to be protected."

FLOWER FESTIVAL



A SYMPHONY OF FLOWERS

25 - 27TH JUNE 1994

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, SARRATT

W.O. 1-7-94



17th century village cottage on market

ONE of the oldest cottages in Sarratt has gone on the market, priced £239,950.

This Grade II listed period cottage, dating back to the late 16th/early 17th century, has been restored by the present owner, using traditional materials.

An antique elm door leads to the entrance hall and conservatory, which is illuminated by a large skylight.

The living room boasts a restored original inglenook fireplace in Chiltern red brick, exposed elm posts and wall timbers. The dining room is of similar design and has an antique elm spiral staircase leading to the first floor.

The kitchen has an antique York stone floor and an antique oak sink mounted on Chiltern red brick plinths.

The bathroom is a white Victoriana suite comprising a cast iron bath and shower attachment, antique oak panel, wash hand basin with antique oak vanitory unit and low level w.c. with oak seat.

The first floor has two bedrooms. The first enjoys rural views over open fields, has a restored 'baby' inglenook fireplace in Chiltern red brick, antique elm window, wash hand basin and is approached by a trap door from the living room.

The second bedroom has an antique elm door, floor and access hatch to loft.

The garden is approximately 100ft, secluded and sheltered with a patio area and two timber sheds. The gardens adjoin open fields.

Viewing by appointment only with agents Hamptons, 21 Station Raod, Rickmansworth. ☎ 0923 776291.



Joan Dredge with her huge blue delphinium.

Picture L251228: PETER STEVENS

W.O. 24-6-94

Symphony of flowers

VICAR'S wife Joan Dredge will be adding a blue note to A Symphony of Flowers, a flower festival with a difference at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, this weekend.

This huge blue delphinium is central to her arrangement 'Magnificat' representing the Angel Gabriel.

A Symphony of Flowers is set to real music, thanks to a young member of the congregation, Nick Timmins, who has recorded all the titles chosen for the more than 30 flower arrangements.

"Each person was asked to choose a favourite piece of music to interpret," explained Joan.

Nick Timmins has put all the tunes on a tape which will play continually during the festival.

"The idea is that you can sit down and listen to the music that goes with the flower arrangements," said Joan adding with a smile: "The tape is two hours, so it could be a long sit."

The idea, however, gives a melodious backdrop to the display and offers an instant answer to the the piece of music you know but can't quite remember what it sounds like.

A Symphony of Flowers starts tonight with a Dedication Service at 7.30pm.

● The Festival is open: Saturday 101m-5.30pm; Sunday 11.30am-5.30pm; Monday 10am-5.30pm. Also: Saturday 7.30pm: Concert by the Sarratt Singers.

Throughout the festival there will be refreshments on sale from a marquee in the churchyard and plants and produce stalls.

Peace Hospice News Summer 1994

Doctors on hand

THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH SARRATT

A MUSICAL MEDLEY WITH TEMPLE BRASS

Sunday, 5th June, 1994

FANFARE FOR THE HIGH SHERIFF OF HERTFORDSHIRE	Paul Sarcich
Four hits for five	George Gershwin
Alexander's Ragtime Band	Irvine Berlin
A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square	Maschwitz/Sherwin
Tuxedo Junction	Erskine/Hawkins
Moonlight Serenade	Glen Miller
St. Louis Blues	W.C. Handy
Hallelujah Chorus (from The Messiah)	G.F. Handel

PICNIC INTERVAL - FORTY MINUTES

When the Saints go Marching in	Trad.
Amazing Grace	Trad.
The Acrobat	Trad.
Ain't Misbehavin'	Fats Waller
Chanson de Matin	Edward Elgar
Excerpts from Canadiana Suite	Oscar Peterson
Teddy Bears Picnic	arr. Steven Roberts

Paul Thornton Trumpet
David Bentley Horn
(Susan Gee is taking the place of David Bentley
Tony Leggett Trombone
Stephen Follant Tuba
Paul Mourant Trumpet

The Members of Temple Brass were trained at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music, and now, as professional musicians, play with many leading orchestras and ensembles throughout the UK and Europe, and are also in demand as soloists.

Temple Brass are grateful to Heritage Music for the loan of their costumes for this performance.

Slice of cinema on the market

JUNE 1994

FILM-GOERS who enjoyed the massively successful Four Weddings and a Funeral might like to know that one of the principal shoot locations was Goldingtons at Sarratt (above), a listed Georgian mansion that is now offered for sale.

Featured as the setting for the film's first wedding, this elegant country house, boasting three bedroom suites and five further bedrooms, is now on the market for £1.65 million.

Goldington's was chosen by Four Weddings location spotters for its prime position overlooking the wooded slopes of the Chess valley.

The gravelled carriage sweep before the main house was an ideal spot to film departing honeymooners and waving guests, while the rolling lawns were the perfect place to pitch a reception marquee.

Used also as the principal location for the film based on Rosalind Pilcher's The Shell Seekers, Goldingtons actually has a very long history.

The manor derives its name from Peter and Grace de Goldington who held it in the 13th Century. Grace was the daughter of Acarius, who was listed as one of the Knights of St Albans in 1166.

By the 14th Century, their descendant Bertrand de Goldington held the land.

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539, the manor was granted to William Earl of Essex and others as trustees.

In the ensuing years it was acquired by a Master of the Rolls, Lord Bruce of Kinloss, and later by Sir David Williams Bart, eldest son of Sir Gilbert Williams, vicar of Sarratt.

The house itself has passed from John de Chilterns in the early 17th Century to William Kingsley of Rooshall (the other manor of Sarratt). In 1737 it was bought by Sir Gilbert Williams.

It remained in the Williams family for more than a century, passing in 1860 to Herbert Ingrams the proprietor of The Illustrated London News and then on to Thomas Clutterbuck, of Micklefield Hall, Sarratt.

The Clutterbuck family also owned the house for more than 100 years.

Although a manor house has stood on the site of Goldingtons since the 13th Century, the present Grade II listed Georgian house dates from 1780, with the west wing added in 1890.

Additional buildings at the site include an 18th Century tithe barn, a Victorian entrance lodge, a coach house and stable block.

The walled kitchen garden now forms a paddock with high brick walls and the lawns are interspersed with some specimen trees including mulberry, monkey puzzle, oak and cedar.

A quarter mile section of the River Chess runs through the lower paddocks and, in total, the land amounts to 52 acres.

In a lavish booklet produced by agents Knight Frank and Rutley for the sale, Goldingtons is described in the following way:

"It is exceptionally well placed for communications by road, rail and air. Central London is only 22 miles away and the London orbital M25 motorway is two miles distant. Shopping is available at Sarratt or Chorleywood and more comprehensive facilities are available at Amersham and Chesham."

Nowhere in the brochure, including on the map of the district, is Watford mentioned, despite the fact it's the nearest main shopping centre.

Perhaps they thought it might lower the tone.



125

A MUSICAL MEDLEY

with TEMPLE BRASS

SUNDAY 5th JUNE 1994

SARRATT HALL SARRATT HERTS

6.00 pm for 6.30 pm — *BRING A PICNIC*

TICKETS: £10 — *AND EAT IT*

Glass of wine, Canapes. — *IN THE GARDEN*

1994



GRELLE WHITE meets someone who is setting the stage for her vision of a new musical festival in the beautiful countryside at Sarratt.

WO. 17-6-94

A view to a mini Glyndebourne

IN Sarratt they talk about it as "the mini Glyndebourne". At Glyndebourne they don't talk about it — yet!

But in years to come when the sound of The Great Sarratt Festival of Music sweeps through the beautiful Chess Valley, chances are they will, and they will ask: "Whose idea was it anyway?"

By then and even now, before the launch of this new tradition, Shirley MacLean will try to stay out of the limelight. But it was she, the enthusiastic newcomer to the village, who felt inspired by the idea of using the beautiful setting and fill the landscape with the romance and charm of orchestral music, food, wine, song and happy people.

Actually, the seed was sown in Hungary.

"It started over a lazy lunch," recalls Shirley, slightly reluctant to elaborate on her own part in staging The Great Sarratt Festival of Music.

To her the important thing at the moment is keeping her fingers crossed for the weather to be kind when the 70-piece North West London Orchestra, conducted by Dr Solly Aronowsky, performs two concerts against the backdrop of the Chess Valley over the weekend July 2 and 3.

"We have insured against rain," she says on a note of caution which was not present at that lunch in Budapest 18 months ago when, caught up in the spirit of the city's arts festival and the magic of the moment, she suddenly exclaimed: "Let's do it!" as she and her husband Curtis, and a few friends discussed the lack of that kind of magic back home.

Unlike most of those ideas which usually begin to fade and finally evaporate over coffee and desert, this one stuck, grew, and is still growing.

From a concert for 500 at Green End Farm, the MacLean family home in Sarratt, the concert has become a two day event in a field with room for hundreds of people, on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

When we met last week, Shirley was chasing a hog, a hog on a spit.

"My husband suddenly came up with the idea, we should have a hog roast as well," Shirley explains.

Already the couple, their friends and two committees (one orchestral, one from the charity, The Cancer Research Campaign, who will reap the benefit from these field days) have elaborated way beyond the original dream.

On the music side, 20 professional musicians will boost the symphony orchestra's ranks of accomplished amateurs. The London Community Gospel Choir will add their particular flavour to the concert, and Master of Ceremony is none other than Jeremy Beadle, who has added his professional touch to similar, if not nearly as big, charity events with the orchestra.

Having accepted the limits of their four-acre garden, the MacLean's enrolled the support of friendly landowner Jeffrey Lawrence at Moor Lane House and the scope increased.

At this point the Glyndebourne touch became appealing with people bringing their own picnics or, if preferred, delicacies supplied in hampers by professional caterers.

The village pub, The Cricketers, has agreed to prepare to pour a pint or two (hundred) from a marquee in the field. Champagne is a must for an occasion like this. Of course it is the strawberry and cream season, but someone might like an ice cream . . .

Fireworks? Of course! A grand finale on Saturday by Fox Fireworks who performed at the Euro Disney opening and the Japan Festival in Hyde Park.

And going-home balloons. Not stuck to you on a string but thousands let loose into the sky as the The Great Sarratt Festival of Music comes to a close on the Sunday.

Something tells you here is a couple, who are used to thinking big, to expand ideas rather than safely cutting corners.

It comes not as a total surprise to learn that, although both British, Shirley and Curtis met while working in California where they married in 1984.

Curtis is a financial advisor and Shirley at the time designed children's clothes. They both enjoy people, parties and the Californian energy, but when their first child was born nine years ago, they decided to head back home to Britain and a modern town house in Borehamwood.

Not the ideal reunion with her roots for Shirley, who grew up in Elstree. The deeper feeling of belonging only stirred when the couple and their two children, Alexander and Scarlett, found the ultimate family home, Green End Farm, in Sarratt, three years ago.

"Sarratt is a lovely, caring community," Shirley smiled adding that of course it is also the kind of place it takes you approximately half a lifetime to become truly accepted in.

She has, however, found people friendly and positive towards the newcomers in the homestead that has dominated that end of the village for centuries.

For visitors to Sarratt, Green End Farm is the house with the lovely barns facing the green from Church Lane.

"The house is 400 years old in part," Shirley explained pointing out how the flagstone-floored hall was once an alleyway between two houses with two front doors, one now leading to a utility room, the other into the main living room, a warm and vibrant room furnished stylishly for comfort with bright colours and deep soft settees and chairs and lots of flowers and bold ornaments.

Shirley felt drawn not only to the appearance but very much to the atmosphere of the house.

Complete with ghost!

Oh, yes, Green End Farm is haunted — by a friendly ghost.

Shirley was unaware of sharing home with a presence from the past when the family bought Green End Farm.

Her first real encounter with the lady from the past was in a clash of taste.

"I was working around the house one afternoon just after we moved in with an old Bush Radio tuned into Radio One and some rather loud punk.

"Suddenly the radio changed to a classical music station. I told the electrician about it the next day and he, without batting an eyelid, said it must have been the old lady."

The ghost is a well-known feature of village folklore — with some fairly concrete facts to support the theory.

"One little old lady, who lived here on her own after her husband died was sick in bed one night, when the ghost appeared and gently tucked her in."

Shirley has no doubt the tale related in the pub is true. She is very aware of sharing home with a ghost, who has her own chapter in village history — she even talks to her.

No doubt the unnamed lady is approving of all the current activity. With her expressed preference for classical music and reluctance to leave Sarratt, you can imagine her smiling etherally at Shirley's enthusiasm for sharing the charm of the Chiltern.

"Lots of people come here for hikes and walks. This will be a good opportunity for them to enjoy Sarratt."

And a chance for the village to share its beauty while supporting its favourite charity.

"Sarratt is a strong supporter of the Cancer Research Campaign," Shirley explained as the reason for choosing that particular charity.

She's blending in — with the enthusiasm of someone, who still sees it all afresh and is not afraid to have a go, with full support from the village including "leading lady" Lady Joanna Staughton, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, who will be in attendance on the Saturday night.

This year the High Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Simon Bowes-Lyons. . . next year, Royalty? Most certainly.

But that's another story. For the moment Shirley has to find a hog to roast.

● The Great Sarratt Festival of Music, in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign, with The North West London Orchestra and The London Community Gospel Choir, at Moor Lane House, Sarratt, Saturday July 2, 6.30pm, and Sunday July 3, 3pm. Tickets £15; tickets and information: 0923-270180 or Ticketmaster 071-344 4444.



Shirley MacLean at home at Green End Farm, Sarratt. *L240803*



Adding their very own sound to Sarratt's great music weekend, London Community Gospel Choir.

Great Sarratt Festival

Wrong to refer to Glyndebourne

I HAVE only recently seen the article in your paper about The Great Sarratt Festival of Music.

Its reference to the fact that the performances are in the open air and therefore a "mini Glyndebourne" is very misleading.

Glyndebourne is not an open air theatre. Our productions are given in a new opera house which has, this year, replaced the one originally built by Mr and Mrs Christie when they founded the Festival in 1934.

It seats 1,200 people, is technically highly developed, has a full orchestra pit and spacious backstage and rehearsal areas. There are also three restaurants for members of the company and the audience.

The gardens are open to members of the audience before and after the performance (and during the long interval) — the only "open air" aspect of our operation.

It is obviously too late for anything to be done on this occasion, but should you or the promoters be planning further events of this nature, we would be grateful if any such reference to Glyndebourne be omitted. — **Helen O'Neill, Head of Press and Public Relations, Glyndebourne Festival Opera.**





W.O. 15-7-94

The Great Sarratt Music Festival was well-received, but the same could not be said for our reference to Glyndebourne. See "Great Sarratt Music Festival".

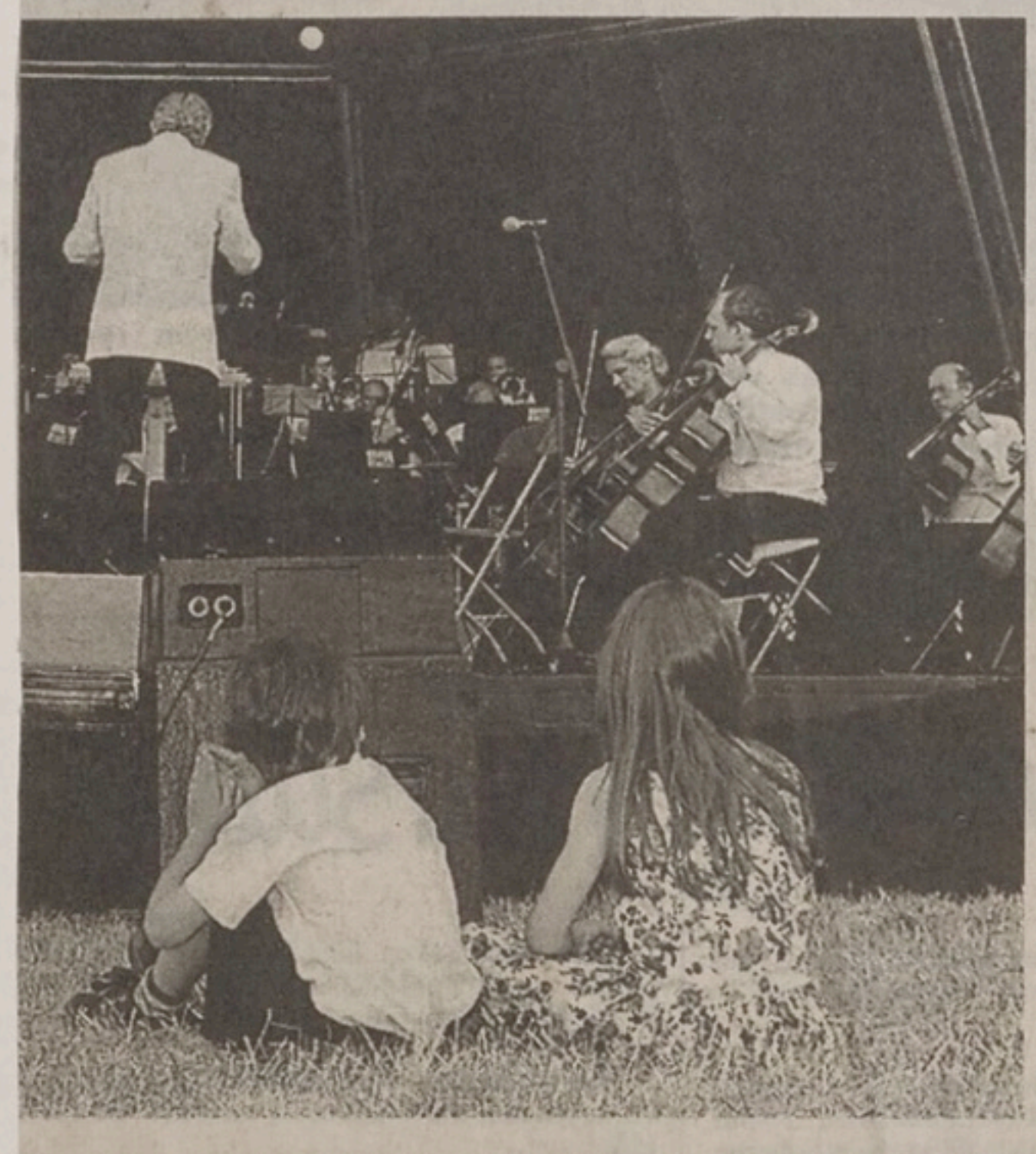
Amanda Childs

Trish Clements

David Jenner

Music on a summer evening —all very British

W.Obs. 8-7-94



Front row seats: two youngsters stake their claim in a field to hear the North West London Orchestra. L267232

LUCY PARKS packs a picnic, dons a flowery dress and heads for the valley to experience the first Great Sarratt Festival of Music.

THERE is nothing quite so pleasant, nothing quite so very British, as sitting in a field, quaffing wine and relaxing to the sound of classical music on a balmy summer's evening.

And all the more surprising to find myself doing just this in the tranquil surroundings of Sarratt and the Chess Valley on Saturday night.

From one woman's dream came a musical event to remember. A vast "shell" built in a field to hold a full-sized orchestra, marquees selling ice-cream, food hampers and Champagne and, all around, the most laid-back, convivial atmosphere.

The North West London Orchestra, conducted by Dr Solly Aronowsky, provided music ranging from Brahms' Hungarian Dance No 5 to a selection from The Merry Widow to the only ending possible: Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance, accompanied by perfectly-timed fireworks.

The orchestra was joined by soloists David Ashmore-Turner (tenor), Sarah Aaronson (piano accordian) and Sue Kennett (soprano).

They were quite wonderful but, it has to be said, in my book the stars of the show were The London Community Gospel Choir.

Their power, sincerity, the rhythm, it was almost enough to make me want to go to church.

They played two sets then came back, by popular demand, for an extra half hour after the fireworks.

What an ending. To see Sarratt up on its feet and dancing away until midnight to the sound of gospel. It can't be described.

The obligatory thank-yous were included from organiser Shirley MacLean and Elizabeth Taylor from the Cancer Research Campaign, which benefited from the evening.

"Only in Sarratt can you get Shirley MacLean and Elizabeth Taylor on stage together," quipped George Layton, the actor turned script-writer who was compere for the event.

George was a last-minute addition to the line-up as Jeremy Beadle, who was supposed to be doing the honours, was double-booked.

Not too disappointing, though, as George managed to keep the audience's interest with his unusual pronounciation of difficult composers' names and witty repartee.

He was also there with the best of us, dancing into the night with the gospel choir.

In fact, George enjoyed himself so much he has asked organiser Shirley if he can come back again next year.

It is planned to make the music festival an annual event in the village and, judging by the response on Saturday night, next year should be a sell-out.

"People kept saying to me 'If only I'd known it was going to be like this, I would have brought 20 friends along'," said Shirley.

She didn't get the turn-out she expected. On Saturday there were around 800 people and on Sunday, for the repeat show in the afternoon, there were around 500.

"But we were competing with Wimbledon and, besides, this field is 30,000 square metres so even if we had 1,000 people it wouldn't look full," she added.

"Even if we only break even we will be very, very happy. We'll do it again 'properly' next year, with sponsorship and everything, and make lots of money for cancer research."

The gospel choir have already been pencilled in for a return to Sarratt and all I can say is, I'll be there too.



Looking a little surreal the vast shell built to house an orchestra. L267210A

W.O. 29-7-94

Village voted 'blooming marvellous'

JUDGES have declared Sarratt one of the most attractive villages in Hertfordshire.

It won the central and west Hertfordshire region of the Best Kept Village Competition after being awarded a string of top marks by examiners.

Sarratt was placed joint first with the St Michael's district of St Albans in the area.

It was then picked as the fourth best entrant in the whole of the county-wide competition.

Gardeners and helpers in the village have spent months making Sarratt as attractive as possible.

Shops, common ground and amenities such as benches and litter bins were cleared up as part of the effort to do well in the prestigious contest.

Sarratt was awarded 92 points out of a possible 100 in the eight categories that make up the competition.

In one of these, which marked the general appearance and tidiness of tree, hedges, fences, walls, roads and verges within the village, the judges awarded a rare ten out of ten maximum score, saying Sarratt "cannot be faulted".

Homes and gardens were said to have an "excellent appearance" and the public houses and garage in Sarratt were also given credit.

On the down side, the judges criticised allotment paths as "unkempt" and said the pond needed to be cleared of dead wood.

They also said the baptist church was "slightly weedy" and blasted as "unsightly" the No Parking board by Holy Cross Church.

Mr Dennis Jenks, who helped co-ordinate Sarratt's entrance, said it was "blooming marvellous".

He said: "I must send out a million thanks to everyone who took part and made it into such a corking success.

"It's not quite 18-carat gold, but it's pretty close."

The result is the village's best result in the competition for many years.

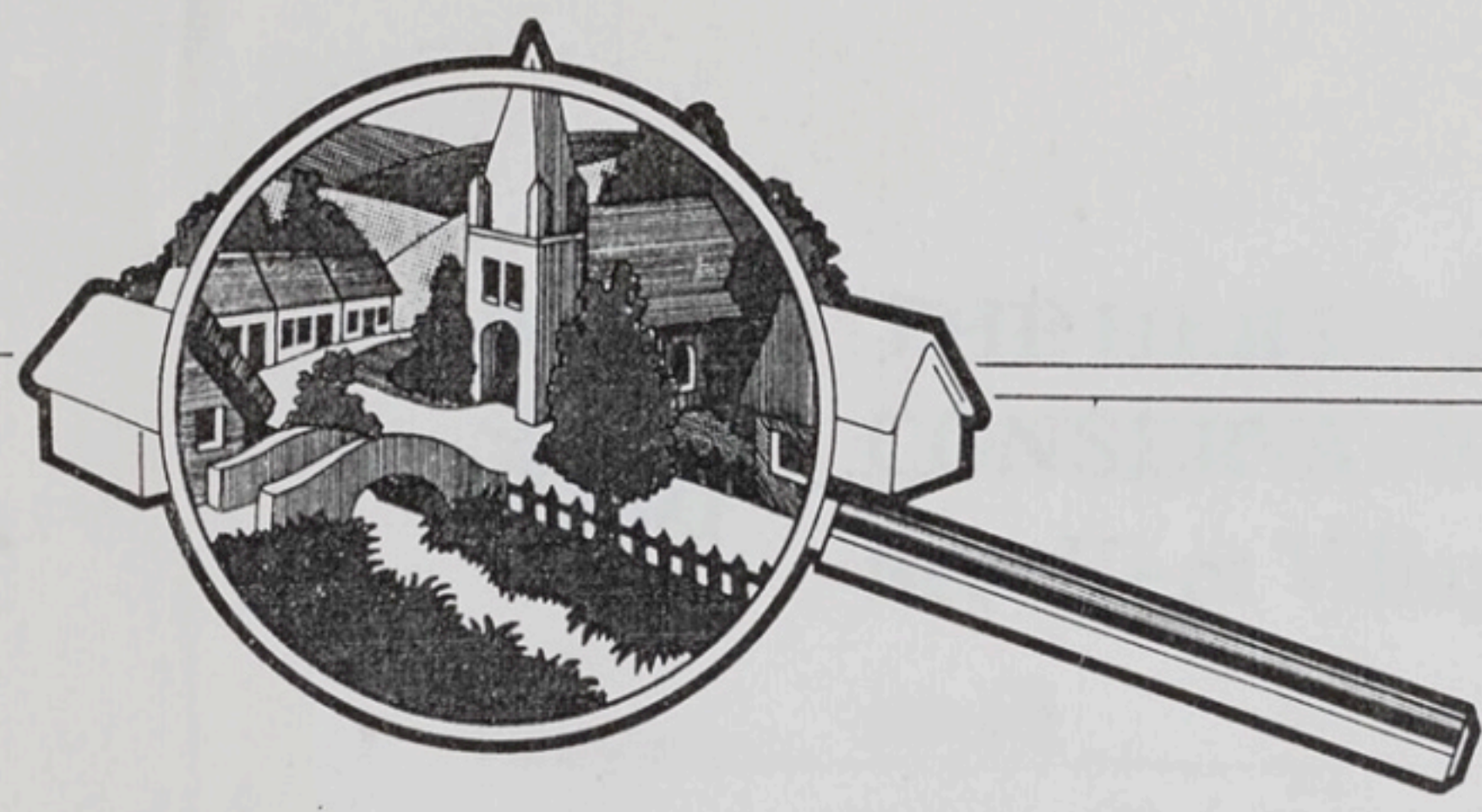
It was placed first in the entire county in the 1982 competition, but has not won the contest since then.

Last year, Sarratt was placed second in the area and seventh overall and Mr Jenks said this year's improvement was a result of hard work.

He said: "We are all delighted with the result. We may not have won, but it is pretty good.

"People have been working very hard for the last couple of months to get the village cleared up and all that effort has paid off.

"Next year, we will be going for it all over again and trying to win the whole thing."



CALOR
congratulates
Sarratt
FOURTH PLACE (LARGE VILLAGES)
in the
1994
Hertfordshire
BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Ian F S Greig
DIRECTOR

CALOR

1994

Hertfordshire COUNTY COUNCIL

2 4TH Overall.

JUDGE'S REPORT AND COMMENTS

...d except overflowing bin
... excess litter in playing
...ld.

...not be faulted.

...n green areas very good.
...otment paths unkempt and pond
...ds clearing of dead wood.

...y good.

...ellent.

...tist Church slightly weedy.

...lic Houses and garage good.
...ps good except 'Megs' -
...empt appearance.

... Parking' board by Holy Cross
...rch an eyesore.

...ing points, the total marks scored will be

CALOR

JUDGE'S SIGNATURE ... D. Banks
D W Witts

W.O. 23/9/94

Another idea for village pub gets the boot

by Adam Parsons

A SCHEME that would have seen The Boot public house in Sarratt massively expanded has been blocked amid a sea of protest.

The plan, dreamt up by brewery Ind Coope, is the second to be put forward recently proposing a huge overhaul of the country pub.

Although smaller than the previous scheme, the latest one would have seen as many as 100 new seats put into the pub as part of a building scheme.

The Boot would also have been extended on the ground and first floors, leaving it with a far bigger bar area, a larger cellar and better living accommodation.

Ind Coope said it also wanted to extend the pub's existing car park by another 15 spaces, more than doubling its capacity.

The company said it wanted to provide a "comfortable traditional village pub", but residents were left fuming after being told details of the plans.

They claimed the scheme would be out of character with the surrounding conservation area and would attract too many people to the village.

The plan was discussed at last week's meeting of Three Rivers District Council's planning committee.

Members of the committee also gave it a frosty welcome as they echoed the public criticism.

Although admitting it was "an improvement" on the previous applications, councillors said there were still "serious problems" with the plans.

Councillor John Gell said: "The bar area is now 58 square metres and the application is to increase it to 123 square metres. That is pretty large.

"We are also talking about another 100 seats in the pub and that does not include the area outside the pub.

"If you compare that with The Cricketers in Sarratt, for example, they do quite well with a smaller bar area."

He added: "We then have the problem of parking and the visibility for people leaving the car park.

"You would have to knock down the wall of the neighbouring house and take quite a bit of land for the corner to get the visibility you would need."

Councillor Roy Clements, a former chairman of the committee, said he was "concerned" about the plans.

He said: "I think the extensions proposed here will alter the character of the place itself and cause more and more cars to park around the green."

There were also strong words from Sarratt resident Mr Frank Watt as he addressed the committee.

He said: "Sarratt was given protection by being put in a conservation area within the Green Belt and that is supposed to mean there is a 100 per cent presumption against development.

"The same brewery doubled the size of this village pub 20 years ago and now they want to double it again.

"They have to prove the development is necessary for the life of the village and they cannot do that."

Ind Coope regional manager Mr Stephen Kirby defended the plan by saying it had been altered to take into account the feelings of residents in the village.

He said: "We believe there is a need for better facilities in the area that we would like to offer and we need to introduce better accommodation as well.

"We have appealed for permission for our larger first scheme, but we would withdraw that appeal if the second application was granted."

That call fell on deaf ears as the committee voted to refuse permission for the work to be carried out.



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SARRATT

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FESTIVAL OF MUSIC



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1994

Wo. 16-9-94

Naughty – but nice

Artist Gillian Burrows talks to **GRELLE WHITE** about the lighter side of art

THE real Gillian Burrows is ready to stand up, stand out — and quite possibly cause a bit of a stir.

"As I get older, I'm getting bolder — or maybe foolhardy," laughs Gillian showing off her latest work, a sensual concoction of fruit, vegetables and the human form.

"I love food and this is a kind of celebration," explained the artist who is better known for pen and wash sketches of important buildings and cute Christmas cards with ducks posing on Sarratt Green.

"People expect me to be tight," explains the artist, glancing towards the serene scenes, she refers to as "my serious work" laid out for inspection in her elegant drawing room.

Having just returned to Sarratt from organising a "serious" exhibition at the Mayfair Intercontinental Hotel in London, starting October 6, she looks the part, elegant, composed, with just the touch of lightness, you can achieve with a silk scarf draped to perfection.

The truth, however, is that Gillian Burrows has loosened up and loosened her line.

She is having fun with the female form — and the male, and fruit and vegetables!

She took that work to America this summer, to the Lifestyle 94 art exhibition in San Diego. Sensual and erotic art won her, the only English artist, note and acclaim under the Californian sun — but how will Sarratt react on a wet September day?

Gillian is putting it to the test by showing the printed product, greeting cards, table mats and napkins, when she opens her studio as part of Hertfordshire Arts Open Studio Week next week.



'A celebration'

The range is called Table Bleu and makes Gillian smile.

"Everything should be good fun and make people relax," she states, leaning back in a way that for one moment threatens to put the silk scarf arrangement into disarray. It stays in place.

A little frivolity doesn't mean Gillian has lost her head. The artist is seriously working harder than ever after a few years of personal traumas which she will talk about but doesn't need to share with the entire world.

She knows where she comes from and where she wants to go.

"I used to be a rebel, an individual who always had to break the ice and make life fun — I still do."

Now, however, she realises that she has a low threshold of boredom and has reached a stage in life where she can be herself rather than worry about representing the family unit — her children are old enough to accept her as an individual person.

Her own childhood was marked by being the daughter of famous father, Jack Jackson, the first BBC radio disc jockey who mixed playing records with talking to different artists.

"My father was a great entertainer, a hard act to follow. He measured success in unobtainable terms, he expected so much of us, we couldn't possibly come up to his ideal.

"That leaves you with a driving force," she explains as a reason for her seemingly endless energy and ambition to move on, try new things.

"You should never go on doing the same. It is very important to experiment. Within experimentation you grow and have spin-offs."

The most recent spin-off is her new "loose" line, minimalistic sketching mostly of the female form — and printing silk scarves.

She has returned to printmaking attending a course twice a week and mixing with other artists which she finds stimulating.

"It gives me a new perception. Printmaking is very creative, even more so than painting. You can be very loose, with layers of texture, more impressionistic."

It is interesting to note that Gillian's career as a qualified graphic designer started in printmaking. She lectured at High Wycombe College before founding her own studio, creating a range of hand-made greeting cards for Fortnum & Mason, Harrods and Heals.

Among her many commissions, Gillian can name-drop clients like Cartier, Barclays Bank and the House of Commons.

She teaches watercolour at West Herts College and holds her own watercolour workshops from home and her step-by-step instructions have recently been featured in The Art of Drawing & Painting.

"I have a high energy level and love being busy," she explains adding that she also loves working to deadlines.

She exhibits her "serious" work all over the world, but her new line still gives her a big buzz.

"It all started with me doing little sketches when I wrote letters to friends and someone saying, I ought to do it as part of my business."

What her friends probably don't realise, even if they have seen the postcard she sketched of a cardstand in Paris, is that they may play a part in the picture.

The stand is authentic in every way, except Gillian has changed a few of the cards on display to portray "bits of people, I know and love."

● Gillian Burrows' studio at The Briars House, The Briars (off George V Way) will be open from 11am to 5pm on September 18, 20, 22, 24 and 25.



Gillian models one of her own silk scarves by the pool at home in Sarratt

Picture L366808: Peter Stevens

We 5-8-94



Farm gathers an early harvest

THE heavens opened in Sarratt this week as one of the country's first ripened wheat crops was harvested at Micklefield Hall Farm.

Worker Mr Ben Latchford (above), who is employed at the Sarratt Lane site, yielding the wheat after spring rain and summer sunshine made the autumn stock ready for picking.

Wheat crops are not usually set for reaping until early autumn, when children celebrate the growth of Britain's farm produce with a harvest festival.

This year, however, much of the work may be completed before summer is truly out.

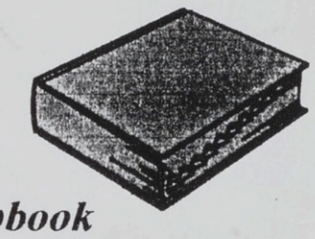
National Farmers' Union field manager Mr Donald Harmer said many fields are already empty after the harvesting of barley stocks.

"I would say it is quite early for the wheat to be ready, but we have had some good weather this year, which is probably responsible," he said.

"I think many farmers will find themselves in the same positition."

Picture L312910: TREVOR ADAMS

The Great Sarratt Scrapbook Initiative



This is to confirm that the Great Sarratt Scrapbook has been completely restored and will appear in all its new glory —

at The Village Hall on Saturday 19th November 1994
(7.00 for 7.30p.m.)

This achievement is, in no small measure, due to the generosity of your kind donation and I do hope you will be able to attend what will be a lively, fascinating, and highly enjoyable evening. We hope to have a splendid attendance and all the new equipment will be on display for all to see – and use (plus some surprises!)

I look forward to thanking you on the night.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Chairman: Valerie Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 6BP (0923) 262920
Hon Treasurer: Michael Clark, Belsize House, Belsize, Sarratt, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 4NP (0923) 264529



It's high and dry for Lorraine Slator and Joy Pearce as they take a walk in the countryside this week. See "Chess Valley footpath".
Picture L502616: JOE SHEEHAN

Chess Valley footpath

Landowner had good reason to fence footpath

RECENT correspondence about the Chess Valley footpath at Valley Farm has been with the best of intentions, but I wish to clarify what is happening to improve matters down there.

The owner of the land has kindly agreed to my letter.

Soon after the present owner arrived we had an informal chat, and the importance of the "Right of Way" network was accepted, particularly the Chess Valley walk.

For some time all went well. Then the owner, having had several instances of walkers picnicking in his front garden and attempting to feed his horses and sheep, decided to exercise his right to fence in the footpath for the safety of his animals and the public.

As the letters to the Editor show, there are varying views of both the fences and the fencing materials!

We are still discussing possible ways round this problem but, as always, cost is a significant factor.

Meanwhile, Three Rivers organised materials and labour to "in-fill" the flooding stretch of the footpath.

In the hope of improving upon this scheme, I invited a countryside project consultant from the Countryside Management Service HQ to advise us.

After a thorough study and discussion with Three Rivers it was agreed that "duckboarding" made to measure was the best way ahead (nb not the cheapest).

Having constructed the duckboarding and with the landowner's support, the first section was installed.

While this work was being completed by the Countryside Management Service the potential flooding area further along the footpath was spotted.

After consultation and careful budgeting, materials for the second section have been obtained. It remains to find the right time, when labour is available, to install it.

If anyone wishes to help with this sort of work in the countryside, with tools and instruction and supervision supplied by the Countryside Management Service or by local groups such as the Sarratt Volunteers or the Parish Paths Partnership, please contact myself or call Hannah Solloway on 0707 650041.

If you walk a footpath fairly regularly, why not become an honorary monitor, reporting any problems or work required?

There are many ways of helping the rural environment, at your own pace and convenience – it's fun, it's enjoyable and the countryside comes free.

Footnote: We are delighted to see the return of grazing for the small meadow alongside the river bank. This is the ideal regime to encourage the return of the riverside wild flowers and the natural ecology of this important "water meadow". The meadows along this stretch of the Chess Valley are meant to flood regularly. — **Peter Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt.**

The Watford Observer

Reports have been honest

AGAINST the present trend for people being less than pleased with "the Press", I want to say that over the years the Watford Observer has been very fair and positive when reporting anything in which I have been personally involved.

Regarding two organisations in which I am deeply involved, Cancer Research Campaign and the Sarratt Scrapbook, you have all been outstanding in your many reports.

I have written during the year to both Grelle White and Oli Philips, acknowledging their work. Over the years the other members of the reporting team have similarly always been pleasant and understanding. The office staff have been consistently helpful and good humoured.

So I can only assume that editorial team, the backroom boy, the printer and even the management contribute to such a successful team.

You should be very proud of "our" local paper and I thank you for honest reporting.

My husband joins me not only in sentiment but also in his personal experience of working with the Watford Observer and we both wish you every success in 1995. — **Valerie Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt.**

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1994
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	25th / 12.5	7th /-4.0	18,20/-7.0	9th / 18.8	107.1	
February	26,27/12.0	21st /-4.0	21st /-10.6	22nd / 9.2	52.7	
March	30,31/15.5	21,27/-1.0	11th /-6.5	31st / 10.8	52.6	last air frost, 27th.
April	30th / 22.0	----- / 0.0	----- /-5.5	-------	63.6	last snowfall, 14th.
May	1,2nd/22.0	19,29/2.0	19/29/-2.0	14th / 18.3	74.7	1st cuckoo, 13th. Last ground frost, 29th.
June	28th / 26.5	1st / 3.5	9th / 0.2	3rd / 11.1	28.1	
July	12th / 30.4	11th / 8.1	11th / 4.4	28th / 16.9	40.3	
August	3rd / 28.0	15th / 6.6	31st / 2.4	10th / 16.9	38.9	
September	2nd / 21.0	17th / 5.4	17th /-0.9	14th / 12.4	61.6	1st ground frost, 17th.
October	10th / 17.5	18th /-0.1	18th /-5.0	30th / 19.3	102.0	1st air frost, 18th.
November	3rd / 16.9	2nd /-0.1	2nd /-4.1	4th / 18.9	52.9	
December	11th / 14.5	24th /-5.0	15th /-10.0	17th / 15.3	105.5	1st snow of winter, 31st.

26th May 1994

Dear Mrs Richens,

Thank you very much for writing to me and sending a copy of Spotlight. Yes, I would like one sent to me monthly, but please tell me the cost for a year including the postage.

My father was an Elder Brother of Trinity House from 1920 until he retired in 1947 at the age of 70. Trinity House maintains the lighthouses and light vessels round our coasts. Previously he captained several ships in the New Zealand Shipping Company. He died in1952. We lived at Northwood and made frequent visits to the rectory, usually walking from Chorley Wood Station or by Biggerstaffs' bus from Croxley Green station until he bought a car in 1935. My mother moved to Tunbridge Wells from there in the 1960s and died in 1969 at 81.

I was in the R.A.F. in World War II (as it is now called !) and worked on farms until taking up an appointment with the National Farmers' Union in 1962 when my wife, Wanda, and I moved here. We have one son, John, whose name occasionally appears as editor at the end of the 10 p.m. news on ITV television. He and his wife, Harriet, live at Abingdon where she has been a news reader on Central South television. They now have a baby boy, Finn, who arrived on Easter Monday.

Canon Ryley was vicar of East Peckam in Kent, retiring in 1930 to become honorary chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester until he died in 1947. Mrs Dorothy Duke was at Fordwich Rectory near Canterbury and after her husband's death moved to Wilton near Salisbury. Gilbert joined her there for a short time after his retirement in 1950. Madge, xxxyxxxp the youngest of the family,was the church organist for some 40 years and died on the same afternoon that she had left the rectory in the garden of a retirement home xx up Shire Lane in Chorley Wood. Mrs Hogg's daughter, Molly, is still alive at 96 in a retirement home at Bodmin in Cornwall. We see her once a year when on holiday in Cornwall.

My grandfather xxxxxxxxxx walked his parish and once a week is said to have walked to Rickmansworth and back to go to the bank and bring back to the village the correct time from the railway station (before the days of BBC time signals). He used to take my father to watch the railway being built through Chorley Wood station. This would be about 1889. Gilbert as you probably remember xxxxx cycled the parish after he had broken his leg on his motor-cycle and sidecar, misjudging the turning onto North Hill off the main road.

I have a copy of my grandfather's 1902 history paper and I remember the name Wingfield. When visiting the Church in April we noticed that the board on the wall below the tower showing the names of former rectors had disappeared. A pity as it might have ensured the correct spelling of the name Ryley in the Historical Aspects booklet of 1990. Unfortunately it appeared at Riley.

Could I please be sent a second copy of the May issue of Spotlight with the next issue. Thank you again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,

Ted Ryley

1995



Dennis Jenks (left), with his 1932 vintage bus, plans Saturday's route round the Sarratt gardens with expert gardener Percy Saunders.

Picture CM140213: JOE SHEEHAN

Go for a Springtime spin in Sarratt

It's Springtime in Sarratt and the wheels of fun and luck will be spinning away in the village tomorrow. Two vintage buses will be trundling round the village green dropping and picking up passengers outside open garden gates. More than 50 gardens will be open as villagers stage a massive "at home". There will be no charge for bus rides and garden visits – all the villagers politely suggest is that visitors may care to buy a ticket or five for a splendid raffle to raise funds for their ancient Holy Cross Church. The odds are much shorter than the National Lottery and the winnings unlikely to cause psychological distress – unless you suffer from fear of flying or you are allergic to champagne-related treats, tea with Field Marshalls or days out in a vintage charabanc.

● Springtime in Sarratt: Saturday, April 22, 1.30 to 5pm. Refreshments in the village hall from 3pm. Admission free. Free car parking.

GRELLE WHITE visits a rural haven where the villagers are "at home" this Saturday in their effort to raise much-needed funds for their beloved church

SARRATT is suburbia's best answer to rural village charm.

Within easy reach of everything, from the City to Heathrow airport, Sarratt offers a rural haven for the jetsetting businessman yet remains a real village with a caring parish council squabbling over footpaths and how best to protect the village green.

So when it comes to looking after the fabric of the community, the inhabitants, their favourite pubs, the village hall and the church, powers beyond the reach of normal villages come into play.

Last year, Holy Cross, the ancient village church, needed funds, and, before you knew it, a fabulous traditional patchwork quilt had been created for a giant raffle, and Dennis Jenks of Little Sarratt Hall had put on his thinking and bus driver's cap to help raise funds too.

Dennis decided to share his early retirement toy, a 1932 vintage bus, with an opportunity to play bus-driver for the day, offering free rides to open gardens to help highlight the raffle for the quilt that had been stitched by women of the village.

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Lady Joanna Staughton, who happens to come from Sarratt, joined in by working on the quilt and drawing the raffle, making her first public appearance at home in the village.

It was all a huge success.

So big it will be repeated tomorrow, Saturday, April 22.

Ancient Holy Cross still needs funds and villagers so enjoyed playing hosts last year, the response this time has been twice as many gardens open to the public.

More than 50 gardens around the village green will welcome visitors brought to them by bus, a unique opportunity to look beyond all those charming houses and cottage garden gates and sample a ride on a vintage bus – or two.

More than 50 gardens around the village green will welcome visitors brought to them by bus

For no sooner had the repeat performance been mooted than another vintage bus fan, David Safte from Abbots Langley, offered to help out.

David, who garages six vintage buses in the locality, is hoping for a sunny day to bring out his 1970 open top ex-Benskins bus for the circular trip around and around Sarratt village green. In case the weather looks doubtful, he will have a 1939 London Transport double decker on hand.

Village gardeners clearly enjoyed playing hosts last year. This time neighbours and friends have joined the "at home" invitation to visitors to Springtime in Sarratt, doubling the number from last year.

Last year, Doris and Laurie Reading were amazed to count 350 visitors to their tiny cottage garden, but thoroughly enjoyed the day.

"It was really nice talking to people who were interested," remarked Doris as she and her husband manicured the already immaculate looking "labour-saving" mini-wonder.

In very limited space, the couple have created a well-balanced feature garden enhanced by paths, an archway and dwarf shrubs.

"After they have bloomed, clip them round," was the advice from the couple's neighbour, Percy Saunders, who has popped in from time to time with a bit of advice since the couple moved to Sarratt 15 years ago.

Percy has seen all his summers in Sarratt and still works as a gardener well past official retirement age.

Born just outside the village at Bragman's Farm where he farmed with his father, Percy moved into Sarratt when he got married, aged 27, and still lives in the same cottage.

He trained and became an undergardener with Thomas Bennett at Great Sarratt Hall. The training took five years.

Now he is one of very few professional gardeners left in the village.

"We used to have a lot when they had the big estates with four or six gardeners each. Now, there are no big places left and just a few jobbing gardeners."

Gardening has changed too, not just where the big houses with their grape houses and vegetable and formal gardens are concerned but also down at the cottage level.

"We all used to have allotments and grew all oour own vegetables, enough potatoes, carrots and pumpkins to see you through the winter," Percy recalled. Until recently people were on waiting lists for allotments, now there are more than half-a-dozen vacant plots. Percy has given up his, but knows from serving on the parish council, which he has decided to come off after 16 years.

He still works a full day looking after six gardens in the village as well as his own. His favourite is at Selfield House on the opposite side of the Green, which will be open for viewing tomorrow.

"It is full of colour from one end to the other."

Percy's own garden will be open, too, but he dismisses it as being of little interest.

"My garden hasn't changed a lot. I grow a few runner beans and marrows but mostly flowers now."

His favourites are sweet peas – he loves the smell.

His creative powers go into other people's gardens. Owners tend to let him do the planning and planting. "I know what they like," he chuckles.

He is a great believer in manure and compost.

"I don't use no fertiliser," he states emphatically. "They draw the ground and put nothing back. Compost puts the humus back."

Most of the work is done in the winter and early spring. Digging, feeding and pruning.

His advice to gardeners is to use a proper pruning knife and cut in a way that allows the water to run off the cut.

Percy will be around to explain tomorrow – along with Max Davidson, who has been writing the Sunday Express gardening column since 1968 and has published seven books on the subject.

Max, who is Assistant Editor of the Sunday Express, is tomorrow's celebrity guest in Sarratt and will draw the Springtime raffle in the village hall at 5.30pm.

By that time, chief organiser of the day, "bus-driver" Dennis Jenks, hopes to be able to announce a profit figure from the raffle to match the impressive and imaginative prizes.

He will personally be delivering a few of the prizes: a day's outing for a round trip of up to 100 miles for 16 people in his 1932 charabanc and tickets to join the Jenks Vintage Bus Outing to Royal Ascot in June.

Dennis rather likes the idea of the prize of an invitation to "take tea with a Field Marshall and inspect his ducks", a tour of the Old Bailey and celebrity visits and tours of the new Daily Express headquarters in London's Docklands.

He waxes lyrical, quoting from Shakespeare's As You Like It, to raffle ticket sellers and buyers: "Oh wonderful, most wonderful grand raffle, yet again most wonderful, and after that all whooping!"

Well, whoop it up in Sarratt and put your Saturday bet on Springtime fun.

You can meet:



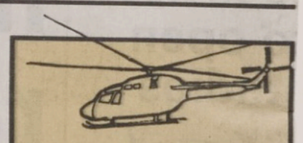
Max Davidson, Sunday Express Assistant Editor and Gardening Writer, author of seven books on the subject. Max will be drawing the grand raffle at 5.30pm.



Percy Saunders, who has worked as a gardener in Sarratt all his life after five years training at Great Sarratt Hall. Percy's own cottage garden at Cranbourne, The Green, will be open tomorrow.



Doris and Laurie Reading whose cottage garden at Jalna, The Green, is designed to be labour-saving with dwarf shrubs and interesting vistas.



Raffle with more than 150 prizes

FIVE helicopter rides, a day out for 16 in a vintage charabanc, tickets and vintage bus rides to Royal Ascot and tea with a Field Marshall are just some of the prizes tempting visitors to Sarratt tomorrow to secure tickets for the Grand Raffle.



The raffle is in aid of the registered charity Friends of Holy Cross Church whose aim is to ensure that the historic 12th Century Norman church is preserved and maintained for future generations.



Other prizes include:

Visit of three adults or two adult and two children to Silverstone on Saturday, August 19, for the Members Only Annual Bentley Day. The prize includes drive to and from Silverstone in 1962 Bentley Continental viewing dozens of vintage Bentleys and watching the racing with the highlight of taking part in the Bentley Parade – tearing round the Silverstone circuit several times with three or four hundred other Bentleys.

Also 1895 steam train trip for two on the original Metropolitan Line, a "grown-up" tree for your garden or a whole salmon.

Scores of other prizes include vouchers for Clements of Watford, hampers, restaurant dinners, hairdressing vouchers, garden plants, wine and presentation boxes of spices.

The full raffle fare can be inspected at Sarratt Village Hall which is open for refreshments from 3pm. The raffle will be drawn at 5.30pm.



Cable holds up pond clear-up

W.O. 31-3-95

AN electric cable believed to be running under Sarratt's village pond is holding up attempts to clean up the area.

For several months Sarratt Parish Council has been trying to initiate a clean-up of the pond on The Green.

But because of a rumoured electric cable, which apparently runs directly under the water, the clean-up brigade has held back.

At Monday night's meeting of thee parish council, it was agreed to contact the electricity company and sort the problem out once and for all.

The council clerk was instructed to get in touch with Eastern Electric and find out if there is a cable there, whether it is too deeply buried to worry about, or whether it needs to be re-routed to make it safe.

Chairman of the parish council Mr Charles Wood said: "We need to know exactly what the situation is before we go any further."

Book club

21-4-95

READERS can visit the mobile library when it visits Sarratt Green between 10.45am and 12.15pm on Wednesday.

Pints are pulled again as The Cock reopens

W.O. 31/3/95

SARRATT villagers will be celebrating an event they never expected to see when The Cock Inn reopens in Church Lane tomorrow (Saturday).

Controversy has surrounded The Cock since it ceased to function fully as a public house more than two and a half years ago and closed completely in December 1992.

Successive planning applications to redevelop the site and extend the Grade Two listed building have been opposed by the parish council, the Sarratt Preservation Action Group (SPAG) and Three Rivers District Council.

Mrs Val Cumming, chairman of SPAG, said: "We are thrilled The Cock is back in business as a pub. We were very sorry to see the loss of a village facility and feared it would never re-open.

"A village pub is important and it is great to see it saved as a pub and not just as a building.

"We've managed to preserve an area of outstanding natural beauty and restricted development."

Owner Mr Tony Power, who has "thrown close to half a million pounds at the property" when taking into consideration the purchase and redevelopment, has extended the pub.

Mrs Cumming said: "It was understandable that the kitchen facilities had to be improved to bring it up to health standards but the good thing is that The Cock has not been converted into a road house.

"It has á local bar and offers villagers another facility. We opposed certain plans but now we have got our village pub back, it is up to us to support it."



The Cock Inn, Sarratt: opens again tomorrow after being closed for more than two years. *M133230*

Mr Power, who redeveloped The Bricklayers Arms in Flaunden in the 1980's, said: "We have done our best to bring it up to standard. We are looking for a similar clientele, while catering for the local trade, offering a village pub with the capacity to provide bar snacks or a la carte meals.

"Hopefully we will have the kitchen operational by Saturday, but certainly the pub will be open. The adjacent barn will be re-opened as an added dining area in May."

Villager and former regular at The Cock Mr Oliver Phillips said: "Local pubs have to serve food in order to help make ends meet. Happily, while the inside of The Cock has completely changed, there is a bar where locals can still drink without being surrounded by the clatter of cutlery.

"The further boost for the village is that, after so many years, it has a free house."

● Another public house in Sarratt is under the spotlight for different reasons.

The Boot, in The Green, is the subject of a public inquiry after the owner, Ind Coope Retail, appealed against refusal of an extension and alterations to the building.

The inquiry takes place at Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, on April 11 and 12.

W.O&S. 21-4-95

Pub plans will 'spoil village', inquiry told

by Simon Ricketts

DRINKERS at The Boot public house in Sarratt could be standing "in the last chance saloon" if redevelopments are not allowed, a public inquiry has heard.

Villagers and regulars of the pub in The Green heard brewery officials tell of the spiralling losses the pub has been making over the past three years, prompting an "urgent need for change".

"This pub cannot survive on a local, walk-in trade any more, change is inevitable if it is to carry on as a going concern," said Mr Richard Phillips, representing Ind Coope Limited, the owner of The Boot.

The brewery is hoping to get planning permission for an extension to the 250-year-old building, which, they say, would give the pub enough space to add a restaurant section for "high quality pub food".

Planning inspector Mr Richard Holland listened to both sides of the issue, hearing from Ind Coope Brewery and Three Rivers District Council.

The district council was defending its decision to refuse planning permission for the extension of the Grade II listed building, saying it would "be a detriment to the village's conservation area and alter the character of a valuable village pub".

Lasting a day and a half, the inquiry heard expert evidence from both Ind Coope's planning consultant, Mr Stephen Brooker, and Three Rivers' planning officer Mr Julian Jackson.

Mr Brooker reiterated the point that the pub is "haemorrhaging money and will most surely fold if it continues to do so".

In Mr Brooker's opinion, the planned extension would be a positive asset to the village.

According to Mr Phillips, the pub could possibly turn into a "roadside food house" or "cheap cafe" if plans for The Boot were not allowed.

"Because the pub already has a licence for hot food, these options are not unrealistic for the building," he said.

"The Cricketers pub and The Cock Inn are both thriving businesses in the village and The Boot has to compete with these to survive.

"Villagers who are resisting change seem to be working on a basis of quaint nostalgia and emotion – these are not relevant planning grounds."

But his comments were attacked by one of the several residents who took the stand to oppose the plan.

Mr Peter Cumming, of Old Red Lion Farm, said: "I am sorry but emotion is running high on this issue and it is relevant grounds to base an opinion – it should not be used to denigrate our opposition to the plan.

"Sarratt is under intense development pressure as it is in such prime territory between London and the M25, the village and its residents are strongly against any over-development of its quiet, rural beauty."

The inquiry heard the arguments for the planning permission – the extra trade, better financial prospects, livelier village pub and competition for trade – alongside the council's reasons for refusal – the loss of amenity for neighbours and development in a conservation area.

Mr Robert Jameson, representing the district council, said: "Let's face it, this is not just a case of bringing in a guest beer and putting up new curtains and seat covers.

"The brewery aims to bring in substantially more customers with more spending power. It is bound to affect the village and its atmosphere."

Several villagers, who spoke at the meeting, agreed with him.

Mr Alan Crowe, a parish councillor, said: "This is undoubtedly the most important plan the parish council has dealt with in recent years.

"In my opinion, it is a threat to the core of the village of Sarratt."

Mrs Pam Dickins, who lives next door to the pub, said: "I think the size and character is completely wrong in this village. Please do not spoil our village by allowing this extension.

Mr Frank Watts, of Red Lion Lane, said: "This application is all founded on the non-viability of the current set-up. I don't accept that. This used to be a highly successful, popular and prosperous pub."

After hearing all the evidence, the inspector agreed to visit The Boot before closing the inquiry and deliberating on his decision.

It is expected to take at least three months before the inspector's verdict is known.



The Boot in Sarratt. K473907

W.O. 21-4-95

One-way system for fair traffic

FUNFAIR fans who plan to visit the traditional Sarratt extravaganza will have to be ready for a temporary change to the roads in the village.

The Sarratt Funfair has been a regular part of village life for many years, but the revelry had started to become too popular for its own good.

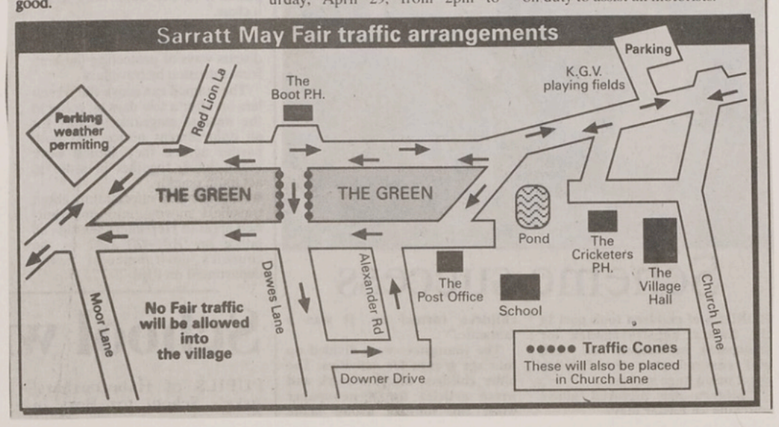
Traffic pouring into the village had begun to clog the roads during the weekend of the funfair.

Police and Three Rivers District Council officials devised a one-way system to alleviate the problems caused by the extra traffic.

The fair will be open on Friday, April 28, from 6pm to 11pm, Saturday, April 29, from 2pm to 11pm, and Monday, May 1, from 6pm to 11pm.

This year, however, the bank holiday falls later in the month because of VE Day, and organisers believe the traffic will not be as heavy as a result.

No fair traffic will be allowed into the village, and police will be on duty to assist all motorists.



WHAT will you be doing to celebrate the end of the war on the 50th anniversary of VE day on May 8?

• Sarratt: Sarratt WI is launching a new walks around Sarratt booklet with two walks on VE Day morning at 10.30am from the Village Hall. The usual care lunch is being held for locals at the Village Hall but members of the British Legion are also invited for 1pm. Children's party between 4pm and 6pm in King George V Playing Fields and pavilion for those aged four to 12 and Dickinson's Hosier Band at Sarratt Green from 7.30pm. At 8.30pm a ceremony at the flagpole and a firework display and bonfire from 8.45pm.

WD 5-5-95

Are we letting living history pass us by?

HOPEFULLY the publication of our free supplement, Watford at War, will jog a few memories and recapture the flavour of life in south west Hertfordshire during those six years.

Even though we have been asking questions and seeking anecdotes from readers every week for the past three or four months, there will doubtless be those who will come forward now, pointing out that this or that fact has been omitted.

Nothing has been left out deliberately but tackling the whole subject of war in this corner of Hertfordshire has been the equivalent of unravelling a Russian doll. No sooner than you follow one lead than a host of others are unravelled.

But there were also too many dead ends.

Of course, there were limitations with respect to the availability of film during the last war and, for that reason, there seem to be more pictures of First World War troops and preparations than from 1939-45.

In some respects the same holds true for documents and recorded anecdotes. The Second World War came to our doorstep and was not just fought out on foreign fields, yet the details are not fully or comprehensively recorded.

It is ironic that such a uniquely shared community experience is not fully documented in every parish, particularly as many of the participants are still alive.

Former mayor John Horsfield sought to address this problem in Watford and launched a living history initiative. It is a laudable venture and should be embraced by every community.

It is a gap that needs to be tackled elsewhere, for although the museums and libraries around the locality have many fascinating artefacts and much interesting data, by no means do they possess a complete record.

One of the most fascinating local records is the great Sarratt Scrapbook, which diligently documents, through cuttings, posters and deeds, the events of the village from 1859.

When you turn the final pages of the scrapbook, dealing with the war years, you then reach a desert of non-information. For the period 1946 until 1969, a span which saw many changes to the village, the Sarratt Scrapbook is almost devoid of cuttings.

This is a classic manifestation of the prevailing attitude that there is no need to record anything because we, or they, are living and can remember.

Regrettably we are all mortal and while we might live to bore our grandchildren with tales of long ago, they are best written down and recorded.

We have all switched our brains to neutral while some ancient relative has related yet again how many things they once could do and buy in an evening, and still come back with change from five shillings.

Unfortunately, though we have heard it so many times, we cannot recall the exact details, now that the relative has passed on, and so a piece of social, living history has passed with the dying.

As someone who often found himself swimming against the current in an attempt to record the area's experience in the Second World War, I can confirm that there is a case for recording history while those who lived it are still here to tell the tale. **– Oliver Phillips**

Spring 1995

STOP PRESS! CHESS VALLEY BOARDWALKS.

Two boardwalks, totalling roughly 300 ft in length, have recently been constructed along part of the Chess Valley Walk near Sarratt Bottom.

The surface of the footpath on this particular stretch of the walk had degenerated into a thick muddy soup due to flooding and, as a remedy, it was decided to install boardwalks to carry walkers over the quagmire.

A third section is still needed to complete the improvements. This task will be undertaken as a volunteer event on the 12th March (full details are on page 7). If anybody wants to help bash in a few nails contact the Southern Area team on 01707 650041.

PS. bring your wellies - you'll need them.

W.O. 12/5/95

Old and young join in village celebrations

PRAYERS for peace were offered up by hundreds of Sarratt villagers as they turned out to remember VE Day.

Events were staged in the village throughout the day and an estimated 1,000 villagers turned out to support them.

Veterans from the war were the focus of attention in the evening as they marched at a brisk pace to the music of the Dickinson and Hosier band.

In a short but moving service villagers hummed along as the band played Abide With Me and Amazing Grace. The Union Jack flag was lowered and prayers of thanks for the fallen and hopes of peace were offered by the Rev Michael Hewlett.

A lunch for Women's Institute members and British Legion veterans was held in the village hall and more than 70 village children enjoyed games and a barbecue at the King George V playing fields in the afternoon.

The brainchild behind many of the day's events was Mrs Carol Chorley, 58, of Alexandra Road.

Mrs Chorley, an associate member of the British Legion, remembered sleeping in the air raid shelter in her back garden in Exeter. She thought the day had gone well and said: "Today has very much been a village affair and we were very glad to do it.

"It has united the village because so many people have come forward to help. It is so nice to get together and people say it has been like old times."

Roy and Mary Ward, who have lived in Sarratt all their lives, watched two of their grandchildren play at the party. The couple remember the village's original street party in 1945.

Mr Ward said: "It is a very good idea to celebrate, especially for the young people, to try and help them to remember.

"Let us hope they won't have to remember anything else awful after this."

Chris Dunn, 15, a pupil at Egerton-Rothesay in Berkhamsted, organised a party on The Green with the help of his family and neighbours.

Chris said: "A lot of people my age do not know what was going on fifty years ago. I have always been interested in the war and I feel it is important to celebrate the end of it."

Mr Leslie Grant, 88, is the oldest member of Sarratt's British Legion. He was in Germany when peace broke out and has lived around Sarratt since the war. He said: "We were thankful to come out of it alive.

"But I do not have many moans about it really. It just happened and we had to go and do our bit."

Mr Michael Hickman, 72, President of Sarratt's British Legion, was looking forward to VJ Day. He said: "I was in the Far East fifty years ago today so I am only now learning what happened here on VE Day.

"It has brought back a lot of sad memories but it is right it has been like this for the sake of those who did not come back and of those who were crippled."

W.O&S. 26-5-95

Sarratt steams up for Village Day of sky high entertainment

IT started with steam but in true Sarratt fashion the sky is no longer the limit when it comes to attracting visitors to the village.

Tomorrow's Village Day will not only stick with traditional entertainment, children's sports and maypole dancing, the inter-pub tug-of-war, craft and charity stalls, and a grand traction engine steam-up.

By mid-afternoon the atmosphere will be lifted sky high by the arrival of the ultimate "arena event", Nick Wakefield in the amazing Microlease Pitts Special doing aerobatics like they have probably never been seen in Sarratt before.

The Pitts Special is the most famous aerobatics plane in the world.

During a display, due to start at 3.30pm, Nick Wakefield, one of only a handful of British professional display pilots will perform a stunning series of rolls, tumbles and loops.

The sort of aerobatics you are likely to see at the Farnborough Air show where the Pitt Special is the only civilian aircraft invited to perform on public days.

Before and after this sharp shot of adrenalin, Sarratt Village Day has a lot else to offer, not least the huffing, puffing giants, who started it all and who will start off the day again.

Mal Biggerstaff and his friends from Chiltern Traction Engine Club will regale the village green with echoes of the past as they roll up with a contingent of vintage steam traction engines.

Engines similar to the ones Mal's grandfather used to operate for "proper work", threshing, brick and timber hauling, road surface rolling, anything now done by less romantic diesel or petrol engines in far less majestic bodies.



Watch the sky above Sarratt for the Pitt Special around 3.30pm.



Heading for Sarratt Village Day: Peter Williams from Chipperfield with his Avelin Colonial Tractor.

Mal grew up with steam traction engines.

"My grandfather worked with engines. He was with T.T. Boughton of Chesham and was in steam all his life."

He did warn young Mal that "once you have got steam in your blood, you never get rid of it."

Mal is hooked with no regrets.

"It is a fascinating hobby. I used to go to rallies with my father," he recalled.

At the end of the working week, lorry driver Mal, from Dawes Lane in Sarratt, joins members of the Chiltern Traction Engine Club at a yard in Little Chalfont where they restore and maintain a fleet of engines.

Mal is club secretary for the group with 250 members who between them look after 80 to 100 engines, some still owned by Boughton.

Sarratt Village Day came into being when Mal and his pals decided The Green would be the perfect place for a get-together of traction engines.

"At first the parish council weren't very keen. They thought we were going to race round the Green."

Mal smiles at the recollection and credits parish council chairman Val Cumming with supporting the idea which fitted in with the parish council having talked about starting a Village Day.

The two ideas came together with Mal in charge of the first one in 1989. The event is now biennial and this time Mal has handed over the reins to a committee in order to concentrate on a City and Guild exam in traction engines.

The exam took place on Saturday, so tomorrow is real celebration time, as Mal and fellow enthusiasts roll into Sarratt for a noon steam-up marking the start of the Village Day 1995.

They will come from various directions – the contingent of four from Little Chalfont picking the scenic route via the Green Dragon in Flaunden and the Plough in Belsize.



Mal Biggerstaff.

● Proceeds from the afternoon will be divided among various village projects and the local branch of the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme.

The Chiltern Society

chiltern news

Issue No 136
JUNE 1995
£1.00 to non members

To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the Chiltern Hills



Colin Bell records the agonies on Footpath SA32 in the Chess Valley in July 1994. Peter Iliffe is the backmarker for the 37 walkers enjoying (?) a hot day.

SARRATT VILLAGE APPRAISAL

Preamble

Sarratt - a small village in south-west Herts, probably best known for the long village green, the three ponds and the annual funfair, "the largest village fair in the Country" - quote from Worlds Fair newspaper, has a population of 2720 and the Parish covers some 2025 hectares, a large part of which is in the Chess Valley, an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Village Hall

The present village hall is of corrugated iron with a brick front area containing entrance lobby, foyer, kitchen and lavatories.

The main corrugated iron part has a fair size hall with stage and dressing rooms and a small bar.

Situation & History

It is situated at the south end of the village green and was originally built in the early 1920s and used as a village meeting place and also a type of Working Mens Club. It was extended in the 1950s by the front brick area and by adding a brick flank wall on the north side. This latter to replace the poor corrugated iron flank and also to add some 8'0" to the width of the hall. There is a stage at the west end of the hall and the building is licensed to seat 130 people as and when necessary.

Future Considerations

The new County housing requirements that will come into effect by 2016 will increase the local population, as there has been very little "new build" in the village during the last 50 years, and with the present trend it is anticipated that the population of the village and the surrounding collection area served by the Village Hall will increase considerably, as will the recreational demands.

Rebuilding Initiative

It has been obvious for some years that the Village Hall has outlived its useful life in the present state, so the Committee decided to prepare for a major rebuilding scheme, and with this in mind have been putting aside funds for that purpose as well as some money raising events and gifts. A questionnaire was sent to all hall users and local organisations and a summary of their requirements is prepared and modified for submission to Architects

The attached list shows the main users of the hall but there are others who would use the hall when it is up to L.A. standard, i.e. pre-school play groups, badminton and volleyball, table tennis, etc. and we anticipate more youth work which is vitally necessary in this rural area.

Conclusion

So with this in mind it will be obvious that modern facilities are necessary and will be even more so in the next century, particularly in the high-tech and IT field.

General and routine users:

Parish Council meetings
Afternoon W.I.
Evening W.I.
Regular Antiques Fairs
Jumble sales
Wedding receptions
Morris dancers
Harvest supper
Pantomime
Hunt association
Veterinary surgery
Bridge evenings
Political association events
History Society and Village Scrap Book meetings
Most local society dances
Village organisations suppers and C.A.R.E. lunches
Casual users such as BBC and commercial film companies on location, etc.

Proposal for which a Feasibility Study has been prepared and accepted by the Village Hall Committee:

It is proposed to provide a village hall, including a main hall with a capacity for an audience of 200 and a stage with appropriate ancillary facilities. The hall will also be used for sports such as short tennis and badminton as well as many other community facilities. New meeting rooms, a parish office and a cafe area incorporating IT facilities are also provided with exhibition spaces and ancillary accommodation. Access for disabled people is provided throughout the new complex. The building will be single storey (with some storage at first floor level) with a pitched roof constructed with traditional materials and will respond to the need for energy efficiency.

The present buildings are "maintenance high" due to the construction and although the electrical circuits etc. are certified safe, it is feared that water penetration will eventually cause a major re-wiring problem.

The thin walls and roof are also inefficient and must cause major heat losses, and the fan driven room heaters are also inefficient and noisy. Bearing in mind the present condition of the structure, it was considered that installing a more modern system would not be cost-effective and a flame operated system might prove dangerous.

All in all the costs involved in bringing the building up to an energy efficient unit would not be a prudent use of the funds accumulated by the hall committee.



SOUTH WALL LOOKING WEST



SOUTH WALL LOOKING WEST



SOUTH WALL LOOKING EAST



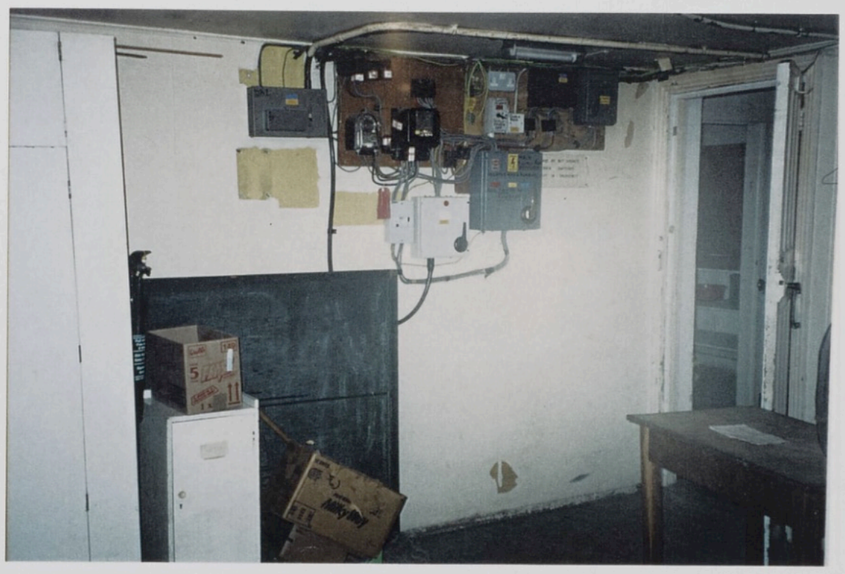
REAR ELEVATION OF DRESSING ROOMS



THE HALL



LADIES' DRESSING ROOM



MEN'S DRESSING ROOM
(ALSO USED BY VET)

1995

STABLE yard to let, 4 boxes £60 per week, individually £15 per wk, pt livery by arrangement. Sarratt.—Tel 01923 223778.

W.D.C. MM 1995

Eggs-ploding the myth about free range farms

App 1

WHEN nature-friendly Tim Norris met Mike Brigginshaw about the rent of a pony paddock they ended up hatching an eggs-cellent plan.

This week they aim to start supplying the Watford area with completely free-range eggs.

And when they say free-range they mean free-range. Their operation is completely environmentally and hen-friendly.

Their flock of 500 plump, healthy-looking, Hisex Brown hens are at liberty to roam around half-a-hectare of lush meadowland.

The chucks can feed from the mixed herbage pasture — free from any artificial fertilizers or herbicides — or take a peck at the energy-giving vegetarian mash.



with Lindsay Eastwood



The hen house is properly insulated to maintain comfortable temperatures for the birds and the floor is made of slats with rounded edges, unlike the usual sharp mesh found in other huts.

There is plenty of ventilation, so there are no nasty smells, even close-up (not that there are any neighbours to complain!).

Tim hopes to produce his own electricity by wind power for lighting and the electric fence, which keeps out foxes. He will encourage customers to re-use their cardboard egg boxes.

He even has a plan to be using the chicken manure to produce pollution-free methane gas to use as fuel for the egg delivery van within a year!

Said Tim, 47, of Mildred Avenue, Watford: "Most free-range eggs you see for sale aren't really free-range.

"They usually come from old battery buildings, with chickens still packed in. The only difference is the cages have been taken out.

"And if the hens do have a run outside there is usually no grass left.

"The herbage provides them with vitamins and gives the egg yolk a deeper colour."

Tim owns a two-hectare field off Dawes Lane in Sarratt, in the midst of beautiful Chess Valley countryside.

He solves the problem of over-grazing by moving the hen house and its spacious perimeter fence to a new patch of paddock every fortnight.

A horticultural lecturer at Oaklands College in St Albans, Tim had been thinking about setting up another smallholding for free-range eggs for about a year.

Then three months ago he met Mike to discuss renting the paddock for grazing. Mike's 17-year-old daughter, Fiona, was looking for a new field for her pony, Vienna.

The duo got talking and came up with the cracking idea of Harvest Moon Free Range Eggs.

Mike, also 47, of Tibbs Hill Road, Abbots Langley, had recently been made redundant after 25 years at British Gas working in the computer systems department.

He said: "I was born in Kings Langley and my grandfather had a smallholding. When I left British Gas I felt this was what I was most interested in."

He agreed to manage the operation, visiting the site twice a day to look after the chickens and sort the eggs.

Tim said: "I have been teaching horticulture and conservation issues for 10 years. The technology is available, but no-one seems to be using it.

"The Government is encouraging different uses for land, so we are fitting in with that.

"Our eggs will be completely vegetarian because the chicken feed is made of soya, corn and grains, not the usual dried offal.

"There is a big demand for free range but it just isn't being done properly. Flocks are left to wallow in the mud.

"Our operation is as free-range as you can get. It is the only one in a wide area around here.

"We would even like to open the smallholding for a couple of hours once a week so our customers to visit and see 'their' hens.

"Children could come and see the meadow and the wildlife. I think learning about the environment is important for youngsters."

Tim and Mike are expecting their hens to start producing a large amount of eggs in the next few weeks. If there is enough market demand they intend to expand with more hens and more houses — they've certainly got the space.

They are prepared to deliver to a wide region and if there are 10 customers in one area delivery will be free.

If you are interested in tasting a truly free-range egg write to Tim Norris at 101, Mildred Avenue, Watford, Herts, WD1 7DU.

Eggs will also be on sale at Tim's parents' house, Cockaygne Fruit Farm, Loudwater Lane, Loudwater.



Coop d'etat ... environmentally-friendly Harvest Moon Free Range Eggs looks set to storm the market

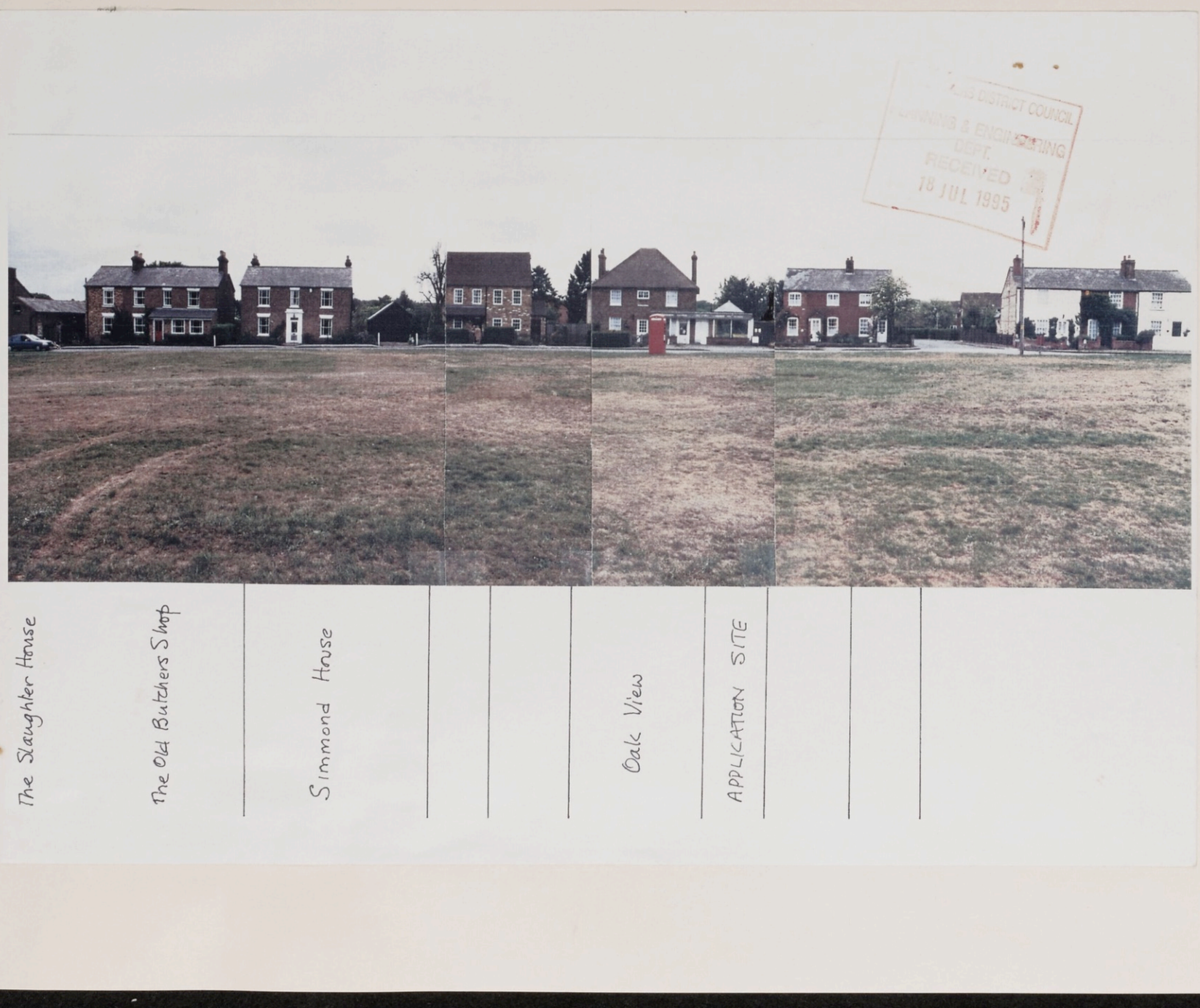


'WELCOME' OPEN HOUSE

ANYONE for Coffee (am) or Tea (pm) ? On Thursday, 11 April, OPEN HOUSE at Old Red Lion Farm on The Green, from 10am till 12 noon, and from 3pm to 4.30pm - with Bring & Buy - to raise money for a Sarratt Welcome Present to the new Rector of Holy Cross and his wife and family. EVERYONE WELCOME. Admission and Coffee or Tea 30p. RAFFLE too. Tel: 01923-262920.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1995
taken at Little Bragmans, Belsize by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	31st / 12.3	3rd /-5.9	3rd /-9.8	17th / 20.8	153.8	
February	4th / 12.9	27th /-2.9	27th /-6.9	13th / 13.2	101.6	
March	23rd / 16.5	4th /-5.3	4th /-9.0	2nd / 15.5	67.8	last snow of winter, 28th.
April	1st / 20.5	21st /-3.4	20th /-7.0	23rd / 5.5	13.1	
May	5th / 26.3	14th /-1.2	14th /-5.1	16th / 8.5	23.7	1st cuckoo, 1st.Last air/grd fosts 15/21st.
June	30th / 31.2	8th / 5.3	8,15 / 1.0	3rd / 17.0	27.9	
July	31st / 31.1	23rd / 7.1	23rd / 4.0	2nd / 8.3	18.7	4th July - 25th Aug, 53 days exceeding 20C
August	1st / 32.9	21st / 9.1	30th / 2.3	28th / 1.5	2.5	28th July - 26th Aug, 30 rainless days
September	9th / 22.3	30th / 2.1	29th /-2.3	10th / 34.8	131.4	1st ground frost, 28th.
October	8th / 23.5	28th / 1.2	31st /-2.9	6th / 10.1	34.9	
November	13th / 15.8	6th /-3.4	19th /-8.6	9th / 11.7	54.4	1st air frost, 5th.
December	2nd / 11.2	10th /-3.5	29,30/-11.0	19th / 30.0	88.5	1st snowfall, 5th.



1996

12 January 1996

Teenager seriously hurt in village road accident

A HORRIFIC road accident in Sarratt left a teenage girl in a critical condition on Saturday evening.

Police say Miss Victoria Temple, 19, of Ingatestone, Essex, received severe head injuries after stepping into the path of a red Honda Civic as she crossed The Green.

She was making her way to the Cricketers Pub at 5.35pm to meet her boyfriend when the accident happened.

She was rushed to Watford General Hospital but later transferred to an intensive care unity at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queens Square, London, where her condition was described as stable on Thursday.

Driver, Ms Emma Graham, 23, and her mother Patricia, both of Hundred Acres Lane, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, suffered shock.

Police investigating the accident closed The Green for more than an hour.

PC Ian Dowse, of the traffic division, said: "We had to close the road to conduct a detailed examination as we do with all major accidents.

"Miss Temple was crossing the road when she walked into the path of a car that was travelling along The Green.

"We are appealing for witnesses to the accident and in particular for the driver of a car thought to be travelling in the opposite direction to come forward.".

Miss Temple, a student at Aberystwyth University, is well known in Sarratt having worked in the village looking after horses last summer.

She was given a lift to The Green and was walking in a southerly direction towards The Cricketers pub when the accident happened. The car was travelling north.

Mrs Jane Griffin, clerk of Sarratt Parish Council, said: "Miss Temple was well known in the village and everyone was very very upset at the council meeting to hear about the aaccident.

"We are concerned about cars speeding in the village but this was just an unfortunate accident. There is no suggestion the driver was at fault."

Police are keen to hear from anybody who saw Miss Temple after she was dropped off.

They are also appealing for anybody who was driving south along The Green at the time of the accident to come forward.

If you have any information about this incident you should contact Rickmansworth Traffic Unit on 01923 710071.



Bishop of Hertford, the Rt Rev Robin Smith chats to parishioners at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, after taking two services there. *Picture N025807: SIMON JACOBS*

WOB 19-1-96

EDDIE ROLLINSON



SARRATT: **Joanne Horwood, Holly Davies, Timmie Griffiths, Luke Lacey.** *CN033522*

WO 2-2-96

Bridleway fight ends in victory

WO 23/2/96

AFTER years of lengthy debate, Sarratt has won the right to keep control of one of its most important bridleways.

The Penmans Green route, which is regularly used by horse riders, was due to be taken out of the jurisdiction of Sarratt Parish Council after 18 years.

In 1978, The British Horse Society asked Hertfordshire County Council to make it a designated bridleway which would mean relinquishing control to County Hall in Hertford.

Sarratt Parish Council chairman Mr John Gell said: "A lot of horse riders have used this footpath over the years and we have allowed them to, by treating it as a permissive bridleway.

"The parish council was worried that if county council took it over, they would not look after it in the way that we could. We are on the spot and not as far away.

"The county does not have much money and we felt we could look after it ourselves. The worry was if they take over one path there are a whole lot of others that are in the Sarratt area that could go the same way."

But last week, the county council informed Sarratt it would not be pursuing its original intention to make the Penmans Green way an official bridleway.

This means it will not appear on official maps as a route for riders although they w still be able to use it.

Horse rider Mrs Marianne Coleman, Abbots Langley, who is a member of a Sarra riding club, praised the parish council' efforts over the years.

She said: "Ideally, the more official bridleways we have the safer it is for people. But I am happy with the council retaining its control as they do a good job although I would be most upset if they then decided to close them.

"With so many riders using the roads it would be great to get them off. As far as it has been going I have got nothing but praise for what the council has been doing, it's been great.

"Permissive trails or not, we don't mind, as long as we are allowed to use them."

A spokesman for the council said: "Herts County Council had an application to modify the bridle way to a footpath in Penmans Green.

"They were going to go ahead and change it which we were against. We, as landowners, have control over the right of way. We have signs indicating access for riders

"The parish council felt it had done a lot of work and believes it is doing everything to provide better facilities than Hertfordshire County Council could."

WOB 23/2/96

Radar gun to slow traffic for village?

SPEEDING motorists in Sarratt could soon be tracked by police radar guns.

Parish councillors hope speed guns may be the solution to stop cars using The Green as a rat-run, after several other traffic calming measures were dismissed.

The introduction of pinch points and gates along the road or the option of putting chicanes in the road – which would encroach on The Green – were all suggested by Hertfordshire County Council but dismissed as not being suitable for Sarratt.

Because The Green has no street lighting, the village is not allowed to have road humps.

Council chairman Mr John Gell said: "Radar guns have been instigated in various places and our village police man, PC Wynes, has been on a course on how to use one.

"My only reservation is that nobody will know about it and I feel there is nothing to say it's there.

"However, the feeling among parish councillors is that people in the area will get to know that a gun is being used and will reduce their speed accordingly."

The cost of the hand-held gun, which records the speed of passing vehicles, is approximately £7,000.

Sarratt is considering contacting Chipperfield and Kings Langley parish councils to see if the three can buy one between them.

Parish councillor Mrs Val Cumming said speed traps had already worked near The Boot public house with some success in the past.

It is also hoped pressure can be put on the police to provide random surveillance of the area to calm traffic.

WAT. OBSERVER 16-2-96

Plotting the stages of an actor's life

An actor who performed for royalty and changed the face of acting, was commemorated by a small plaque in a Sarratt church. An author, Edward Rollinson, was inspired by the find and wrote a book about Sydney Valentine's amazing life, as **STUART HUTCHISON** discovered

A SIMPLE commemorative plaque in Holy Cross Church, Sarratt was the inspiration that led author Edward Rollinson to research the incredible life and career of Edwardian actor Sydney Valentine.

Edward's wife, Doris was researching a book about Holy Cross Church, Sarratt for the church's 800th anniversary, when the plaque caught Edward's eye.

An avid theatre-goer himself, Edward gradually blew away the dust on Valentine's life, and the revelations that he uncovered led him to write a biography of the Sarratt actor who won the acclaim of theatre-goers and royalty and whose legacy is appreciated by actors to this day.

Edward's interest in the theatre stems from his war-time performances with the Combined Services Entertainment Unit, playing the straightman to Eric Sykes.

"I saw Eric a few months ago while he was playing in Windsor, and he introduced me to the cast as the 'man who fed me 50 years ago'," says Edward, who maintains his connections wth the theatre world as a member of the Society for Theatre Research.

Researching the book was an immense task with many hours spent leafing through the Sarratt Scrapbook, which contains more than 100 years of village history.

He said: "It could have been a blind alley. He could have been a bit-part player but, upon researching the book, I found out there was a hell of a story there."

The plaque itself offers few clues. The birthdate actually predates Valentine's birth by one year, he was born in 1865, and the simple inscription 'actor' reveals nothing of the extraordinary tale beneath.



Actor Sydney Valentine

Sydney Valentine Nossiter was born in Birmingham on Valentines Day in 1865.

He used his first two names throughout a stage career which saw him perform at the finest theatres in cities like London and New York.

Valentine would go back to his Sarratt home, Pear Tree Cottage, at weekends and when resting, one of many actors who settled in the area.



Valentine was a prolific actor, although he was unable to perform for two years after contracting blood poisoning while working at the old Strand Theatre in London in 1888.

It was an experience that sharpened his resolve to improve the working conditions for his fellow actors, which as Edward explains, were horrendous:

"The conditions backstage were atrocious. Sewage pipes ran under the dressing rooms. On one occasion they leaked and an actress returned to her dressing room to find a rat mauling her rabbit's paw.

"In many theatres, ladies in the circle and the stalls were given scent to combat the odours."

Valentine's determination to improve such conditions led to him carving his name in the history of British theatre.

In 1917, he negotiated the first contract between the Actors Association and London theatre management, an agreement on which the current equity contract is based.

The contract stipulated a minimum wage of £3 a week and that payment for rehearsals should be brought in legally.

The chairman of the Actors Association recognised Sydney's effort by calling the agreement the "Valentine contract."

After his death in 1919, Valentine's name lived on in the form of the Valentine Memorial Pension fund. The fund was started from the proceeds of a matinee performance in his memory and the first to donate was King George V.

The fund, which provides help to retired actors, included Sir John Gielgud among its original trustees.

However, Valentine was equally renowned for his work on stage. Perhaps the highlight of his career was the performance, in 1905, of one of his own plays for a royal audience.

Edward explains: "King Edward VII was a great theatre-goer, and he would get together two one-act plays to be performed for his guests. Valentine played Samuel Pepys at Sandringham before his own play, A Widow Woos, was performed at Windsor Castle."

The King greatly admired his performances, and presented Valentine with the tiepin and cufflinks seen on the front cover of the book.

King Edward was not the only royal who appreciated Valentine's talents, however.

In 1912, with trouble brewing between Britain and Germany, Kaiser Willhelm II and the Kaiserina were invited over by George V and Queen Mary to promote peace.

Part of the hospitality was a visit to the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, to see Valentine give what was desribed at the time as "One of the great performances of the year" in Money.

Indeed, Valentine's death was also a grand performance.

In November 1919, Valentine was addressing members of the Actors Association at the Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, when he suffered a stroke.

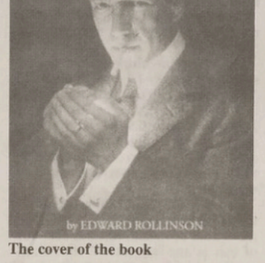
Not a man to leave mid-performance, Valentine continued, and, as he visibly weakened, the curtain was brought down. Sydney Valentine died three weeks later on 23 December 1919.

After his death, the leading lights of British theatre gathered to pay their respects, which is where Edward begins the story.

He explains: "You can only understand why those appreciations were written by looking backwards. To understand the work he did, you have to look back on it."

His words make a lot of sense when he considers his own research for the book.

Hence the Soren Kierkegaard quote on the title page: "Life must be lived forward but it can only be understood backwards."



The cover of the book



Author Edward Rollinson with part of his vast collection of theatre memorabilia. Mr Rollison served in the war in Europe with the Royal Corps of Signals. He transferred to the 30 Corps Pool of Artists, whose second in command was Captain Ian Carmichael who produced the company's first play, in which Mr Rollinson performed. The Pool of Artists became known as Combined Services Entertainments Unit (CSEU). Later in his career, he appeared regularly with comedian Eric Sykes in shows written by Rollinson, where he played the "straight" man. He toured all over Germany with the company. Later, he studied at the London School of Economics and entered a commercial career in International Trade. He is a member of the Society for Theatre Research. Married with three sons and a granddaughter, he lived in Hertfordshire until recently and now lives by the Grand Union Canal in Harefield.

Picture CN040331: TREVOR ADAMS

1996

SPLAT presents

Sleeping Beauty



A Village Pantomime

Written by Tony Bond

Directed by Julia Rufey

Assistant Director and Producer - Julia Saddler

Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th January 1996

Programme 20p

CHURCH TIMES. 23-2-96

HART. The Revd Peter Hart, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bridgwater (Bath & Wells), to be Priest-in-Charge of Sarratt, and Chaplain of HM Prison, The Mount (St Albans).



MAY. FILMING THE DEMON HEADMASTER OUTSIDE THE RECTORY

2 February 1996

Dog saved by caring PCs

COMPASSIONATE policemen helped save the life of a Sarratt dog horrifically injured and left to die after a road accident.

Henry, a Champagne German Shepherd, sustained a fractured skull when he was in a collision with a vehicle in Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, about three miles from where he broke his lead while being taken for his regular walk.

His owner, Miss O'Leary, 32, of Church Lane, believes her beloved pet only survived because of the kindness the PC Jim Cunningham and PC Marcus Bromley of Rickmansworth Police.

She said: "The police were wonderful if it had not been for their prompt action I don't think Henry would have survived.

"I was hugely impressed by them. When I arrived at the scene one of the policemen was actually lying on Henry cuddling him and trying to keep him warm.

"They wrapped him in a blanket and used it as a hammock to carry him to the car and then drove in front while we took him to the vets. "They were very kind and I just want to thank them for all they did.'"

She also praised the alertness of passing motorist Mr Percy McCloskey, of Sarratt Lane, Loudwater who alerted police after spotting the critically injured dog lying on a grass bank by the road.

By the time the six-year-old Henry arrived at the Chess Veterinary Clinic, Uxbridge Road, Rickmansworth, he had lapsed into a coma.

But, despite the severity of his injuries, which included a fractured skull and a badly damaged eye Henry was nursed back to health.

He is now back at his Sarratt home and, although he has lost the sight in one eye, he is doing well.

PC Bromley said: "We wanted to do all we could to save the dog. We just turned up and got into contact with Miss O'Leary, who had reported her dog missing, to tell her we had found him.

"While we were waiting for her we kept Henry warm by covering him in a blanket which the vet later told us was a good thing to do.

'We also alerted the vet that we were coming and put our foot down on the way there.

"It makes a nice change do something when we get thanked at the end of it. It has given us both a lot of satisfaction."

He added: "We would like to know who is responsible for this. The dog is a big German Shepherd and you would know you had hit it.

"He was in a terrible state when we got there it looked like Frankenstein. We think it must have crawled to the side of the road after being hit because there was a trail of blood in the road."

The accident happened some time between 5.30pm and 10.30pm on Wednesday, January 17, when Henry broke his lead after seeing a fox while out for his regular walk.

The large German Shepherd, who was acquired from the RSPCA animal shelter in High Wycombe, ran off despite being repeatedly called back by Miss O'Leary.

She said: "I think he ran off because he thought he would be told off for breaking his lead.

"He is quite a nervous dog because he has been badly treated in the past and I think that is why he bolted. It is a real miracle that he has survived this and I am delighted to have him home."

If you have any information about this incident contact Rickmansworth Police on 01923 710071

Dear Mrs. Cumming
This is a copy of a letter I have posted to the residents of Sarratt - so that everyone knows what we are doing. We may need to put up the BBC sign again on Saturday, May 11th (+ possibly May 9th).
Hope to see you very soon.
Best wishes
Camilla

BBC TELEVISION

EXTENSION:
DIRECT LINE:
FAX:

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
TELEVISION CENTRE
WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7RJ
TELEPHONE: 0181-743 8000

24th April 1996

Dear Resident

You may already be aware that the Children's BBC Drama department are filming the second series of 'The Demon Headmaster' in Sarratt.

We are leaving the village whilst the fair is on the green, but are returning to film in and around the village from Monday 6th May through to Monday 13th May inclusive (we will not be filming on Sunday, 12th May).

We hope very much that we will not cause you too much disruption during the week. Our unit base will be at the village hall throughout the period, so should be out of sight!

This is a run down of the various areas in which we will be filming and the dates:

Monday 6th May and Tuesday 7th May - filming in a private house at the bottom of the village.

Wednesday 8th May - we will be filming outside the Sarratt Stores with our camera on the green initially. We also have a scene to shoot in the post office area of the shop (this area normally being closed on a Wednesday). We will need to keep the service road clear of cars so will be coning off the service road in the proximity of the Stores. I apologise in advance for any disruption we cause on the day, but ask you to bear with us whilst we are shooting a scene; I know that this may mean a short wait before entering the shop. We will be placing 'Bed and Breakfast' and 'No Vacancy' signs in strategic agreed positions close to the post office - so please don't think that there are any new businesses starting up!

Thursday 9th May - we will be filming outside the village hall. We also have a shot of a car emerging from Church Lane and turning Left into the village. This will involve some assistance from the police in order to stop traffic whilst we are shooting. We will also be doing some scenes involving a low loader around the village and on the Sarratt Road outside the village.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

BBC TELEVISION

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TELEVISION CENTRE
WOOD LANE
LONDON W12 7RJ
TELEPHONE: 0181-743 8000

Mrs P. Cumming
Old Red Lion Farm
Sarratt
Herts
WD3 6BP

14th June 1996

Dear Mrs Cumming

I am just writing to say a big thank you for all your very kind help over the past few months with the filming of 'The Demon Headmaster'. I know things wouldn't have gone nearly as smoothly without your help and I am extremely appreciative of all the valuable tips that you gave me. Many thanks particularly with the parking arrangements on the Village Green during the first three weeks of the shoot - I don't know how we would have coped without the space!

I know the whole production team will have very fond memories of their time spent in Sarratt. Everybody was so kind and generous to us and 'The Rectory' really was the perfect location. I was very sorry to miss out on the filming in the village, but Giles kept me informed each day of how things were progressing. I gather that all the Bed and Breakfast signs went up as anticipated, and that you had no prospective customers!

'The Demon Headmaster' will be transmitted on BBC1 for seven weeks starting on Wednesday, 25th September - the time is yet to be confirmed.

I sadly missed you when I came up to Sarratt on the Friday of the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May . However, I hope very much that Nick, Saskia and I will be able to come up one weekend in the not too distant future and that I will be able to catch up with you then. (We have a friend staying at 'The Old Rectory', so no doubt will be coming up to see him in due course).

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely

Camilla McNair

Camilla McNair
Location Manager
'The Demon Headmaster'



This stained glass window, The Resurrection, in Holy Cross Church, designed by Alfred Fisher and made at Chapel Studio in Hunton Bridge, has been seen world-wide – on a greeting card by The Lens Ideas. The company has allowed cards to be sold in aid of The Friends' fundraising during tomorrow's Springtime in Sarratt.



Springtime in Sarratt organiser, Denis Jenks, is using his retirement toy, a vintage Bedford 16-seater, to offer free rides around the village green as well as to provide prizes with a difference for the raffle.

WATFORD OBSERVER 12-4-96

Spring is in the air ... if a little late

GRELLE WHITE previews the annual celebration of village gardens, Springtime in Sarratt

SARRATT accepts the blame for the delayed spring.

It was planned all along.

This year's Springtime in Sarratt, a Saturday when all the village is "at home" to visitors, is a little later than usual.

So spring is set to peak tomorrow (Saturday) at least in Sarratt, where more than 50 gardens will be open to visitors.

The village offers a warm and festive welcome with free rides around the green on a vintage bus and no charge for visiting gardens.

There will be teas and chat in the village hall. All villagers hope and ask for is that visitors buy tickets for the raffle for church funds.

This way of sharing the care for the ancient Holy Cross parish church has proved extremely popular with both visitors and villagers.

Preening and pruning has been going on behind the hedges and fences and many lawns have had the first cut of the season in preparation for tomorrow's event.

Springtime in Sarratt is a rare opportunity to experience a part of village charm normally hidden to the outsider, the gardens.

They come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny but imaginatively laid out, cottage gardens, to larger ones with sweeping, striped lawns and colour-coordinated shrubbery.

Each garden has special features and owners will be there to share history and gardening tips.

And, let's face it, curiosity goes beyond daffodils, ponds and pending vegetable gardens.

Houses with history, like the Old Butcher's Shop with the added appeal of an old slaughterhouse behind the building – it ceased to be a butcher's more than 20 years ago – will be among those to open.

Last year Pat and Sinclair Watson welcomed 620 visitors, who, no doubt, were amazed at the size and the charm of the garden the Watsons swapped for Clearburn Farm in Loudwater four years ago.

Pat no longer grows bedding plants – but you can glimpse the result of her green fingers with some magnificent vegetation in the conservatory.

In the short time they have been there, the Watsons have opened up the garden by removing a couple of conifers to make more space for an impressive oak. They have added a pond and used the soil to create a raised flowerbed close to the house.

Sinclair may be persuaded to show off the carcass winch, which was still in the slaughter house when the couple bought the Old Butcher's. It has been moved to another outbuilding.

He said: "The plan is to clean it up and maybe use it as a feature in the garden."

Farther along the green, Don and Ivy Kempster show off a typical cottage garden with giant snowdrops just finishing and a healthy looking crop of wallflowers coming on.

Don has lived and worked as a hedger in the village all his life and has laid hedgerows for miles around in the days before machines took over.

Across the green, on the corner of Red Lion Lane, Silfield House, is surrounded by a hedge that nearly hides David Goodwin's "lazy" garden, mainly lawn with lots of shrubs and "deep-rooted annuals that come up and spread by themselves".

David is keen to disclaim any credit for this well-kept creation. When he and his wife moved to Sarratt, they inherited local gardener, Percy Saunders, with the property.

"Percy is the architect, I'm the labourer," said David.

Percy, who laid the lawn in the 70's remembers when the 17th Century house was a village shop and Post Office was run by the Friend sisters.

"In those days there were chickens and most of the garden was used to grow vegetables, like a lot of gardens around here," Percy recalled.

The comparatively more formal garden to emerge from that can now be enjoyed from the dining room the Goodwins added ten years ago, a low building linking the main house and adjoining cottage.

The view can be enjoyed from next door, which used to be the Red Lion pub, dating back to a time when building was charmingly random without bureaucratic lines.

Most of the open gardens are around the green, so visitors can stroll from one to the next - or catch the bus for the next stop. Plants and crafts will be on sale and tea, coffee and other refreshments will be available at the village hall from 3pm.

● Springtime in Sarratt, tomorrow (Saturday, April 13) from 1.30 to 5pm. Refreshments in the village hall from 3pm. Admission, parking and vintage bus rides free.

Vintage ticket to ride could be yours

A TRIP to Sarratt tomorrow could be the start of a mini-adventure trip to Ascot, Brighton or anywhere, you like, with a 1932 vintage single decker bus.

Mastermind behind Springtime in Sarratt, Denis Jenks, is using his retirement toy, a vintage Bedford 16-seater, to add fun and sparkle to the day and giant raffle.

Throughout tomorrow afternoon, Denis will don his driver's cap and trundle the bus round and round the village green offering free rides to visitors.

And the bus – with driver – is earmarked to provide no less than three raffle prizes.

One will particularly appeal to vintage motoring fans; two seats on the bus joining Denis and his party for the historic Commercial Vehicle Society London to Brighton run on Sunday, May 5, including overnight accommodation.

Some will keep their fingers firmly crossed that, if they win a vintage bus outing with Denis, it will be to Royal Ascot on Tuesday, June 18.

Five people can win a ticket for two for this event, which includes entrance fee to heath (opposite the Royal Enclosure) and a mammoth picnic and barbecue.

The third prize is a day's outing – a round trip during the summer of up to 100 miles of the winner's choice – with seats for 16.

The raffle is the fundraiser for Springtime in Sarratt with no admission charged for garden visits.

In previous years the raffle has boasted a huge number of prizes. This year Denis and his supporters have opted for fewer, bigger prizes.

"Getting hold of people and delivering raffle prizes became very involved," Denis explained.

Other quality prizes in this year's raffle include a trip to Switzerland for two with a two-night stay and half-board at the five star Grand Hotel Kronenhof in Pontresina – including flight – and six half-hour helicopter rides for two.

Raffle tickets will be on sale all over Sarratt. The draw takes place in the village hall at 5.30pm.



David Goodwin and Percy Saunders, above, in the garden of David's Sarratt home, Silfield House, below. *Pictures CN140634/6: JOE SHEEHAN*





Pat and Sinclair Watson, below right, in the garden of their home, the Old Butcher's Shop at Sarratt, above and below left. *Pictures CN140626/7/9: JOE SHEEHAN*







ANCIENT Holy Cross needs a lot of friends. The fabric of the 800-year-old village church needs constant support, the roof will soon need major work and funds are always needed to keep this village feature in good repair.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, was formed in 1990, the 800th anniversary of Holy Cross.

As a registered charity, the group's aim is "to keep the church in a good state of repair, so that the building's peace and beauty can be enjoyed by all, and so that visitors can continue to obtain comfort and inspiration from within its ancient walls for generations to come".

Said chairman of the Friends, John Guy, who took the pictures above and below: "Springtime in Sarratt has been marvellous. It is a nice, happy day for people, who visit the village and appreciate the beauty of the countryside."

The event has raised useful funds and resulted in more Friends, people who enjoy coming to Sarratt and are only too happy to help maintain one of the most ancient and attractive features of the village.

The picture above shows the 15th Century bell tower and below is a detail from the Kingsley Memorial, which marks the death of Sir William Kingsley in 1611.



Village ready to welcome new rector

VILLAGERS in Sarratt are preparing to welcome the new rector at Holy Cross church.

The Reverend Peter Hart will take up the vacant post of rector at the end of May after a service given by Bishop of St Albans Christopher Herbert.

Mr Hart, 56, currently works at Holy Trinity Church in Bridgwater, Somerset, where he has been rector with his wife Mary on a large urban estate parish for six years.

He is no stranger to village life, having worked as curate in Yatton Moor for three years.

Mr Hart grew up in Rickmansworth and attended Watford Grammar School.

After training as a teacher, he worked for 26 years in Essex and Wiltshire, becoming head of upper school in a large comprehensive north of Swindon.

He was ordained in 1984 and was a curate at Malmesbury Abbey in Wiltshire for five years.

His hobbies include bell-ringing and walking, and his usual mode of transport is a bicycle, allowing him to stop and chat to villagers more easily.

Mr Hart will be officially licensed to the parish in the service led by the Bishop of St Albans on Thursday, 23 May. Tickets will be restricted as there is limited room in the church.

Mr Hart will take his first service as rector on Sunday, 26 May, which is Pentecost Sunday.

SPRINGTIME IN SARRATT 1996
SATURDAY APRIL 13th

Once again we have had a record breaking, day. In the space of 3½ hours we raised over £3250 for our 800 year old village church.

On behalf of all the Friends of Holy Cross the Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped.

- Our visitors - more than 1300 of them
- All the people who generously opened their gardens to the public
- Those who provided & served refreshments in homes & the Village Hall
- The local and national press and local radio for publicity
- Those who sold cakes, plants, jam and other items to raise funds
- All involved with publicity, raffle tickets, car parking and sign erecting
- Those who designed & produced signs and posters
- The companies and all the individuals who donated the raffle prizes
- The owner and drivers of the buses who provided transport
- Any others who have helped who are not included above !!

We had a marvellous **Sunny** day with a great many visitors. Many of them told me how much they enjoyed the enthusiastic involvement of so many people and the sense of fun in the village.

Dennis

Dennis Jenks

1996

Colourful welcome from village

With perfect timing, Sarratt's new Rector, The Rev Peter Hart will be welcomed by the annual flower festival in the village. GRELLE WHITE found out what was in store

FORGET boring briefs, formal introductions and detailed maps.

Sarratt's new Rector, The Rev Peter Hart, will be welcomed to the village with a festive guided tour in flowers and music.

The theme for the annual flower festival and concert at Holy Cross Church this weekend is "Sarratt the Village, Past and Present".

"A wonderful introduction to village life and people," said Peter, who took over the post as Priest-in-Charge a few weeks ago.

Already he has become a feature of the village scene himself by riding round the parish on his trusty bicycle, but this weekend will be a beautiful chance for truly getting to know some of the people, history and mysteries encountered en route.

Like the contraption on the village green locally referred to as "the treacle mine".

This Grade II artefact is a pump, which provided fresh water for the village until the 1920's - and the title of one of 29 flower arrangements adorning ancient Holy Cross Church for the next three days.

Other topics include "Village Ponds" – dew ponds on the green, which were used by drovers, villagers and blacksmiths as cattle grazed the open space right up till Second World War – and watercress beds, the Tyler family business which has been going strong since the late 1800's.

As villagers spread out the floral map, visitors will encounter titbits from the past, like a silver half groat from around 1600 found in Mortons pond last year, or present factual information: there are 68 footpaths covering 26 miles in the parish.

Sarratt Mill, the village school, shop and church, even the local garage are topics of the themed show.

The garage was founded in 1918 by Fanny Biggerstaff and her son, George, to run lorries.

"Seats were provided on Tuesdays and Saturdays for Watford Market and a lorry was fitted with a bus body in 1921," states the text beside the flower arrangement, which, like all the notes, has all been beautifully scripted by local calligrapher Laurie Young.

The annual flower festival at Holy Cross Church is itself part of history, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

The team behind the event changes, but experience is carried over to ensure the kind of efficiency which is part of past success.

"Connie Barber and Elsphet Smith were the first organisers. For the first festival in 1971 there were six flower arrangements. It was the beginning of flower festivals in the area to raise funds for churches," recalls Janet Rollinson, who was in charge of the flower side of the Festival for 20 years until she moved to Harefield last year.

She is back with an arrangement and moral support for new organiser, Judy Gooding, who can also turn to overall festival organiser, Colin Plummer, for support and practical help.

"Can you help with the scaffolding?" she queried, conjuring up visions of grand floral innovations when the team met up for a quick Saturday morning session ahead of the event.

Peter, the new Rector, was a fascinated witness to the final touches being put to plans for the festival.

Music master for the past seven years, church organist David Clough, had stretched the imagination to its ultimate limits in a quest to fit the programme for tomorrow night's concert, Music for a Summer Evening, to the theme of Sarratt.

The connection between the village and Phantom of the Opera was explained with a slightly apologetic smile: "Bob Penn, captain of the bell-ringers went to music college with Andrew Lloyd Webber . . ."

Well . . . good excuse for lovely music, just like Old Man River was not exactly written with the River Chess in mind.

The link grows stronger with This Old Man ("there are lots of old men in Sarratt") and Come to the Fair (the annual May Fair is an ancient custom), Little Bo Peep and songs from Watership Down ("lots of sheep and rabbits around").

The Sarratt Singers, the augmented church choir, will be joined by the village school choir in all manner of melodious, light music, from barbershop to operetta.

The festival fringe activities play an important part in making it the kind of event, which attracts thousands of visitors to the village.

Stalls brimming with plants, cakes and refreshment will liven up the churchyard.

No lunches this year, but teas will be served from a marquee.

"We used to use the barn at Goldington next door, but that is longer available," explained Colin Plummer.

Farmer Peter Grego's field is still available for parking and the Rector observes that this seems to be the kind of event, which involves the whole village.

The object of the exercise is still to raise funds for the church.

The Friends of Holy Cross was formed in 1990, the 800th anniversary of the church, to raise funds to maintain the fabric of the building.

At the time there was serious worry about the roof having to be renewed. The moment has not yet come, but it would only take one bad winter. Meanwhile the Friends's fund is there to meet requests from the Parish Church Council, when maintenance is needed.

"That is tremendous. It stops the PCC talking money all the time and concentrate on workship and church," observed Peter, whose philosophy on sermons should help endear him to both PCC and congregation.

"People's attention span is ten minutes maximum," was a comment to put smiles on the faces around him.

Peter used to be a teacher and was ordained 12 years ago. He and his wife, Anne, and family have lived in the West Country for more than 25 years and coming to Sarratt was close to a homecoming – Peter was born and grew up in Rickmansworth.

But that was not his reason for seeking the living at Sarratt.

"I am Priest-in-Charge of Holy Cross and assistant chaplain at The Mount in Bovingdon. The challenge of Sarratt and a prison, so dissimilar, is fascinating. I should be able to put some of my experience into both," Peter enthused.

The weekend welcome is warm – the village has been without a priest for nearly a year.

"We hope the festival will show our new Rector all the different facets of Sarratt," said Judy.

Visitors are welcome, too, with a special day for the elderly and handicapped on Monday, when the church will be less crowded and special ramps provided for wheelchairs.

● The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt: 25th Flower Festival: Saturday, June 29, 10am to 5.30pm; Sunday, June 30, 11.30am to 5pm; Monday, July 1 10am to 5.30pm. Music for a Summer Evening: Saturday, June 29, 7.30pm. Entrance and car parking free. Dedication service, tonight at 7.30pm; Evensong, Sunday, June 30 at 6.30pm.



A warm welcome for The Rev Peter Hart, at Holy Cross Church. Picture CN241705: JOE SHEEHAN



Flowers inside the church.



On the bike and enjoying the new rounds, Rector Peter Hart. CN241718



Craftwork and nature make a perfect match.



An open door, as ever, at Holy Cross Church.

The Licensing

By The Lord Bishop of St Albans
The Rt. Revd. Christopher Herbert B.A.

of

The Revd. John Peter Hart, as Priest in Charge
of the Benefice of Sarratt
and as assistant Chaplain at the Mount Prison
in the Church of the Holy Cross.

Thursday 23rd May 1996

HOLY CROSS SARRATT

Order of Service

Bill Fenning

HOLY CROSS SARRATT

Licensing by the Bishop of St.Albans
of the Reverend Peter Hart
as Priest in Charge
on Thursday May 23rd 1996 at 8.00pm
in Holy Cross Church Sarratt.
Please be in your seat by 7.45pm.
Admittance by ticket only

Friends of Holy Cross Church

Ticket Number I 2

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

25th Annual

Flower Festival

Saturday 29th June - Monday 1st July 96

Welcome to Holy Cross
Welcome to our lovely ancient church
Welcome to our Flower Festival

Like me, you may be visiting the Flower festival for the first time. I have just moved into the parish and I am looking forward to this weekend. The theme this year is the village of Sarratt. From the arrangements I am sure you will learn something about life in our village. Please take your time to look around and enjoy and give thanks for the beauty of God's creation and the gifts and creative skills of so many different people who have contributed their time and imagination to this wonderful festival.

A festival is a time of celebration and is usually connected to a religious theme. As you walk around this beautiful church, made still more so by the beauty of the flowers, pause to celebrate and remember this is a centre for worship and prayer to-day as it has been for centuries. I give thanks for all those generations of faithful worshippers, who maintained the building and the worship of God. I also thank those who now through this event and other money raising events maintain the building of Holy Cross and I give thanks for those who through their prayers and worship to-day continue to bring God's blessings on this place.

Thank you

Peter Hart

The Rectory

WATFORD OBSERVER 19-7-1996

Losing a tree is like mourning an old friend



JUST A WORD
with
Oliver Phillips

THERE are so many things you take for granted as you attempt to keep all the plates spinning on those sticks in the game of life.

Then, suddenly the circumstances change.

Older readers have probably noticed that element with some of our reprise photos from the 1950's.

They serve as a reminder as to what used to be in a certain place, or how the road looked then.

Perhaps the initial change was sudden and disquieting but gradually it was absorbed and accepted. The memory of what went before became blurred, only to be jogged back into focus by a photograph from yesteryear.

I have a thing about trees; not an obsessive, dog-like habit, or a George III-type empathy and need to converse, but I do enjoy them and their very timelessness.

They are the victims of so-called progress and development. Animals and birds can move on, but trees just get felled.

I have every sympathy with those who protest at the cutting down of significant trees. I just stand back sometimes and look at trees, marvelling at their stature, grace and, often, their spirit.

Sometimes you can look at old photographs and know that the town or the locality has experienced such things as the war, the juggernaut of town planning and the demolition men but, while much has changed, you note a particular tree is still there.

It may be a little bigger, perhaps not so lush, but it has carried on the cycle of shedding and regrowing its leaves while, down beneath, we have desperately attempted to keep all those plates spinning for several decades.

There is a tree in Sarratt that fascinates me.

There are trees with greater character within 100 yards of it but what this simple tree lacks in individuality it makes up for in near-perfection, which in itself could be read as a reflection on life.

This tree is sited on The Green, planted by Peter Clutterbuck back in the Jubilee of 1935. The relatively small oak has almost perfect symmetry as if designed by Disney for Bambi to be born under its boughs.

That symmetry is borne out particularly when the skeletal backdrop of branches show through in autumn and spring.

Sometimes, taking the dogs for a walk late at night, I am still caught by the surprise at its balance and proportions, and marvel at the outline particularly if the moon is rising behind it, and even more so if I have had the benefit of a pint or two.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, someone once said. Each to his own, but while there are some stunning trees around The Green, my eyes are invariably drawn back to that oak.

Other inhabitants and passers-by have had their eyes drawn elsewhere, to a vacant, tree-less spot of late.

Another tree was cut down in Sarratt recently. I passed it every day on the way out of the village as I drove down to Watford and noted it on the way back in the evenings, its shape breaking the monotony of the hedgerow behind it.

However, while it is not my favourite tree in the village and, if anyone had asked me quickly to name it from memory, quite possibly I would have failed to identify that tree as a horse chestnut. But I do miss it.

One day it was split asunder, by a storm or just old age, I know not.

It was deemed diseased, a hazard to passing traffic and was felled. Even the tree surgeon, Andy Maynard, admitted this was the "most upsetting" decision of his career".

It took years to grow and is known to be at least 150 years old, but modern machinery felled it in minutes.

I miss it. The perspective has gone and the approach to the village is a little more mundane.

George Paddick misses it as well. He lived in what he described as "the Bronx of Croxley Green" – Springfield Close, the first council houses in that village.

"One day, during the war, we heard that a Lancaster had crashed in a field in Sarratt.

"We kids, about half a dozen or more, went up there from Croxley. I could only have been eight or nine," recalls this big man, who assures me he was once known as Little George.

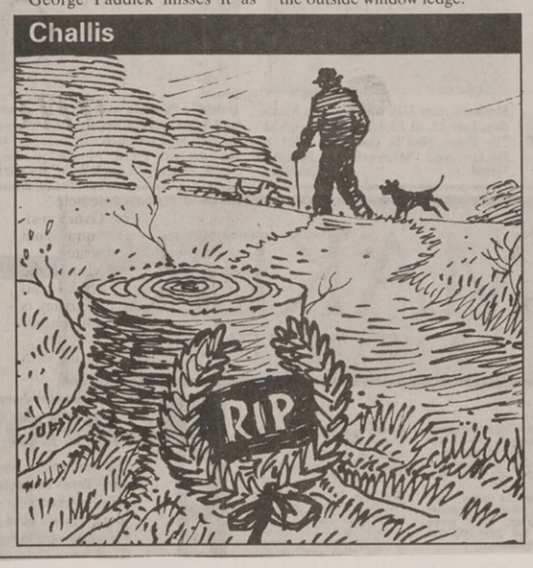
"The main body of the plane was in a field just before the village and we collected a load of bullets and some cannon shells as well. They were about eight inches long and just short of an inch in diameter."

The group of young memorabilia collectors, with shirts bulging with bullets, then went to The Boot to catch the bus down to Croxley. It was here that young George made the mistake of laying out his collection of bullets on the outside window ledge.



Sarratt's welcoming horse chestnut had some stories to tell . . .

Challis





But, alas, it is no more, felled in the name of safety. *Picture N193413: LEIGH GREEN*

A villager, concerned that young boys were in possession of potentially lethal items, alerted the local constable.

"We were taken to the village police house at the end of Dimmocks Lane and told off. Of course we had emptied most of our pockets on the way down, so we went back and retrieved them," recalls George.

Back at Springfield Close, they tossed the bullets around as they played.

"They were lying about for days. Then, when one was thrown, it was detonated and shot off into the air.

"After that we were trying to detonate every one of them. We would hit the cap with a hammer. It is amazing that no one got really hurt. I remember one girl, Marion Wells, holding the canon shell away from her while someone hit the cap. The bullet went off into the distance and the cartridge flew back and hit her in the forehead, leaving a ringed indentation in the skin," says George. "You know, we used to think it strange in Springfield Close, that no one in Croxley seemed to like us," he adds reflectively.

By coincidence, one of the youngsters who accompanied George was Roy Dwight. Roy's nephew, Reggie grew up to change his name, to Elton John.

The others on that eventful trip were George's cousin "Big" George, John Ashon, Tom Hood, John Samms, Alec Randle, Jim Lacey, "Grower" Chapman, Pete Edwards, Trevor McCarter, Evelyn Howard, Marion Wells and George Wagstaff.

"I'll never forget that plane-wreck in Sarratt," says George.

On his way to the village the other day, he could not help but notice that the horse- chestnut had been felled. He arrived in The Cock and bemoaned the loss of a landmark and that is how I got to hear of his tale.

"You see," George explains," every time I have passed that tree, I have been able to visualise exactly where that plane had crashed in the field. I became very fond of that tree, I miss it."

Villager Dora Richens misses it. The tree possessed accoustic qualities and served as a sounding board when she was a young girl back in the 1920's.

When the horse and carts, wending their way up the stony track from Croxley towards Sarratt, passed that tree, the echo of wheels and hooves would bounce off the trunk and branches and up across the fields to The Green.

"We had a small holding by The Boot, called Home Farm, which is now The Laurels," she said

"When I was a little girl, my mother used to send me out to the gate to listen for Dad coming home. You could hear the horse and carts when they passed that horse chestnut. We could tell whose horse and cart it was, just by the sound," she remembers.

"I would be able to say, when the horse and cart was almost a mile away, 'that's not Dad'. It was important to us to listen out for him. If he was late, mother had to milk the cows.

"If she had to milk the cows, I had to sell the milk and I really, really hated doing that.

"Now the tree is gone."

One tree, two tales: probably two of many such tales associated with that old horse chestnut.

Ah, but if only trees could talk.

Notes on Penmans Green by Mr. Stanley Chalk, August 2nd 1996.

Back in the Summer, three of us took Mr. Stan Chalk up to Penmans Green, and we were privileged to hear his reminiscences. The following is what he told us, and stands as a memorial to a fine countryman who is sadly missed.

His Grandfather, Edward Chalk, farmed Belsize Farm, and Stan played on Penmans Green as a child, during and just after The First World War, and helped his Father and Grandfather, with various agricultural tasks in the area.

From the Belsize End, Penmans Green was a very open Common, with a few gorse and juniper bushes. Heather also grew at the Belsize end. As far as Stan remembered, it was owned by the Earl of Essex, and possibly the Clutterbucks. The local Belsize children played cricket there. There were no trees until almost up to Hillmeads Farm.

In the First World War, the house "Doggetts" was occupied by Belgian refugees.

The house opposite, "Hilltop", was the Hillmeads shepherd's cottage. (Mr. Symons)

The field to the left was called "Marges Flat" Here was built the first house to appear, a wooden bungalow. ("Little Margarets")

Stan Jones (Senior) used to run about a hundred sheep from Hillmeads to graze on Penmans Green, helped by his two sheepdogs. Eventually his son, also Stan, took over the farm.

Stan Chalk's grandfather used to pick the cherries in Lady's Orchard. They would be sold at Edgware market for the London trade. Soot, used as a pesticide for the fields, would often be brought back on the return journey. Men with guns would patrol the orchard for about three weeks while the cherries ripened, to shoot the marauding birds.

The pond on Penmans Green near the orchard was always full of water, the sheep drank from it.

The Darvell family lived at Belsize, (in what is now Walnut Cottage) Bill Darvells's father had a field to the side of Penmans Green hill, where he grew strawberries, and the local children helped to pick them. He also sold bundles of kindling sticks, which the children helped to split and tie up, in a large shed he had there. A few pennies would be their wages.

There was always a track through Penmans Green in Stan's memory, but the road entrance was only from Hillmeads end as now. Adjacent to the footpath opposite Hillmeads, the Pritchard family grew foliage and moss for the florist trade. A smaller, rather overgrown shrubbery area still exists.

The common area either side of the road from the Commonwood end was not as open as Penmans Green itself, there always were more trees there.

At Commonwood, Quickmore Pond was very open with ducks on it, with an orchard either side.

The chalk dell on Commonwood was an open area right down to the bottom road. Stan's Grandfather used to get cart- loads of chalk, for use on the fields

We are very grateful to Stan for his wonderful memories which he shared with us.

Dawn Pitts, on behalf of The Sarratt Commons Volunteers.

WAT. OBS 27-9-96

VILLAGERS flocked to see the Sarratt Horticultural Society Autumn Show on Saturday, September 14.

The beautiful sunshine did the entries, displayed in the village hall on The Green, justice, with colourful displays of flowers mingling with prize vegetables and intricate handicrafts.

The judges were particularly taken with the asters and dahlias.

Local bobby, PC Phil Wynes, presented the prize winners with their trophies.

One of them was long time Sarratt resident, Mrs Emma Photiades, who won her first-ever prize for painting at the show on the same day that she won £100 in premium bonds.

"It must have been my lucky day," she smiled.

Chairman of the society, Mr John Lyons, said this year's show had been a good one.

"We have had slightly less entries than normal, but a few people who normally participate did not this year for one reason or another, so, taking that into account, it has been very good," he said.

"We have had a lot of visitors pop in to look around, which is good because it is always nice to see people.

"One of the things I have noticed is that everybody is smiling. Where else do you see that?

"This show is a focus for the village and many of the villagers come to see the entries.

"But I was disappointed with the number of children's entries, which were less than normal.

"We are hoping to encourage more next year."

The society is holding its AGM on October 21 in Sarratt Village Hall, The Green.

Results

The Jenkinson trophy (for early Flowering Chrysanthemums) Specimen Bloom, incurved or intermediate: 3, Mr J. Lyons.

Vase of 3 stems/sprays, one/more varieties not disbudded: 1, Mr J. Lyons:

Vase of chrysanthemums: 2, Mr J. Lyons

The Arthur Pritchard trophy (for roses)

Vase of 4 blooms, one or more varieties, own foliage:1, Mrs C. Barber.

Vase of 3 blooms, one of variety, own foliage: 1, Mrs C. Barber.

Specimen bloom: 1, Mrs C.Barber; 2, Mrs T.Downer; 3, Mrs E. Photiades.

One stem of blooms 1, Mrs P Watson; 3, Mrs C.Barber

Bowl of roses, all round effect, own foliage: 1, Mrs C. Barber.

The Fredrick Barber trophy (for other flowers)

Vase of 5 asters: 1, Mrs T. Downer; 2, Mrs L. Fermont; 3, Mrs N. Singleton

Vase of 5 African marigolds: 1, Mrs T. Downer; 2, Mrs L.Fermont.

A speciman of 3 cactus dahlia, any size: 2, Sir C. Straughton; 2, Mrs B. Tierman.

Vase of 3 cactus dahlias, one/more varieties - any size: 1, Mrs T.Downer; 2, Mrs V. Cumming ; 3, Mrs P. Watson.

A speciman decorative dahlia, any size: 1, Mrs T. Downer; 2, Mrs V. Cumming; 3, Mrs P. Watson.

Vase of decorative dahlias-one/more var-any size: Mrs T.Downer; 2, Mrs V.Cumming; 3, Mrs C.Barber.

Vase of dahlias, any foliage: 1, Mrs C.Barber.

Vase of annuals-any foliage: 1, Mrs L. Fermont; 2, Mrs P.Watson.

Vase of herbaceous flowers, 4 stems, distinct varieties: 1, Mr M. Morton; 2, Mr R. Dudley; Mr N. Smith.

Vase of mixed flowers, all round effect: 1, Mrs C. Barber; 2, Mrs A. Griffith-Jones; 3, Mrs P. Watson.

Pot plant, foliage: 1, Mr N.Smith; 2, Mrs P. Watson.

Specimen bloom of any flower not in schedule: 1, Mrs L. Fermont; 2, Mrs A Bantock.

A speciman of gladiolus: 1, Mr J. Lyons; 2, Mrs T.Downer; 3, Mrs L. Fermont.

Vase of 3 gladioli: 2, Sir C. Straughton; 3, Mrs T. Downer.

Vase of shrub or shrubs, 3 stems: 1, Mrs A.Griffith-Jones; 2, Mrs A. Bantock;3, Mrs P.Watson.

Bowl of hydrangeas: 1, Mr N. Morton; 2, Mrs A. Griffith-Jones; 3, Mrs L.Fermot.

The David Osbourne trophy (for vegetables and fruit)

Collection of 4 kinds of vegetables, space 24": 1, Mr N.Smith; 2, Mr N. Morton; 3, Mrs L. Fermont.

5 onions from seed, over 3" diameter: 1, Mr N. Smith.

5 onions from sets: 1, Mr M. Neal; 2, Mrs L. Fermont.

9 shallots - culinary: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mr N. Smith; 3, Mrs T. Downer.

9 shallots - picking up to 1"diameter: 1, Mr M. Neal; 2, Mrs T. Downer; 3, Mrs L.Fermont.

3 potatoes - any type: 1, Mr J. Lyons; 2, Mr N.Smith; 3, Mr M.Neal.

6 leaves of spinach or chard: 1, Mr J.Lyons; 2, Mr S. Hough; 3, Mr M.Neal.

7 pods of runner beans:1, Mr J. Lyons; 2, Mrs T.Downer; 3, Mr N. Smith.

7 pods of french beans: 1, Mr J.Lyons; 2, Mr N.Smith; 3, Mr M.Neal.

4 carrots: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mr J. Lyons; 3, Mrs L. Fermont.

3 beetroot: 1, Mr J.Lyons; 2, Mr M. Neal; 3, Mr N. Smith.

1 cabbage: 2, Mr M. Neal.

1 cucumber; 1, Mrs T. Downer; 2, Mrs L. Fermont; 3, Mr J. Lyons.

1 vegetable marrow fit for table: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mr N. Smith; 3, Mr J. Lyons.

3 courgettes -4"to 6"long: 1, Mr J. Lyons; 2, Mr M.Neal.

1 lettuce: 1, Mr M.Neal.

5 cherry tomatoes (other): 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mrs T. Downer; 3, Mrs C.Barber.

1 pumpkin: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mrs L.Fermont; 3, Mr J.Lyons.

1 gourd: 1, Mr M.Neal.

2 peppers: 1, Mrs C.Barber; 2, Mr I. McClellan.

2 cobs of corn: 1, Mr S. Hough; 2, Mr M.Neal; 3, Mr N.Smith.

A basket of fresh herbs: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mrs E. Photiades; 3, Mrs C. Barber.

Any other vegetables (min 2) not classified in schedule: 1, Mr S.Hough; 2, Mr N. Smith; 3, Mr M.Neal.

4 apples - dessert, unpolished: 1, Mr R. Dudley; 2, Mr J. Lyons; 3, Mrs P.Watson.

4 apples - cooking, unpolished: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Sir C.Straughton; Mr N.Smith.

A dish of any soft fruit, 9 fruits: 1, Mr M.Neal; 2, Mr J.Lyons; 3, Mr N.Smith.

A dish of any stoned fruit, 5 fruits: 1, Mrs T.Downer; 2, Mrs P.Watson; 3, Mrs L. Fermont.

The loader trophy (for floral art)

A harvest arrangement - space 24": 1, Mrs T.Downer.

An arrangement in a candlestick: 1, Mrs N.Singleton; 2, Mrs T. Downer.

An arrangement in a melon - space 24": Mrs N.Singleton.

An orange drizzle cake: 1, Miss M. Liddy; 2, Mrs A. Dudley; 3, Mrs SA. Downer.

Two stuffed tomatoes: 1, Mrs SA. Downer; 2, Mrs A. Dudley; 3, Miss M.Liddy.

A waldorf salad: 1, Mrs SA. Downer; 2, Mrs A.Dudey; 3, Miss M. Liddy.

A summer pudding: 1, Mrs SA.Downer; 2, Miss M. Liddy.

A jar of jelly: 1, Mrs SA. Downer; 2, Mrs E. Photiades; 3, Mrs V.Cumming; 3, Sir C. Straughton.

A jar of jam: 1, Mrs SA Downer; 1, Mrs E. Photiades; 3,Mrs A. Dudley.

A jar of chutney: 1, Miss M. Liddy; 2, Mrs A.Dudley.

An item of calligraphy: 1, Mrs E. Photiades.

A knitted bobble hat: 1, Mrs J. Owen; Miss M. Liddy.

A painting: 1, Mrs E. Photiades; 2, Mrs A.Bantock.

A draught excluder: 1, Miss M. Liddy.

A photograph of a canal scene: 1, Miss M. Liddy; 2, Mr R. Dudley; 3, Mrs L. Fermont.

Children's exhibits

Five grass seed heads: 1,D. Charlton; 2, O.Lyons; 3, J. McClelland.

Nasturtiums grown in a pot: 1, D. Charlton.

Paper collage of a watering can: 1, D. Charlton; 2, O.Lyons.

Four biscuit men: 1, D. Charlton; 3, O.Lyons.

The AE Cox trophy for children's exhibits: 12pts, D. Charlton; 5pts, O.Lyons; 1pts, J.McCLelland.

The Flight Cracknell trophy - Handicrafts: 8pts, Miss M. Liddy; 6pts, Mrs E. Photiades; 3pts, Mrs J. Owen; 2pts, Mr R.Dudley; 2pts, Mrs A. Bantock.

The Elsie Collins trophy - cookery: 16pts, Mrs SA. Downer; 10pts, Miss M.Liddy; 8pts, Mrs A.Dudley; 5pts, Mrs E.Photiades.

The Loader trophy - floral art: 6pts, Mrs N.Singleton; 5pts, Mrs T.Downer.

The David Osborne trophy - vegetables and fruit: 52pts, Mr M.Neal; 29pts, Mr J. Lyons; 27pts, Mr N.Smith; 13pts, Mrs T. Downer.

The Fredrick Barber trophy - other flowers: 15pts, Mrs T. Downer; 14pts, Mrs L.Fermont; 10pts, Mrs P.Watson; 8pts, Mrs A.Griffith - Jones.

The Arthur Pritchard trophy - roses: 13pts, Mrs C. Barber; 3pts, Mrs P.Watson; 2pts, Mrs T.Downer; Mrs E. Photiades.

The Jenkinson trophy - early flowering chrysanthemums: 6pts , Mr J.Lyons.



Exhibitor Noreen Singleton shows off a floral arrangement *Picture N375610: SIMON JACOBS*

Postman Pat honoured after loyal service

POSTMAN Pat waved goodbye to the villagers of Sarratt on Monday after 19 years service.

More than 100 residents attended a farewell tea-party at the Village Hall, in honour of the popular postie.

Cards and a cake were presented to Mr Pat O'Shaughnessy, 65, of Queens Drive, Mill End, to mark his long-standing career.

Villager Mr John Marsh said: "He's one of the best and will be sorely missed.

"Whenever you see him he is always smiling and has a friendly word for everyone. He is a real part of the community."

Mr O'Shaughnessy started his career 28 years ago in Rickmansworth but moved to his job in Sarratt in 1977.

He said: "It has been a job I have always enjoyed doing and am sad to leave.

"One of the best things about being a postman is getting out and about and mixing with people. I have been honoured to work in a lovely community where everyone is so friendly."

1996

Sarratt Horticultural Society Spring Show results

The Pinnaroo Trophy

Trumpet: One specimen bloom – 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mr John Lyons; 3, Mr Roger Dudley.

Trumpet: Three yellow blooms – 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Emma Photiades.

Trumpet: Vase of three bicolour blooms – 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mr Roger Dudley.

Large cupped: one bloom – 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Patricia Watson.

Large cupped: Three blooms yellow perianth – 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Patricia Watson; 3, Mr Dennis Goldthorpe.

Large cupped: Vase of three blooms white perianth – 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mrs Downer; 3, Mr Roger Dudley.

Small cupped: one bloom – 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mrs Agnes Bantock.

Small cupped: Vase of three blooms – 1, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Double: one bloom – 1, Mrs Joan Dredge; 2, Mr Roger Dudley.

Double: Vase of three blooms – 1, Mrs Joan Dredge.

Others: One specimen bloom – 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Agnes Bantock; 3, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones.

Others: Three blooms – 1, Mrs Joan Dredge; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones.

Others: Miniature specimen bloom – 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mr G. Bridgewater; 3, Mrs Joan Dredge.

Others: Miniature vase of three blooms – 1, Mrs Linda Fermont; 2, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mrs Connie Barber.

The Dickens Trophy

Tulip, one specimen bloom – 1, Mr John Rickard.

Tulips, vase of three blooms, one variety – 1, Mr John Rickard.

Hyacinth, one specimen bloom – 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mr Dennis Goldthorpe; 3, Mrs Agnes Bantock.

Muscari – 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 3, Mrs Agnes Bantock.

Primulas – 1, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 2, Mrs Emma Photiades; 3, Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Polyanthus, three stems – 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mr G Rogers; 3, Mr Graham Peiser.

Wallflowers – 1, Mrs Downer.

Spring flowers – 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mrs Patricia Watson.

Forsythia – 1, Mrs Emma Photiades; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Heathers – 1, Mrs Patricia Watson, 2, Mrs Agnes Bantock; 3, Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Other shrubs – 1, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 2, Mrs Agnes Bantock; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Orchid – 1, Mr Cyril Petts; 2, Miss Merle Liddy; 3, Mr John Rickard.

Cacti or succulent – 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mr Graham Peiser; 3, Mrs Emma Photiades.

Collection of cacti or succulents – 1, Mr Neil Shave.

Flowering houseplant, small – 1, Mr John Rickard.

Flowering houseplant, large – 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mr G Rogers; 3, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones.

Foliage houseplant – 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Other pot plant – 1, Mr John Rickard.

The Roy Ward Trophy

Two leeks, pot – 1, Mr John Rickard.

Two leeks, standard – 1, Mrs Margaret Goldthorpe.

Sprouting broccoli – 1, Mr John Lyons.

Lettuce – 1, Mr John Rickard.

Rhubarb – 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mr John Rickard.

Other vegetable – 1, Mr John Lyons.

Three eggs, bantam – 1, Mr Graham Peiser; 3, Mrs Margaret Goldthorpe.

Three eggs, chicken – 1, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Three eggs, duck – 1, Mr Graham Peiser.

Three eggs, other – 1, Mr Graham Peiser.

Floral Art

Five daffodils – 1, Mrs Joan Dredge; 2, Rev David Dredge; 3, Mrs Noreen Singleton.

Stemmed goblet – 1, Mrs Joan Dredge; 2, Mrs Emma Photiades; 3, Mrs Noreen Singleton.

Two tier – 1, Mrs Joan Dredge; 2, Mrs Downer; 3, Rev David Dredge.

Handicrafts

Needlepoint – 1, Mrs Margaret Wright; 2, Mrs Linda Nott.

Knitted – 1, Mrs Connie Barber; 2, Miss Merle Liddy; 3, Mrs Linda Nott.

Painting – 1, Mrs Connie Barber; 2, Mrs Emma Photiades; 3, Mr G. Bridgewater.

Photograph of a Sarratt landmark – 1, Mrs Margaret Goldthorpe; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Downer.

Handmade wooden article – 1, Rev David Dredge; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Cookery

Jar of marmalade – 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mrs Susan Lyons; 3, Miss Merle Liddy.

Danish open sandwich – 1, Miss Merle Liddy; 2, Mrs Noreen Singleton; 3, Mrs Agnes Bonwick.

Five savoury scones – 1, Mrs Agnes Bonwick; 2, Mrs Noreen Singleton; 3, Miss Merle Liddy.

Sponge cake – 1, Mrs Agnes Bonwick; 2, Mrs Noreen Singleton; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Five filled meringues – 1, Mrs Noreen Singleton; 2, Miss Merle Liddy; 3, Mrs Susan Lyons.

Children's exhibits

Hedgehog picture – 1, Sam Cheetham ; 2, James Fermont ; 3, Sara Fermont .

Broad bean grown between blotting paper and jar – 1, Sara Fermont ; 2, Oswin Lyons; 3, James Fermont.

Drawing of the inside of vegetable or fruit – 1, Freja Saddler ; 2, Charlie Bond ; 3, James McClelland .

Dish of homemade sweets – 1, Sara Fermont ; 2, Sam Cheetham ; 3, Katie Goldthorpe .

Mrs Mollie Biggerstaff

LIFE-LONG resident of Sarratt, Mollie Biggerstaff, of Dimmocks Lane, has died aged 69.

The wife of Doug, owner of Biggerstaff's garage, she was a well-respected member of the community in which she lived and worked.

Mrs Biggerstaff lived with her family on The Green before moving to Church Lane, and worked in the bakers and butchers shop. Later, she left to work in Henry Kinghams Grocer's in Watford and Eastern Gas in Clarendon Road, Watford.

She met her husband in the village where they married had two children, Andrew, 41, and Amanda, 28.

After her retirement Mrs Biggerstaff became an active member of the women's institute and the church. She also enjoyed helping out with the local scout group.

Her husband Doug, 74, said: "She was a lovely lady who will be missed by many people."

Mrs Biggerstaff died at Watford General after a long battle against cancer. The funeral was held at Chiltern Crematorium.

12-7-96

Mrs Elizbeth Absalom

FORMER Watford General Hospital chairman and tireless charity worker Elizbeth Absalom has died. She was 75.

Mrs Absalom lived for many years with her husband Rowland at Micklefield Green House near Sarratt before moving to a cottage on the village green.

She spent the latter years of her life in Brechfa, Wales, but still managed to keep in close contact with friends in Watford and Sarratt.

A funeral was held at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt on Thursday (July 11).

From the mid 1950's until the 1980's Mrs Absalom was a determined voluntary worker. She was divisional director of the south west Hertfordshire branch of the Red Cross for more than ten years.

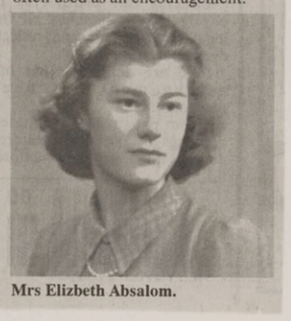
She founded Watford and south west Hertfordshire's branch of Cancer Relief. During her time as chairman the branch raised many thousands of pounds.

She was an active member of the South West Herts Conservative Women's Advisory Committee and allowed the grounds at Micklefield Green House to be used for many charity fundraising functions.

Mrs Absalom leaves her husband Rowland and her daughter Gay Barrett.

Her husband said: "She was a wonderful lady and the driving force behind me.

"I have had many letters of condolence and many of them mentioned the words 'sparkle up', which she often used as an encouragement."



Mrs Elizbeth Absalom.

HERTFORDSHIRE'S FINEST

Once again, Belsize has been awarded the title of Best Kept Hamlet in Hertfordshire.

Hours of dedication and hard work resulted in the unveiling of the prestigious totem pole by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Mr Simon Bowes-Lyon, with the chairman of Three Rivers District Council, Nena Spellen, also in attendance.

The first time that Belsize was awarded the title was in 1989, just a year after the residents' association who made the decision to enter the competition, was formed.

Mr Laurie Young, who organised the entry, said his villagers did not need an organiser. "People just know what they have to do and I would like to thank them all."



Mr Simon Bowes-Lyon unveils the plaque as proud residents look on

Photograph courtesy of the Watford Observer

Return trip from the Seychelles brought a wide-eyed visitor back

28

IF ever you are in England, look us up. Have you said such things in a moment of extreme gratitude or bonhomie, but seldom expect them to be taken that seriously?

When Sarratt taxi-driver Stan Foster said it, he found himself involved in a bizarre saga. It all started when he broke a toe on the poolside deckchair, while on holiday in the Seychelles, and was in some discomfort.

The hotel's swimming-pool attendant, Harold Lawrence, "who looked a ringer for a young Sammy Davis Junior" promptly came to Stan's rescue.

Harold took Stan to the local hospital were he was treated immediately on the Seychelles national health system.

"I had an injection and treatment and, thanks to Harold, did not have to pay, so I did not have the problem of paying out and then trying to claim back on insurance," said Stan.

"When we prepared to leave the Seychelles, I thanked Harold, gave him our address and told him to look us up, if he ever came to England. I never thought he would take us up on it because I did not think he would ever afford it."

But then came a letter from Harold: he was flying to England.

"He is only a lad and he earns about £300 a month out there. He paid around £600 for his flight and because the travel agent did not have the full amount in pounds sterling, for his spending money, he gave Harold some French francs, German marks and American dollars to make up the balance."

Harold gave Stan a flight number but the wrong date. "He said he was arriving on the Saturday but the flight number was for a plane that arrived on the Sunday. I went up on the Saturday just to make sure and then returned to Heathrow in time for the Air France flight on the Sunday," says Stan, who then found himself waiting and waiting.

After a near two-hour wait, he was paged over the loudspeaker and asked to report to immigration.

"They were not going to let him in the country. He was a young lad on his own and they were not satisfied that he was just paying a visit. He had all these different currencies on him and they thought he was trying to illegally enter and stay in a European country or perhaps even the States," Stan recounts.

"We were there for some time and they certainly were not going to let him in."

Harold Lawrence was planning a three-week trip but, after much discussion, immigration at Heathrow would only grant him a stay of three days in the country, in Stan's care.

"They took his passport off him and they told me that if I lost him, I was to phone them immediately," says Stan. "He had a deporation order for the Wednesday night."

Somewhat chastened by the experience, Harold was taken back to Alexandra Road, Sarratt and went to bed.

"My wife June went up to check that he was OK and he was shivering on top of the duvet. He didn't realise that you got under the duvet. They lie on top of the bed in the Seychelles.

"He hadn't seen a motorway before or sky-scrapers. The whole experience was new to him. The concept of carpets or wallpaper was quite strange to him, as was a train and a supermarket. He was amazed by it all.

THEY TELL ME THAT...

"Fortunately I had a few jobs in town and he was able to see some of the sights of London."

While the story is somewhat bizarre, it is also sad, for the youngster from the Seychelles had planned his visit with precision. He had taken out an export license to bring a rare coco der palm nut, the largest seed in the plant kingdom, as a present for Stan and June.

"It looks like a double coconut and is something of a speciality," says Stan, who also had another surprise in store.

Air France telephoned him to say that Harold's import license had been processed and that they had half a hundredweight of frozen fish, which they were about to deliver to their house in Sarratt.

"These fish were huge and despite all the delay, they were still frozen."

Visitor Harold was taken round London, seeing all the main tourist attractions. "He was amazed by it all. He was taking pictures of everything but I doubt if any of them came out because his camera was not working properly.

He had never had a camera before and when he finished the film, instead of rewinding it, he opened the camera to take out the film, so I suppose most of it was exposed. I bought him some postcards of Sarratt and London and so he had some pictures to take home.

"He was very sad and he was a bit frightened when we returned to Heathrow. Immigration sent out a six-foot policeman to get him when we arrived back at the airport. He grabbed hold of Harold when we reported in.

"Harold had bought a teapot and a a couple of cups and saucers to take back for his mother and he had other presents for his family. But the tea-pot was obviously very special in his view."

Stan, who used to work for British Airways and is entitled to flight concessions, will be flying off again to another exotic location.

"But this experience makes you think. This lad was so good to us in the Seychelles and I made the offer sincerely but I never expected him to take us up on it. I never expected him to be able to afford such a trip."

Stan and June will be toasting Harold from afar on Sunday. Along with friends, they will be barbecuing the remainder of those giant fish from the Seychelles.



Stan Foster with presents from his visitor.

25-1-96

Residents' group says: 'fill the quarry but leave our lane alone'

by Ian Wilkerson

PLANS to widen and straighten Langleybury Lane near quarry works have met with opposition from Chandlers Cross Residents Association.

The association argues the proposals would not act as a traffic-calming measure for a road that already has two large bends.

St Albans Sand and Gravel runs the nearby quarry and has planned to fill the site in since 1990.

However, no such improvements have taken and the company has been told by Hertfordshire County Council the road must be widened and straightened before the area is restored.

Mrs Jean Newell, of Chandlers Cross, said: "We oppose the changes to Langleybury Lane and we want the quarry filled in as they promised in 1990 and restored to farmland or forestry.

"We do not want the road widened as we have managed for 26 years without any accidents. Traffic calming measures are not needed because the road has two bends which slow traffic down already. They are wasting their money."

Chandlers Cross has only just recovered from the fight against a gipsy site on neighbouring Home Farm and it looks as though the residents association, which was resurrected to fight the gipsy site plans, has another tough battle on its hands.

However, there is a difference of opinion with other groups living close to the road, particularly Langleybury Junior School.

District Councillor Peter Cumming said: "I have been told the school thinks straightening the road would be a good idea as it would act as a bypass to the school.

"However, I do not believe it will make the road safer for the pupils at the school and alternatives should be sought. This is a by-product of the proposals rather than a proper solution.

Councillor Cumming said : "The original plan was for the area to be restored as the site was used, but all the company has done is create a moonscape.

"Residents do not want the road to be straightened or widened because they feel it will encourage heavier and faster lorries to use the road.

"My point of view is all those concerned, including local authorities and local residents, should be involved in any major development.

The planning requirement for the changes could put Three Rivers District Council in rather an awkward position as Councillor Cumming explained.

He said: "Planning for the road will have to go to Three Rivers for approval, but if it does not support the proposals, Hertfordshire County Council, as the highways and mineral extraction authority, can overrule Three Rivers, as it has done in the past.

"All the evidence in the past shows the county council shows scant regard to the views of Three Rivers.

Councillor Cumming feels environmental improvement is an absolute necessity and has some ideas on what can be done to the land.

"Something has to be done, but the priority has to be filling in the site.

"Any use would be preferable to its current one. Some sort of leisure facility, such as a pleasant area in which to go walking, would be ideal. There is so much attractive countryside in this area, it should not be spoiled."

Electricity

I'd stock up on candles

W.O. 15-11-96

ON Wednesday, November 6, 1996, I began this letter by candlelight during yet another prolonged electricity supply failure in Sarratt.

This some 30 years after man first walked on the moon and in a village that is a 45-minute journey from the Houses of Parliament, not on a Scottish island or half way up a mountain in Wales.

Quite clearly the underlying problem is a lack of investment. The fact is that under the present methods of regulation there is really no incentive for any of the privatised electricity or water companies to invest their profits in reliability improvements.

The companies' revenue is assured and their institutional shareholders are far happier to see profits being used to fund takeovers or buy back shares.

For their part the companies' executives like to see profits going into diversification outside the utilities sector, preferably overseas, firstly because this tends to confuse the industry regulators and secondly because they want to try to justify salaries, bonuses and pensions, which are running at levels more appropriate to multi-national conglomerates.

Apparently a regulator does have an ultimate sanction if a company flatly refuses to invest in improvements; unfortunately it transpires that this sanction is in fact the cancellation of the company's licence.

Unless I am missing something, this would take us, in the case of an electricity company, from a situation in which there are occasional outbreaks of darkness to one in which the darkness is permanent!

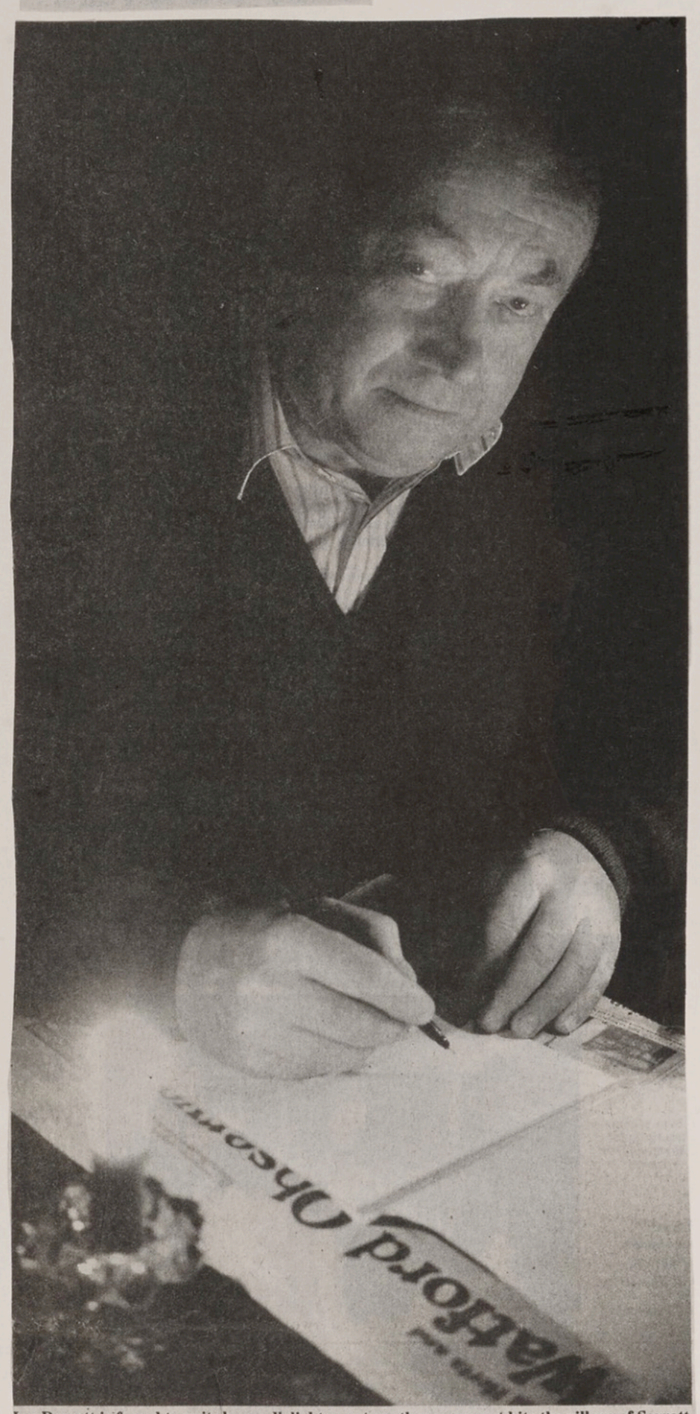
Somehow I doubt whether our legislators have quite got the hang of this sanctions business!

The Americans who are buying our privatised electricity companies know they are onto a good thing. British consumers will continue to be onto a very bad thing until a regulatory system is introduced which:

1) Ensures there is a direct relationship between the flow of electricity or water to consumers and the flow of dividends to shareholders;

2) Focuses on companies' profit levels from their UK utilities' activities, as well as on their prices.

It is just possible that the Chancellor might surprise us with a small move in this direction in the budget. However, on the basis of his past performance, my advice would be to put all computers on automatic back up, stock up on candles and then consider voting Labour in the general election. — **Ian Dorrett, Deadmans Ash Lane, Sarratt.**



Ian Dorrett is forced to write by candlelight as yet another power cut hits the village of Sarratt. See "Electricity". *Picture N461509: PETER STEVENS*

1996

Herts. Countryside 1996

SARRATT

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Sarratt, situated close to the Buckinghamshire border, is a well-documented village, and two local ladies are currently researching for their own book on Old Sarratt.

Last month saw the retirement of Pat O'Shaughnessy who delivered the mail to a large part of the village for many years.

His last day at work was September 23rd. Known affectionately as 'Postman Pat', he was a helpful and obliging man and a large number of people attended a special retirement party in the village hall.

Dawn Pitts and Pam White remind us in their historical notes that other local people with mail connections are still thought of in Sarratt.

The house opposite the Lime Trees was once Miss Friends' Shop, the Post Office and General Store. John Friend came from Northchurch to Sarratt to open this shop. It was then run for many years by his two spinster daughters, Ethel and Emmie. In the Thirties the post was collected by Ted Waller, known by his nickname 'Teapot'. Showing his fondness for the brew, he stopped for a cup and a chat whenever he could whilst delivering the post. He had to cycle backwards and forwards to Chorleywood to collect and transfer the mail. One day, in the early 1960s just after Christmas, the shop failed to open. The two sisters were found in their kitchen, both dead, not foul play, but it was supposed that one found the other dead and died of a heart attack herself. A blessing, as there was only a year between the two, and both were into their eighties, Emmeline being born in 1876 and Ethel in 1877. They had been together in the shop all their lives. The Post Office business was transferred to the Co-op stores, and when that closed in the early 1970s the Post Office was run from a cottage in Dawes Lane, before transferring to its present home.

There was also 'Mac' after Ted Waller, the Sarratt post lady during the War and after. She always dressed as a man, with a short haircut and men's clothes - what her real name was is a mystery. She was known to everyone simply as 'Mac' and the post got through come what may, war time bombs and snow drifts notwithstanding.

The origin of the name 'Sarratt' has been the subject of conjecture by many scholars. It could have been named after a Saxon farmer, or a Danish war lord, or perhaps as a corruption of 'Shiregate' as it is so near to the county of Buckinghamshire, or perhaps it means 'a dry place' - take your pick.

It may have been on a drovers' route, for cattle and sheep being brought up to London for sale, hence the large Green and Penman's Green, with the many pubs which once were around the Green for the drover's refreshment.

Why the present village is about a mile from Holy Cross Church is another mystery. Stories of the plague being brought in rags to the

Continued on page 50



The Green, Sarratt, c1910, showing the house which was once occupied by Miss Friend



Patrick O'Shaughnessy was the Sarratt postman for 19 years. At his retirement party, he was presented with a cake and a cheque.

Pat has two daughters and a son and three grandchildren. He was in the Royal Enniskillen Fusiliers and eight years with London Irish Rifles, where he was promoted to sergeant.

He said that over the years he was bitten about four times by dogs on his rounds. However, he reflects with caring memories of the many Sarratt hounds who have become his friends. He always bribed or rewarded these four legged conquests with a dog biscuit from his pocket.

POST OFFICE STORES



Everything you would expect from your local Post Office and General Store.
Warm friendly service
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THE BOOT



Chris Rudge and his wife, ex licencees of the Stag, Chorleywood and Rose & Crown, Rickmansworth, have recently taken over The Boot, bringing this delightful village pub back to life after some years of brewery neglect. A traditional freehouse with CAMRA Real ales and children's play area in the garden.
THE GREEN, SARRATT
Tel: 01923 262247

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Ideal venue for your wedding or private function
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Herts Countryside Oct. 1996

Headless in Herts

The Heritage of Hertfordshire by Win Bennett

Hallowe'en falls at the end of this month and heralds the seasonal crop of ghost stories. Tales are told of armless ghosts and legless ghosts - usually with accompanying ribaldry - eyeless ghosts and even tongueless ghosts but the stories of headless ghosts seem to be the most prolific. Perhaps this is became most ghost stories come from the folk-memory which harks back to the many saints and public figures who were killed by a severance of the head.

Certain wives of King Henry the Eighth were known to lose their heads, Anne Boleyn perhaps the most well-known. The early years of this mother of our first Queen Elizabeth were spent in Hertfordshire - with later years after her execution in 1536 for treasonable adultery seeing her appearance in at least five country houses. The most-told story has her ghost, with severed head in lap, driving up to the great house doors in a coach drawn by four headless horses. A haunting sight indeed!

Nell Gwynne was another famous lover of an English monarch who lived in Hertfordshire at one period. This former occupant of Salisbury Hall at London Colney did not share Anne Boleyn's fate of execution but some say her ghost still walks up the stairs of the Hall carrying her head. Salisbury Hall was built on the site of a much older building which was believed to have been a battlefield from the spurs and human bones found here.

Not only headless men but also headless horses are said to haunt other former battlefields scattered throughout the county. A number of wild headless figures have been reported in the neighbourhood of Burnham Green near Welwyn which was the scene of a bloody battle fought with the Danes about one thousand years ago; and it was only to be expected that a number of headless phantom warriors would return to the sites of famous battles of 1455 and 1461 (the War of the Roses) to shatter the silence of St. Alban nights with clash of steel and hideous shrieking: The tale of one headless horse at Datchworth seems almost dull by comparison! This apparition is supposed to be a charger which was decapitated by a group of ignorant Roundheads.

The other side of the coin always depicted the quick-witted Royalist, one of these surely being Arthur, Lord Capel, who was once described as the most zealous and highly esteemed of the Royalist nobility. Along with Sir Charles Lucas and the Earl of Norwich, Lord Capel fortified Colchester during the time of the Civil Wars, finally having to surrender to the Parliamentary General Fairfax. Beheaded in 1649, the same year as his monarch, Lord Capel's ghost still carries its severed head around Cassiobury Park near Watford.

Also near Watford is Sarratt which is renowned for an incident reported from Rose Hall that was acknowledged by Peter Underwood, a president of the Ghost Club. A house guest said that he saw the figure of a well-dressed man in his bedroom who supported himself by the bedclothes as he bent down. After the guest described a headless man dressed in a blue coat with bright gilt buttons he was told about a man, in similar costume, who had been found in that very room many years before with his head cut clean off. This ghost story seems to be one of the very few in Hertfordshire which has had some form of psychic research and documentation attached to its telling. Many others seem to be like the FOAF form of folklore's urban legend which have been told by a "friend of a friend".

Such examples of oral tradition could be at the root of church hauntings like the headless apparition in black which is said to float round Ashwell churchyard. The elders of the church may frown on supernatural phenomena but the simple village folk would have enjoyed a tale such as the one about a Cavalier called Goring. They told of his slaying in front of his fiancée by a group of Roundheads who found him hiding at nearby High Down House. Then those Hitchin folk would tell how the Cavalier's headless ghost rode back to his hiding place in the grounds of Hitchin Priory which was built in 1770-71 over the site of a fourteenth century Carmelite house.

We stay in Hitchin at the ancient ruin of Minsden Chapel which is said to have seen for many centuries now the return of a white-robed headless monk whenever Hallowe'en comes round. The serious ghost-hunter who would dismiss my tongue-in-cheek approach as more 'Sleepless in Seattle' than 'Headless in Herts' - although I would query a ghost who could interpret our calendar change of 1752 by appearing eleven days earlier after it - could ponder on the information found on an old manuscript at Ashridge. When this building was a monastery it was said to contain some strange recipes, including one that could be used to clear a house of evil spirits by means of fumes. One Mr. Marsh, an astrologer of Dunstable, claimed to have used this method to free several badly haunted houses. Whether taken seriously or not, however, stories of headless ghosts should make us heedful of our heritage of historical tradition.

WD. 29-11-96

Village school chalks up mixed marks

PUPILS are achieving good results at Sarratt JMI School despite a lack of leadership, says a recent Ofsted report.

Education watchdogs inspected the school in The Green, in September, and praised the good behaviour and positive attitude of students.

But they criticised the lack of guidance shown by the headteacher and governors.

The inspectors' report stated: "Staff work hard for the school and have good relationships with the pupils.

"The school lacks articulate and decisive leadership and governance. There are no clear lines of responsibility to support the headteacher and staff.

"There have recently been a large number of changes on the governing body and teachers have taken on responsibility for subject co-ordination within the last year, but the work is not yet effective throughout the school."

Teaching scored highly with inspectors finding 80 per cent of lessons sound and 50 per cent good or exceptional.

Achievement in English, mathematics and science was found to be satisfactory but inspectors found pupils did not fare so well in history and geography.

The report said: "The curriculum is appropriately broad but insufficiently balanced, especially in information technology and religious education.

"There is no formal whole school procedure for the assessment of pupils' attainment and progress."

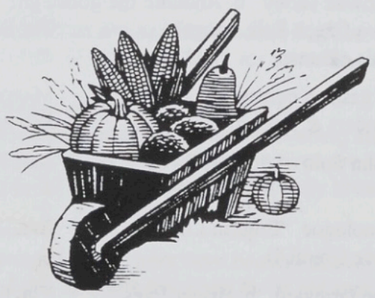
However, the report applauded the moral and social development of pupils who were taught high standards and positive values.

It stated: "The behaviour of the pupils and their attitude to learning are a strength of the school. The school promotes clear moral values and pupils understand right from wrong."

Governor of the school Mr Michael Lench said: "On behalf of the board of governors and the headteacher, Mr Gary Eccles, we recognise the areas where progress is required and welcome the positive appraisal of teaching standards, pupils' attitudes and behaviour and the high moral standards developing with the school.

"With a broader national debate addressing these very issues we hope that the school may develop these strengths and in so doing grow in both pupil numbers and resources."

Holy Cross
Harvest Supper



Friday October 4th
at
7.00 for 7.30
in the
Village Hall

VILLAGE HARVEST EVENING

With Supper and Entertainment
Friday 4th October 1996
At the Village Hall, Sarratt.
7 for 7.30pm start

Tickets: £5.00
£2.50 (for Senior Citizens and Children)

1996

Sarratt

Local History

Society

History society's fine start

NOV. '96

THE new Sarratt Local History Society got off an an enthusiastic start to its autumn programme with a stimulating talk by Miss Ann Trotman, formerly of the Chorleywood Field Study Centre, on Tracing the Past in the Chess Valley.

Even today, the valley remains largely unspoiled due to the absence of a major through route along its rolling slopes and the consequent disincentive for man to impose his imprint on the landscape. The casual observer can interpret the landscape and detect the effects of different geological substrata to be found on the Herts and Bucks sides of the river.

For example, birch, oak and bracken flourish on the Reading beds below Sarratt while beech and dog's mercury thrive on the chalk slopes of Mount Wood.

Starting at the head of the Chess and Cholesbury fort, Miss Trotman took members on a panoramic trip down river to the Belgic farm at Latimer and its subsequent elaborate Roman villa, past the lost village of Lower Flaunden, through Chenies with its Tudor connections and working mill wheel, to the stepped fields of Goldingtons and Sarratt Mill, with its changed building structure and dried-up pond.

Miss Trotman mentioned the 1907 excavation by Peter Clutterbuck in a search for evidence of Roman presence in Church Field, from which there remains no significant record although it is said that an apse-shaped building was uncovered; and her own dig at Moor (Valley) Farm, where she unearthed the skeleton of a Roman child buried in a Roman floor.

And on she went to Chorleywood.

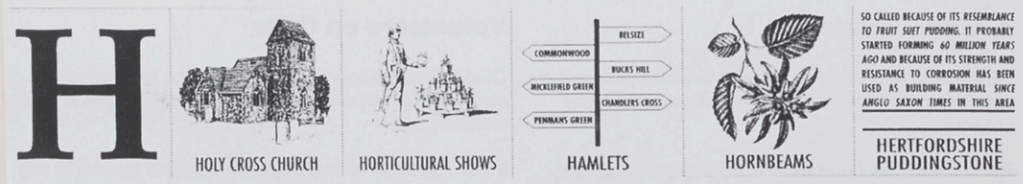
In opening the evening, the chairman, Pam Turner, expressed delight at the response to the setting up of a local history group.

They have 86 paid up members and, significantly, had a welcome response from young people.

The next meeting will be on December 2 when Grant Longman will enlighten members on Sarratt – its historical place in SW Herts.

The annual meeting is scheduled for January 2 1997 with a talk by Dr James Moir, director of the Chiltern Open Air Museum, on How Old is Your House?

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1996 taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane by Philip Buller FRMetS						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	comments
January	12th / 10.5	27th /-5.0	7,8th/-10.0	8th / 23.5	56.2	
February	16th / 12.2	7th /-8.4	22nd /-12.0	11th / 16.2	76.1	
March	23rd / 13.4	11th /-5.1	29th /-11.7	8th / 9.1	27.5	
April	20th / 21.6	4th /-5.0	4th /-10.9	12,22/13.0	36.1	last snow, 12th. 1st cuckoo, 19th.
May	30th / 24.0	5th /-1.9	4th /-5.8	24th / 7.3	35.8	last air frost, 6th.
June	6th / 28.6	16th / 3.1	23rd /-1.5	7th / 7.8	10.7	last ground frost, 23rd.
July	22nd / 30.3	18th / 4.9	18th / 0.0	5th / 10.5	31.9	
August	19th / 29.4	4th / 5.9	2nd / 1.3	11th / 22.9	86.7	
September	15th / 21.5	25th / 2.7	24th /-1.5	30th / 4.1	12.0	1st ground frost, 15th.
October	14th / 19.1	17th / 0.9	18th /-4.1	26th / 9.2	56.7	
November	3rd / 17.2	19th /-4.6	22nd /-12.8	3rd / 25.6	118.1	1st air frost, 8th. 1st snowfall, 19th.
December	3rd / 10.7	27th /-3.8	26th /-13.0	2nd / 9.3	26.8	



The Sarratt Alphabet

The Friends of Holy Cross is a group dedicated to raising money for the upkeep of Sarratt's twelfth century parish church. Some of their initiatives have included the sale of a quilt made by community members and an open day of 50 local gardens. Most recently Friends of Holy Cross have produced *The Sarratt Alphabet* which is a picture lexicon of local distinctiveness in poster form showing aspects of village history, wildlife, geology, architecture and customs. The artwork comes from original material from seven local artists as well as some non-copyright books.

The poster is a delight and would improve any parish hall wall and act as an inspiration to others. Copies are available for £5.00 from Anne Dudley, Orchard House, The Green, Sarratt, Herts WD3 6BS.

Fancy doing your own A-Z? Our grants could help. Contact Dan Keech at CDA on 01727 852298.



FEB. 1996

W.e. 6-12-96

A-Z of Sarratt

Artist's poster pictures a village image for each letter



A is for Almshouses and Allotments.

B is for Beech Trees and Bluebells, Baptist Church, Badgers, Barns and Bells.

C is for the Chess, Commons, Cakebread Cottage, Clutterbuck and Caroon.

The illustrated Sarratt Alphabet is about all that is special about the Hertfordshire village – like Caroon cherries.

"Until 50 years ago there was an enormous number of orchards with the local variety of cherries. Now the name only survives as Caroon Drive and the only orchard left is one at Little Chalfont," said Anne Dudley, who devised and designed the attractive and informative Sarratt Alphabet poster.

A relative newcomer, Anne has lived in Sarratt for 11 years.

In most villages that would be too short a time to achieve a true sense of acceptance and belonging.

That is one of the reasons she wanted to create the poster.

"Sarratt is different, very outgoing. If you join in, people are very welcoming," said Anne, who particularly enjoys the prospect that even a walk to the village shop at the other end of The Green inevitably leads to meeting and chatting with someone you know.

She has become a trustee of the 12th Century Holy Cross Church and part of a team which is always on the look-out for innovative fundraising ideas to keep the fabric of the ancient building together.

It struck her that the Christmas bazaar could do with something of local significance to sell.

The Sarratt Alphabet poster also arose out of her interest in the local environment.

She said: "I wanted to make something informative and attractive about what makes Sarratt different from other places. So many places lose their distinction especially with suburbanisation just round the corner."

So she set to work on a road of discovery, which proved as fascinating as it proved hard work to know what to include and what to leave out.

With S, she was spoilt for choice well beyond Scrapbook, Splash Spotlight (church magazine), Sarratt (in all its historic forms), School and Strawplaiting. X was a struggle. In the end Anne used a little artistic licence with a sketch of (almost) X-shaped Kissing Gates.

She got more than a little carried away and carried others with her. Delightful sketches of beauty spots by well-known local artists deserve to be blown up and framed in their own right.

"I was very concerned it should not look like an amateur effort," Anne admits.

During 18 months of creation, she was also keen that the completed work should be "a snapshot of Sarratt at the end of the 20th Century, not just history, but things we associate with the past and present, a mixture of old and new," she pointed out.

The (K6) phone box and the letterbox mounted in a wall are typical of the little things Anne feels people should take note of.

Under I, she uses Iron (seats and railings) because, to her observation, Sarratt has a lot more railings than you would expect and G is for a tempting, if generalised, Ghost (with fading lettering) as well as the famous village Green.

This elongated focal point used to be a convenient stopping place for people driving their flocks of sheep to London.

It left them one day's walk and was welcoming with many inns – all listed under the letter I.

Anne admits she doesn't know where the Jolly Gardener and the Poacher's Retreat were located just as she is not sure about Marginea Wick, a small area in one of the woods on the Ordnance Survey Map.

"It was such a lovely name, it had to appear," she said, revealing her professional talent as a musician and composer.

She is also tuned in to the Sarratt enigma, the Treacle Mine, as if she were sworn to secrecy. The illustration is ambiguous and all Anne is prepared to say is that she wants the poster to be a talking point.

She has tried to tip-toe through the locality with due respect for tradition and feelings. Only one family crest is included, the one belonging to the Clutterbucks, who were well-known benefactors.

She has credited a number of local people with support in the form of advice and artwork, but realises that at the end of the day, she carries the can when it comes to what has and what has not been included in this detailed celebration of Sarratt, past and present.

She has already spotted potential controversial omissions – such as the harvest supper where everyone mixes and gets up to "do their bit".

"They will probably argue with me for years," said Anne, with more hope than regret in her voice.

Village life thrives on talking points and she hopes the poster will be an essential addition to every Sarratt kitchen wall.

● The Sarratt Alphabet poster will be launched at the Holy Cross Church Christmas bazaar at Sarratt Village Hall tomorrow, Saturday. Price £5 (laminated £7.50).



Artist Anne Dudley with her illustrated poster of Sarratt.

Picture CN484606: TREVOR ADAMS

Every village should have its own version of Anne Dudley's ingenious poster of Sarratt. **GRELLE WHITE** met the artist behind the idea

1996

A



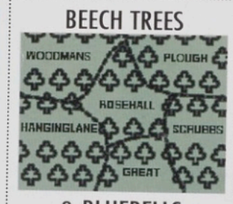
ALMSHOUSES



ALLOTMENTS

B

BEECH TREES



& BLUEBELLS



BAPTIST CHURCH



BADGERS



BARNS



BELLS

C



CHESS

COMMONS

• COMMONWOOD •
• DAWES COMMON •
• PENMANS GREEN •

"COMMON LAND" IS LAND WHERE THE *OWNER* HAS ACCEPTED AT SOME TIME THE OBLIGATION OF PROVIDING CERTAIN *RIGHTS* TO *COMMONERS*



CAROON



CAKEBREAD COTTAGE



CLUTTERBUCK

D



DRUM



DUCKS

E

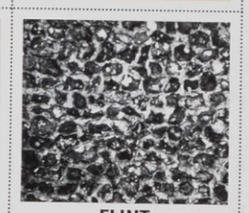


ELMS (R.I.P.)

"Backward Sarratt"
"Hertfordshire hedgehogs"
"Cherry pickers"

EXPRESSIONS

F



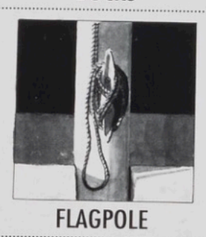
FLINT



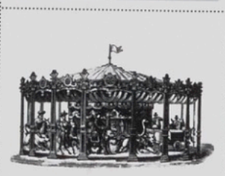
FLOWER FESTIVAL



FILMS

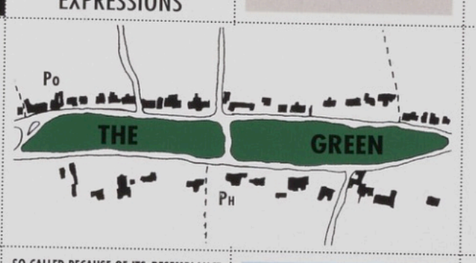


FLAGPOLE



FAIR

G





GHOSTS

H



HOLY CROSS CHURCH



HORTICULTURAL SHOWS



HAMLETS



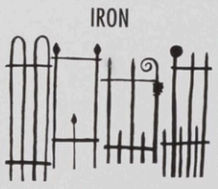
HORNBEAMS

SO CALLED BECAUSE OF ITS *RESEMBLANCE TO FRUIT SUET PUDDING*. IT PROBABLY STARTED FORMING *60 MILLION YEARS AGO* AND BECAUSE OF ITS STRENGTH AND RESISTANCE TO CORROSION HAS BEEN USED AS BUILDING MATERIAL *SINCE ANGLO SAXON TIMES* IN THIS AREA

HERTFORDSHIRE PUDDINGSTONE

I

IRON



SEATS AND RAILINGS

PAST & PRESENT

THE BOOT
THE COCK
THE CRICKETERS
THE PLOUGH
THE CART AND HORSES
THE WHEATSHEAF
THE RED LION
THE POACHERS RETREAT
THE JOLLY GARDENER

INNS

J

MORE HORSES THAN HOUSES!



JODPHURS

K



KING GEORGE V FIELD

L



LIMES



LETTERBOXES

M

ORIGINALLY A CORN MILL, LATER A THRIVING PAPER MILL. CONVERTED TO A HOUSE IN 1882, THE "FLYING DUCHESS" OF BEDFORD BEING A FREQUENT VISITOR, LANDING HER MOTH AEROPLANE IN THE GROUNDS

MILL

MARGINEA WICK



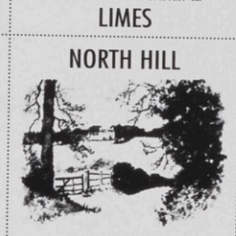
MEDIEVAL GRAFFITI

N

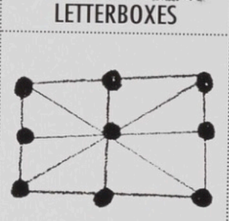


NOVEMBER 5TH

NORTH HILL



NEW ROAD



NINEMENS MORRIS

O



1935
1937
1953

OAKS ON THE GREEN



ORCHIDS

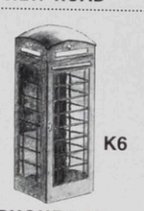
SARRATT CARE
FRIENDSHIP CLUB
SCOUTS
BRITISH LEGION
MOTHERS UNION

ORGANISATIONS

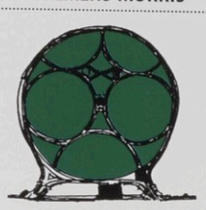
P



PROVIDENCE MISSION HALL



PHONE BOX



PUMP



PANTOMIME

PONDS

Q

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

QUILT

R

RYLEY STUD

JOHN CLERK DE LANGLEY 1349
EARLIEST RECORDED

GILBERT WILLIAMS 1724 - 1768
LONGEST SERVING

EDWARD RYLEY 1859 - 1912
RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

GILBERT NOEL RYLEY 1912 - 1950
MUCH LOVED LOCAL HISTORIAN

RECTORS

S

SCRAPBOOK

SPLASH

Spotlight

SYRET
SYRETH
SARRETT
SARRAT
SARAT
SARET
SARETT
SYRAT
SARATE

SCHOOL

STRAWPLAITING

T

TREACLE MINE

U

UNDER THE HEAVENS

V

VILLAGE DAY

VILLAGE HALL

VINTAGE RALLIES

W

~~ZEALOTS~~
~~ZIMMER FRAMES~~
~~ZOMBIES~~
~~ZOO~~
~~ZUCCHINI~~
~~ZINNIAS~~
~~ZITHERS~~

ZENITH!
120m above sea level

WATERCRESS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

X

KISSING GATES

Y

YELLOW ARROWS

Z

THE SARRATT ALPHABET

Produced by Anne Dudley for the Friends of Holy Cross with acknowledgement to Common Ground Designed by Peter Hogan / Katy Linfield.
The artists: Gillian Burrows Jan Clutterbuck Len Dudley Edward Gooding Freya Saddler and Norman Truscott with thanks to: Val and Peter Cumming John Guy Dawn Pitts and Pam White.

1997

Any offers?

TENDERS are being invited by Sarratt Parish Council to take the duties of a Parish Ranger for two days a week for eight hours to maintain the common land and footpaths and litter picking. Tenders are also being sought for someone to cut the grass on the village green, Quickmoor Common and King George V Playing Field.Contact 019823 285794.







SARRATT: Victoria Jeff and Angela Dudley. W. 055. 31-1-97 CP05100

A not-so-common House

by Sian Hester

Wherever you grew up, whether it was a suburban semi, a narrow town house, a cottage or a flat, you always remember it. It holds memories; faint recollections of your parents' voices, warm kitchen smells, scrapping with your siblings in the back garden or kicking a ball on the street outside. My memories are of leaking roofs, unidentified creaks in the night, slippery moss on an ancient stairway and tangled ivy clinging onto crumbling walls. But then this is hardly surprising since I grew up in a castle. Commonwood House is near Kings Langley, surrounded by the villages of Belsize, Bucks Hill, Chipperfield and Sarratt.

As you approach the hamlet of Commonwood through the woods, you can just start to make out the criss cross of wooden beams on the white-washed walls and the leaded windows on the Victorian Gothic arches. Its imposing stature and grandiose gravelled driveway often draws people in to take a closer examination.

If they were to silently stand on the front lawn of the house, they might just be able to hear the sounds of the Old Berkeley hunt. If they were allowed into the Grand Hall, they might even pick out the laughter and shouting of the family's weekend guests. The conversation might mingle with the sounds of clinking wine glasses and the servants walking perilously with huge silver soup bowls.

Commonwood House was the weekend home of William and Cissy Allen and their three sons, Geoffrey, Bill and Sam. William's father, David, founded the family printing firm in Northern Ireland and it was William who came to England in the 1880s to expand the business. He started building Commonwood House in the last years of the 19th century. It was to be an on-going process, with Cissy extending the house during the 1920s. The printing firm was so successful, it allowed the family to live comfortably in their Regents Park town house and spend weekends in Commonwood. As the business grew and gained prominence, so did the family's contacts and social circles.

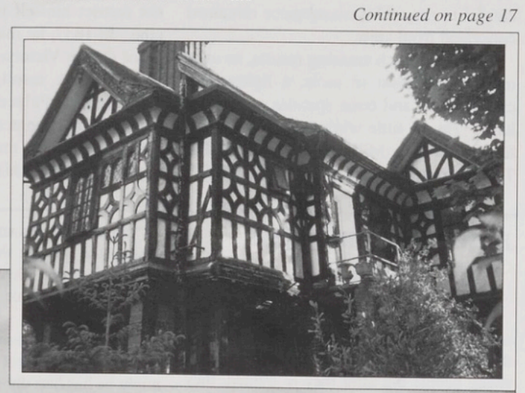
The three sons began to take the reins of the business and forged contacts with American companies. During the decades between the wars, American advertising and printing took the lead and Geoffrey and Sam Allen grasped onto new ideas, making numerous trips to the States. They brought back new concepts of print advertising and quickly capitalised on Europe's growing industry in this field. The Allens formalised the production of bulletin boards, poster production and later, the manufacture of neon signs in 1934.

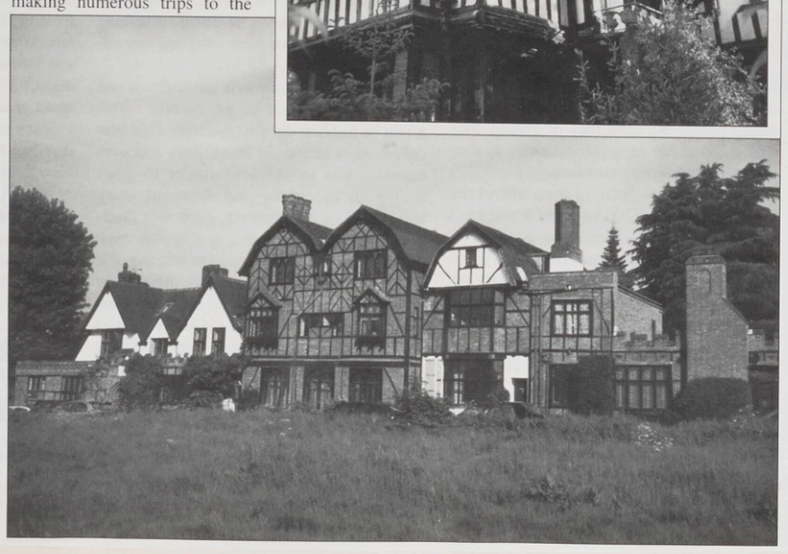
The business grew, as did Commonwood and with the family's extended social and business circles, the 20s and 30s were a time of entertaining on a grand scale. Cissy, a celebrated theatre actress in the 1880s, had numerous contacts from the stage and Douglas Fairbanks senior was a regular guest at parties.

Another notorious Commonwood socialite was Nathalie Maximovna, a Georgian exile who was forced to come to England after the Communists took over her country. She married the Allen's eldest son Bill, and undoubtedly it was his wife's fighting spirit that first attracted him to her. Once during a dinner party at the British Embassy in Ankara she hurled a full weight silver candelabra (with lighted candles still attached) down the table at the Soviet ambassador. This brought a smile to the face of the Turks present and indeed to the British ambassador who admired her passionate loathing of the Communists.

Commonwood was to become somewhat of a refuge for exiled Russians. One Russian diplomat, Andro Gugushvili came for a weekend in 1937 and stayed for 15 years. It was to be another 52 years before another

Continued on page 17





COMMONWOOD HOUSE

Continued from page 14

Georgian 'exile', Michael, a student, was to come to the house again. Fortunately, this time through choice and, incidentally, after Georgia had once more regained her independence.

Russian exiles, American business people, actors and politicians made for curious talk around the dinner table with all the family providing an eclectic group of friends. During the early summer evenings, laughter and furious conversation would waft through the open windows, attracting the attention of walkers and picnickers. Often Cissy would invite them in for drinks and they would suddenly find themselves amongst political dignitaries, ambassadors and diplomats. To add to the quirkiness, the servants were from local institutes for the handicapped as Cissy always liked to help those less fortunate than herself.

Cissy continued to expand the house using the local building talent of Tommy Downer from the neighbouring village of Sarratt. They were to form a company called Collette and Downer which designed much of the interior architecture seen in other homes around the hamlet of Commonwood. The house has Mussolini to thank for the decorative plaster work. Two Italian craftsmen, escaping from the fascist regime, found themselves in Sarratt around this time and their expertise was used to create many of the ornate patterns and reproduction furniture. Downer employed the men and between them, they created the grandiose Georgian pillars, copies from medieval originals, now a central feature of the Grand Hall.

William Allen died in 1919. Cissy remained on all the boards of her husband's companies and as the hostess of Commonwood until 1939. Due to the necessities of war, the house was let as offices to the RAF and signalled an end to those halcyon days of the previous two decades. Cissy died in 1943 and the family connection with Commonwood ceased. Bill and Nathalie returned to Ireland, Sam and Geoffrey moved on, Sam settling in Lathbury near Newport Pagnell. Bill died in 1973, Sam in 1986, All the family are buried in the churchyard of Chipperfield, a neighbouring village.

The house was sold to a property developer in 1963 and internally divided into seven separate dwellings. In 1973, my mother and father were looking to move to the area. My mother just happened to pass the house on route to somewhere else and was intrigued by its character and position. Once inside, she was smitten and it wasn't long before myself, my sister and three brothers found ourselves in this castle, as we thought it was, perched on top of a wooded valley. It was a child's idea of heaven. Even now, I can spot things about the house that I'd never noticed. I remember discovering a small arched building, half in ruins at the back of the garden. It was hidden from view by mangled tree branches and perfect for secret exploring. Cissy, in her rather eccentric style had commissioned a squash court to be built by a Hungarian architect in the style of a Venetian Palazzo. The white lines of the court could still be seen and I used to imagine the players fully clad in their Victorian outfits puffing up and down the base of the court.

I think the Allen family would be pleased to know that their house is treated with affection and respect. I think they would also be glad to hear that we still have grand parties and gatherings and whilst we may not invite strangers into the house these days, passing onlookers are greeted and their questions answered.

The house is beautiful. It may have a few cracks in the plaster work and creak in the wind, but it breathes with life, warmth and nostalgia. A few years ago, my brother befriended a young Georgian student called Michael who was studying for his degree. My brother invited him to Commonwood for a weekend and after a while, Michael became a bit of a fixture in the house during holidays and at Christmas time. It seemed appropriate to establish the Georgian connection once more. Michael's father is a diplomat with the Georgian Government and we hope one day that he and the rest of the family might come for a visit. Who knows, perhaps they'll stay for 15 years as well.

1997

WH obs. 17-1-97

A world in miniature

Grelle White meets the makers of a dolls house that gives a taste of Tudor times

ESTATE agents eat your hearts out – the ultimate house sale this year is a mini-manor in Sarratt going for just £1.

Sarratt Dolls House, which will be raffled nationwide later this year, is a dream house.

Modelled on a real house, the Tudor Rose Hall Manor, it has already become a piece of living history and fantasy to local villagers from church trustees to children at the village school.

In fact, the whole project has grown from one of those "Wouldn't it be a nice idea, if..?" to a reality well beyond the original thought.

Judy Gooding, who inspired the dolls house project as part of the ongoing quest for fund-raising ideas for Sarratt's ancient Holy Cross Church, recalled: "I thought it would be a nice little village project, especially if we modelled it on a real house. Everyone could take part."

Nearly everyone has, but not quite in the way Judy imagined.

Being a bit of a perfectionist, Judy persuaded her husband, Philip, to help with preliminary research and entered a whole new world – the miniature world of dolls houses, dolls and all things associated with scaled down copies of real life.

"Can you believe, there are dolls house fairs taking place every week? There are specialist magazines and specialists for almost every aspect from the houses themselves down to period ornaments and dolls' clothes," she said.

Within the space of a few weeks visiting and browsing round fairs it became clear that "home made in Sarratt" wasn't quite good enough for a dream house.

The next problem was how to choose the right people for the job and where to find them.

Dolls house specialists Puppenhauser landed the contract for the house with trustees of the Friends of Holy Cross Church underwriting the bill.

"Finding a furniture maker was harder," Philip recalled. "It is a cottage industry and a big one, but Tudor is not a very popular period. When we finally found the perfect man, Mike Mortimer, he was so busy with a big order for Japan, he wasn't sure, he could take on our order and complete it on time."

Timing was important.

The raffle for Sarratt Dolls House will be drawn at the flower festival at Holy Cross Church on June 29, but the mini-manor goes on public view at a big launch at the village school on Saturday, March 1 – nearly 18 months after Judy first mooted the idea.

By then the atmosphere at the school should be electric. Headmaster Mr Gary Eccles has tuned in to this opportunity to bring history lessons to life by involving the children in all aspects of Tudor life.

The oldest children, aged 10 and 11, are already doing the Tudor period as part of the curriculum, but the recreation of a piece of Sarratt history was too good a chance to miss – Wednesday afternoons' technology sessions this term will be devoted to researching life in the 16th Century, from humble homes to Henry VIII, clothes, habits and food.

"We are unlikely to cook swans, but so far have established that they must have eaten a lot of bread and used honey to sweeten food," said one of the teachers involved in the project, Sheila Malin.



Sarratt Dolls House, which has captured the imagination of the village during its construction, will be raffled later this year. The miniature marvel is modelled on the Tudor Rose Hall Manor.

One of her pupils has assumed a bit a starring role at school after the children were asked to look out books and information on the Tudors at home.

Alexandra McElroy found a family link with Katherine Parr – the last of Henry VIII's six wives, who kept her head and outlived the king.

"She was an ancestor of my stepmother," Alexandra proudly announced as the school embarked on this exciting period piece.

There will be projects and prizes and possibly a banquet and children dressed in period costumes for the launch on March 1.

The verdict at the beginning of term was that playing detectives and finding historical facts had great appeal.

As for the Tudors so far and wishing to go back to the old days themselves, the answer from one little girl was an emphatic "No thank you, they chopped people's heads off."

No denying that with Henry hanging there on the wall with a string of ultimately headless wives.

Also a reminder, though, that so many impressions and images from the age are linked to royalty and a distinct upperclass lifestyle.

William Kingsley, who lived at Rose Hall Manor in Sarratt was wealthy, but the family lifestyle a bit more modest, as Doris Rolinson discovered, when she volunteered to research and write A History of Rose Hall Manor and the Kingsley Family.

The family lived at Rose Hall from 1583 until 1659.

Doris Rolinson recalled: "William Kingsley was a lawyer, whose ancestry is unclear, a cursitor at the court of Chancery.

Cursitors were paid to write "writs of course", sealed with the Great Seal, setting out allegations allowing an action to be started.

"Having bought the office of Cursitor he married Katherine Tothill, sister of Richard Tothill, who held a monopoly of the printing of law books on the new Caxton Press during the transition of French to English as the standard language of law.

"Kingsley appears to have considerably enriched himself through his legal practice, an influential marriage and a large circle of friends including the family of Sir Thomas More."

Local churchgoers will no doubt enjoy learning a little more about the family depicted on an alabaster memorial on the south wall of the chancel in Holy Cross Church.

It was erected by Katherine in memory of her husband when William died and was buried in churchyard in 1611 and depicts him kneeling at a prayer desk with their five sons behind him.

Facing him is Katherine, also at prayer, in front of their daughter.

Just the daughter has been included in the family of three occupying the dolls house version of Rose Hall.

The dolls were made by an expert with china heads, feet and hands, but dressed by the former High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Joanna Staughton, who is a keen needlewoman.

Another search, this time for the kind of clothes worn by middle-class Tudor families, proved hard.

By chance Philip found a print of a painting of Sir Thomas More and his family by the younger Holbein at the National Portrait Gallery – perfect, the local family friends of the Kingsley's.

Joanna designed and stitched and the Kingsley dolls family were ready to move into a home, which to us may seem a little short on privacy, but according to old documents and plans is pretty true to Rose Hall in Tudor times.

Doris explains: "A 17th Century English manor house, although owned by a wealthy family, was simply furnished.

"At its heart was the flagged kitchen with an immense fireplace. Contemporary Sarratt wills and inventories reveal that the hearth at Rose Hall was furnished with spits, cauldrons and numerous pots and pans.

"Food was stored in wooden troughs and tubs with tables and stools completing the rooms.

"The three other rooms all contained tester or truckle beds, tables and forms. there were few chairs but an abundance of storage chests – furniture with drawers only became widespread the next century."

Inside one of the chests is a tiny little blanket. When making the bedding, Judy got a little carried away, having already dressed the tester and a tiny cradle in period feather mattresses with silk and linen covers.

Dolls houses have that effect.

When local artist Angela Colman saw the nearly completed house a few week's ago, she exclaimed: "It could do with a few paintings and tapestries."

The idea was warmly welcomed.

Angela is in the middle of a two-year commission doing Indian watercolours for a firm of solicitors in the City, but couldn't resist a mini-break inspired by the miniature world of the Tudor Kingsley's.

She went home and painted tiny Tudor portraits, created a tapestry from an Austrian linen napkin and "oh, they must have a Bible for the Bible stand."

Not only that, she also made an illuminated version, worthy of the Gutenberg collection all in one day, having originally offered to do it in time for the March launch.

"I just looked at this delightful house and got so excited. I love doing miniature things and used to make things for my daughters' dolls houses. This dolls house is a dream."

Not the kind of dream house likely to end up in a nursery. No one can really put a prize on the Sarratt Dolls House, but it is insured for £5,000 – and can be ensured for just £1, when the completed house goes on show and raffle tickets go on sale at Sarratt Village School on March 1.



The dolls house project has encouraged all to look at the past with renewed interest. Through looking at Tudor history Alexandra McElroy found a family link with the last of Henry VIII's wives, Katherine Parr. *Picture CP022911: SIMON JACOBS*



The attention to detail inside the house is outstanding. *Picture CP021135*



Judy Gooding, the driving force behind the project.



Children at Sarratt school have enjoyed their involvement.

W.O. 10-1-97

Man defrauded £750,000, court hears

A BUSINESSMAN from Sarratt conned thousands of home computer users into parting with a total of around £750,000 knowing he could not supply the personal computers they wanted to purchase, the Old Bailey heard.

Self-styled computer distributor Arthur Curtis MacLean, of The Green, who is known by his middle name, was in deep debt and had no way of purchasing the Singaporean computers, yet continued to take orders from readers of UK magazines and debit their credit cards, the court heard.

Fortunately, the punters had their money returned, after a long delay, by the credit card guarantors, headed by the Bank of Scotland, which absorbed the huge loss.

MacLean, 40, pleaded not guilty to knowingly being party to the running of the Vogue and WDS companies for fraudulent purposes, and with the intent of defrauding creditors.

In the dock, MacLean denied four charges of fraudulent trading relating to Vogue Computer Company Ltd and WDS Direct Ltd, whch he set up and ran from a light industrial park in Watford in 1992 and 1993.

Prosecutor Mr Simon Wild told the jury MacLean should never have taken orders for the computers knowing that, with even small cheques bouncing "left, right and centre", he would never be able to secure credit for the stock.

Counsel told the jury that MacLean and his wife, Shirley, were warned regularly by the bank about the bouncing cheques – sometimes as many as 11 in a day – and that one of their accounts was closed by the TSB bank.

Nevertheless, MacLean made a "reckless" attempt at trading out of trouble, signing a £500,000 deal with Singaporean computer manufacturer Wearnes and orchestrating a massive advertising campaign in trade magazines.

When the public responded to the adverts for cheap 486 computers (the latest, speediest model), MacLean's company took their credit card details, despite having no way to pay up-front for most of the ordered stock, Mr Wild said.

Mr Wild added that even at the outset of the Singaporean deal, under the banner of the new company WDS, MacLean was struggling under huge debts from his first computer company, Vogue, which owed almost a million pounds to the UK-based Next firm. The trial continues.

Crossriggs, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, Rickmansworth, Herts., WD3 6AR.
Tel. 01923-267071

January 12th 1997

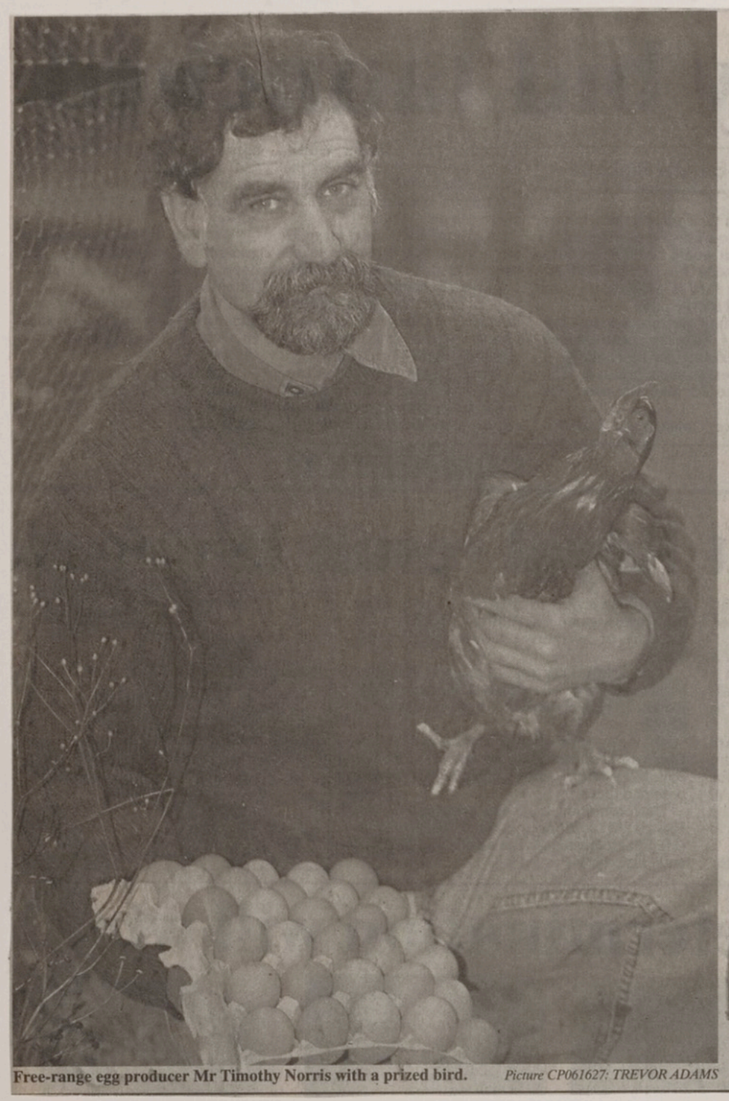
An open letter to the Sarratt Parish Council and other interested parties!

As those of us who comprise **The Sarratt Commons Volunteers** are well aware, much necessary clearance work has been carried out on our three local commons over the past few years.
This is just a plea that we should not be too tidy!
I noted today on Dawes Common that there are several trees which have dead branches, which I understand are due to be taken out. Also there are a few small dead treetrunks, and at least one large felled tree covered in ivy. Please may we leave these fallen trees, keep the small dead treetrunks where they are and keep some of the dead branches as habitat heaps. (And this principle applies to all three of our Commons)

If we wish to keep a balance of nature we must not be too tidy!
According to one survey in an Oxfordshire wood, over 450 species of animals are known to thrive in wood which is allowed to decay naturally on the woodland floor.These include beetles, woodlice, millipedes, centipedes, spiders, earwigs, flies, and eventually snails and slugs! Perhaps not the most beautiful creatures in our native woods, but absolutely vital if we wish to encourage other species, because these are the little wonders who pollinate the flowers and provide food for the birds. Without a sufficient supply of insects we shall be poorer in flowers and birds. The decaying wood also provides a home for fungi, some of which are rather beautiful in themselves, and provide food for insects as well as helping to break down the rotting wood for future nutrients for plants.

So please, let us not be too tidy and try to turn our Commons into parks! Diversity is the main objective - as stated in the Earth Summit's Agenda 21 !

Dawn Pitts



Free-range egg producer Mr Timothy Norris with a prized bird. *Picture CP061627: TREVOR ADAMS*

TV presenter set to open green festival

WO 7-2-97

POPULAR television presenter Phillipa Forrester will be the star guest at this year's Three Rivers District Council's annual Environmental Day.

The bubbly celebrity, known for her appearances on the Disney Club and Children's BBC Broom Cupboard, will officially launch the day with chairman of the council Nena Spellen.

This year's event, the sixth of its kind, promises to be even more spectacular than the last, which attracted 2,000 visitors.

Onyx UK, contract cleaners for the council, is sponsoring the day to be held at Watersmeet tomorrow (Saturday).

Contract manager Mr Andrew Philpot said: "We are specialists in environmental waste management and by supporting the environmental day it allows us to put something back into the community we serve and to reinforce our partnership with Three Rivers District Council.

"We will also be running a collage competition for school children on the day to show how items can be re-used rather than thrown away."

Energy conservation has been chosen as the theme and there will be a host of interactive displays organised by local businesses and voluntary organisations.

Topping the bill will be The Croissant Neuf Circus, the only wind and solar-powered circus in the UK with performances throughout the day.

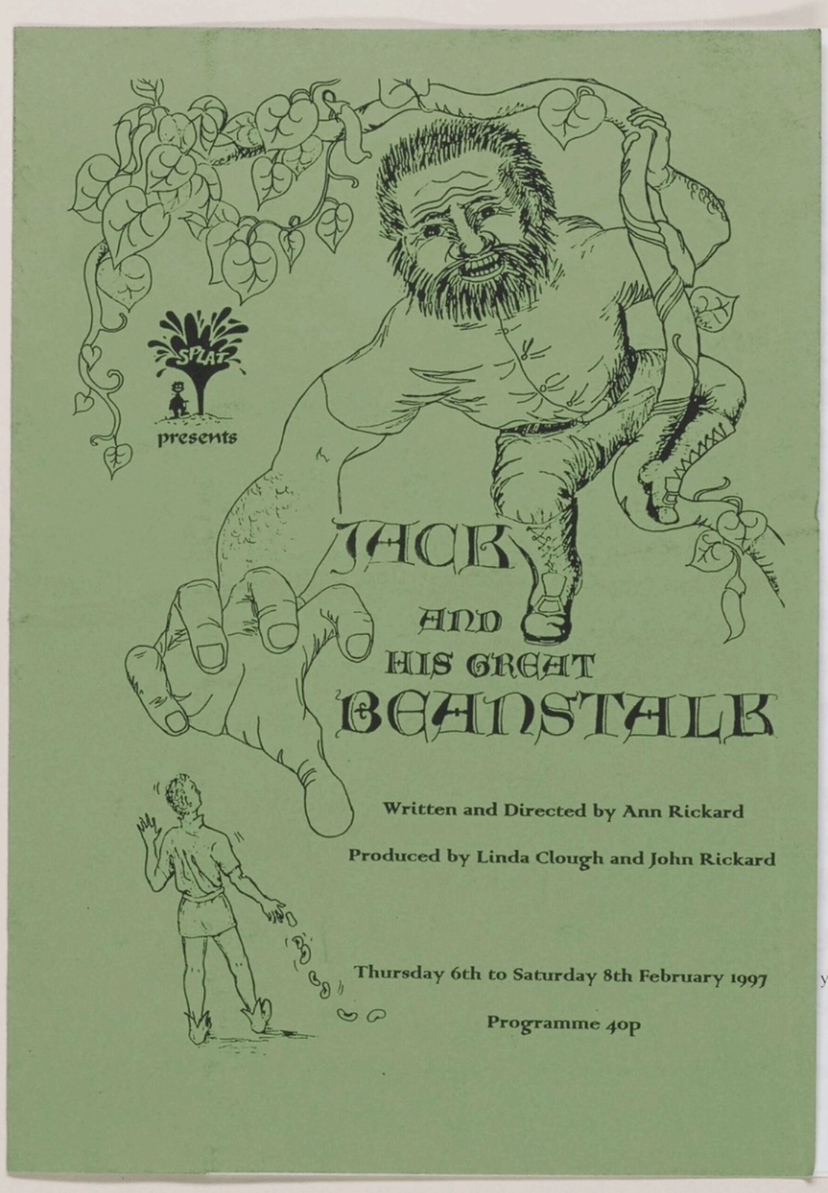
Visitors will be able to marvel at a range of electric-powered vehicles and a rare Rover 8 series, which is powered solely by natural gas.

Ross International, from Hatfield, will exhibit a revolutionary range of cookware, which is designed to retain heat and reduce the level of energy used.

Sarratt resident Mr Timothy Norris, who runs a free-range egg farm, will entertain visitors with his innovative inventions.

The environmentally-friendly businessman will exhibit a wind powered egg grader, used to measure the size of eggs and plans to power a small delivery van on methane gas.

Twenty-two voluntary organisations and interest groups are expected to attend, including a handful of new recruits.



year

Rose Hall reality

WATFORD OBSERVER 28-2-97

Ron Higgs knows Sarratt's Rose Hall inside-out. **GRELLE WHITE** meets him on the eve of the dolls house sale



Ron Higgs stands outside Rose Hall in Sarratt. *Picture CP083616: JOE SHEEHAN*

HISTORY has moved slowly at Rose Hall in Sarratt.

The model farm for the Sarratt Dolls House was lit by candles and oil lamps until electricity was installed as late as 1948 and water was drawn from the well by a windmill.

"We had a privy at the bottom of the garden until the mid-fifties," recalls Ron Higgs, who was "not born, but bred" at Rose Hall Farm and now runs a truly rural riding establishment from the ancient barns of the former family home.

Sarratt Dolls House is modelled on Rose Hall in Tudor times and until recently very little had changed according to Ron, whose father was tenant farmer of the former manor.

Until major restoration work ten years ago, the house only had four main rooms – just like the dolls house.

"It looks big from the outside, but it still only has two main rooms downstairs. The upstairs has been changed, so it now has four bedrooms," he pointed out.

Ron lived at the house until the family moved when he was 15 and then moved back when he got married in 1964 and himself became tenant farmer of Rose Hall. For the past ten years he and his family have lived in a house in the village, but he still farms Rose Hall and land around the farm, in all nearly 300 acres.

He recalls: "It used to be very pastoral. When I was a boy we had large apple and cherry orchards and I remember my father selling the fruit at market and to local greengrocers. We also used to grow a lot of cabbages and potatoes."

When Ron took over the farm had one of the biggest pig herds in the country. Now horses have taken over and Rose Hall is one of the few riding establishments in the area approved by the British Horse Society.

Idyllic and ideal it is set well back from main roads about half a mile up a country track. Young horseriders have the safe freedom of 200 acres of fields and Rose Hall is well placed for a network of bridle paths criss-crossing beautiful countryside in the foothills of the Chilterns.

Once a year the farm reverts to historic spectacle when it hosts the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt – but Ron is not a born horseman realising a childhood dream. Horses only came into the picture when pig farming became uneconomical.

"I didn't even ride," Ron smiles. "My first wife was into horses and we started with just a couple. Then we started livery and the riding school."

When the marriage broke up, Ron taught himself to ride and carried on running and expanding the riding school with help. He now employs a farm manager a head stable girl and four others and Rose Hall houses some 70 horses.

He has also remarried and has a three-year-old son, he sincerely hopes will carry on the family farming tradition at Rose Hall, which did not appeal to his older son, now aged 31.

One of the few "real" villagers left in Sarratt, Ron remembers his father exercising the commoner's right of grazing sheep on the village green.

"Something that wouldn't be very popular or practical today," he laughs.

Popular belief that a cottage beside the farm, locally referred to as The Monastery, was used as a monastic cell, established by the Abbot of St Albans, for a monk to lead a life of contemplative prayer, is also open to debate.

"We thought it more likely that "The Monastery" was used as servants quarters and the real monastery had burnt down.

"We found an area in the orchard with the remains of a tiled floor covered in six inches of tiles and ash," Ron recalled.

One local legend he has absolutely no doubt about is Rose Hall being haunted by a resident ghost.

"They say it is a headless monk. I don't know about that. I have never seen a ghost but I have felt it, an uncomfortable feeling inside the house from time to time.

"When we moved in in the sixties, we only used the downstairs and my wife's dog would never go upstairs."



This dolls house based on Rose Hall is to be raffled for £1.

Scout leader needed or group will fold

WO 28-2-97

A SCOUT leader for Sarratt must be found by the end of the year or the money set aside to re-establish the group will be lost.

The group closed four years ago when Scout leader Mr Roy Esteen retired even though it had the funds and facilities to continue.

Mr Esteen from Belsize, Sarratt, said: "If a volunteer can not be found soon, the money set aside for Sarratt Scouts will automatically go to the Scouts Association.

"Everything is ready for the group to start again but it needs the support of the local community."

It is not the only youth organisation in the area to have closed in recent years.

The Sarratt youth club came to an end in 1992 when community policeman Mr Phil Wynes stepped down because of family commitments.

However, there is hope a range of new youth activities will be established with the help of Three River area Youth and Community Service.

It aims to give the opportunity for young people aged 11 to 19 to take part in a varity of activities and to support existing activites.

The group will be travelling around the district in their community bus to give youngsters the opportunity to put forward ideas and ask questions.

Further information about activities run by the team can be obtained by contacting the Youth and Community Services on 01923 231451.

Flower arranging

THE Holy Cross Church in Sarratt is calling for volunteers to help with Easter flower decorations, on Sunday, March 29. These decorations will be centred around Easter lilies and the church is asking residents to donate a lily in memory of a friend or relative for the arrangements. 14-3-97

School rejected

21-2-97

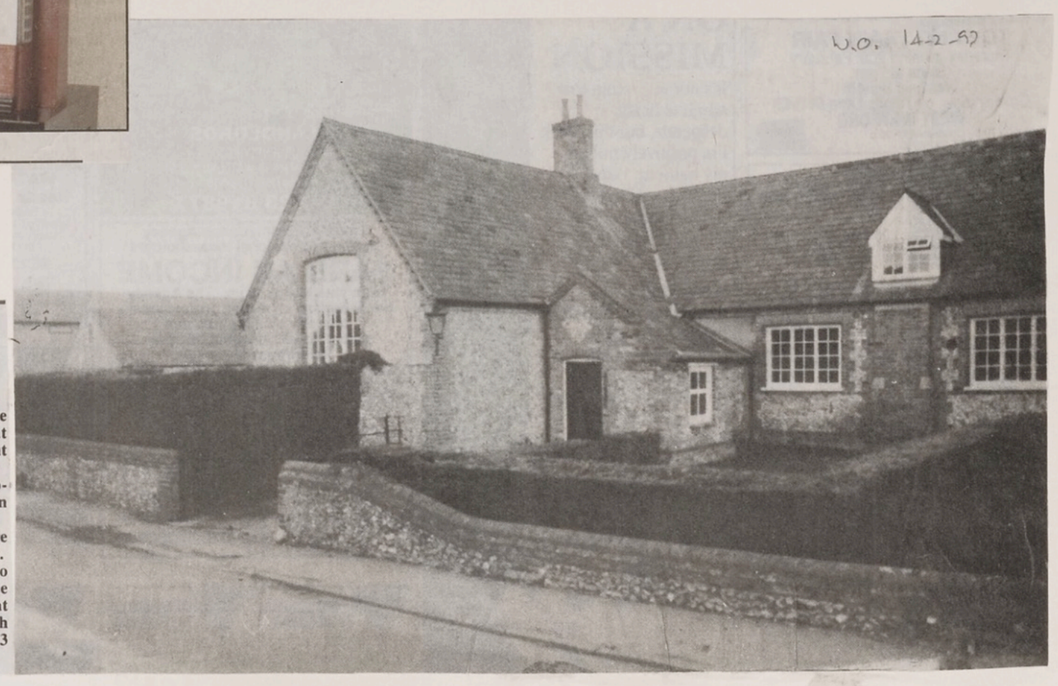
PLANS to convert Goldingtons, Church Lane, Sarratt, into a school have been rejected by Three Rivers District Council.

Sarratt JMI 28-2-97

Trip back in time

THE world of the Tudors came to Sarratt JMI this week when pupils discovered all about the 16th Century.

A historian came to talk to the children and run workshops on Tuesday and yesterday (Thursday) pupils dressed in Tudor costumes and replaced their school dinners with Tudor food.



W.O. 14-2-97

CONVERTED IN 1970s OR '80s.

Former village school for sale as home

THIS former village school has been converted into an attractive four- bedroomed brick and flint house.

The Old School, Church Lane, Sarratt, was built in the 1860's and was a school until the 1970's.

The property features a 25ft drawing room with vaulted ceiling, Victorian-style fireplaces and varnished floorboards leading to a raised sitting area.

The dining room has a wood-burning stove with ceramic tiled hearth and basket weave wood-block surround.

The ground floor also has a spacious kitchen, reception hall, downstairs bathroom, a guest suite and conservatory.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, one with en-suite shower room and twin built-in wardrobes.

There is also a family bathroom with shower.

The secluded garden is mostly lawned, with a paved patio, mature shrubs and fruit trees.

The Old School is situated near the village store, post office and off-licence and has three pubs within walking distance.

Sarratt has a primary school and is known for the pretty green at the heart of this quiet village.

There are numerous sporting amenities in the surrounding area including golf clubs, equestrian centres, leisure centres in addition to walks through the picturesque River Chess Valley.

Chorleywood village is approximately three miles away and offers more comprehensive shopping facilities as well as the Metropolitan and British Rail station providing fast train links to Baker Street and Marylebone.

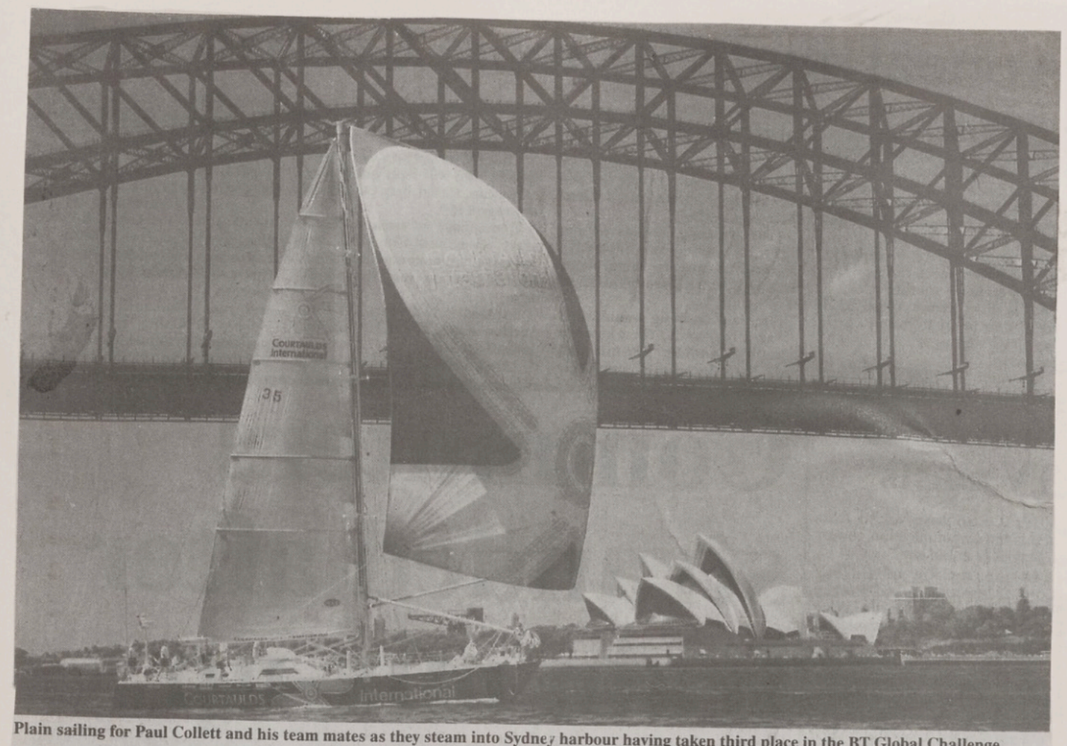
Major road are nearby with the M25 just three miles away at junction 18 and the M1 about eight miles away at junction five.

Watford and Hemel Hempstead town centres are also within easy reach by car.

Offers exceeding £365,000 are invited for this unusual property.

To arrange an appointment to view the house, contact estate agents Peter Robson and Co. at Wyatts House, Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood. Tel 01923 282244.

1997



Plain sailing for Paul Collett and his team mates as they steam into Sydney harbour having taken third place in the BT Global Challenge.

W.O. 28-2-97

Collett helps team to third place days after emergency hernia op

YACHTSMAN Paul Collett from Sarratt managed to snatch third place in the BT Global Challenge yacht race at Sydney – just days after undergoing emergency key-hole surgery.

He and his team mates on the Courtauld International yacht team jumped nine places to third position when they gambled on taking a different route.

Mr Collett, who was suffering with a hernia during the second leg of what has been described as the world's toughest yacht race, had to have an emergency operation when they arrived in New Zealand.

However, he made a quick recovery, which put him back in the race within days of the operation.

The team's arrival in Sydney Harbour earlier this month marked the end of the third leg of the race, which took just over seven days to complete.

Mr Collett said: "Coming third to Sydney was just unbelievable and is a tremendous boost as we now know we can do it.

"When you sail into Sydney harbour you cannot believe the view. Everyone knows what it looks like from postcards but it still takes your breath away."

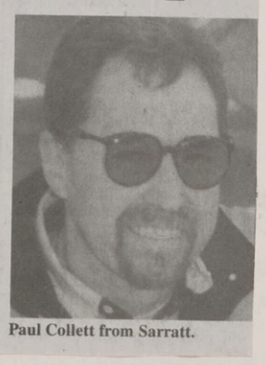
Mr Boris Webber, skipper of the Courtauld International, said: "Moving nine places in 12 hours was intensely gratifying.

"I had wanted to approach Sydney from the north to take advantage of the local costal currents.

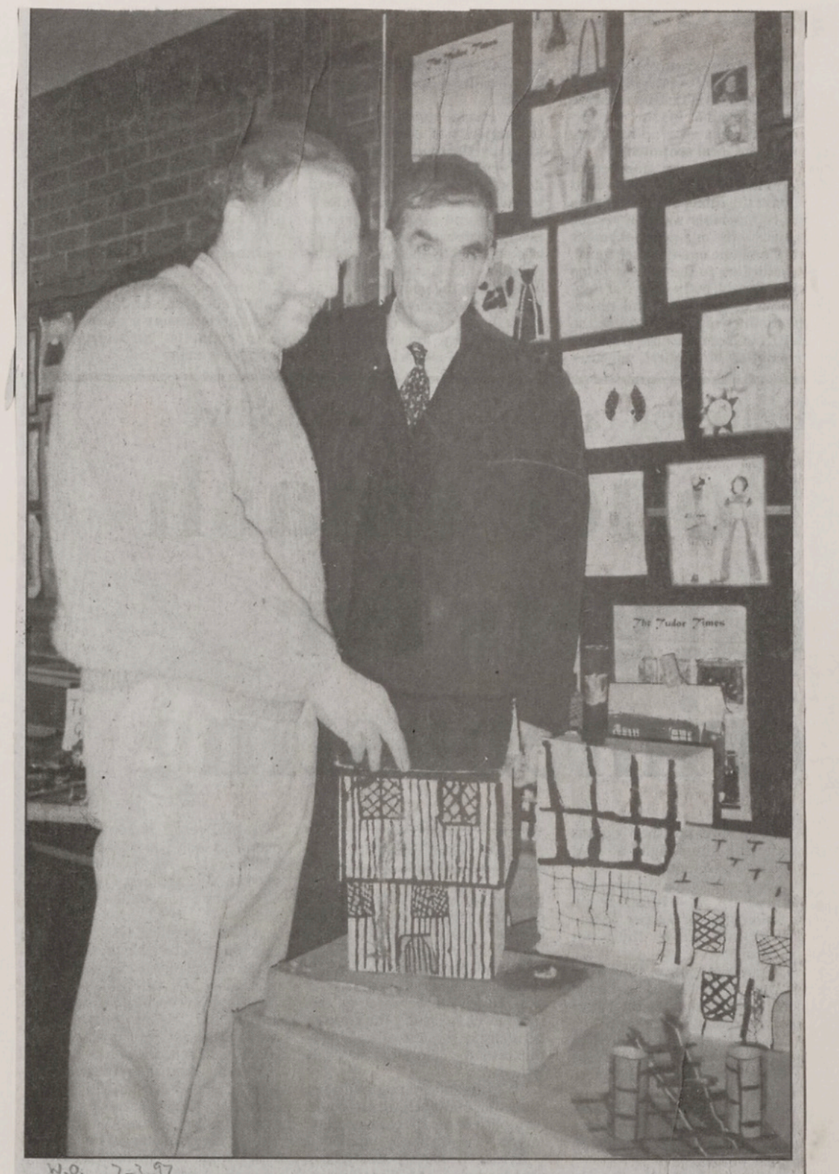
"We took a gamble by heading north, away from the rest of the fleet but I felt we had to try something different."

The team began its round the world trip on September 29 last year when it sailed out of Southampton.

The race comprises of six legs, with teams visiting Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and the USA before returning to the UK in July.



Paul Collett from Sarratt.



W.O. 7-2-97

Children's TV star kicks off dolls house raffle

TELEVISION'S Demon Headmaster had instant hypnotic effect on the children, when he popped in at Sarratt village school for the launch of the Sarratt Dolls House raffle on Saturday.

Actor Terence Hardiman (pictured above right), who plays the Demon Headmaster in the hit Children's BBC show, was there to launch the raffle.

Everything and everyone were steeped in Tudor times, from the dolls house modelled on the Rose Hall Farm in Sarratt to a Tudor village made by the children.

The minute actor Terence Hardiman crossed the threshold, the buzz set in with "watch out. He's here, the Demon Headmaster," and the Tudors were forsaken for a quick time-switch back to the 1990's and the quest for autographs.

Later Mr Hardiman presented prizes for projects inspired by the village dolls house project, which has provided the school with a living history lesson all through the winter.

The house, which was made and furnished by experts with finishing touches added locally has been nearly a year in the making and will be raffled nationwide in aid of local Holy Cross Church repair fund for £1 per ticket.

Valued at £5,000 the dolls house was inspired by Judy and Philip Gooding, and created with the support of the Trustees of the Friends of the Church.

It has featured in several national specialist magazines and people came from as far away as Cambridgeshire for Saturday's first public viewing.

Almost 500 people viewed and bought raffle tickets and at the end of the launch, which included an evening of Elizabethan music at the Barn at Little Sarratt Hall, more than £2,000 had been raised.

Raffle ticket sales and publicity will continue until the draw takes place at the Holy Cross Elizabethan Flower Festival at the end of June.

Judy and Philip Gooding will also be showing the mini manor and selling tickets at dolls house fairs in other parts of the country, putting Sarratt on the map and help secure funds for the ancient church, which soon may need serious roof repairs.



by Kathryn Price

SEVEN-AND-A-HALF agonising hours after the polls closed, Tory MP Richard Page was returned to Parliament with a 10,021 majority.

It was a bittersweet victory for the former junior minister, who endured a grim evening at Watersmeet Theatre, watching friends and colleagues being routed by the Labour landslide.

Despite holding one of the safest Conservative seats in the country, Mr Page's majority of more than 20,000 was cut in half.

Labour's chances mirrored the national picture as candidate Mark Wilson stormed into second place with 15,441 votes, pushing aside Liberal Democrat Ann Shaw.

With hindsight, it was clear from the start that election night in South West Herts was going to be anything but a smooth ride.

The first blow was the non-appearance of Labour's Mark Wilson who was bedridden with a bout of dysentery.

Natural Law candidate Mr Christopher Adamson abstained completely from the occasion without explanation.

Coupled with the late arrival of Mr Page and Mrs Shaw the evening started as a low-key affair and it never recovered.

What early optimism Mr Page may have summoned was soon knocked on the head as Labour gain after Labour gain flashed up on the screens.

As the vastness of what was happening began to sink in, Mr Page could be heard muttering to his companions: "Well, if were going to lose we may as well do it in style."

Salt was further rubbed into the now gaping wound as the South West Herts result was postponed for hours.

Finally, at 5.23am, the counting stopped.

Relieved but visibly shaken by the night's events, Richard Page said: "Over the past few weeks some very extravagant promises have been made and I will do my best to see they are applied to the people in South West Herts."

Weary but alert as ever, Ann Shaw poked fun at the disintegration of the Tory party.

She said: "I congratulate Mr Page on keeping his seat while all those around him lost theirs."



Bob and Noreen Singleton are set to celebrate 50 years with each other in the village of Sarratt. Picture: CP145715: TREVOR ADAMS

W.O. 11-4-97

Golden couple to hold celebration at original wedding reception site

CHILDHOOD sweethearts Bob and Noreen Singleton will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in Sarratt this weekend.

The well-known couple of Downer Drive, who have lived in the village all their lives, will hold a party at the Village Hall tomorrow – 50 years after it was used to stage their wedding reception.

More than 100 people are expected to attend the celebrations including their four children, Michael, Martin, Nigel and Rosamund, eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Growing up together in the village, Bob and Noreen became friends at an early age, both attending Sarratt School and choir practice at Holy Cross Church.

Their relationship blossomed during the Second World War when Mrs Singleton, 70, sent dozens of letters to her husband, now 72, who was serving abroad with the RAF.

On his return to England four-and-a-half years later, the couple married at Holy Cross Church and spent the first few years of married life living with Noreen's parents.

They later moved to their present address, where Mr Singleton spent 13 years working as a buyer of plants and shrubs for Wards Nurseries.

After leaving the company he worked for the highways and education departments at Hertfordshire County Council, before retiring.

For the past nine years, the couple have worked as caretaker and booking agent at the Village Hall.

Mrs Singleton, a founder member of Sarratt Womens' Institute, remains an active member of the close-knit community serving as a committee member on the horticultural society and helping to organise lunches for 50 pensioners at the Village Hall every two weeks.

She said: "We have seen many changes in the village over the years, the most noticeable being the rise in the number of houses.

"Developers seem to be snapping up every available piece of land at a startling rate.

"Although there is still a strong community spirit among the older residents in Sarratt this doesn't seem to be filtering its way down to the younger members, which seems a great shame."

Asked what they thought what was the secret to such a long and successful marriage they immediately answered "give and take".

W.O. 14-3-97

Author's stepson jailed for £1.5m computer fraud

THE stepson of best-selling author Alastair MacLean has been jailed for two-and-a-half years for a £1.5m computer fraud.

Arthur Curtis MacLean, formerly of The Green, Sarratt, but currently living in Hunton Bridge, was found guilty of four counts of fraudulent trading after a two-month Old Bailey trial.

MacLean, 40, was also disqualified from being a company director for eight years.

The court heard that the businessman, whose mother married the Scottish-born novelist when he was a child, had conned thousands of home computer users out of £750,000 for personal computers he could not supply.

He had also duped company creditors, including suppliers and magazines, out of tens of thousands of pounds.

MacLean, known by his middle name, Curtis, knew he had no way of supplying customers with the state-of-the-art PCs they wanted to purchase but processed thousands of orders and ran a lavish advertising campaign.

He tried to trade his way out of debt with the ambitious plan to sell Singaporean computers through mail order, but the scheme collapsed.

Members of the public did get their money back – after a long delay – by the credit card guarantors, headed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, which absorbed the huge loss.

During the trial it emerged the Department of Trade and Industry had been trying to have MacLean disqualified as a company director since early 1993.

He had also been employed as a manager at two companies, Fierce and Parallel, that had gone to the wall with debts of £800,000 in 1991. These companies had taken orders they could not fill and in some cases could not even refund their customers.

But MacLean claimed he had not been at fault over the computer deals.

He insisted he had simply been let down by an investor who failed to come through with a promised cash injection of £200,000 and said he had taken professional advice before proceeding with the Anglo-Singaporean project.

But the jury convicted him of four charges of fraudulent trading relating to two companies, Vogue Computer Company Ltd and WDS Direct Ltd, which he set up and ran from a light industrial park in Watford in 1992 and 1993.

Prosecutor Mr Simon Wild told the jury that MacLean and his wife, Shirley, had been warned regularly about the bouncing cheques – sometimes as many as 11 in one day – and one of their accounts was closed by the TSB bank.

The computer scheme, in which MacLean signed a £500,000 deal with Singaporean manufacturer Wearnes, was described as "reckless" by counsel. His first company, Vogue, was already in debt to the UK-based Next firm when he set up WDS to trade with Wearnes.

Judge Brian Capstick QC told him: "You continue to say you did not act dishonestly and say all you are guilty of is errors of judgement."

But the judge said he was satisfied MacLean knew his companies were "undercapitalised" and he therefore had to run them "dishonestly and fraudulently".

He accepted that the defendant was now penniless, but rejected his claims that he only carried on taking orders he could not fill to keep the company going and to save jobs.

During the trial, it emerged the director had taken his wife to the Dorchester Hotel in August 1993, at a cost of £1,000.

Judge Capstick recalled that MacLean had used his second stepfather's name to start up in business following the collapse of his earlier companies.

He said: "Trade creditors were misled by your establishing a company through your stepfather, a man called Arden. That prevented them from knowing of your previous and recent liquidations of your two previous companies."

In disqualifying MacLean, he also ruled the ban should extend to the defendant being a "liquidator or administrator of any company, manager or receiver or in anyway concerned in the promotion forming or management of a company".

PROFFITT & GOUGH AD.



SARRATT

A most attractive three bedroom cottage with wealth of character features, overlooking village green.

- Dining room/study
- Living room with fireplace
- Breakfast rm., sep. fitted kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms and bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Many character features
- Viewing highly recommended

PRICE GUIDE £220,000

Race challengers cheered

FLAGS and cheering crowds greeted the fearless crew of Courtaulds International when they docked in Cape Town last month.

Amateur sailor Paul Collett, of Sarratt, was one of the 13 crew to step on to dry land after completing the gruelling fourth leg of the BT Global Challenge, the world's toughest yacht race.

The Courtaulds team took 49 days to sail the 6,200 miles across the treacherous Southern Ocean from Sydney, Australia, securing 12th place.

Mr Borris Webber, the South African skipper, and his crew received a patriotic welcome from an enthusiastic crowd.

Mr Collett said: "We had just begun to run out of provisions and have spent the past few weeks dreaming about showers, clean clothes and delicious food and drink. It's wonderful to be here."

The yacht, one of 14 taking part in the race, left Southampton in September and is expected to return in July.

Members of the crew took a break in Cape Town while the yacht underwent a thorough maintenance check.

They boarded the boat last weekend to embark on the next leg of the race across the Atlantic to Boston.



Agnes Bantock admires entries at the Sarratt Horticultural Society's Spring Show. Picture CP165229:TREVOR ADAMS

Villagers vie for honours at annual spring show

A SURPRISING number of daffodil entries graced Sarratt Horticultural Society's Spring Show, held at the village hall.

With six first places to his credit in the category, enthusiast Mr Roger Dudley walked away with the Pinnaroo Trophy.

He was closely followed by Ms Lynda Fermont, who was just one point behind in the daffodil classes.

However, the places were reversed for overall show champion, with Ms Fermont beating Mr Dudley for first place.

Twenty eight competitors submitted 220 entries to the judges at the colourful annual spring show

Ms Merle Liddy triumphed in both the cookery and the handicraft sections while Ms Margaret Stratford came top in the floral art classes.

The Dickins trophy was awarded to Mrs Patricia Watson for her prize-winning tulips and hyacinths.

Society chairman Mr John Lyons received the Roy Ward Trophy for fruit and vegetables from the Rev Peter Hart, who presented all the prizes on the day.

During the show, plants, cakes and refreshments were sold to help boost the society's coffers.

The autumn show is scheduled for September 13 when nine trophies will be up for grabs.

The results are as follows:

Children's Exhibits

Junior Section Trophy: 1, Oswin Lyons; 2, James McClelland.

Cookery

1, Miss Merle Liddy; 2, Mrs Shirley Downer; 3, Mrs Emma Photiades and Mrs Noreen Singleton.

Handicrafts

1, Miss Merle Liddy; 2, Mrs Joy Wiles; 3, Mr Roger Dudley and Mrs Agnes Bantock.

Floral Art

1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mrs Judy Gooding; 3, Mrs Breda Tierman and Mrs Toots Downer.

Vegetables and Produce

The Roy Ward Trophy: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont, 3; Mr John Rickard and Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Other Flowers

The Dickens Trophy: 1, Mrs Patricia Watson; 2, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mr Geoff Rogers and Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 4, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Daffodils

The Pinnaroo Trophy: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont; 3, Mr John Lyons; 4, Mrs Toots Downer.

Trumpet: one specimen bloom: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Judy Gooding; 3, Mrs Val Cumming.

Trumpet: vase of three blooms, yellow: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Trumpet: vase of three blooms, bicolour: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Trumpet: vase of three blooms , white: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mr John Lyons; 3, Mrs Val Cummings.

Large cupped: one specimen bloom: 1, Mrs Linda Fermont; 2, Mr John Lyons; 3, Mrs Val Cummings.

Large cupped: vase of three blooms, yellow Perianth: 1, Mr John Rickard, 2, Mrs Mary Bond; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Large cupped: vase of three blooms, white Perianth: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Small cupped: one specimen bloom: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Mary Bond.

Small cupped: vase of three blooms: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont; 3, Mrs Mary Bond.

Double: one specimen bloom:1, Mrs Toots Downer; 2, Mrs Judy Gooding; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Double: vase of three blooms: 1, Mrs Toots Downer; 2, Mr Roger Dudley; 3, Mrs Judy Gooding.

Other division: one specimen bloom: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Other division: vase of three blooms: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Other division: miniature – one specimen bloom: 1, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Other division: miniature – vase of three blooms: 1, Mrs Linda Fermont

Special: mixed daffodils – vase of, any class/foliage: 1, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 2, Mrs Patricia Watson; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Dickins Trophy
(For other flowers)

Tulip – one specimen bloom: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mrs Judy Gooding; 3, Mrs Agnes Bantock.

Tulips – vase of three blooms, one variety: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mrs Judy Gooding.

Tulips – vase of five blooms, any varieties: 1, Mrs John Gooding; 2, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mrs Patricia Watson.

Hyacinth – one specimen bloom: 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mrs Patricia Watson; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Muscari – six stems: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mrs Christine Clark.

Primulas – outdoor grown, three stems: 1, Mr Geoff Rogers; 2, Mrs Agnes Bantock; 3, Mrs Christine Clark.

Polyanthus, three stems: 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mr Geoff Rogers; 3, Mr John Rickard.

Wallflowers – one vase, not less than three stems; 1, Mr Geoff Rogers; 2, Mr John Lyons; 3, Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Hellebores – three stems, any variety: 1, Mrs Linda Fermont; 2, Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Spring flowers – mixed, outdoor grown, any container: 1, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 2, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 3, Mrs Val Cumming.

Heathers – six stems: 1, Mrs Patricia Watson.

Any other shrub or shrubs, three stems: 1, Mrs Toots Downer; 2, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

One cactus or succulent in a pot: 1, Mrs Patricia Watson; 2, Mr John Rickard

Collection of cacti or succulents in a pot: 1, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Houseplant (flowering), in a pot up to 3.5": 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mrs Patricia Watson.

Houseplant (flowering), in a pot over 4": 1, Mrs Patricia Watson.

Houseplant (foliage), in a pot: 1, Mrs Audrey Griffith-Jones; 2, Mrs Patricia Watson.

The Roy Ward Trophy
(for vegetables and produce)

2 leeks, any type: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Sprouting broccoli – 5 sprouts: 1, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Lettuce: 1, Mr John Rickard; 2, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Three sticks of rhubarb: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 3, Mrs Christine Clark

Any other vegetable not classified above: 1, Mr John Lyons; 2, Mr John Rickard; 3, Mrs Margaret Stratford.

Three eggs, chicken (not bantam): 1, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Floral Art

Arrangement of five daffodils, any foliage: 1, Mrs Breda Tierman; 2, Mrs Toots Downer; 3, Mrs Judy Gooding.

Miniature exhibit on small mirror: 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mrs Judy Gooding; 3, Mrs Toots Downer.

Arrangement in a beer tankard: 1, Mrs Margaret Stratford; 2, Mrs Judy Gooding; 3, Mrs Pam Turner.

Handicrafts

Knitted article: 1, Miss Merle Liddy; 2, Mrs Joy Wiles; 3, Sara Fermont.

Painting: 1, Mrs Agnes Bantock; 2, Mrs Emma Photiades.

Photograph of spring flowers: 1, Mr Roger Dudley; 2, Miss Merle Liddy; 3, Mrs Linda Fermont.

Decorated pin cushion: 1, Mrs Joy Wiles; 2, Miss Merle Liddy.

Cookery

Apricot jam: 1, Mrs Emma Photiades; 2, Miss Merle Liddy.

Date and walnut loaf: 1, Mrs Noreen Singleton; 2, Mrs Shirley Downer; 3, Mrs Joan North.

Six sausage rolls: 1, Miss Merle Liddy.

Victoria sandwich: 1, Mrs Shirley Downer; 2, Mrs Toots Downer; 3, Mrs Joan North.

Fruit flan: 2, Sara Fermont; 3, Miss Merle Liddy.

Children's Exhibits

Book mark: 1, Oswin Lyons; 2, James McClelland.

Jelly: 1, Oswin Lyons; 2, James McClelland.



The Old Wheatsheaf drawn as it was in 1965 before it closed.

Sarratt Village Day

Programme 20p

SATURDAY MAY 24 1997



The Splash in the River Chess. Along the River from Sarratt Bottom.

Lucky programme no.

0049

Seaman signs up £750,000 house





Ollieberrie Farm in Belsize, with its impressive driveway (right) has been bought by England and Arsenal ace David Seaman.

ENGLAND and Arsenal goalkeeping hero David Seaman has bought an impressive farmhouse in the hamlet of Belsize.

The 33-year-old ace, who was awarded an MBE this week, moved into the £750,000 six bedroom Ollieberrie Farmhouse, Ollieberrie Lane, on Thursday.

Mr Seaman moved from the large detached house in Chorleywood Road he shared with girlfriend Debbie to the five acre property which boasts a tennis court, heated swimming pool and a three-bedroom cottage.

Former owner Mr Tony Walsh said: "David Seaman is a very unassuming bloke.

"He is a nice guy and he signed autographs for all the kids.

"I bought this place even though I can't swim and I can't play tennis."

Mr Seaman made an offer for Ollieberrie Farm when it went back on the market after a previous sale fell through.

Sarratt Village Day 1997

Arena Programme

12.15	Fancy Dress Parade
1.00	Maypole dancing by the children of Sarratt
1.30	Punch and Judy Show *
2.00	Watford Cheerleaders
2.30	Julian the Juggler - Watch him eat fire
3.00	Fun Sports
3.30	Watford Cheerleaders
3.45	Punch and Judy Show *
4.00	Tug of War
4.30	Wheelbarrow race
4.45	Raffle and programme prize draw

Thank you all for coming

* Paid for by local Conservative Party members.

'It was Sarratt . . . but not as I knew it'

JUST A WORD
Oliver Phillips



NOW I have never been able to get a handle on what could be a local legend so perhaps someone could help support it or lay it finally to rest.

It has always been argued that if you stood on the roof of Bovingdon Church and looked east with the eyes of Six-Million-Dollar-Man Lee Majors, the first obstacle you would encounter in an otherwise uninterrupted view, would be the foothills of the Urals.

While accepting that the majority of the European plain is like Essex without hedges, this still seems quite an extravagant claim. I mean, the biggest thing about the church is the churchyard.

Nevertheless, the legend has always fascinated me, not least in conjecturing what the Russian peasants tell their children about looking west: "The first thing you would see, Igor, is the roof of Bovingdon Church."

However, of one thing I am certain, and that is Bovingdon and Sarratt are nearer the heavens than the likes of Watford and Kings Langley, so the last thing I expected the other day was to find myself cut-off in Sarratt by floods.

True, we did not have the damage suffered by Chorleywood, or the disruption experienced in Rickmansworth, but then if you live in a valley . . .

I witnessed much of the main downpour of this distinctly localised storm from the piece of double glazing, which stretches from my garage to back bedroom, which we somewhat pompously call the conservatory. Rain on a flat roof always has that reassuring quality, but I did retreat somewhat when they started hurling marbles down, passing them off as hail stones.

I cannot recall experiencing a downpour of such severity in my lifetime, but the violence of the thunder and lightning may have helped convince me that this was something special.

Of course, it goes without saying that at the merest hint of lightning, Sarratt experiences a power cut. As they say in Chorleywood, if you live on a mountain . . .

We are sending probes to check the make-up of the sun, but apparently we cannot maintain a supply of electricity to Sarratt in a thunderstorm.

Anyway, it all helped to add to the surreal quality of the storm, watching the marbles bounce off the road, or was it a shallow river coursing past my house?

I had an appointment in Amersham, so when the worst was over, I made a dash for my car and set off into a changed world. It was Sarratt but not as I knew it.

I have seen water drain, trickle, ooze and seep from fields but I have never seen it flow, as in a river, across the width of gateways, coursing out of fields on to the roads, having been unable to find any welcome in the baked ground.

It was even pouring over a sleeping policeman at the entrance to the local Legion hall, into the road, where locals were trying to repel its advance on their houses.

After negotiating many ponds, rather than puddles, and reaching the Chorleywood road by Clement Danes, I found traffic queued both ways, their paths blocked by a large lake in the road, a car with hazard lights blinking and water up to the door, abandoned in the middle of it.

I retraced my steps back to the village, down North-South Hill where a pile of debris had been washed to the bottom. And two weeks later it is still there, a solidified lump, an obstacle in the centre of the road awaiting the council to get round to moving it – who knows, we get those pictures back from the sun first.

In the village, as I headed back, I passed where wooden beams were being placed in the road to divert the new river from running into their gardens and houses.

In front of the Cricketers there is a deep grassy dell, where children play while parents imbibe. This had been transformed into a pond more than two feet deep, and swim-suited children were quickly adopting the facility.

Up at The Cock, they had already summoned the fire brigade to drain out the flooded cellar.

Attempting to exit the village the other end, a queue of traffic blocked both ways with drivers perplexed at the problems of negotiating a two-foot deep pool across the road.

"It's been bad in Redheath. Great big pools. And it took us ages to get here," I was informed.

"Don't bother to try to get to Amersham. I've been ducking and diving literally for an hour," said another coming from the opposite direction.

I turned about and went home, passing villagers, who had not been so communally inquisitive since the first steam fair hit the village. They were out looking at the wondrous sights, which had briefly transformed it to Hertfordshire's answer to Burton-on-the-Water.

Logically, if Sarratt is flooded then Watford should be under scores of feet of water.

The telephone still worked but the late workers at the office were baffled. "Heavy rain? Floods? Are you sure?"

It had been a distinctly localised storm and flood, more of an event for Sarratt and Rickmansworth than the disaster it was in Chorleywood.

"I can't get out of the village for flooding," I explained but the person at the other end sounded a mite sceptical, making me feel I would have had more credibility had I used being kidnapped by Lilleputians as my excuse.

A near neighbour, always one to draw upon the tried and trusted, muttered in passing: "Another half hour of that and we would have had to start putting together an Ark."

I pondered on this. An Ark. Now wasn't the original found somewhere south of the foothills of the Urals?

Did you know ?

This is Sarratt's 6th Village Day and the following local distinctive features have been used to illustrate the Village Mugs.

1989	Village pump	Green
1990	Village sign	Black
1991	Village ducks	Blue
1993	Village hall	Brown
1995	Village scrapbook	Purple

How many full sets of mugs still exist?

Don't forget to buy this year's mug today!!

Only £2.50

1997

A Walk Up The Green
Sarratt Village Day May1997

A competition for children

All the answers can be found by careful observation on the 'Post Office' side around The Green. There are no questions about 'The Boot' side.

♦♦♦

Wartime planes' crash was witnessed by readers

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
Edited by Oliver Phillips

Q DURING the war, two military aircraft collided over Whitedell Farm, Belsize, Sarratt. Both crashed. One came down in The Dell just across the road from the farm gate; the other a couple of fields away.

Does anyone know any more about the fate of the two crews or any other details?

A T.J. SIMMONDS of Orotava, Chipperfield, writes:

During the mid-1940's on one fine late summer afternoon, a B17 Boeing Flying Fortress and a C47 Douglas Dakota collided over Belsize.

Both planes were from the United States Army Air Force base at Bovingdon; one had just taken off and the other was returning to base when the accident happened.

According to various people who actually observed the collision, the wing of the Dakota had severed the tailplane of the Flying Fortress and both planes then plummeted to earth.

First to arrive at the crash scene were brothers Bob and Jack Harpley (of Sunset, Dunny Lane, Chipperfield) both teenagers at the time.

I was about nine years old at the time and remember well seeing from my home in Chipperfield a huge cloud of black smoke rising high into the sky. I walked to Belsize with my friends to see what had happened.

On approaching the scene I could see Whitedell Farmhouse ahead of me in the fork of the road. In the field on the right was a blazing haystack beside which stood intact the tailplane of the Flying Fortress.

In the dell on the left and no more than 50 yards from the farmhouse was the rest of the plane in a thousand pieces, burning furiously.

The crew and passengers including some women, about 12 people in all, had perished in the inferno.

About half-a-mile away in a field near Holly Hedges Farm in Olleberrie Lane, I came across an engine of the Dakota. In the next field was the plane itself lying flat on its belly, crumpled but almost intact. The crew of two or three had died in the impact.

A JOHN BURGIN from Flaunden says:
We lived right near the Bricklayers Arms, Flaunden.

I was sawing wood up in the garden on that Saturday afternoon and I looked up and saw the planes coming down.

The tail was cut clean off the Dakota. The Dakota landed in the field just before (on the Flaunden side) of Whitedell Farm. The Fortress crashed just round the corner in Bragman's Lane.

One wing was right acrss the road and that was in flames. There were no survivors.

We were told there were five men and one lady in the Fortess, and two men in the Dakota.

I was nearly one of the first there. I saw them coming down and I was on my bike and gone. I was 13 then.

I remember that the plane was way up in flames.

Chipperfield were playing the fire brigade at football at the time. They all came down in cars and on bikes. The fire engines came from Bovingdon.

It is something I shall never forget. There were plenty of planes coming over during the war, on their way to Bovingdon, and there were a number of bombs that fell but nothing of significance was hit.

A BOB HARPLEY of Belsize, Sarratt, recalls:

I actually saw the collision and they crashed. They collided in mid-air and I was watching at the time because they looked to be on the same course and I thought they would collide.

There were two; one was a B17 and that nosedived into the grounds of the farm and exploded.

I believe it had at least 12 people on board. When I got there, it was an inferno and two ricks of straw were on fire as well.

It was on a Saturday just after dinner.

They do say that this was the only time a game at Chippefield has been abandoned because all the players ran to the scene.

I saw the Dakota; that floated down very gently. That had two people on board and they were both killed.

After we got back to the B17, the rescue services had got there and a big crane hooked on the tail. They were filming it all. It was a macabre scene.

I was 16. I saw the bits of bodies. It wasn't a very pleasant thing to witness.

I have always been interested in aircraft and that is why I remember it quite vividly.

The crash was just past Holly Hedges Lane. The B17 just missed the farm. The wing was over the road, blocking it. I heard the collision, it was quite a bang.

A MR THOMAS GILBERT of Elmbank Avenue, Englefield Green, Surrey, writes:

As I live in Surrey, I am usually a bit late receiving your newspaper.

I remember well the two airplanes crashing at Whitedell Farm, Belsize.

I and my friend, Ronald Timberlake, were at the football match at Chipperfield at the time. As that is on high ground we got a good view of it.

I think it must have been early autumn 1943 or 1944 it was certainly a Saturday, between 3pm and 5pm.

The match was between Chipperfield and Watford Fire Brigade. On seeing the crash the game was abandoned, and players and spectators all ran towards where heavy black smoke was rising in the sky.

At first it did not seem very far away, but as we ran towards it seemed to be further than we thought.

On arriving at the scene, we could not get anywhere near the blazing wreckage.

Someone told us the Dakota had crashed into a field somewhere close to Benny Hudson's farm and was not on fire.

So we made our way to that. On arriving in the field, we peered into the fuselage but did not notice any bodies.

Shortly afterwards, the American mllitary police arrived and ordered all civilians out of the field, so we went to the hedgerow and watched them recover two bodies from the cockpit.

At the same time, my mother who was living in Tower Hill, Chipperfield, on seeing the collision, started to make her way to where she thought it was.

On the way she found a gold pocket watch inscribed with the name of Mr Kinross of Woodman's Farm.

On arriving home I was despatched to return it to Woodman's Farm, on handing it to Mr Kinross; I received a "thank you very much".

For some time afterwards we boys were engaged in making rings from the scraps we picked up at the scene.

Another intriguing crash could be the one at Sarratt on the football pitch behind Deadman's Ash council houses.

That too happened on a Saturday, round about the same time. It was said at the time, there was no one on board.

Pop star visits village

POP star Paul Carrack will be in Sarratt tomorrow (Saturday). The former vocalist with Ace, now a member of Mike and the Mechanics, will be joining gardening correspondent Max Davidson for the house sale of the year. The pair will draw the winner of the Sarratt Dolls House raffle, which has raised more than £9,000 for the village church. Go magazine, Page 12

Q CAN anyone help tracing the Ashby family?

A MRS DORIS ROLLINSON of Jacks Lane, Harefield, writes:

Further to the note in The Watford Observer referring to the Ashby family who lived in Sarratt in the 1660's, you may like to refer your inquirer to a book, Pots, Platters and Ploughs, written and published by Philip Buller who lives at Little Bragmans, Belsize, Sarratt WD3 4NY. Telephone 01442 832517.

This book is a collection of Sarratt wills and inventories from 1432 to 1832 and Richard Ashby was witness to several listed wills in the 17th Century and his own will and inventory appears on pages 250/2, recorded at probate in 1717.

The entry lists all his then surviving family with dates of birth and baptisms, although there is no record of his address in Sarratt or where his children lived.

If your inquirer has not carried out any research yet, I think this book would be invaluable as a start.

Q WHY were men photographed in a hole at The Cock, Sarratt? I posed that question in a caption to a photograph last month.

A READER Sydney Putman of 115 Westfield Avenue, provided the answer, although the mystery of the Sarratt tunnel remains. He says:

I'm the one in the middle of the photograph. I was 22 at the time (1950) and now I'm 69.

I can't for the life of me remember what the other fellows' names are.

We were working for Prior's Builders, an old Rickmansworth firm, which went out of business many years ago.

We were sent to repair the floor in The Cock's cellar, which had started to dip inexplicably. I broke through the floor and found what appeared to be a tunnel which had been filled in with earth.

It was easy to dig, so we excavated down to about seven feet to see where it went. We gave up then – that was deep enough for me, and besides, the floor had to be done.

It caused quite a stir in Sarratt at the time because no one knew what it was.

Maybe it was an old well; some of the older folk thought it was something to do with a monastery that used to exist nearby. It certainly wasn't a sewer or anything like that because the earth wasn't foul.

The Americans from Bovingdon even came up to have a look, but they never got around to excavating it either – they were being demobbed by that time, after all.

In the end the landlord had it capped with a manhole. Seeing as no one knows about it now, I assume it has since been cemented over.

Q WHAT are the origins of the Sarratt Treacle Mines, Bovingdon Docks and the Bricket Wood Needle Factory?

A Mr J BUTTELL of Highwood Avenue, Bushey, writes:
In the 1920's I understood that the Bricket Wood Needle Factory referred to the annual growth of brambles that used to entangle the many blackberry pickers in the season of mellow fruitfulness.

A E. G. MOSELY of Chess Valley Rise, Croxley Green, writes:

I am interested in your query about the Sarratt Treacle Mines. They may have been similar to the treacle mines at Sabden on the Lancashire/Yorkshire border.

The Sabden business was an exhibition of the legendary treacle mines and showed figures of little men working in the galleries of the alleged mine. Examples of these workers, made of felt, were on sale. The enterprise was run by a company called Treacle Mines Limited.



THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS SARRATT

Flower Festival

Saturday 29th June - Monday 30th June 1997

Welcome to Holy Cross
Welcome to our lovely church
Welcome to our Flower Festival

John Jubbe, John Plough, William Smyth, John Lane, Ralph Turner, John Butler and YOU.

What do you all have in common?

The answer is Holy Cross Church in Sarratt and the Tudors.

They were some of the Rectors of Sarratt during the Tudor period and our **FLOWER FESTIVAL** this year is based on the theme of the Tudors. I hope you enjoy the flowers and admire all the creative skills and hard work that has gone into this years **FLOWER FESTIVAL.** Thank you for coming.

As you go round remember that all those centuries ago during the Tudor period, people worshipped God in this same building. People also prayed to God and sung his praises. As you walk round try and find a moment to say a quiet prayer or perhaps give thanks to God for this lovely place of worship. Give thanks also for all those many people, both Tudors and others who have worshipped here so faithfully, right up to the present day.

Peter Hart

HOPEFULS from all over the world are awaiting the big moment on Sunday when it will be revealed who has won the house bargain of the year – a mini manor in Sarratt for just £1.

So far the raffle for the doll's house has raised £9,000 and organisers hope the amount made for the Holy Cross Church roofing fund will run into five figures before the draw at the end of this weekend's flower and music festival at the church.

Modelled on Rose Hall Farm as it was in Tudor times and furnished in period style, Sarratt Doll's House has attracted world-wide attention.

Tickets have been sold to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and America following widespread media coverage – including on the front page of Country Life.

Project organisers Judy and Philip Gooding have a pile of letters from people with special reasons to court Lady Luck in this particular lottery.

One woman recalls her sisters being evacuated to Sarratt during the war, while for another correspondent it evoked memoriesof being at school at Great Sarratt Hall, Sarratt, for seven years from 1946.

"We didn't know Great Sarratt Hall was used as a school," admits Philip. "It is amazing what has come out of the woodwork."

One bidder, from Canada, recalled deep disappointment when, back in her native Sweden, her mother made her give the doll's house she had inherited to the daughters of her mother's employer.

She would like the Sarratt Doll's House as something special to hand down to her own family.

Dolls house finds new village home

PROPERTY developer's wife ... had to face with numerous ... for raffle tickets from as ... as Australia, New Zea... Canada.

... honestly, it was a huge ... at it was won by a local ... nd especially by a family, ... value it and have the room ... said Mr Gooding after ... draw, which took place ... the Holy Cross Church ... festival.

... is than four personalities, ... pop star Paul Carrack, ... ducer Larry Dewaay, gar... ...orrespondent Max David... ... Terence Hardiman, per... ... the raffle draw – drawing ... honour of pulling out the ... ticket for the top prize.

... onour appropriately fell to ... mon Headmaster, who ... d the raffle at the only ear... ...ic viewing on March 1.

... winner will add a personal ... the new family heirloom ... at line. Mrs Newall said: ... sband is a senior partner ... lier Parker and is having an ... moters, Judy and Philip Gooding ... 'acquired by' sign made."

07766

Registered Charity No. 1018991

Please Support The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church

GRAND RAFFLE

of

SARRATT DOLLS HOUSE

This unique, craftsman-built, dolls house is valued at £5000. It is modelled on Rose Hall, Sarratt, Hertfordshire.

Records for the Manor of Rose Hall date back to 1166.

Plus Other Great Prizes

Tickets £1 Each

The Raffle will be drawn at Sarratt on Sunday 29th. June 1997

Promoter: D. Jenks, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 6BT

Printed to conform to the Lotteries & Amusements Act 1976 (Licence No. TR 21)

Printed By: Hanley Swiffen & Co. Ltd., 107, High Street, Thurnscoe, Rotherham Tel: 01709 892367

1997

Jan's in Prime position

WATFORD OBSERVER 7-3-97

LEAFING through Norma Major's excellent book on Chequers the other day, my eye caught sight of the name Jan Clutterbuck, under Acknowledgements.

Curiosity never kills the cat round here, so I headed to Sarratt and found myself standing rather sheepishly at Jan Clutterbuck's door.

"Why, what and how do you do, and why didn't you tell me about it?" all tumbled out at once, and "oh, sorry to just barge in like this. Are you busy?"

Which, as a matter of fact, she was. "I'm in the studio going through my dog days," was the comment preceding an invitation to come in.

As it turned out, the dogs, a series of eight paintings for a gallery back in Jan's native Connecticut, USA, had just gone.

But the artist, who married into English gentry and settled in Sarratt, was still enjoying the sense of creation and has kept prints of the originals for a show on March 15 and 16.

The dogs are different. They are not conventional portraits, but pictures of dogs with a humorous slant – commissioned when Jan showed the gallery owner a picture, entitled I'd Do Anything For You and which showed a terrier peeping over the edge of a stable door.

It is a departure from her wonderful character sheep and more conventional impressions of the countryside around Sarratt, which will also be in the show, shared with nine other artists.

Jan's at home exhibitions are special; her lovely home in Red Lion Lane forms the backdrop for a select group of artist friends' high quality work.

Art and artists have become woven into Jan's life in the English countryside. Originally, they were an antidote to feeling slightly lonely in the village isolation of Sarratt after the excitement of working for the Red Cross during the Second World War and in New York just after.

Jeremy Clutterbuck, the handsome young officer she had met during her war service work, followed and proposed to her in New York and so, almost without realising it, she married into a rather grand way of life – preserving a personal warmth and sense of amazement which reflects in her work and reaction to events.

Her encounter with Norma Major was sparked by a connection between the name Clutterbuck and Chequers.

Jan recalls: "The family lived at Chequers until 1903, when Sir Arthur Lee decided to give it to the nation as a country retreat for the Prime Minister. Jeremy's father was born there and when the family had to leave they built a replica of the house at Putteridge Berry."

When approached by Mrs Major Jan was able to unearth a couple of family photographs which have been used in the book and as a thank you the Sarratt artist was offered the opportunity to visit Chequers with a friend to paint pictures of the house.



Major works: Jan Clutterbuck, from Sarratt, with a copy of Norma Major's new book for which she provided photographs and, below, her work I'd Do Anything For You. CP082312: JOE SHEEHAN



"My friend suggested we should offer to give one of the paintings to Chequers. I wouldn't have had the nerve," Jan laughs.

The offer was accepted very graciously and with an invitation to take their pick: Would they like to deliver it to Chequers or to 10 Downing Street?

"Well, that was too good a chance to miss, so we chose Downing Street," said Jan.

The visit was strictly private. Jan was presented with a copy of the book, Chequers, by Norma Major who, she said, could not have been more charming.

Said Jan: "She was friendly, warm and we had a wonderful time."

The visit took place in early December and since then Jan has been busy painting happy, character dogs and preparing for next weekend's show at her home.

It will be a bumper show in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign and no doubt the house will be besieged by bargain hunters keen to snap up the latest creations from two jewellers, Christine Crocker and Diana Phillips, sculptor Mary Orrom, potter Sally Marks, as well as five well-known local painters, Marion Perkins, Molly Binfield, Gillian Burrows, Brigid Marlin and hostess Jan Clutterbuck. An added touch of choice and variety will be Sheila Nichols' subtle and impressive dried flower arrangements.

Gillian Burrows, who used to live just around the corner in Sarratt but has moved to the Isle of Dogs, will be showing the start of her latest project – watercolours of London scenes, which she is offering for use as part of the Millenium celebrations.

Members of the Rickmansworth Committee of Cancer Research Campaign are co-hosting the event and serving refreshments.

● The Spring Exhibition at Jan Clutterbuck's home, Pentlands, Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, in aid of the Cancer Research Campaign, takes place on Saturday, March 15, and Sunday, March16, from 10am until 4pm on Saturday and 11am to 4pm on the Sunday. Admission £1.

On the 17th July, Three Rivers District Councillors will decide whether to pass the plans for this building.

You've probably read the yellow sheet in Spotlight and the anonymously written SPAG report. Our Parish Council are recommending acceptance.

The undersigned are concerned.

Why?

1 The new building towers over surrounding properties such as Dell Cottages whose occupants will be adversly affected. Additionally, if this is passed in our conservation area then surely we lose control of all further developments in the Parish.

2 The hall has no windows. The only natural light will come from a 1m triangular skylight 25 feet up.

3 The hall walls are 20 feet high on all four sides. With a floor width of 30 feet, this may be ideal for badminton but not for typical village meetings & social events.

4 The kitchen has no windows.

5 Other concerns : heating, ventilation, parking, cost to user groups and more.

Want to see more?

Look at the plans in the P.O. Look at the white marks in the hall carpark.

Want to do more?

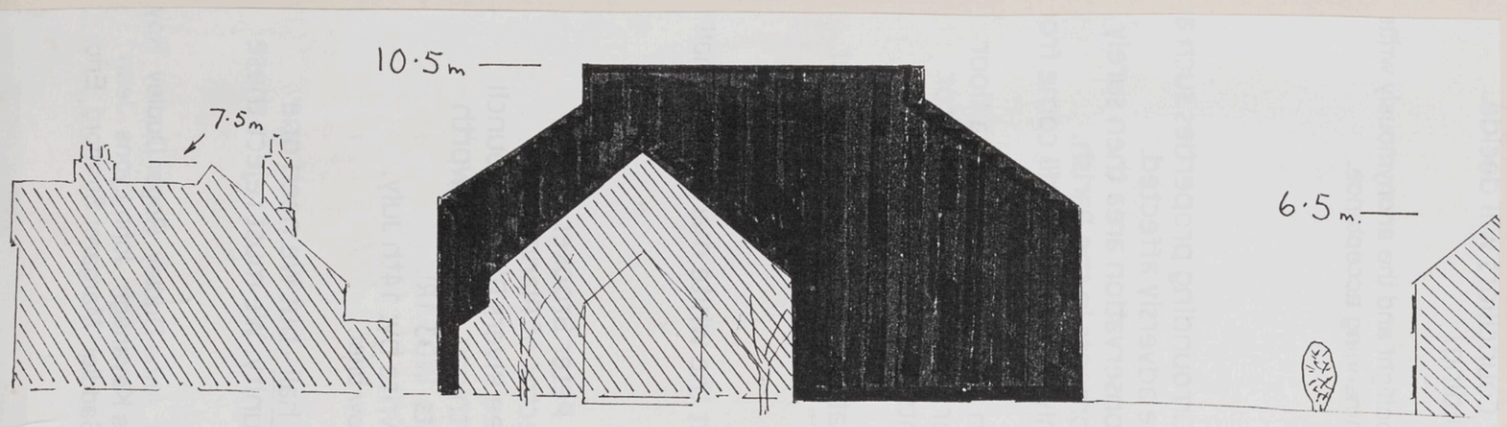
Please write immediately to: Mr. Peter Brooker
Director of Planning
Three Rivers District Council
Northway, Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1RL

Ref: 97/0296/8 Please write by: 14th July.

Remember every letter counts no matter how brief.

Yes, we all want an improved village hall - but we need one designed to serve our village community. We must reject these plans.

Julia Cheetham Carol Chorley Ian Dorrett Anne Dudley Roger Dudley Roy Eteen Bill Fenning Larry Griffiths Glennys Kavanagh John Lyons Jean Newell Dawn Pitts Colin Plummer Julia Saddler Margaret Stratford Eric White Pam White



Artist's impression of the new village hall.

Does this worry you?

P. T. O.

District council throws out rebuild scheme

W.O. 25-7-97

Village hall plans rejected

by Kathryn Price

AMBITIOUS plans to rebuild Sarratt village hall suffered a massive setback last week when proposals for the £250,000 scheme were thrown out by Three Rivers District Council.

The decision was welcomed by a large number of residents who objected to the building, claiming the height would dwarf many houses in the picturesque village.

But the rejection spelled disappointment for members of the village hall committee who had spent a year working to secure a Millennium grant to cover half the cost of the project.

Councillors turned down the scheme after carrying out a site visit earlier this month, on the grounds the size of the building would impinge on residents, blocking out sunlight and overlooking houses.

The plans had been drawn up to include a hall for badminton which residents had expressed a wish for in a village consultation but claimed would tower above other properties.

The proposals also included a parish council office, computer and meeting room, dressing rooms for theatre productions, and an extended kitchen.

The scheme would have been funded by the district council, Sarratt Parish Council, the village hall committee and nine individuals who had agreed to stump up the shortfall.

The plans had been entered into the 21st Century Halls for England competition, a contest organised by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), which offered £10 million to be shared between a number of winning village and rural Millennium projects.

Vice chairman of the committee Mr Edward Turvill said: "Our design had been looked upon very favourably and it looked as if we would receive the money.

"However, because the plans have been turned down it is unlikely our proposal will be considered. It is a very disappointing time for everyone who has worked so hard on the scheme.

"We consulted residents about what they wanted and had tried hard to incorporate everything into the plan but a group of residents decided to stop us at the final hurdle.

"If anything goes ahead now it will be on a much smaller scale with much fewer facilities for young people in the village."

Members of the village hall committee will be holding a meeting on July 29 to decide whether to continue with plans to rebuild the hall.

Planning permission for a much smaller village hall was granted in 1991 although this has since expired because it was not built in time.

Resident Mr Ian Dorrett, who objected to the plan, said: "Everyone is delighted that public opinion won the day.

"Although it looks unlikely that we will receive the Millennium project funding it would have been a compromise too far. The proposal would not have enhanced Sarratt and was not right for the site."

Hall plans suffer setback

HOPES of rebuilding Sarratt village hall have faded after residents failed to net a £125,000 grant.

The news has dealt a double blow to supporters of the project who had plans to transform the building turned down by Three Rivers District Council last month.

Members of the village hall committee, who spent 12 months trying to secure the cash, say the decision has set them back years.

Sarratt's application had reached the final round of the 21st Century Halls competition, which offered £10 million to be split between village and rural Millennium projects.

Committee member Mr Edward Turvill said: "We are devastated by the decision. Although our plans for the new hall were turned down we still thought we would be in with a chance of getting the money.

"As it is, the village will have to run a massive fundraising campaign for the next few years or risk losing the chance of replacing the hall."

Hall plans split the village when residents complained the building's height would block out light to neighbouring properties.

Plans included a parish council office, computer and meeting room, extended kitchen, dressing room for productions and a hall which could be used for badminton. Hall committee members were told they had a good chance of getting the cash because of their ambitious plans.

At a meeting in the village hall last week residents opposed to the original design said they wanted more of a say in future plans for the hall.

Hall lot of trouble . . .

YOU can often get too close to a project and you lose objectivity.

I was reminded of that the other day upon hearing that Sarratt Village Hall committee, who work dilligently and well for the benefit of the village, had suddenly come up with plans for an edifice some ten feet higher and 50 per cent bigger than the existing hall.

It seemed a classic case of becoming carried away by a project, and losing perspective (always a dangerous thing when preparing plans).

From some ten feet higher, the plan was reduced to around five feet taller but the opposition grew, particularly from those who could not understand the need for a village hall tall enough in which to play badminton.

But some of the opposition became carried away with their criticism. Chinese whispers in Sarratt were such that I was solemly informed it was my duty as a resident to oppose the scheme because the proposed building was *twice* as high as the current hall, without windows on the walls, only in the roof.

Well, the scheme was torpedoed when planning permission was refused, so it is very much a case of back to the drawing board for the conscientious committee.

But the original proposal has now reached legendary proportions.

"It was a ridiculous idea anyway," I was told the other night as we walked back from the pub. "Can you imagine a village hall *three* times higher than this one?"

And they reckon journalists have the inside edge on getting their facts wrong.

Brazilian trio poised to join village side

THE Samba beat is coming to Sarratt.

Three Brazilians are due to sign for the village football team this week and a Brazilian coach has already joined the club before the new season starts.

Not bad for a team that plays in the Herts Senior County League.

The names Mazinho, Juliano and Cuico would not look out of place on the World Cup winners' teamsheet, but from now on they will be penned by Sarratt's new manager Mick Gilchrist.

The coach, Edson Corriea, is also part of the new managerial team and was instrumental in bringing the trio to Sarratt, as club spokesman Mick Warner explained:

"Edson runs a team in Hillingdon and these lads play for him. They all work in London at the moment.

"We are expecting to do well next season. We have the potential to score a lot of goals," he added.

Victory party

TWO hundred people attended a belated victory party in Sarratt last month to mark Labour's win at the General Election. Adults and children enjoyed an afternoon of fun and games organised by the Croxley Green branch of the party.

Services cut due to lack of passengers

LACK of passengers has forced two temporary bus services in Sarratt to fold.

Poor use is to blame for the termination of an early morning commuter service, which ran daily to Rickmansworth Station and a Saturday morning service to Rickmansworth Town Centre.

The extra routes were added to existing village services two years ago, but spot checks showed they were being used by only a handful of people.

The service will revert to its original structure, which relies on a daily school service to St Clement Dane's School, in Chorleywood.

The decision was explained to members of Sarratt Parish Council at a meeting earlier this month.

Mr David Neilan, community transport officer for Hertfordshire County Council's Passenger Transport Unit, outlined the changes and asked councillors to consider providing their own community transport services.

Under new Government legislation parish councils can provide limited transport with grant aid.

Three Rivers District Councillor Peter Cumming, who attended the meeting, said: "It is excellent that the county council are now talking to the parish council directly to identify the needs of the community.

"It looks as if we are going to get the support we need and not waste people's money by putting on extra services which are rarely used. This is a move in the right direction and we shall have to wait and see what the result will be."

Q WHAT are the origins of the Sarratt Treacle Mines, Bovingdon Docks and the Bricket Wood Needle Factory?

A R WIGGS of Links Way, Croxley Green, writes:

I was very interested in the tunnel under the Cock pub at Sarratt. I remember as a young man sitting on a seat outside the pub, drinking Taylor Walkers "Main Line" (1954), when I overheard two old boys discussing the tunnel.

They were saying the main entrance to this tunnel was opposite the pub on the green where a big dip is and this is why it never fills up with water.

The tunnel ran down towards the church, down Church Lane with an outlet at an old vicarage, the church, and a spur off to the Cock, on to a large white house beyond the church, veering right to a pub at Sarratt Bottom.

It was in this area that several tunnels joined up.

One was very ancient, from Roman times, and another, the main one, went via the monastery at Rosehall, under Whitedell Farm (where the planes crashed) and onto Flaunden, then down to Chenies Mill where it split to go into several large mansions and farms.

The purpose of this web of tunnels was to supply illegal alcohol to the area from a large underground distillery which was situated on the "lower end" near the River Chess, known as "the real extracted alcohol cellars" (lower end).

In brief "treacle" mines was added in 1912.

I hope this scratchy information will be of some help in solving one or two local mysteries.

P.S. Your excellent books on the 50's and 60's in Watford, I enjoyed as I was born in Watford.



The Union Flag at half mast over Sarratt village as the nation mourns the death of a princess. CP363407

WATFORD OBSERVER SEPTEMBER 5th 1997 Death of DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES

£1,800 raised

STAFF at a Sarratt pub raised £1,800 for the Princess Diana Memorial Fund on Saturday.

The Cock Inn, Church Lane, domated profits and the contents of collection boxes placed along the bar.

Manager Mr Julian Thompson said: "We decided to stay open on Saturday because we had taken lunchtime bookings and there was a wedding booking over the road."

IN SHORT

On your bikes

A SPONSORED bike ride, horse ride or ramble will be held in Sarratt tomorrow (Saturday) to raise money for the Friends of Holy Cross and the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. For more information on the event, contact Mr John Guy on 01923 267549.

Diary date

A JUMBLE sale organised by Sarratt's Parents Association will be held in the village hall on Saturday, September 20, at 2pm. Stalls include bric-a-brac, cakes, toys and plants. All proceeds will go to children's organisations in the village.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24th, 1997 WATFORD & S.W. HERTS REVIEW.

Good report for nursery

Sarratt Ducklings

SARRATT DUCKLINGS provides a happy, caring and stimulating environment in which most children achieve the desirable outcomes in key learning areas by the age of five, education watchdogs have reported.

Children attending the group in the grounds of Sarratt Junior School, The Green, become confident and independent, thanks to a good range of activities promoting personal and social development, according to Ofsted inspectors.

They are well behaved and their speaking, listening, early reading and writing skills are developed by a range of activities. Children have many good experiences to promote mathematical understanding.

Pupils understand their world and are able to learn about the environment and explore and experiment with a variety of materials and equipment to learn about their own and other cultures.

Their physical and creative development is nurtured by a selection of activities.

The quality of teaching is good and positive links have been established with parents and carers. They are well informed about all aspects of the educational provision and are supportive of the school.

Sarratt Ducklings was founded in 1992 and teaches 32 children aged between two years and nine months and five years old drawn from Sarratt and the surrounding area.

Nursery education inspector Muriel Lloyd praised the school's provision for language and literacy and mathematics and noted there were no weaknesses.

Group leader Mrs Julie Humphrey said she was delighted to receive such a good report.



Kids step out for two causes

YOUNGSTERS from Sarratt put their best foot forward on a ten-mile walk last Sunday in a dual effort to improve their own playground and raise funds for cancer research. The youngsters joined villagers of all ages on the sponsored stroll from the King George Playing Fields, through the Chess Valley to Chalfont. All the money raised by the intrepid walkers will be split equally between buying new equipment for the playground and investing in extra cancer research at the Grays Laboratory at Mount Vernon Hospital. Chairman of Three Rivers Council, Phil Brading, who took part in the walk, said: "I was delighted to endorse this important fund-raising venture and to see others also supporting such worthwhile causes."

Silence marks Armistice Day

MAROONS fired into the air over Sarratt Green signalled the beginning and end of two minutes' silence for this century's war dead on Tuesday.

The First World War ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 and the Royal British Legion has campaigned in recent years for a period of silence at that moment every year.

Mr Michael Hewlitt, chaplain of the Sarratt Branch of the Royal British Legion, said: "This is the second time we have done this here and the whole idea of commemorating on the 11th has been reactivated by the Royal British Legion.

"It's no good just to have a service on the Sunday because this forces people to actually stop and think. The more it disrupts the day the better because then people have to think about what they are doing it for."

A group of about 20 people gathered on The Green in Sarratt to observe the silence and schoolchildren at Sarratt Village School also stood in silence.

Maroons were chosen because they were used as distress signals by Naval ships during the war.



This flare signalled the start of the two-minute silence held in Sarratt. CP460911



The flag is raised in Sarratt after two minutes' silence was observed on Tuesday. CP460910

Special tribute marks 20 years of dedication

A PHOTO album of memories is being created for a leader of a Sarratt pony club who is hanging up her boots after 20 years.

Keen horsewoman Mrs Pam Dickens, of The Green, has helped teach hundreds of youngsters during her time as district commissioner of the Old Berkeley Hunt North Pony Club, Sarratt.

To mark her achievement a former member of the club Mrs Janet Hopkinson, of Chesham, is hoping to compile a lasting tribute using old photographs collected over the years.

The book will be presented to Mrs Dickens at a special retirement ceremony in December and Mrs Hopkinson wants to hear from anyone who would donate photographs.

Mrs Hopkinson said: "I can honestly say Pam is the most fantastic person I have ever met. She has an unrivalled amount of energy and a lot of children owe her an enormous debt.

"I just thought this would be a nice way of saying thank you."

Mrs Dickens joined the pony club as secretary 20 years ago and for the past 17 years has been the chief organiser of the club.

● If anyone would like to donate photographs for the album, they can contact Mrs Hopkinson on 01494 758587.

SOME years ago I drove past the old Cock Inn, Sarratt, and noted with frustration that a once thriving business remained shut and a listed building looked a little worse for wear.

Within the walls of the establishment, I had consumed over a period of 30 years a substantial amount of ale, which I doubt if I would survive if it all came back at me in a tidal wave now.

A succession of landlords had maintained a high standard of beer, aided by the immediacy of the cellar underneath and the relatively short run of pipes to the engines whicl drew the beer through to the glasses.

But somewhere along the line, the plot had been lost, the former Taylor Walker-Benskins pub closed and was then sold.

JUST A WORD

Oliver Phillips



A planning application was refused and The Cock faced an uncertain future, probably as a private house.

I wrote an article in these columns around that time, called Requiem to a Public House, two copies of which either by accident or contrivance, now adorn the walls of a thriving business.

The Cock rose from the dead. A Mr Tony Power, who bought the building for just over £200,000, "threw some money" at the project and in March 1995, The Cock re-opened for business.

Now, it was not everyone's cup of tea. Some bemoaned the lost simplicity of the original; I felt that covering the flagstone floor was a mistake, for one; and Three Rivers District Council, in a ludicrous display of pedantocracy, objected to two internal vertical beams, which served cosmetic as opposed to structural needs.

Personally, I believed the beams gave character to a bar that had lost some of its original, but if ever you are passing, pop in and look at those beams, which the council deemed so objectionable.

I do not know how much paper and pence of ratepayers' money was spent trying unsuccessfully to have them removed, but they now remain, courtesy of an appeal, as a monument to council nit-picking.

Critics of the new pub-restaurant contended that if Disney had been asked to come up with their concept of an old, English pub, they would have duplicated Tony Power's refurbishment policy but plainly, it works.

"I break away from the brewery themes and I know what the punter wants," says Tony, with good reason, for he had earlier pulled off a similarly successful transformation at the Bricklayer's Arms, Flaunden, in the late 1980's.

But The Cock, for Tony, has "not been a happy pub".

The reasons, he states: "Local planning authorities and councils: all the hostility was theirs, not mine. I felt it was not practical but personal.

"The Cock is on a large piece of land that could have sustained another house and the pub in its present state and I still believe that," he adds.

Unhappy he may have been, but the till continued to ring loud and long and now, I understand, unhappy Tony is crying all the way to the bank.

On Monday, October 10, The Cock will be leased by the Dorset-based Badger Inns and Brewery.

Tony Power retains the freehold and part of the land but admits that he is "chuffed to bits" by the deal.

If the bar-room telegraph and the village speculation is near-right, the pub has been leased for 21 years, and Mr Power is sitting comfortably on a fat wedge with more to follow at monthly intervals.

1997

Can anyone shed light on ghostly story from the past?

READER Mrs Marion Perkins of Old Swan House, The Common, Chipperfield, says:

Here is a ghost story told by a professional gentleman in 1897 about a house in Sarratt.

I am intrigued to know if any reader recognises the house or the wealthy Mr B who retired there towards the end of the 19th Century.

Here is the story:

Ghost story

"I was some few years since, invited to pass a day and night at the house of a friend in Hertfordshire, with whom I was intimately acquainted.

"His name was B, and he had formerly been in business as a saddler, in Oxford Street, where he had realised a handsome fortune, and had now retired to enjoy his otium cum dignitate in the rural and beautiful village of Sarratt.

"It was a gloomy Sunday, in the month of November, when I mounted my horse for the journey, and there was so much appearance of rain, that I should certainly have selected some other mode of conveyance had I not been desirous of leaving the animal in Mr B's straw yard for the winter.

"Before I got as far as St John's Wood, the threatening clouds broke, and by the time I reached Watford I was completely soaked.

"However, I proceeded and arrived at Sarratt before my friend and his wife had returned from church.

"The moment they did so, they furnished me with dry clothes, and I was informed that we were to dine at the house of Mr D, a very agreeable neighbour.

"I felt some little hesitation about presenting myself in such a costume for I was decked out in a full suit of Mr B's, who was a stout man, of six feet in height, whilst I am rather of the diminutive order; but my objections were over-ruled; we went, and my appearance added not a little to the hilarity of the party.

"At ten o'clock we separated, and I returned with Mr and Mrs B to their house, where I was shortly afterwards conducted to a very comfortable bedroom.

"Fatigued with my day's ride, I was soon in bed, and soon asleep; but I do not think I could have slept long before I was awakened by the violent barking of dogs.

"I found that the noise had disturbed others as well as myself, for I heard Mr B, who was lodged in the adjoining room, open his window and call to them to be quiet.

"They were obedient to his voice, and as soon as quietness ensued, I dropped asleep again; but I was again awakened by an extraordinary pressure upon my feet; that I was perfectly awake I declare; the light that stood in the chimney corner shone strongly across the foot of the bed and I saw the figure of a well dressed man in the act of stooping and supporting himself in so doing by the bed clothes.

"He had on a blue coat, with bright gilt buttons, but I saw no head; the curtains at the foot of the bed, which were partly looped back, just hung so as to conceal that part of his person.

"At first I thought it was my host, and as I had dropped my clothes, as is my habit, on the floor, at the foot of the bed, I supposed he had come to look after them, which rather surprised me; but just as I had raised myself upright in bed, and was about to inquire into the occasion of his visit, the figure passed on.

"I then recollected that I had locked the door; and becoming somewhat puzzled, I jumped out of bed, but I could see nobody; and on examining the room, I found no means of ingress but the door through which I had entered, and one other; both of which were locked on the inside.

"Amazed and puzzled, I got into bed again, and sat some time ruminating on the extraordinary circumstance, when it occurred to me that I had not looked under the bed.

"So I got out again, fully expecting to find my visitor, whoever he was, there; but I was disappointed.

"So after looking at my watch, and ascertaining that it was ten minutes past two, I stepped into bed again, hoping now to get some rest.

"But alas! sleep was banished for that night; and after turning from side to side, and making vain endeavours at forgetfulness, I gave up the point, and lay till the clock struck seven, perplexing my brain with the question of who my midnight visitor could be; and also how he had got in and how he had got out of my room.

"About eight o'clock I met my host and his wife at the breakfast table, when in answer to their hospitable inquiries of how I had passed the night, I mentioned first, that I had been awaked by the barking of some dogs, and that I had heard Mr B open his window and call to them.

"He answered that two strange dogs had got into the yard and had disturbed the others.

"I then mentioned my midnight visitor, expecting that they would either explain the circumstance, or else laugh at me and declare I must have dreamt it.

"But, to my surprise, my story was listened to with grave attention; and they related to me the tradition with which this spectre, for such I found they deemed it to be, was supposed to be connected.

"This was to the effect that many years ago a gentleman so attired had been murdered there, under some frightful circumstances; and that his head had been cut off.

"On perceiving that I was very unwilling to accept this explanation of the mystery – for I had always been an entire disbeliever in supernatural appearances – they begged me to prolong my visit for a day or two, when they would introduce me to the rector of the parish, who could furnish me with such evidence with regard to circumstances of a similar nature.

"As would leave no doubt on my mind as to the possibility of their occurrence.

"But I had make an engagement to dine at Watford, on my way back; I did not feel disposed to encounter the chance of another visit from the mysterious stranger, so I declined the proffered hospitality, and took my leave.

"Some time after this, I happened to be dining in C Street, in company with some ladies resident in the same county, when, chancing to allude to my visit to Sarratt, I added that I had met with a very extraordinary adventure there, which I had never been able to account for.

"When one of these ladies immediately said that she hoped I had not had a visit from the headless gentleman in a blue coat and gilt buttons, who was said to have been seen by many people in that house.

"Such is the conclusion of this marvellous tale as regards myself, and I can only assure you that I have related facts as they occurred; and that I had never heard a word about this apparition in my life, till Mr B related to me the tradition above alluded to.

"Still as I am no believer in supernatural appearances, I am constrained to suppose that the whole affair was the product of my imagination."



The new Lord Mayor of London takes his hat off to the City. WD 14-11-97

Magical day as Lord Mayor begins his special year

WATFORD-BORN Richard Nichols donned the full civic regalia when he became the 670th Lord Mayor of London.

A magical parade, incorporating 66 floats and organisations from all over the world, sailed through the streets of London on Saturday to represent the old tradition of the Lord Mayor's journey to swear his allegiance to the crown.

Mr Nichols, 59, has taken a sabbatical from solicitors Sedgwick Kelly, in King Street, Watford, to take up the prestigious position.

Mr Nichols said: "The day was very exciting.

"Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and thankfully it didn't rain.

"I believe the show attracted a lot more people this year than expected."

Mr Nichols has been training for the position for the past year, so there should be no surprises.

He has had close contacts with the City since he was a small boy and has been an Alderman for London for the past 14 years.

Mr Nichols said: "The selection process for Mayor is very long and complicated but I think the main reason that I was chosen was because of my close links with the City.

"My father worked for a company called Salters in London and when he died, the company helped with my schooling.

"I was educated at Christ Hospital School, in Horsham, where more that 85 per cent of the children who attended were disadvantaged and did not have to pay fees.

"The school still has a strong association with the Lord Mayor's Show and it is traditional for the school's band to perform in it."

Despite Mr Nichols' connections with London, he has always lived in the Watford area.

When he married, he moved to Kings Langley where he became chairman of the parish council, and eventually he moved with his family to Sarratt.

A Lord Mayor's Banquet was held on Monday in honour of Mr Nichols.

He said: "I am hugely greatful for all the hard work that was put into organising the banquet.

"The event was splendid and the Prime Minister gave such a good speech about foreign policy it led to a standing ovation."

During his tenure, Mr Nichols hopes to do a great deal to promote the City to other countries.

His theme for the year is International City Serving the World.

Mr Nichols said: "London is a major city that serves the world and international trade makes up a big proportion of the country's economy at more than £20 billion.

"This represents around 20 per cent of the gross national product.

"Without these international services the country would be a lot poorer.

"For this reason I plan to help promote London by taking some people, who are top in their profession, abroad with the aim to strengthen our international business relations and get ahead of the competition."



IT'S A CRACKER: Kay Lee (left) and Bert Sharland get in the festive spirit while enjoying a Christmas dinner cooked by the luncheon ladies from Sarratt Care, the help group for the elderly. More than 90 elderly people tucked into festive fare which was served at the village hall on Tuesday. WD 5-12-97 Picture CP491012: LEIGH GREEN

£150,000 development backed by residents

by Kathryn Price

VILLAGERS in Sarratt have backed new plans to transform the village hall as a Millennium project.

The fresh wave of enthusiasm comes less than six months after proposals to convert the hall were shelved when they attracted criticism from some residents and failed to net a £125,000 grant.

However, last week more than 40 villagers attended a meeting to discuss the future of the dilapidated building and praised ideas for new designs, which will be drawn up by architect Mr Sean Aylett, who lives in the village.

The new plans would extend the size of the main hall, providing one or two multi-purpose function rooms behind the existing stage. These could be used by community groups for meetings or converted into dressing rooms for the annual village pantomime.

The hall would be extended into the car park to make way for a parish council office, a bar and a store room.

The project, which is expected to cost £150,000, is hoped to be funded by a Millennium grant, Three Rivers District Council, Sarratt Parish Council and funds raised by the Village Hall Committee.

The proposal is the latest in a long list of planning applications which have been submitted since 1971.

But members of the newly-elected village hall committee are confident the plans will be passed by Three Rivers District Council when they are submitted early next year.

In January the committee will apply for a £60,000 grant from the 21st Century Halls for England Fund which offers £10 million to be split between village and rural Millennium projects.

Earlier this year the latest application to redesign the village hall reached the final round of the competition but was turned down at the last minute.

The decision was praised by some residents in the village who claimed the former design, which incorporated a badminton hall, would dwarf a number of nearby houses in the picturesque village.

The new plans would not significantly raise the height of the hall and people living near to the building praised the designs at the meeting last week.

Chairman of the Village Hall Committee Mr Ian Dorrett said he was optimistic proposals to redesign the building would run smoothly.

He said: "The design is very similar to one that was granted planning permission by Three Rivers Council in 1991.

"We are fairly confident we meet all the criteria set down by 21st Century Halls and will be applying for £20,000 from the parish council and £30,000 from Three Rivers Council.

"Sarratt's Village Hall has been in need of some major work for many years and we think it is fitting the scheme should become a Millennium project which the whole community can work towards."

The shortfall of cash will be made up by the village hall committee, which has saved £40,000 and is planning to stage a number of fundraising activities next year to boost their coffers.

A plaque will act as a lasting tribute to the Millennium.



Plans to redevelop Sarratt Hall as a Millennium project come just months after refurbishment plans were shelved because a £125,000 grant application was rejected. WD 26-12-97 CP191429



For the first time yesterday the "silent ceremony" in which the Lord Mayor of London hands over to his successor, was photographed at Guildhall by a newspaper. The new Lord Mayor, Alderman Richard Nichols (left), clasps hands with Sir Richard Cook. Page 2 and Weekend

Meals on wheels

THE Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, needs a volunteer driver who has a few hours spare time to deliver meals on wheels (between 9am and 2pm). Contact Ms Eileen Adams on 01923 264463, Ms Noreen Tatham on 01923 263176 or Ms Sarah Toulson on 01923 263413.



Lucky dip: Children from Sarratt Ducklings pick the winners of their prize draw which raised more than £1,500 for the nursery school. WD 26-12-97 Picture CP510923: PETE STEVENS

Raffle raises cash for nursery school

YOUNGSTERS from a playgroup in Sarratt helped pick the winners of a raffle, which raised more than £1,500 for their nursery school.

Children from Sarratt Ducklings, The Green, announced the winners of the prize draw, which was organised to collect money for play equipment and learning aids for the group.

A first prize flying lesson at Denham Aerodrome was won by Mr Dennis Ward and runner-up Kerry Turner scooped a three-and-a-half hour top to toe body massage at The Elusive Butterfly, Chorleywood.

Third prize winner Sarah Jeff walked away with a fresh water pearl necklace donated by Watford jewellers, Jacksons, and there were dozens more lucky winners.

More than 30 youngsters aged between three and five attend the group, which meets each morning.

All the prizes were donated by local companies and organisations.

97?

Sir Gilbert Longden

Co-founder with Enoch Powell and Edward Heath of the One Nation group of Tory MPs

SIR GILBERT LONGDEN, who has died aged 95, was one of the last surviving founder members of the One Nation group of Conservative MPs which transformed the party's post-war policies.

It recruited a generation of young intellectuals destined to become household names: Enoch Powell, Edward Heath, Iain Macleod, Reginald Maudling and Angus Maude among them.

Like Longden (who sat for South West Hertfordshire from 1950 to 1974) they were part of the brilliant 1950 intake of Conservative MPs to the Commons determined to make a break with pre-war Conservatism. But alone among them, Longden never held office — the result, perhaps, of a retiring disposition and a lack of ambition. Between 1951 and 1964 he was invited to be a Whip, and later to be PPS to Macleod, but he preferred to remain on the back benches.

His speeches were notable more for their intellectual content than stirring oratory. He had a pithy wit, never bettered than on the day Macmillan faced the Commons after sacking a third of his Cabinet during his "Night of the Long Knives".

"May I take this first opportunity," he drily observed, "of congratulating the Prime Minister on having kept his head when all about him were losing theirs." It convulsed the Opposition and visibly shook Macmillan.

Gilbert James Morley Longden was born at Castle Heath, County Durham, on April 16 1902, the son of James Morley Longden and Kathleen Morgan. He was educated at Haileybury, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and the Sorbonne.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1924 and practised in London until 1930 when, through an uncle's friendship with Sir Alfred Mond, he went to Calcutta as Secretary of ICI (India).

A sociable young bachelor, Longden attended Lady Willingdon's Charles I Ball, though he gibbed at the expense of Carolean dress. When the Vicereine accosted him on the dance floor with a withering "Who are you?" he replied "King John".

He spent his leaves travelling extensively in the East. He left India in 1936, pausing en route to England for talks with Gandhi, at Mahabaleshwar, about his campaign for Indian independence.



Longden: discomfited Macmillan with his wit

Fearing the worst after Munich, Longden enrolled in the Army Officer's Emergency Reserve and in 1940 joined the Durham Light Infantry. He was adjutant at their regimental headquarters before being posted to the Far East in 1941.

He was appointed ADC to the Commander 2nd Division in India and then Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, 36 Division in Burma. He took part in the Arakhan Corridor Campaign and the fall of Mandalay. He was demobilised as a major and awarded the MBE (Military).

Longden had been adopted as a parliamentary candidate for Morpeth in 1938, but the wartime electoral truce intervened. Having then fought that seat unsuccessfully in 1945, he was elected for South West Herts in 1950.

In 1947 he had published *A Conservative Philosophy*, which was to provide the intellectual foundation for the One Nation group, named after its epoch-making policy statement published for the Party conference in 1950.

It accepted the essence of Labour's 1945 victory: the creation of the Welfare State, National Health Service, commitment to full employment and state intervention in industry. This established the Conservatives as an acceptable alternative governing party and paved the way for their victory in 1951.

The momentum of the One Nation group was maintained with *Change is Our Ally* for the 1955 election and *A Responsible Society* for 1959. Education and foreign affairs were Longden's main political interests.

In his maiden speech he urged higher pay for university teachers; he criticised the 1954 Teachers Superannuation Bill as "unfair" and led a deputation to the Government urging the establishment of negotiating machinery for university teachers' salaries.

His essentially libertarian instincts were reflected in his successful campaign against strident Right-wing demands (echoing McCarthyism in America) to ban Communists from teaching in state schools.

Over the years, Longden served on numerous party and non-political education organisations, and was the long-serving vice-chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Education.

Early in his parliamentary career he was appointed a UK representative to the Council of Europe, and he was a British delegate to the 12th and 13th sessions of the UN General Assembly.

He was chairman of the all-party British Atlantic Committee and the Conservative Group for Europe. He helped found the Great Britain-East Europe Committee which sought to bridge the East-West divide. He was joint author of *One Europe* (1969) and then *The Future of Europe*.

Longden was a strong opponent of apartheid and his attempts to persuade the Government to take a stronger line with the South African government led to his being deposed as chairman of the back bench Foreign Affairs Committee in 1961.

The Middle East had a lasting fascination for Longden, but he went through a dramatic change from the romantic and paternalistic vision of Britain's role in Arabia to being a leading pro-Zionist.

He became increasingly disenchanted with the determination of the Arab states to destroy the newly-created state of Israel. He became a leading pro-Israeli — something of rarity on the Conservative benches — and chairman of the all-party British-Israel Committee. He supported similar movements outside Parliament.

Longden retired from the Commons aged 72, but maintained an active interest in politics and was a regular contributor to the Letters columns of *The Daily Telegraph*.

Longden, who was knighted in 1972, was unmarried.

OUR M.P. FOR MANY YEARS

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1997
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize by Philip Buller FRMetS

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max,	total	
January	13th / 9.3	2nd /-5.4	2nd /-14.5	17th / 3.1	12.9	last snow of winter, 9th. Driest Jan
February	22nd / 12.5	3rd /-3.8	3rd /-11.8	18th / 12.5	83.8	1981-2013
March	15th / 17.1	31st /-0.8	20,22,30/-7	3rd / 3.5	12.3	
April	9th / 20.0	21st /-4.5	21st /-10.0	25th / 10.7	13.1	heard 1st cuckoo, 10th.
May	2,3rd/ 24.0	7th /-1.7	7th /-7.8	17th / 8.8	50.1	last air frost, 7th.
June	5th / 24.9	9th / 5.9	20th / 1.5	25th / 24.0	123.8	
July	22nd / 26.1	20th / 7.7	2nd /-0.3	3rd / 12.3	46.4	last ground frost, 2nd.
August	9,10 / 29.5	26th / 7.8	28th / 2.5	19th / 31.9	94.0	
September	17th / 23.2	13th / 4.0	2nd / 1.4	29th / 1.6	2.9	Driest Sept, 1981-2013
October	1st / 24.1	29th /-5.0	30th /-9.9	8th / 13.4	65.8	1st ground & air frosts, 14th & 25th.
November	16th / 14.4	12,13/-1.9	1st /-7.5	27th / 11.0	87.2	
December	30th / 14.2	5th /-2.2	5th /-8.0	9th / 9.9	66.5	1st snowfall, 2nd.

Sarratt
Local History Society

Wednesday November 26th
1997 in Sarratt Village Hall
at 7.45pm for 8pm
Mr. Geoff Paine will speak
on
"The Freedom of the Open Road"
(The history of cycling.)

The meeting will be preceded by tea or coffee.

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

Sarratt
Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society is on
Thursday March 13th
1997
at 7.45 pm
Sarratt Village Hall
when
Jean Archer
Chairman of Amersham Historical Society
will speak on
"History in the Chilterns"

All are welcome

Sarratt
Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society is on
Wednesday May 14th 1997
at 7.45 pm
in Sarratt Village Hall
when
William Braithwaite
will speak on
"Treacle Mine or Knife Cleaner"
Learn more about our Village Pump



All are welcome



Sarratt
Local History Society

On Tuesday September 23rd 1997 at 7.45pm a talk on Strawplaiting - a vital part of our village economy in the nineteenth century - will be given in the Village Hall by Veronica Maine who is Straw Plaiter in Residence at Luton Museum. Her title is:

'Over one, under two
Pull it tight and that will do'

All are welcome

REDUCTIONS FROM ORIGINAL A4 POSTERS

COUNTRY LIFE
SMALLER COUNTRY HOUSES
FEBRUARY 20, 1997

