SARRATT

SCRAPBOOK

VOL. 4

1998

Sarratt Local History Society

Our AGM will be held in Sarratt Village Hall on Tuesday January 20th at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

We invite all existing members of the society to be present to renew their membership, to elect the officers for the coming year, and to help welcome all the new members who we hope will be flocking to join us.
Following the business part of the meeting, which will be kept brief, we shall be able to enjoy an illustrated talk on

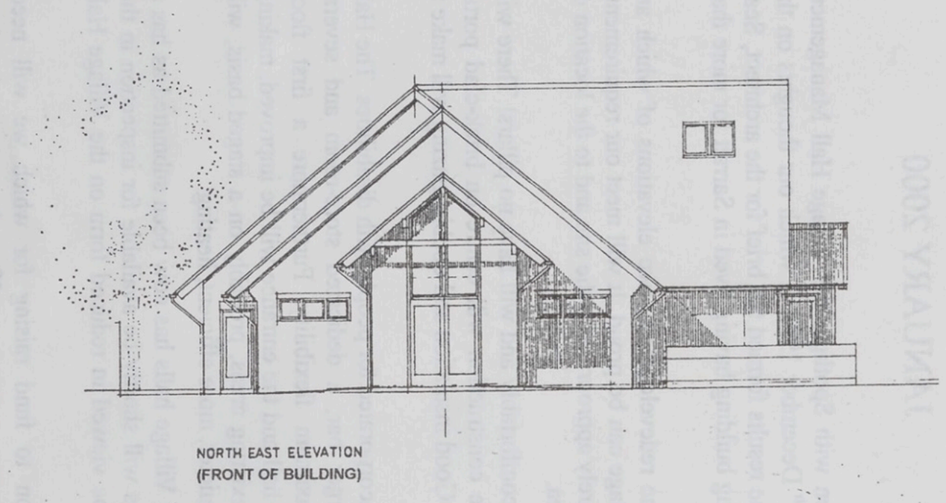
"Old Croxley Green".

This will be given by **Margaret Pomfret** who has made a study of the area. Also taking part will be **Shirley Greenman** and **John Kirkham** who will be talking about their book on the history of Croxley Green through its street names.

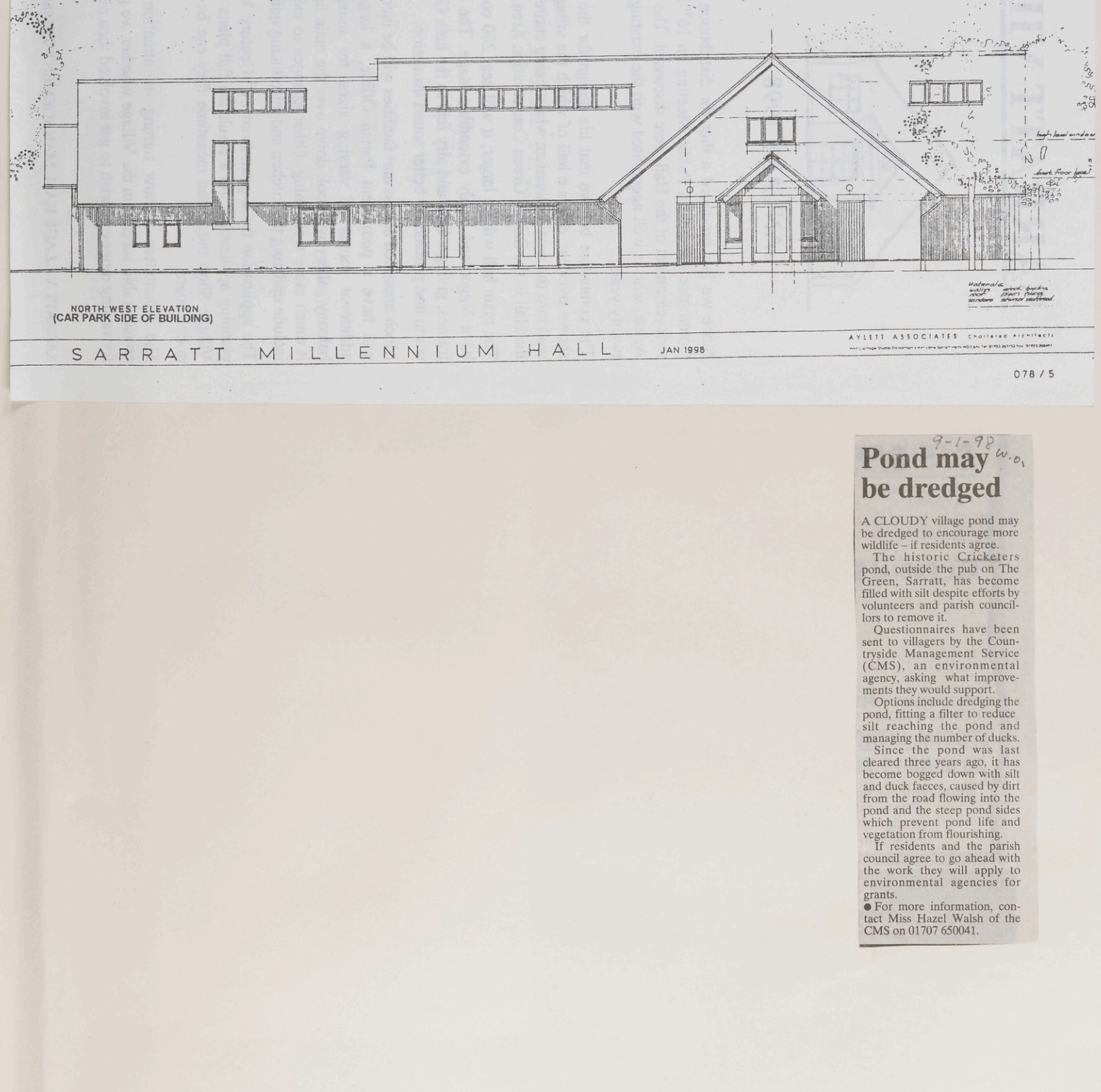
Our past year has been an exciting one with a mixture of talks, walks and study days. We also had active practice in detailed study of three of the older buildings on The Green.

We look forward to continuing this in 1998 when subjects we shall study will include The Grove, Heronsgate, beer brewing in Hertfordshire, printing and the History of Chenies. These subjects will be studied both by talks or visits.

If you are not a member or have not been to one of our functions before, but are interested in the history of our village and the local area, we offer you a firm invitation to join us. We promise that you will be given a very warm welcome. Come along and see for yourself.



NORTH EAST ELEVATION
(FRONT OF BUILDING)



SARRATT VILLAGE HALL



PLEASE
SEE
OVERLEAF

JANUARY 1998 JANUARY 2000

Since we last produced a flier for distribution with Spotlight the Village Hall Management Committee has held a Public Meeting on 16th December 1997 at which our thoughts on the redevelopment of the Hall were discussed. The results formed the brief for the architect, Sean Aylett, who is well acquainted with the existing building having lived in Sarratt for more than twenty years.

The committee believe that his design for the redevelopment, two elevations of which are shown overleaf, offers a hall of which the village can be proud. It will meet our requirements well into the next millennium whilst being entirely appropriate to the site and to the location of the Hall in the Sarratt Green Conservation Area.

The main hall will be larger; it will seat 200 comfortably and will have no pillars! There will be a bigger and easily extendible stage. The construction will centre on brick-clad portal frames, giving a light and airy feel to the hall. Good insulation and double glazing will make it warm and provide far better sound insulation.

Much improved access and facilities will be incorporated for people with disabilities. The Hall will have a permanent Parish Office, a larger bar, a dedicated store-room and several additional rooms of varying sizes for maximum flexibility. Furthermore a first floor balcony/gallery will look down over the main hall and the entrance will be improved, making it much more welcoming. Other changes to existing areas, probably on a staged basis, will include updating the kitchen and introducing quieter, more efficient, heating.

The application for a grant from 21st Century Village halls has now been submitted as has a planning application. As a result the full plans will shortly be available for inspection in the Village Shop but in the meantime they can be viewed in reduced form on the Village Hall notice board.

The Committee is now turning its attention to fund raising for which we will need considerable support in the Village whether we get a grant or not. If you have any suggestions for raising money or wish to get involved then please get in touch.

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

9-1-98 W.O.

Pond may be dredged

A CLOUDY village pond may be dredged to encourage more wildlife – if residents agree.

The historic Cricketers pond, outside the pub on The Green, Sarratt, has become filled with silt despite efforts by volunteers and parish councillors to remove it.

Questionnaires have been sent to villagers by the Countryside Management Service (CMS), an environmental agency, asking what improvements they would support.

Options include dredging the pond, fitting a filter to reduce silt reaching the pond and managing the number of ducks.

Since the pond was last cleared three years ago, it has become bogged down with silt and duck faeces, caused by dirt from the road flowing into the pond and the steep pond sides which prevent pond life and vegetation from flourishing.

If residents and the parish council agree to go ahead with the work they will apply to environmental agencies for grants.

● For more information, contact Miss Hazel Walsh of the CMS on 01707 650041.

BLACK HORSE AGENCIES
Stimpsons

70 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1AL **Telephone** 01923 772202



6 DAWES LANE, SARRATT, HERTS. WD3 6BB

PRICE *'OFFERS IN THE REGION OF* £130,000

- ENTRANCE LOBBY ▪ LOUNGE ▪ DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN ▪ BATHROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS *(one with low level w.c. and wash hand basin)*
- ELECTRIC *DIMPLEX* HEATING ▪ NO UPPER CHAIN

An individual two bedroomed end-of-terraced character cottage positioned in Dawes Lane just off the picturesque village green setting.

Rickmansworth *(within five miles)*, Chorleywood and Watford provide shopping facilities, amenities and stations and the M25 is accessible at Junction 18.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt

Raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church Registered Charity 1018991
Chairman of the Trustees - Dennis Jenks, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt, Herts., WD3 6BS

News from the Trustees January 1998

Dear Friends,

Over the past year we have had ongoing success in our fund-raising for Holy Cross Church. We have also spent over £4,800 on rewiring the church and other repairs. There will also be additional expenditure over the next few months. As Peter Hart, our Rector, said to me recently, "The support of the Friends of Holy Cross is a boon to me. Most parish priests and PCCs have a perpetual problem of raising money to meet expenses for the upkeep of their churches. Instead of our PCC meetings being dominated by such problems we can apply ourselves to the important pastoral challenges that face a PCC."

1997 receipts from our activities are :-

Dolls House Raffle	£10995
Quiz Night v St.Mary's Chesham	£242
Bridge Tournament	£753
Flower Festival	£2936
Sponsored Bike Ride *	£480
Sales of the Sarratt Alphabet & other Stock items (booklets, studs, pins etc)	£567
Donations in cash, Covenants and Gift Aid	£691
	£16,664

* This event raised £960 – the other £480 going to the Beds & Herts Historic Churches trust.

. . . . . and here are some of the highlights planned for this year :

THE THIRD "SPRINGTIME IN SARRATT"

Thanks to the enthusiasm and cooperation of at least 50 "garden openers" around the Green this event will be held on Saturday, April 18th – Sure to be a glorious day ! Gardens open 1.30-5.00pm. Raffle tickets on sale, with the draw in the Village Hall at 6pm. Stunning prizes with the top prize being a week's holiday for two in Barbados staying at either the Coral Reef Club or The Sandpiper Inn. The ownership is the same and they are both de luxe hotels.

FINALS NIGHT of the BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

Sarratt Village Hall. Friday May 15th.

Barbara Stallworthy moved to Somerset some months ago in order to be nearer to her family. It was Barbara who started it and her heritage lives on. I understand that she is now enthusiastically Charity – Bridge promoting amongst the Mangel Wurzellers of Wessex and the West !!

SUMMER CONCERT at The Barn, Little Sarratt Hall, Saturday June 6th.

David Clough has booked the celebrated Harlequin Quintet. Guests will be invited to bring their own Picnic supper and eat in the garden. The concert will begin at 7.30 pm. Details later in the year.

HOLY CROSS FLOWER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/MONDAY JUNE 27 – 29

1998 will be the 23rd consecutive year and many of our visitors not only come from all directions but a great number are "regulars" whom we are delighted to welcome back each year.

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Organised by John Guy, this event gathers greater support year by year. Date not yet fixed but will be held on a Saturday in mid September.

I would like to express my thanks to three Trustees who retired during 1997.

Anne Dudley who for several years organised brilliantly our Summer Concerts and also was the originator of the highly successful "Sarratt Alphabet".

Philip Gooding whose outstanding achievement was the Sarratt Dolls' House and who, through the publicity which he generated, brought about raffle ticket applications from all round the world.

Colin Plummer who whilst no longer a Trustee, is always present when there is some hard work to be done.

May I also on your behalf give a welcome to our new Trustees:

Laurie Young, Nicky Wilson, Michael Rogers and Robin Gain.

Finally thanks to you, the Friends, for your ongoing support.

With all best wishes for 1998.

Sincerely,

Dennis Jenks

25th January 1998.



A CHORLEYWOOD composer was celebrating this week after picking up Britain's only Oscar at the 70th Academy Awards ceremony.

Musician Anne Dudley, 41, won the award for writing the Best Original Score for *The Full Monty*, Britain's biggest-ever box office success.

During her acceptance speech at the glittering, celebrity-packed ceremony beamed live around the world, she said: "This is a great honour to be here. It's been amazing to have been part of the success of *The Full Monty* over the last year."

Later, she expanded on what the film itself had meant to her: "It's not just a comedy, although it's hilariously funny. It's a film about friendship. It's a film about the human spirit and how people at the very bottom of the human experience can lift themselves up."

Mrs Dudley, whose Oscar acceptance speech was among the shortest, has revealed that her father, obsessed with classical music, never allowed her listen to pop music as a child.

Bucks Examiner 22-3-98

Oscar chance for Sarratt composer

13-2-98

A SARRATT woman was nominated for an Oscar this week.

Ms Anne Dudley, who composed the background music for the box office smash The Full Monty, was nominated for best musical comedy score.

Ms Dudley will be flying out for the glittering awards ceremony in Los Angeles on March 23.

1998

part of the success over the past year," she said.

Despite being the only prominent female record producer in Britain, and having a No1 chart hit in her own right, 40-year-old Londoner Anne Dudley remains little known to the public.

She topped the US charts as a member of Art Of Noise, the band she formed with two boys from the studio where they had all worked together on hits by ABC, Malcolm McLaren and Dollar.

But even when their single Close (To The Edit) was a success, the reluctant star said she felt happier working behind the scenes on chart-toppers for other performers like George Michael, Paul McCartney and Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

Anne, who started piano lessons at seven and took up the clarinet at 10, trained at the Royal College of Music and went on to become a studio session musician before teaming up with producer Trevor Horn.

The other main British Oscar winner, Anne Dudley, paid tribute to The Full Monty team.

"It's been amazing being

Leader comment: Page 11

London Evening Standard 24-3-98



As good as it got: Anne Dudley with Britain's only Oscar for best musical or comedy score for the Full Monty, and Jack Nicholson who was best actor

Village hall cash drive under way

27-2-98

FUNDRAISING committees were set up in Sarratt earlier this month to collect cash for the re-building of the village hall.

Two working parties will co-ordinate a programme of events and apply for nation-wide grants to fund the £150,000 project.

The plans, which have been drawn up by Sarratt architect Mr Sean Aylett, include a main hall, with seating for 200 people, parish office, larger bar, store room and several additional rooms of varying size.

Earlier this month, members of the village hall committee applied for £60,000 from 21st Century Village Halls for England Fund, which offers £10 million to be split between village and rural Millennium projects.

But chairman of Sarratt Village Hall committee Mr Ian Dorrett warned the competition would be stiff.

Bedmond Village Hall and Abbots Langley Community Centre are another two of the 360 applications received by the association. Limited cash means only 62 projects will be granted money.

The competition will be split into two rounds and the final decision will be announced in May.

Concert aims to raise funds for village hall

W.O.I. 29/3/98

A SUMMER concert is the highlight of a campaign to raise funds for the rebuilding of Sarrat's village hall.

Details of the fundraising events were released this week, with a minimum target of £3,000 to be reached by the end of the year.

The centrepiece of the plan is to hold a concert in a marquee on Sunday, July 12. There is a wedding in Sarratt the day before and the village hall committee has requested the use of the marquee for its concert.

Mr Ian Dorrett, of the village hall committee, said: "It is a major redevelopment and the total cost of the project is £200,000.

"We have bid for a £73,000 lottery grant from the 21st Century Village Halls For England organisation, from whom we will get an answer in May."

Most of the rest of the funding is already in place, courtesy of Three Rivers District Council, Sarratt Parish Council and church funds.

A recent coffee morning set the ball rolling with £140 and future events include a beetle drive, silent auction, barbecue, bridge night and a market in the village hall on the first Sunday of each month.

Mr Dorrett explained: "It will be, in effect, a new village hall for Sarratt.

"At present it is a mish-mash of extensions, so we will be keeping the nice front bit from the 1950's and knocking down the rest. We will have a new main hall with office and storage space."

Anyone who would like to get involved with fund-raising can contact Mr Roy Eteen on 01923 269918.



SARRATT

Terraced village house. 3 bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, double glazing, gas central heating, lawned rear garden.

£115,000 7-3-98

Sarratt Local History Society



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 11th in Sarratt Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Our speaker will be Valerie Edwards on the Manor of Chenies.

1998

Cottage with class



Built in the 16th Century, Potten Farm House is a listed cottage ideally suited to modern country living.

A BEAUTIFUL character cottage near Watford is on the market for £500,000 freehold.

Potten Farm House, in Chandlers Lane, Chandlers Cross, is a 16th Century Grade II listed detached cottage set in two acres with formal gardens, a small paddock, a single-storey barn and two detached kennel blocks.

Inside, the cottage has four bedrooms, reception hall, living room, dining room, and an inner hall with access to a brick-floored cellar and a bathroom.

The living room features a deep inglenook fireplace with beamed ceiling and an original Victorian mosaic tiled floor.

The property enjoys delightful rural views over open fields but is within easy reach of shopping facilities in Watford and Rickmansworth, train links to London and the M25.

On the outside, the property features white rendered elevations to the front and brick and flint elevations to the rear. A shingle driveway leads to a parking area immediately to the rear of the house.

ROSS BILTON on a cottage which will suit those looking for a country retreat within easy reach of urban amenities

The two-acre grounds are split into different areas, with formal gardens at the rear of the house incorporating patios, ornamental walls and stocked flower beds. Adjacent to the patio there is a natural well.



The two-acre grounds provide plenty of space for rest and relaxation – and plenty of work for keen gardeners.

Attached to the house, and accessible from the kitchen and hall is a single-storey barn, which has potential for conversion to produce another room, subject to planning permission.

The house previously operated as a boarding kennel for dogs for many years. The kennels are arranged in three main blocks with scope for more to be added.

As well as a small paddock, at the rear of the house is a pitched-roof summer house used as an office for the kennels.

Viewing is by appointment with Hamptons in Station Road, Rickmansworth. Telephone 01923 776291. ❐

Recycling bins

Thoroughly insensitive

W.O. 10/4/98

THE Chess Valley is officially designated an area of outstanding natural beauty and the village of Sarratt is a conservation area, which attracts many visitors to its pubs, The Green and network of country walks.

North Hill is the scenic gateway to Sarratt.

Fully aware of this, Three Rivers District Council deliberately chose to install a row of recycling bins in this crescent overlooking the Chess Valley.

Apart from the litter which they attract, the bins themselves are an eyesore. They are an assortment of colours and disfigured by rust.

The road is strewn with pot-holes and much of the litter evades collection: the prevailing south westerlies blow it down North Hill and onto the adjacent farmland.

Recycling is an excellent notion and an essential enterprise for the preservation of the environment but to choose this site for the bins, between historic Chenies and picturesque Sarratt was a thoroughly insensitive act.

These ugly containers should be removed to a more appropriate location, ie a sheltered urban site, such as a supermarket car park.

This gaggle of bins is an outrageous wart on an otherwise fair face. — **Mrs Brenda Lines, Red Lion Lane, Sarratt.**

GREAT SARRATT SCRAPBOOK ON DISPLAY
(including latest items)

Saturday 28th March 1998

at **VILLAGE HALL**
10.00am to 12.00 noon

Entry free -**ALL WELCOME**

COFFEE will be served

Telephone:01923 262920

Record entry as treasurer says goodbye

WD 10-4-98

by Julie Riegal

THE treasurer of Sarratt Horticultural Society totted up the figures for the last time at a record-breaking spring show on Saturday.

Mr Neil Shave, who had his work cut out after the highest ever number of entries to the annual show, is emigrating to Iceland after 22 years with the society.

Many people will remember the 51-year-old, from Flaundon, for the epic Kayak Konnexion, when he and three friends canoed from Mainz to Watford, raising about £16,000 for charity.

Featured in the national press and extensively in The Watford Observer, the exploit 20 years ago was sponsored by hydraulic engineers Parker Hannifan, of north Watford, and lasted six-and-a-half weeks.

It is through Mr Shave's expertise as a canoeist that he came to fall in love with Iceland.

He was invited to the country in 1980 by the Government to teach canoeing and is leaving permanently for Neskaupstadur in Iceland in May, where he will teach English and German.

Mr Shave, 51, said: "I have never lived in Sarratt, but I love playing with numbers and it has been really nice to meet people in the village.

"You see real village life at these shows.

"Iceland is a beautiful country and I have already got to know a few of the people there.

"I have actually changed my name to Reynir Neil Sveinsson because they cannot pronounce my English name."

Highlights of the show at Sarratt Village Hall included some inspired entries from youngsters – an expanded section for this year's show.

A new category for the best edible necklace produced a colourful display, as did the painting of a footballer section.

Twelve-year-old Sophie Goldthorpe's piece of flint in the shape of a dog's head was the worthy winner of the painted stone category.

Other noticeable exhibits were Mr North's rocking dolphin in the arts and crafts section, which he made for his latest grandchild, Emily.

His wife, Joan, was winner of the spring song category for her flower arrangement.

Chairman of the society Mr John Lyons, who won first prize for his leaf beet, said: "We have had the highest entry ever, which is mainly due to the number of children who have entered.

"They have done really well, which is very pleasing to see.

"The weather in the last week hasn't helped and has made some of the daffodils windblown and spotted.

"But we have had an exceptional number of leeks and rhubarb, probably due to the mild winter, and we had a good turn out for eggs."

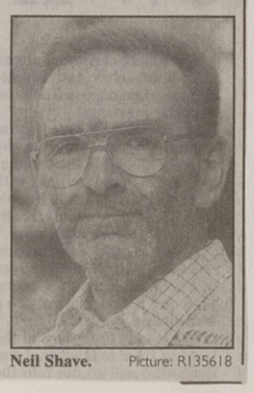
The prizes were presented by Mrs Ann Hart, the rector's wife.

Mrs Margaret Stratford, the show secretary, presented the retiring treasurer with an engraved crystal tankard from Sarratt 'Horty'.

The results are: Overall show winner: Mrs Linda Fermont for her daffodils, tulips and eggs. The Pinnaroo Trophy for daffodils: Mr Roger Dudley. The Dickins Trophy for other flowers: Ms Patricia Wilson. The Roy Ward Trophy for fruit and veg: Mr John Rickard, Mr Toby Biggerstaff and Mr John Lyons. Certificate for floral art: Ms Joan North. Certificate for handicrafts: Ms Jean Morgan. Cookery certificate: Mrs Andrey Griffith-Jones. Certificate in the children's class: Rachel Ward.



Ten-year-old Ossey Lyons enjoyed looking at the daffodil exhibits when he visited the popular Sarratt Spring Show on Saturday. Picture: R135616: JOE SHEEHAN



Neil Shave. Picture: R135618

Special school head scoops national prize

17-4-98

by Dave Allen

A SPECIAL school headteacher from Sarratt has won a national award for his "inspirational" leadership.

When Mr Dennis Goldthorpe, 42, became head of Alexandra School, South Harrow, in 1993 it was in danger of being closed down; it has since been described as a flagship special school in a glowing Ofsted report.

The school caters for four to 12-year-olds who have learning difficulties and associated social and behavioural problems. Some of the pupils have been expelled from other schools and others may have trouble reading, writing or communicating.

Mr Goldthorpe's work at Alexandra School was recognised recently when he won the Times Educational Supplement bouquet of the week, awarded to teachers for outstanding performance.

On receiving the award, Mr Goldthorpe said: "I felt pleased on behalf of the parents and the children and staff.

"We have made a lot of improvements here in the school, it has been decorated, there is no graffiti and the children are proud of the place.

"With staff are dedicated and good teachers the children more interested in being part of the school.

"We like the pupils to feel as ordinary as possible, to be as integrated with the community as much as possible."

All the school's pupils frequently exchange visits with other schools in the area.

And it is in the process of building a neighbourhood nursery which will be for every child in the area, with or without special needs.

To improve communication between children and teachers, Mr Goldthorpe has instigated the use of a simple system of language, Macaton, to the school. This uses signs and gestures as well as words to help children with communication problems.

Mr Goldthorpe's four children, Katie, 14, Sophie, 12, and twins Tom and Lotte, ten, have had to get use to their father's dedication.

On one occasion he found one of his classes had nothing to use in a creative play lesson and immediately rectified the problem with his own family's train set.

The four youngsters now use their frequent visits to the school to search for any missing toys.

Mr Goldthorpe was nominated for the award by members of his staff.

Miss Lucy Nutt, one of the school's acting deputy headteachers, said: "He is quite embarrassed about the award but it is not often you get news about teachers doing a good job and it getting recognised in a national award.

"He is an inspiration to us; that says it all really, we think he thoroughly deserves this award.

"I was not at the school before he came here but I know it was basically failing. The authorities put him in here to either turn the school around, which they thought was impossible, or to close it down.

"He is remarkably hard working, I would not like to guess how many hours he does, but that rubs off on everybody else.

"The children think he is wonderful; he has the ability to communicate with them on all levels.

"We are talking about children that have almost been scrapped by other schools but we pick them up and show them that we care about and that they are worthwhile.

"Now you can tell as soon as you walk in to the school that it is an amazing place; it is a very happy school, even though some of the children have major problems."



Dennis Goldthorpe: award for outstanding performance. Picture R143421: LEIGH GREEN

Double victory for green campaigners

WD 17-4-98

Dried-up pond is reclaimed and new guidelines will protect village roads

by Dave Allen

ENVIRONMENTALISTS in Sarratt are celebrating a double triumph this week.

A pond which has been neglected for decades was reclaimed last week, and now a set of guidelines has been published to protect the village's roads from damaging development.

Common Wood Pond stopped holding water and dried up when its clay bottom was damaged by a sewerage pipe laid more than 30 years ago.

But the pond has been brought back to life by volunteers funded by the Government's Rural Action Group.

Sarratt Parish Council applied for a grant from the action group two years ago and its ranger, Mr David Baker, has been working with the Sarratt Common Volunteers Group and other residents on the project.

The pond itself has been cleared of silt and the clay bottom repaired with a process known as puddling.

A mixture of clay and water is laid on the pond floor and then compressed by a mechanical digger.

Traditionally, this compression would have been carried out by cattle being driven through the ponds.

The volunteers have also planted fruit trees next to the pond where an orchard was formally sited.

One of the volunteers, Mrs Gail Wieringa, who lives in Common Wood, said: "You can never turn the clock back to recreate the past because things have changed.

"But if we can recreate the habitat that had always been in this area, we are helping to maintain the diversity which is good for local people and for the environment.

"It is about a getting a balance between the environmental protection and improvements for the public.

"Part of the area was over run by nettles which we cut back, but we did not get rid of them completely because they are a food plant for butterflies.

"This is only one little pond in a village in Hertfordshire but if everybody does their bit at a local level it will make a real difference."

Common Wood pond is now holding water and has been restocked with plants donated by two local garden centres, Solesbridge Mill Water Garden, Solesbridge Lane, Chorleywood, and Wards Nurseries, Sarratt.

In another environmental development, Sarratt's roads should now be safe from developers.

The village is part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is covered by a set of guidelines endorsed by Hertfordshire County Council's environment committee this week.

The main areas included are:
• potentially damaging transportation and traffic management proposals
• standard of design in roadside features
• issues of landscaping of the roads.

The guidelines will also address more areas such as how to keep traffic off country lanes.

Mr Richard Brown, assistant director of environment management at Hertfordshire County Council, said: "This is about being much more sensitive about the design of maintenance work in these areas.

"It is not legally binding but I think any one carrying out work in Sarratt will now find it very difficult to justify not following this.

"An example of how it will work is with rat runs.

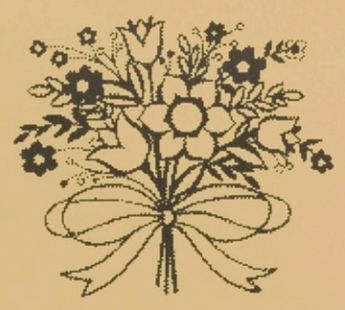
"Instead of trying to protect a road which has become a rat run with large concrete kerbs, authorties should look at ways to move the traffic off the road.

"For Sarratt there are concerns about roads getting blocked with commuters, about inappropriate sign posts and too much lighting.

"I think people will be able to take some comfort from the fact that local authorities are committed to being more careful with the roads."

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church. Registered Charity 1018991



Springtime in Sarratt

OVER 50 GARDENS OPEN

Saturday April 18

1.30 – 5pm

ADMISSION FREE

FREE VINTAGE BUS RIDES
GRAND RAFFLE – MANY GREAT PRIZES
INCLUDING A LUXURY CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY FOR TWO
DRAW IN SARRATT VILLAGE HALL AT 6pm
TEA, COFFEE & SOFT DRINKS IN THE VILLAGE HALL FROM 3pm

Village is ready to cook up a treat

WD · 17-4-98

COME rain, sun or snow, it will be Springtime in Sarratt tomorrow.

Last time the picturesque village was "at home" to the world with open gardens, cream teas and vintage bus rides round the green, the day started on a chilly note but turned to spring in time for visitors to enjoy the treat.

"There was snow on the tea tent in the garden first thing that morning two years ago," recalls Mrs Pam Dickens. "By the afternoon people were sitting in the sun on the lawn enjoying their teas."

So, undaunted by recent weather, Pam and her helpers are preparing to serve tea for up to 500 people at The Pastures – next to the Boot public house.

Mastermind behind Springtime in Sarratt, Mr Dennis Jenks, will be offering free rides round the village green in his vintage Bedford bus to take people to the more than 50 gardens open to the public, but considers tea to be one of the big attractions.

He said: "You can get a beefburger anywhere, but not often these days can you drive into the country, park for nothing, obtain free entry into more than 50 gardens, and have a good old-fashioned tea."

Home-made, of course. The temperature in Sarratt must have risen by degrees this week as cakes and scones are produced in quantity.

No less than three venues offer teas. Liz Young is in charge of teas at the village hall and, at the Rectory at the other end of the village, you have the choice of tea and coffee, cakes and even cucumber sandwiches.

The communal Springtime celebration is organised by the Friends of Holy Cross Church to raise funds for the care and preservation of the ancient village church.

It has become a day when Sarratt is at its most welcoming with open garden gates and everyone playing host to visitors.



Tea ladies: Liz Young, who will be in charge of teas at the village hall, and Pam Dickins, who is "at home" with cream teas at The Pastures compare notes in Pam's kitchen. Picture R072631: JOE SHEEHAN

Mr Jenks and his old Bedford bus will be joined by David Sapte from Kings Langley giving a hand with rides with his vintage double-decker bus and the Belsize Brass, conducted by Brian Harrison, will be playing outside the village hall.

The only charges you are likely to pay are for tea and raffle tickets.

The raffle, which will be drawn by Express Newspapers Gardening Editor, Max Davidson, at the village hall at 6pm, could be the ticket to an even more romantic trip.

The star prize is a luxury Caribbean holiday for two with a stay at a deluxe hotel in Barbados, either the Coral Reef Club or the Sandpiper Inn.

Other prizes include tickets for two to join the Jenks's vintage bus outing to Ascot on June 16 – including entrance and picnic, a day's outing for a party of 16 in the Bedford bus and lunch or dinner at Sarratt village pubs.

The garden "party" starts at 1.30pm.

Pam Dickens, Liz Young and their helpers will be up and getting ready from the crack of dawn.

Pam, who has just relinquished her position as district commissioner for the Pony Club after 23 years to become president, is looking forward to the invasion.

"This time we are better prepared. Last time, we did not know what to expect. We ran out of cream and poor Judy Jenks spent the entire afternoon washing up cups to keep up with the demand."

Extra cream and extra cups have been secured and Pam's freezer is stuffed with cakes and scones.

"I'd rather do teas than gardening. Hopefully we get so many people in here enjoying their teas, they don't look at my garden," said Pam, concerned to make the teas, at £2.30, good value for money.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt

Raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church Registered Charity 1018991
Chairman of the Trustees - Dennis Jenks, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt, Herts., WD3 6BS

19th April 1998

SPRINGTIME (!) IN SARRATT 1998
SATURDAY APRIL 18th

Dear Peter & Val

With timing that England only can produce it started raining seriously just as the Gardens opened at 1.30 p.m.

With equal perversity the visitors arrived,dropped into Garden after Garden, walked or antique bussed themselves from one end of the village to the other and finally ended up in the Village Hall or the Baptist Hall (or both!) and created sell-out business for our super providers of "Teas and Refreshments".

It was a marvel.

In 1996 our net receipts were £3,250 - it did snow in the morning but the afternoon was wonderful.

This time the figure is an incredible £4,000 after all expenses - which were minimal thanks to so much donated free of charge.

It remains to me to thank the cast of hundreds who one way or another helped make the day such a success.

People like coming to Sarratt. One of the reasons is the friendly and unstuffy character of the people they meet.

Thank you all so much.

Dennis Jenks

P.S. The holiday in Barbados was won by two Canadians Mr & Mrs Alec Paterson who have been staying with friends at Penmans Green. This morning they told me they enjoyed the day so much that they do not want to take the prize away from Sarratt. They suggested that it is used in another fund raising event.

I am writing to them to thank them for their generosity.

Thus Barbados is back in the ring - watch this space!

WINNERS OF THE GARDEN OPENERS PRIZE TO JOIN BUS PARTY

TO ASCOT ON JUNE 16th:

TOM & GILL OXENHAM

THE FORGE

GERALD & NOREEN TATHAM

RED LION COTTAGE



Miss Patricia McDaid visits one of the Sarratt gardens. Picture R152932: JOE SHEEHAN

24-4-98

Villagers put gardens on show for charity

SEVERAL hundred hardy souls braved the wind and rain at the weekend to get a behind-the-scenes look at one of Hertfordshire's most picturesque villages.

Springtime in Sarratt may not have been the most apt name for the event, bearing in mind the elements, but that was no concern to the hordes of gardening and bus enthusiasts who gathered on Saturday afternoon.

More than 50 villagers on The Green opened their gardens to the wider public for the day to raise funds for the village church, Holy Cross.

And there was an extra attraction in the form of two vintage buses provided by local enthusiast Mr David Sapte, who was kept busy ferrying visitors around the site.

Although the main attractions were free, money was raised from the sale of teas, which were provided in the Village Hall and the Baptist Church Hall.

There was also a fundraising raffle with an incredible first prize of seven nights for two people in a five star hotel in Barbados.

Organiser Mr Dennis Jenks said the bad weather had put some people off but hoped the event would raise several thousand pounds for church funds.

He said: "When people visit gardens they mostly get to see big gardens in country homes. Many of the ones on show today are cottage gardens and people can identify with these more readily.

"A lot of people are also selling plants and I am sure all of the gardeners here in Sarratt are willing to swap hints.

"Although numbers are down on two years ago, we are delighted with how many people have turned up in such bad weather."

1998



Get the hang of baskets

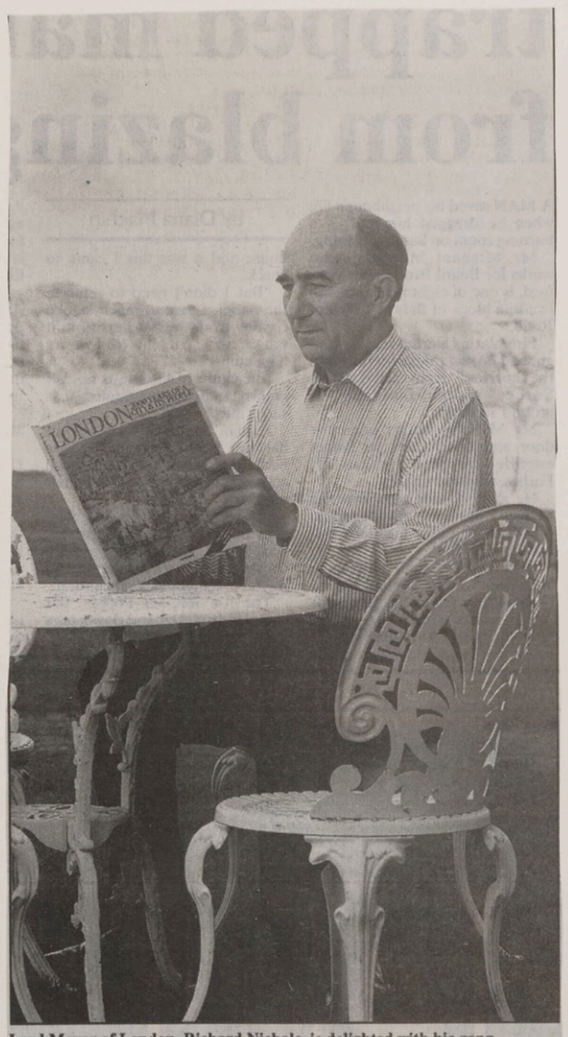
WD 24-4-98

TO get the hang of planting hanging baskets, pop down to Wards Nurseries in Sarratt next week, when manager Mike Rawlins (pictured) will share the secret of his success with anyone who cares to watch the new season's baskets in creation.

The nursery sells hundreds of pre-planted baskets, but Mike appreciates that some gardeners like to do their own.

"I go through the selection of materials and plants for different positions, how to put it together and aftercare," he said, as he expertly transformed an empty basket into a miniature hanging garden in minutes.

Free hanging basket demonstrations take place on Wednesday and Thursday, April 29 and 30 and on Thursday, May 7. Demonstrations start at 2.30 and 3.30pm.



Lord Mayor of London, Richard Nichols, is delighted with his gong.

W.GAZ. 19-6-98

EIGHT people from south west Hertfordshire were honoured for their dedication in different roles in The Queen's Birthday Honours on Saturday.

Mr Richard Nichols, the Lord Mayor of London, was awarded the highest accolade, receiving a Knight's Bachelor for services to the city of London.

He said: "It is a tremendous honour and an indication of the Government's recognition of both London's importance to the nation and the ambassadorial role of the Lord Mayor."



Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Walsh in Kenya where he recently took part in an operation to vaccinate hundreds of children against malaria. Photograph courtesy of Media Ops, Land Command

Soldier back from mercy mission

WD 8-5-98

A SOLDIER from Sarratt has returned this month from a mercy mission to help Kenyan tribesmen fighting malaria.

Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Walsh has been taking part in Exercise Sharp Point with members of the 23 Parachute Field Ambulance.

They were sent to Kenya to help the Samburu tribe deal with one of the country's worst-ever outbreaks of the disease.

The 41-year-old, who is an anaesthetist in the Royal Medical Corps, joined one of six medical teams who have been deployed to vaccinate hundreds of children against malaria and to carry out a wide range of minor surgery.

The soldiers travelled from village to village in the tribal area, which is two days drive north of the capital Nairobi, and set up clinics for the vaccinations.

They managed to see about 200 people a day, with some of the villagers walking about 20 miles to reach the clinics.

As well as malaria, children were inoculated against measles, polio, tetanus and diphtheria with drugs supplied by the Kenyan government.

The soldiers had to survive in the harsh Kenyan conditions with severely limited water, fuel and food rations.

With no water to shave or wash with, they had to use wet wipes to keep clean themselves.

Lieutenant Colonel Walsh said: "It has been hard work, but well worthwhile.

"It is amazing the hardships that these people put up with.

"They walked for miles to come to the clinic.

"They were very patient, very friendly and they really appreciated what we were doing for them.

"The conditions that we were working under out there were very different.

"You have to scale down your clinical ambitions, it is a question of knowing your limitations.

"There are no facilities for X-rays, blood tests or investigative procedures. We had to be satisfied that the work we did will not need any follow-up procedures.

"We were in quite a wild country out there; every night the local chief would send down some warriors to guard our camp from lions and we had to check our beds and clothes for scorpions.

"It was very hot but I enjoyed it."

Lieutenant Colonel Walsh's military medical career has already taken him to Bosnia and the Falkland Islands.

He is single and divides his time between the 23 Parachute Field Ambulance and the Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey.

He was brought up in Sarratt and his parents, Gerald and Catherine Walsh, still live in the village.

BLACK HORSE AGENCIES
Stimpsons

70 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts. **Telephone 01923 772202**



CAKEBREAD COTTAGE, DAWES LANE,
SARRATT, HERTS. WD3 6DA

MAY 1998

PRICE GUIDE £595,000

- FOUR BEDROOMS ▪ HALL *with* CLOAKROOM
- LOUNGE *(with beams and Inglenook fireplace)* ▪ DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN ▪ BATHROOM ▪ CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM *(oil fired)*
- BARN/WORKSHOP ▪ TWO OPEN DOUBLE GARAGES *with loft rooms above*
- FORMAL GARDENS *plus* FIELD *to rear (approx.4 acres) plus* WATER MEADOW WITH STREAM *(approx. 4.92 acres)*

Cakebread Cottage is a charming Grade II listed character cottage, the original part believed to be over 200 years old which enjoys an idyllic rural position within the picturesque Chess Valley surrounded by miles of unspoilt countryside.

Cakebread Cottage stands within pretty gardens with a field of around 4 acres to the rear and also around 4.92 acres of water meadow bordering the River Chess which provides tranquil amenity land to enjoy along with this delightful property.

Cakebread Cottage is situated three quarters of a mile down Dawes Lane, a turning off the picturesque Village Green. Rickmansworth Town Centre including its Metropolitan Line Station is within five miles. Watford provides comprehensive shopping facilities and amenities and the M25 is accessible at Junction 18 Chorleywood (3.5miles). 02824/27D8

NOTE - THESE PARTICULARS ARE THOUGHT TO BE MATERIALLY CORRECT THOUGH THEIR ACCURACY IS NOT GUARANTEED AND THEY DO NOT FORM PART OF ANY CONTRACT.
Black Horse Agencies Stimpsons is a trading name for Black Horse Residential Limited which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Black Horse Agencies Limited.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION
THURSDAY 7th MAY 1998
8.00 am to 9.00 pm
SARRATT WARD
INTRODUCING YOUR
CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE
Tony BARTON

Tony was born in Watford and has worked in the area all his life. He has lived in Chorleywood for some 20 years and is happily married with two daughters and a newborn baby son.
In 1972 he founded Bushey Colour Laboratories and developed a successful photoprocessing business, employing 70 people from the surrounding area. He also purchased Bushey Golf and Country Club in 1982 and improved the facilities there tremendously prior to its sale in 1996.
To the SARRATT and surrounding community Tony will bring

- Many years of business experience acquiring an extensive address book of influential contacts.
- Enormous financial acumen and a deep understanding of Budgets, Financial Planning, financial accountability
- An extensive and long-standing knowledge of the local area and its problems
- Time; he is retired from the executive running of a business and is available to discuss problems and to participate actively in the issues affecting the community
- Previous experience as a Councillor at Hertsmere Borough Council, therefore highly skilled in the procedural functions of the District Council. He hopes to maintain a high level of communication between the community and the Council.

Together we will care for and maintain the community of SARRATT WARD

VOTE Tony BARTON

Printed and Published by G Harris 25 Church Street Rickmansworth Herts WD3 1DE

World Cup and village charm prove an attractive concoction

LO 26-6-98

IF you can't beat them, join them.

That's the attitude in Sarratt, where the selling point is normally just gentle village charm.

For this weekend's Flower Festival, however, the theme and focus is on World Cup '98, with a World Cup football signed by the England team as one of the prizes in the mammoth raffle.

The ball was donated by none other than England goalkeeper, David Seaman, before he left his Sarratt home for the real thing in France.

Well-connected villagers are an asset when it comes to these events, but Sarratt charm itself secured another hugely attractive raffle prize, a luxury holiday for two in the Caribbean.

This super prize has been won before. It was the star attraction in the raffle at Springtime in Sarratt in April, when it was won by a Canadian couple who were visiting friends in the village.

"They enjoyed the day, visiting gardens around the Green, so much, they gave the prize back so it could be used to benefit the village," recalled Springtime's organiser, Mr Dennis Jenks.

With the Flower Festival at Holy Cross Church coming up, the platform for another raffle was there. But money is badly needed elsewhere in the village.

The village hall management committee has just suffered a disappointing setback in plans to improve and extend this popular focal point for village life.

Its application for a lottery grant was turned down a few weeks ago, so profits from this weekend's raffle are now more important than ever. They will be split equally between church and village hall funds.

"The total rebuilding project for the hall will cost in excess of £200,000," said the chairman of the village hall management committee, Mr Ian Dorritt.

"We had applied for £75,000 from the 21st Century Village Halls for England, which is supported by lottery funding, but unfortunately we didn't get it. "



Mr Ian Dorritt, of the Sarratt Village Hall management committee, and the Rev Peter Hart get into that all-important World Cup spirit. R270508: SIMON JACOBS

Disappointed but not despairing, Mr Dorritt and his committee are now on the trail of other possible grants, while hotting up on local fundraising, which has so far passed the £4,000 mark.

The village hall was built in stages: the original 1920's structure in corrugated iron with the brick front, and a small extension at the back added in the 1970's.

The plan is to retain the front and knock down the back piece and build a new main hall.

The hall is owned and run by a trust originally set up by the Clutterbuck family and, with no church hall at Holy Cross, is the only assembly point for village events.

The hall itself is playing a big part in the effort to raise funds fot its renovation.

As well as markets on the first Sunday in every month, there are a string of special events planned to which outsiders will be more than welcome.

Over the Flower Festival weekend, there will be teas of the kind to push up the temperature in Sarratt all this week, with village ovens working overtime to supply home-made cakes and scones.

On Sunday, there will be an antique fair in the hall – and sale of raffle tickets.

Further down the lane, at Holy Cross Church, the traditional flower festival promises to be more colourful than ever.

Organiser Jill Harmon's team of flower arrangers letting their imagination loose on the theme of World Cup '98.

For those who are ready to switch off the screen and tune in to an evening of mellow music, David Clough has once more prepared a miscellany of music for a summer evening, which can be heard tomorrow (Saturday) night.

The concert at Holy Cross Church, which starts at 7.30pm, will take a break from the World Cup theme and include solo songs and instrumentals as well as songs by the Sarratt Singers, including Oh When the Saints Go Marching In.

● Holy Cross, Sarratt, 27th annual flower festival is open Saturday from 10am to 5.30pm; Sunday 11.30am to 5pm and Monday 10am to 4pm.

Music for a summer evening, tomorrow (Saturday), starts at 7.30pm. Entrance and car parking free.

Beautiful game found in full bloom at flower festival

3-7-98

BRITISH interest in the World Cup may have faded but at the Holy Cross Flower Festival this week all the tournament's teams made an appearance.

The beautiful game took on a whole new meaning as the annual flower festival took on a football theme, with 32 displays arranged to represent each of the countries which have been contesting France '98.

Among the displays was the United States' Star Spangled Banner display and a display following the design of the Chilean flag.

England was represented by a mass of red and white flowers and Scotland was depicted with a rocky display featuring thistles.

Schoolchildren from Sarratt Junior School took responsibility for the green, white and red of Italy, while the other displays were put together by a group of local volunteers.

Holy Cross rector, Mr Peter Hart, said: "It was a great success, when we suggested it some arrangers did say 'oh not football' but when they got into it they really enjoyed it and made a superb effort.

"I am not certain, but I would think that this is the first time the church have had a football theme for the festival.

"It seemed to work, we do not know how much money was raised but we had about 1,400 people come to visit it.

"I was pleased with the response, which was very favourable all around.

The festival was held from June 27 to 29 to raise cash for the Friends of Holy Cross Church, a charity which supports the up keep of the church.



Some of the flowers at Holy Cross Flower Festival in Sarratt, which depicted each of the World Cup nations. Picture R290336: JOE SHEEHAN.



Mr Mike Gardner, Mr Richard Killick, Mr Don Hanson, Mr Colin Prince and Ms Margaret Rogers hand over a cheque for £7,515 to Mr Robin Gain of the Peace Hospice Picture: R301516: JOE SHEEHAN

Golfers raise £7,515 for hospice

GENEROUS golfers handed over a cheque for £7,515 to the Watford Peace Hospice on the 18th tee of West Herts Golf Club last week.

The money was presented by members of Watford, Rickmansworth and Bushey and Oxhey Rotary clubs, which donated the proceeds of their spring golf tournament to Mr Robin Gain, chairman of the Peace Hospice trustees.

The cash was raised during more than 100 golf matches between Rotarians and friends. Their efforts were supported by local businesses and private donations, whose generous contributions bolstered the total.

The money build a Rotary Room in the new in-patient wing at Watford Peace Hospice.

A LETTER FROM THE CHURCHES IN SARRATT

SARRATT CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Just over 100 years ago, many people in this village saved their pennies, halfpennies and farthings to help build the Sarratt Baptist Chapel on the Green. Their vision was to establish a non-conformist expression of the Christian faith in this village, and many lived to see that vision fulfilled. Some of you reading this letter, will remember going to Sunday School or youth group there, or attending Sunday services.

Over the last decade responsibility for the Chapel has lain with Croxley Green Baptist Church, and with support from this neighbouring church the life and work of the Chapel continued. More recently it has been the venue for a number of joint services, the Good Friday family service, and other events involving local churches of all denominations. Many of your children have enjoyed the popular holiday week (this year under the title of "Going Bananas!"), and King's Club, a pre-Christmas special for children each November. Perhaps you have enjoyed coming to Meeting Point, or one of the regular Lent or Advent courses, the special lunches for Christian Aid, or an Alpha (Christian basics) course.

Croxley Green Baptist Church and Holy Cross Church in Sarratt are currently praying and talking together about a new vision for the millenium. We want to work together to develop a Sarratt Christian Centre, based at the Chapel, which will extend and supplement the current ministry of the churches in Sarratt. As we approach the next century we want to ensure that a vital and relevant Christian faith continues in this village, a faith that expresses our hope and confidence in God for the future, a faith that brings healing and reconciliation through Jesus Christ and celebrates our Christian unity - a faith that we can hand on to our children and grandchildren..

Such a Centre would offer increased opportunities for a variety of Christian training and education, prayer and worship, as well as improved facilities for church and community activities. A number of potential uses have already been suggested, but we have taken this step of writing to every family in Sarratt because we would like to know your views. We would be most grateful if you would take the time to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to us. Alternatively, you can hand it in at either church, or at Sarratt Stores.

If you would like find out more about this project, or what else goes on in the churches in Sarratt, or if you would like to know more about what Christians believe, then please contact one of us to arrange this.

Thank you for reading this letter - we look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ,

Peter

Revd Peter Hart
The Rectory
Sarratt WD3 6BP
01923 - 264377

David

Revd David Walker
165 Baldwins Lane
Croxley Green WD3 3LL
01923 - 231403

Abiding passion

GRELLE WHITE follows the "Open Garden" signs

ONCE upon a time there was an oak tree avenue from St Albans to Windsor. One of the trees, a 600-year-old giant, still stands as an historic milestone in the fairytale garden surrounding Micklefield Hall, Sarratt.

Another sign of times gone by is the pond, which, when the grounds belonged to a monastery, was full of carp for the table. The backdrop to today's lush haven of lawns, hedges and herbaceous borders is an imposing barn dating back to 1623.

But the most breath-taking aspect of this four-acre feast of history and horticulture is the view: an unscathed stretch of English landscape sweeping across the ha-ha until, on a clear day, it reaches Harrow-on-the-Hill.

On such a day, Sarah Edmonds is standing there smiling, welcoming guests to the garden in return for a small fee for her favourite charity, MacMillan Cancer Relief, and The National Gardens Scheme.

Teas are being served on the lawn in front of the summer house and people are strolling along the "walks", taking time out to relax and share the beauty spot cared for and enhanced by generations of owners.

Sarah has made her mark since she and her husband, Richard, now retired chairman of Clements, Watford, took over the home from the Clutterbuck family, who had lived there since 1844.

Her predecessor, Blanche Clutterbuck, was a keen and talented gardener, whose lasting contributions are an ornamental pond and a delightful folly shaded by the ancient oak.

Sarah insists she has only made minor changes; the thing to do when you inherit a garden with "wonderful bones".



Sarah Edmonds has only made minor changes to the "wonderful bones" of Micklefield Hall.

Behind her is a bed of white Iceberg roses, which her father gave her at a time when she, the young mistress of this magical spot, surrounded the house with bright red roses.

Sarah recalls: "He said: 'You may not love them now. As you get older, however, more and more, white will please you.'"

A breeze coyly catches her straw hat as if trying to trifle with the moment. Undeterred she picks up the hat and adds: "A woman's last, abiding passion is her garden."

Luckily for the garden, and herself, Sarah preserves a contagious sense of humour as well as style. The life-size statue of a young French cavalier in a niche in the hedge is referred to as "my toy boy". ("If Joan Collins can have one, then so can I.")

She has also created a garden "room" with a secret door and, during the past year, with the help of full-time gardener, Grant, a rose walk using old oak planks from the farm.

In time, it will be smothered in roses – bright red ones.

Sarah's son-in-law, Jamie Rankin, expressed his fondness for old-fashioned red roses when the rest of her family moved to Micklefield Hall earlier this year.

The family home now houses three generations and she and her daughter, Anna, delight in garden "bonding", which the night before had seen six-year-old Tom hard at work hoeing the vegetable garden in readiness for the "open garden".

Other gardens open through The National Garden Scheme include: The Abbots House, Abbots Langley (Sunday, July 5); Mansion House Farm, Abbots Langley (Sunday, July 5); Waterdell House, Croxley Green (July 13); and Street Farm Cottage, Bovingdon (July 19). ❐

1998

Village wins cash to slow traffic

WO 7-8-98

THE peaceful calm of Sarratt is being shattered by drivers using the village as a "rat-run", residents have claimed.

Figures compiled by a working group last November indicated the volume and speed of traffic passing through the village was far higher than expected.

The group comprised villagers and the highways agency at Three Rivers District Council

Mr Ian Dorrett, a Sarratt resident and member of the working party, said: "The figures show that almost 80 per cent of all drivers passing through Sarratt exceed the speed limit and that approximately 1,000 vehicles an hour pass through the village at peak times.

"In particular, we need traffic calming on The Green, which is used as a rat-run."

The report's findings place Sarratt at the top of the district council's list of areas in need of traffic calming and has resulted in funds being released to solve the problem.

Mr Derek Cox, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council said: "This is the biggest thing that has faced the village in recent years and I would be delighted to see something done that calms the traffic situation."

The district council's highways partnership manager, Mr Nicolas Goddard, said money was now available for a consultant to establish the root causes of the increased levels of traffic through the village and to plan a solution.

However, that money would not be made available to implement the scheme until the next financial year.

Mr Dorrett, said: "We are delighted that a consultant has been appointed, but we will face a difficult time trying to get everyone to agree on the new plans.

"Residents feel it is important that Sarratt's environment is preserved. Additional lighting, for example, would not be acceptable, but I am optimistic we will reach agreement on the plans."

The former High Sheriff of Hertfordshire is throwing open her doors to the public for a fun day, writes **Grelle White**

Charity open day at Sarratt Hall

WO 17-7-98

WITH a little time on her hands, former High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Lady Joanna Staughton, has decided to try something completely different to support her favourite charity.

She is going to open the garden at the family home, Sarratt Hall, on Sunday to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The difference is that Lady Staughton is more of a family person than a horticulturist. So rather than show off the splendours of the garden, which has been in the family since the early 17th century, she has opted for "A Real Family Day".

"My husband is the gardener, I'm only allowed to plant the daffodils," smiles Lady Staughton.

So she is more at home with the idea of opening Sarratt Hall for families to have a nice day out in the country. Something both she and her husband have practiced with invited groups of guests before.

With a swimming pool and a large, easy-maintenance garden, Sarratt Hall is welcoming for families, who would like to bring a picnic, explore the garden and join in games of family cricket, rounders and races.

"We will have some written competitions with little prizes and maybe play musical chairs if that seems like a good idea," said Lady Staughton, who has given up the "day job" with the local health authority.

She has been involved with Macmillan Cancer Relief since she officially opened the hospice in St. Albans as part of her official duties as High Sheriff.

Both impressed and moved by the dedication of the Macmillan nurses, she has supported the charity ever since.

Sarratt Hall is situated on the outskirts of the village on the road towards Chipperfield, on the right hand side between Little Sarratt Hall and Great Sarratt Hall (on the left).

The house has evolved from Tudor times and has been in Lady Staughton's family since the early 17th Century.

"It belonged to the Dayes family until 1840, when tragically all the boys died of typhoid," she recalls. "Since then it has followed the female line, but I now have a grandson, so who knows," she speculates.

Initially she is hoping her 18-months-old heir is available to join in the fun on Sunday.

● Sarratt Hall is open for A Real Family Day with swimming, games and competitions from 11am to 4pm on Sunday. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available and visitors are invited to bring their own picnics. Admission is £2 per adult and 50p per child.



Lady Joanna Staughton (right) is ready for the crowds.



Sarratt set to star in BBC drama

thro 31-7-98

CAMERAMEN and colourful sets interrupted the tranquility of a sunny summer afternoon in Sarratt last week.

As residents warily watched from a distance, the BBC children's production department completed their final day of shooting in one of Three Rivers' more isolated locations.

Residents may feel that the novelty of film crews has worn off but remain proud that it is their village that has been chosen.

Mrs Daisy Langley, 83, of Alexandra Road, said: "Sarratt is such a pretty place and there is always lots of filming done round about."

The latest in a long line of notable productions to film in Sarratt, The Home Farm Twins is just one in a collection of new projects being filmed by the BBC for children.

The producer, Ms Ros Anderson, has taken a departure with this project; one of the last programmes she produced was Casualty.

The Home Farm Twins is a 13-part adaptation of a series of books written by Jenny Oldfield.

The books tell the story of twin girls, played by Polly and Sophie Duniam, aged 11, who have moved from London to Norfolk with their parents.

The episode filmed in Sarratt sees the opening of the new Curlew Cafe by the twins' mother, played by Jacquetta May, and all the trials and tribulations this entails.

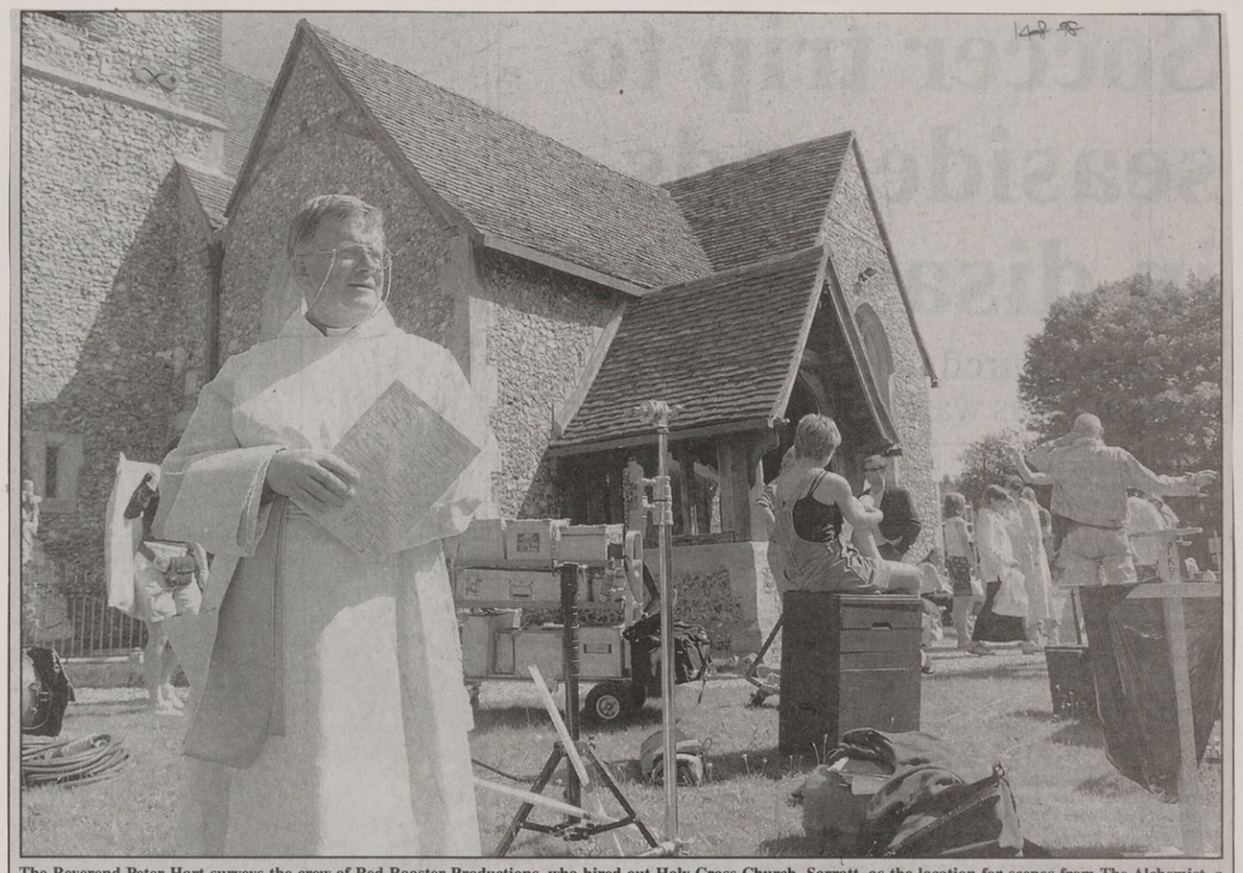
The central plot structure of every episode revolves around the befriending of stray animals by the twins.

In this episode, Sansom the dog creates chaos when he bounds into the centre of the celebrations at the cafe's grand opening.

Despite working with children and animals being notoriously difficult, Ms Anderson said: "The animals require quite a lot of patience and can be unpredictable, but the children are super."

Even with just six weeks of shooting left, The Home Farm Twins cannot be seen until January when it will be screened every Wednesday.

Whatever the reasons, Sarratt maintains a charm that continues to attract film crews from far and wide.



The Reverend Peter Hart surveys the crew of Red Rooster Productions, who hired out Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, as the location for scenes from The Alchemist, a production for Channel 5. Picture R34210: JOE SHEEHAN

Film crew focuses on quiet village life

MOVES to promote village locations as venues for filming could boost business in Three Rivers.

Quaint country villages are all the rage for cosy English Sunday dramas and American blockbusters, but when filming takes place it is not just the location which benefits from the fees.

Carpenters, caterers and landlords all get a boost in business and local people get a chance to act as extras in the next big thing.

Mr Chris Holt, film and media development manager at Hertfordshire Film Link, said: "Our remit is to attract film makers into the county and make Hertfordshire a film friendly environment."

He went on to explain that particular sites have been filmed to excess and that it is time for other locations to reap the benefits.

Sarratt was described by Mr Holt as the "perfect filming location". Away from main roads, but with good access to the M25, without over head pylons, and with an old church, village pond and the green it has every element a director could ask for.

In fact it was the village church that attracted the latest television drama, The Alchemist, to Sarratt last week.

Red Rooster Productions, based at Leavesden Studios in Watford, are producing two 90 minute episodes for Channel 5, which will be aired early next year.

Based on the thriller by Peter James, the plot concerns the shady business practises of a multinational pharmaceutical company dabbling in genetic engineering and should appeal to the X-Files generation of television viewers.

The Reverend Peter Hart, vicar of Holy Cross Church, in Church Lane, Sarratt, also got in on the act when he played himself during shooting.

He said: "It has not interfered with the running of the church at all, in fact it has been beautifully organised."

Despite wise words from the director, Mr Peter Smith, who claimed "it is just about hard work", Mr Hart welcomed the prospect of future roles.

He said: "It pays a lot better than my other job and I wouldn't mind doing a few of these."

At a meeting of Sarratt Parish Council, on Monday, councillors expressed concern that the Parish Council had no code of practise for their dealings with film crews and they did not want to be taken advantage of.

Chairman of the council, Mr Derek Cox, said: "We need to draw up a document that we can use as a rule of thumb to dictate what the production companies can and cannot do, to ensure they cause as little inconvenience to people who live in the village as possible."

As one councillor stated, it is a sellers' market, and Sarratt should do all it can to maintain the atmosphere which attracted the film crews in the first place.

Watford Rotary Club

24-7-98

THIS is one of the oldest clubs in the area and celebrates its 75th anniversary in February of next year.

A sign that it is keeping pace with changing times was the recent induction of two female members and it says it is keen to attract more.

Mr Robin Gain was voted president for the second time, having held the chair in 1984-85.

He said: "I am looking forward to my second term of office.

"My aims for the coming year are to raise the public knowledge of what Rotary is and does and to increase our membership with new younger men and women who are interested in fellowship through community service."

A retired family doctor, Mr Gain has worked in Watford for 30 years and is married with four adult children and six grandchildren. He is also chairman of the trustees of the Peace Hospice.



New president Robin Gain.

The Watford Rotary Club has a long tradition of supporting international charities. So far this year it has teamed up with French and German counterparts to raise funds to provide clean water in Africa.

Members also regularly take people from their homes to the Watford Blind Centre and arrange tea parties for Watford's Senior Citizens.

● Watford Rotary Club meets at YMCA Charter Place, Watford, on Mondays at 1pm.

LIVES AT MINSTEAD PED LION LANE

Evening service safe

FEARS that the proposed evening bus service in Sarratt is to be scrapped before it begins were put to rest this week.

Rumours had surfaced that plans to extend the service had been shelved and a dial-a-ride service was being considered as an alternative.

County Councillor Mr Peter Cumming, at a meeting of Sarratt Parish Council said: "The parish has made quite clear that its highest priority is the introduction of rural bus services and Sarratt is one of the few areas in the county which is actually rural.

"I believe that it is a matter of saying the parish council is not for turning."

However, Mr Keith White, principle transport officer at Hertfordshire County Council, claimed that he was unaware of any plans to shelve proposals.

He said: "The evening bus route for Sarratt is still a definite proposal, but we are also looking into a dial-a-ride service for additional sections of the proposed route."

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, Mr Derek Cox, was relieved to hear that the evening service would still go ahead. However, he said: "We originally suggested that the evening service would run all the way to the Woodside Leisure Park. It seems more sensible for one bus to carry on for a few miles more than have two services." 14-8-98



W.085. 14-8-98

No more vroom at the inn as bikers descend on peaceful country pub

RESIDENTS in Sarratt are experiencing motorcycle mayhem as hundreds of bikers descend on the village every Wednesday evening.

The Cricketers pub on The Green in Sarratt, has become the chosen haunt of motorcyclists from across the county.

Business has been booming for landlord Mr Richard Wilderspin but when over 500 bikes turned up at his door last Wednesday, he had had enough. He said: "It began with members of the Vintage Motorcycle Club meeting here once a month, which was fine, then more bikers started turning up every week.

"Last Wednesday was diabolical, there were far too many here for me or the village to cope with.

"Although I can refuse to serve whoever I wish, it could cause problems."

However, he said: "Some of the villagers come to the pub to see the bikers because they enjoy the spectacle and then there are the others who object most strenuously."

At a meeting of Sarratt Parish Council on Monday, the disruption caused by the bikers to village life was discussed.

Chairman Mr Derek Cox, referring to the situation, said: "The whole area is entirely full of bikers and people stop to see what is going on and they park all across the green.

"I feel that we are too far into this year to do anything about the problem, but the council should take measures to enforce the village by-laws which do not permit parking on the green next year."

Mr Wilderspin believes the only way to handle the problem is to let the meetings die their natural death in September and then take stronger measures in time for next year.

He said: "I want to take positive advertising steps to say we can no longer cope with the number of motorcyclists we get coming here each week.

"This year there is a much higher percentage who have no regard for speed limits or the safety of other people on the road, and although there was a police presence last week I do not think it helped."

Meanwhile villagers of Sarratt will have to wait until next year to see if the bikers return.

Picture R352614: SIMON JACOBS

Having take-away dinner on a film set

WHEN a film company recently hired Roy Fidmont's vacant shop in Sarratt, they turned it briefly into the Curlew Cafe.

This caused some villagers to entertain the fantasy of a tea room/wine bar in the former haberdashers, but it inspired a more positive thought in the mind of one, John Kindell who decided to turn fantasy into reality.

By the time the film company had left the premises, which now carried the sign Doveton Cafe, John had hired it for a night for 1p. With the help of friends Roy and Tom Henderson, they turned the disused shop into a cafe.

On Saturday night, 32 sat down to fish and chips, Indian or Chinese meals brought in from the local take-aways.

Then, they partied to the early hours and raised £105 for Sarratt Care in the process. The next day, nursing their heads, they passed what in the morning light is still just a vacant shop.

But for one night only, we ate, drank and danced at the Doveton Cafe, Sarratt, and not a lotta people can say that. 7-9-98

Bunny beats the jams by riding on shanks's pony

W.O. 12-8-98



JUST A WORD
with **Oliver Phillips**



Noel "Bunny" Rabbetts leaves the confines of conventional transport and starts for home.

AYE, those were the days. Walk four miles in t' morning to pit-head and four miles back after we clocked off.

We all have someone in our families who used shanks's over-worked pony in those far-off days when apparently you could go out with three shillings, treat your girl to a three-course dinner, a seat at the Roxy and still have enough change left to put a deposit on a three-bedroom house.

Who knows? We may have to revert to those days and invest in walking again. The current thinking is that cycling is the way ahead, so why not walking too?

Should that time come, I have met someone who is the epitome of this future concept and will have a head start on us all.

Noel Rabbetts, who not surprisingly is known as Bunny, has turned his back on the motor car and has taken to the old ways and the highways. He walks four miles to the station every day, commutes to Southwark and then returns to Chorleywood station before walking four miles back to his home in Belsize, near Chipperfield.

There are times, walking the dogs (and cat) around the Sarratt Green, when I have seen Bunny stride by with a nod of recognition without slowing his regular, established pace. At such moments, I have looked at the blue sky, heard the birds, smelled the grass and envied him.

Then there have been other times, deep in the winter when his shape has loomed out of the chill morning darkness and drizzle and I have watched with a mixture of awe and bafflement as he strode onwards, before I hurried home to my porridge.

And he has been doing this, every day, for four years.

"The old banger I had, packed up," he explains simply. "Why spend several hundred pounds on something that spends the day languishing in the station car park? I just find it simpler to walk."

Walking is not necessarily that much cheaper either. Perhaps twice a week, he has been known to call in at The Cock for a couple of pints on the way home and there is the not unduly small matter of shoe-leather and shoes to consider.

Mind you, in the summer, he can walk across the meadows, shortening the distance and improving the visual options.

"I see these people whose wives take them to the station and then they travel back, take the kids to school, and the whole process is repeated in the evening, waiting and hoping the connections have been made.

"There is a lot of running around and a lot of stress. I think that is stupid in some ways," he reflects.

Walking for Bunny is a way of life: he just does it. "I don't know that you ever become hooked on it. I walk. It is as simple as that," he says, admitting that sometimes on a Sunday, he might fancy a pint and walks two miles to "the halfway stage" at The Cock, and back.

He never loses weight nor puts it on, but health is not his *raison d'etre.*

"I smoke three cigarettes on the way to the station and three back. The only disadvantage is that you can get soaked walking to work. If it is raining, I wear a long riding coat.

"Those who know me, know I do not do this because I'm skint. I walk because it is something that does not worry me. It is part of my life and an enjoyable and natural break. You can put your brain in neutral. You don't have to think about it. Walking is mechanical, and it affords me an hour to an hour and ten minutes in which to plan my day, and the same to reflect upon it, on the way back."

It does, however, involve a certain discipline. "Coming home I have a different rhythm. I maintain the same rhythm even when going up hill. That is important because if you lose that rhythm for any reason, you are buggered getting it back," he assures me.

From a purely logistical standpoint, North-South hill, either side of the valley, which separates Sarratt from Chorleywood, is a steep, some would say a daunting, obstacle.

"That's where you can lose your rhythm. Two cars passing or a lorry coming down. You can lose two or three minutes on North Hill alone.

"Then there is crossing the Amersham Road. The traffic is getting heavy by then. If the cars are spaced, they will maintain their rhythm. That seems terribly important to them so you can't get across easily, unless there is a bit of a jam."

Walking is not something Bunny has adopted on a financial whim over the past four years. He has lived in Belsize since 1963 and, when attending Dacorum College or going into Watford at night, he would "rather miss the last bus and have to walk home after having a few more pints with the lads, than catch the bus and miss out on the evening" he admits when reflecting on those seven-and-a-half-mile walks from Hemel and similar hikes from Watford at the end of his evenings.

"I used to walk from Belsize to Chalfont St Giles to work when I had my own business. That was two hours each way," he points out.

I find Bunny's idiosyncrasy quite amazing. I can recall once walking along the pavement-less road from Croxley Green to Redheath at night, and vowed never to try it again. I reached my house looking as if I had just taken part in the post-D-Day battle of the hedgerows. I was scratched, muddy and bleeding after repeatedly throwing myself into the hedges to avoid cars.

"There is a knack to it. You can tell instinctively when a car hasn't seen you. I have a red tabard to wear at nights but that is only a recent innovation," he points out, "I haven't had any close calls.

"The old rules were that you walked the right-hand side of the lane. I do that most of the time but, having been a driver, I know points where I should cross the road, knowing that the last thing a driver would expect to see is someone walking at night.

"But you can hear from their engine note that this guy has not seen me, so I step in towards the hedge."

He does occasionally accept lifts, yet reveals that on occasions he would rather walk than face a moment of embarrassment, so demonstrating how much walking is a part of his life.

"There are regular people who will see me and stop. It depends on what shift I am doing. Some evenings, when getting off the train, someone will offer me a lift and I decline because, as I fancy a pint at The Cock, I would feel embarrassed imposing on him and asking him to drop me off halfway. So I walk there.

"At other times, people will say to you that they 'thought of giving you a lift the other day'. I think it is a nice thought, but I wonder why they didn't. I don't blame them. A lorry possibly came the other way and the thought went out of their head.

"Mind you, I do get my own back when there is snow and ice on North Hill. They slide to a stop and I go striding up past them," said Bunny, who is married with two children and one grand-daughter.

"If I have to catch the 8.13am train, I leave the house at 7am, past The Cock roundabout 7.40, reach the top of North Hill at 7.55 and across The Common and down to the station by 8.10. I don't have to look at the watch if I have kept my rhythm. I know the time instinctively.

"People do look upon it as odd. In fact, people are totally gobsmacked that someone in today's society should walk eight miles a day.

"But if we had petrol rationing, I would be in my element."

● Next week: how walking hones those skills of observation.



The halfway mark, The Cock Pub, is often a tempting watering hole for the wandering bunny.

Multi-million pound hotel set for The Grove

WOB 18/9/98.

Plans wait for nod from Environment Secretary

By Diana Machin

A LUXURY hotel could be welcoming new business into Watford after a public inquiry revealed overwhelming support for the multi-million pound project.

Plans for The Grove in Hempstead Road, earmarked for the £66 million development, were scrutinised during a four-day investigation to determine if the four-star hotel was appropriate for the Green Belt site.

The development has come up against only small ripples of resistance. One of the few concerns came from the Chiltern Society, which wanted assurances that ramblers would still be able to use the land for walks.

Worried residents from Grove Mill Lane were also pacified when the detailed plans were explained.

Plans for the hotel have been in the pipeline for more than a year and have received the full backing of Watford Council, Three Rivers District Council, Abbots Langley Parish Council and the community.

However, the public inquiry was called because the site involved extending the existing Grade II mansion on Green Belt land.

Although all sides in the public inquiry were positive about the development, the final decision to grant planning permission still lies with Environment Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott.

Chairman of the planning committee at Abbots Langley Parish Council, Mr Peter Avery, who spoke at the public inquiry, said: "When this application came before our committee last June, it was received with much enthusiasm and commended by all members.

However we did express concern on two issues — the possibility of a large car parking block on the skyline and damage to the environment with possible water extraction from the River Gade to maintain the golf course greens.

"We have now been assured that car parking will be strategically placed and well screened by existing trees, and no water will be taken from the river during the summer months with two lakes to be created for this purpose."

Watford Council and Three Rivers District Council spokesman, Mr Robert Jameson, commended the developers, RTL, for providing a thorough and comprehensive planning report for the hotel and golf course. He said: "For the extension to be built in Green Belt land there must be special circumstances for development. The proposals cover these circumstances, and overall improve the openness of the Green Belt, restore the Grade II listed building in its historical setting, while giving the public access to the land."

HOLY CROSS CHURCH
SARRATT, HERTFORDSHIRE

Stained Glass Window
North Transept, North Window



"The Vision of the Cross"
Designed by Alfred Fisher FMGP FRSA

Part of the poem which inspired the window

I would tell a marvellous vision
that I dreamed at dead of night
when speech-gifted men were sleeping.
I thought I saw the wondrous tree
moving on high and wrapped in light,
the most shining cross.
All that glowing sign was
streaming with gold; gems were set
beautiful at its foot.
Five were on the cross-beam.
I saw the tree of glory
shine, adorned with banners of joy
and decked with gold; the jewels
fittingly covered the cross of the Lord.
Many bands of angels fair
throughout all eternity looked on.
Men on earth
looked on it and all this marvellous creation
gazed on the glorious tree of victory.

Speeding moans stalled after police target offenders

W.O. 20-11-98

COMPLAINTS that not enough is being done to deter motorists speeding through Sarratt have stalled after police discovered most of the offenders lived in the village

Speeding vehicles around the area was the main issue of contention at a police meeting in Sarratt last week.

Many residents believe stronger measures should be enforced to reduce the speed of traffic.

However, community police officer PC Phil Wynes, said while he was conducting a seat-belt campaign in Sarratt a few weeks ago, he stopped every vehicle that went in and out of the village.

He said: "Although I could not issue speeding tickets, most of the cars I had stopped had been exceeding the speed limit and the majority of the drivers were from Sarratt."

Extra enforcement measures, such as traffic calming, cameras or traffic police presence, will not be introduced in Sarratt and the surrounding areas because it has no priority blackspots, according to statistics.

However, PC Phil Wynes is set to be trained to use a robic watch, which will measure vehicle speeds and enable him to prosecute more drivers who break the limit.

It is hoped this measure will be up and running by the beginning of December.

Debating time

A SPECIAL Chorleywood and Sarratt local area forum will be held on Tuesday, September 22. The consultation on the review of health services currently being carried out by the West Herts Health Authority is the only item on the agenda. The forum, which everyone is invited to attend, will take place at St Clement Danes School, Chenies Road, Chorleywood. WOB 18/9/98

The Vision of the Cross

The window is a gift to the Church by the Rollinson family who lived at The Old Wheatsheaf, Sarratt, from 1965-1995.

It is given with thanks for the opportunity to serve the Church and the community of Sarratt over thirty years.

We hope that the window will bring inspiration to all those who worship at Holy Cross and the many visitors who enjoy the peace of this ancient church.

The window will be dedicated by the Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans on Holy Cross Day:

6.30pm - Monday 14 September 1998

The subject of the window is unusual for a stained glass window but entirely appropriate for Holy Cross Church. It is based on a 7th century Anglo Saxon Northumbrian poem by an anonymous writer.

He describes how, one night, he woke to see a vision of a towering Cross. As he gazed at the Cross it constantly changed its shape.

At one moment it was the leafy tree which had been cut down in the forest to make the Tree of Good Friday.

The next moment it had changed into a glorious Tree of Victory, studded with jewels - a symbol of Easter Day when Christ conquered darkness and death.

The design on the front of this leaflet is in watercolours. It will be transformed by sunlight when the glass window is in place.

Description of the window by Alfred Fisher

The over-riding image is of the vision of a glowing, golden tree set with jewels in the arms of the Cross and around the foot of the tree. In the design the tree is conceived with the trunk and branches suggested without being realistic.

The lower part of the window is in deep, rich colours denoting the night of the Vision. The glowing colours at the base emphasise the other message of the poem which contrasts darkness and light and Good and Evil.

The figure of the poet is seen lying on a bed and startled by what he sees. He is covered symbolically by a straw roof while the moon and clouds ride over an Anglo Saxon village.

Two brief quotations from the poem are included in a fairly central position.

Bikers have their place in changing village life



JUST A WORD with Oliver Phillips



Motorbikes can look spectacular with their chrome and leather, even in a rural location.

THERE has been and, doubtless, there will continue to be, some animated debates over the subject of the scores of motorbikes that descend on the village of Sarratt every Wednesday during the summer.

There have been more than 200 at times, although claims that the number once topped 400 are fanciful, according to my own count.

Now I am not a lover of bikes or cars, over and above my wish for them to fulfil their basic function. However, even I find their presence, while somewhat unusual for a rural location, quite spectacular with all that chrome shimmering in the evening sunlight. People actually drive out by car to witness the gathering and I can understand that. It is spectacular.

However, it would appear the bikers have been informed that they are not wanted next year and, as a resident, I think that is a pity..

For those unfamiliar with the subject, members of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club have been meeting outside The Boot, in Sarratt, on a specific Wednesday in every month for years. They were known as Piston and Sprocket to the locals and quite often 50 or more bikes could be seen outside the pub, with clusters of various leather-garbed aficionados, staring adoringly at the vagaries of motor bike design throughout the ages, while clasping a half of bitter to their chests.

For some reason, they drifted down to The Cricketers, made that their meeting point and, over the last couple of years, the number has quadrupled and certain villagers are not happy.

Now we are not talking about Kenny Everitt Sid Snot-type stereotypes, wielding the occasional bicycle chain and flick-knife and posing aggressively as members of rival chapters draw up. These are serious bikers, who demonstrate a reverential love for their machines and their heritage.

Local families still go the pub, while the bikers are there, sit out with their children and hear no more bad language than you would pick up at a gathering of Morris Dancers.

It is said that some regulars are a little miffed by this weekly invasion of chrome, metal, rubber and leather and that may be understandable, but The Cricketers, because of its location on The Green by the pond, has always drawn a large percentage of its custom from passing trade seeking a lunchtime or an evening at a country pub.

Certainly, as the application of the breathalyser has gained more teeth since its introduction in 1967, the survival of country pubs owes much to their ability to provide food, and two of the village pubs have had extensions.

In order to survive, they have to attract people from outside the village bounds and turning away 200 or more customers every Wednesday, which also has a spin-off for other pubs, would seem a strange move.

But this is not just a saga particular to Sarratt – it is more far-reaching than that and not only because those bikers seeking to meet in a village idyll will only move on to another village.

The whole concept of village life has undergone a change over the last 50 years, as people have sought to escape the urban developments and moved out into the country.

The demand for houses has increased to such a level over the past 40 years, that the sons of long- established village families can no longer afford to live in the environs and have to look elsewhere to start married life.

In some case, their places have been taken by former urban dwellers fiercely protective of their investment and constantly monitoring the property market.

There are those who enjoy the peace of the rural settlement, but would prefer it if the cows did not defecate and make smells or mess, tractors did not use the roads and hold up traffic and they would seek to change the locality into a sanitised, Stepford version of village life.

I have even heard mention of some wishing to stop the annual Guy Fawkes bonfire on The Green and the May Fair, because both events are noisy and attract rowdier elements from outside.

There are even those who oppose pub-extensions because that too brings out the trippers, but they forget how they first discovered the village themselves.

That attitude was exemplified to me when one old stager in the village was remonstrating with the owner of one of the posher houses that backed onto the playing fields, who was allowing her dog to do its business on the football pitch. The dog owner was unrepentant, expressing the view that perhaps such excreta would dissuade the sportsmen from playing and disturbing their peace of the locality on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

The old boy, successfully winding her up, told her not to worry as they were planning on selling the playing field to a housing developer and moving the sports complex elsewhere.

The prospect of a housing estate at the bottom of her garden sent her scurrying off in panic.

Village life has not only changed but continues to do so. For instance, I have lived in Sarratt for 20 years and, during that time, I have seen the shops drop from six to one. Generally, it is quiet, once the through-traffic fades after rush-hour, but it is not dead.

There are a number of more genteel events, such as visiting the gardens and the flower festival to attract outsiders and these are regarded as acceptable.

But a group of motorbike enthusiasts are resented, not because of their behaviour it seems, but mostly because of the noise they make when they leave. However, several people of my acquaintance round The Green feel this is not a problem.

There are ultimately four directions they can take and, if some drive too fast, that is not unique to the area – take a look at the cars coming through early in the morning. But these are essentially police matters.

Some years back, while Watford Council was sanctioning civic vandalism and destroying the heart of Watford, I moved out to Redheath. I lived opposite a slaughterhouse and, when the Government insisted that pet-meat had to be sold ready-cooked, they had to boil it. If the wind was in the wrong direction, one would get a whiff of the stuff. On other occasions,when they were dipping sheep or whatever, one could be awakened by the bleating.

And when the lambing season began, the weekend traffic was slowed by sightseeing car loads, attempting to catch sight of the gambolling creatures.

One could have found that irritating but, I adopted pretty much the same attitude as I have when driving back home and passing the Cricketers, and seeing all those motor bikes gathered outside on the roadway.

To be honest, I found it reassuring that I live in a village that so attracts other people to come out in their droves, one night a week, just to meet and sample the atmosphere.

Police highlight drop in crime

THE number of thefts from vehicles has almost halved in Sarratt during the past year, according to the latest police statistics.

Figures show a drop by 20 crimes in the village – a 47 per cent reduction.

At a public meeting held in Sarratt, representatives from Hertfordshire Police Authority and community police officers gave a presentation to villagers.

The crime picture for Sarratt remains steady, with an increase of six recorded crimes for the first half of this year, compared to the last six months of 1997.

Like Sarratt, Three Rivers also saw a drop in the thefts from cars – 17 per cent during the past three years.

The division saw a seven per cent drop in the number of stolen vehicles over the past three years but, for Sarratt, the number of stolen vehicles reported went up by six compared to the previous year.

Police say the detection rate for thefts of motor vehicles increased by one per cent over the past three years but the detection rate for thefts from motor vehicles has dropped by three per cent.

While police continue to fight the battle against drug-related crimes in Hertfordshire, statistics show no such crimes have been recorded in the village for the past 18 months.

Crimes of the possession of drugs with the intent to supply increased by 11 per cent during 1997/98 throughout the division and there has been one assault committed in Sarratt, out of a total of 191 throughout the division.

The police detection rate for robberies across the division has fallen by 21 per cent during the past three years and the detection rate of assaults in public has fallen by nine per cent over the past two years.

National figures show an average of 55 crimes being committed out of a population of 100 people. In Watford and Three Rivers, this average is 2.9 crimes per 100 people.

Bikers

Village denied use of hall

OLIVER PHILLIPS' article on bikers in Sarratt (Go Magazine, Friday, September 18) concludes that these gatherings at The Cricketers every Wednesday evening throughout the summer are good for the village.

Unfortunately it is hard to tell whether he is seeking to put forward a logical case or merely trying to be controversial; either way his conclusion would seem to be based on a fairly superficial look at the matter.

For instance it is surely unreasonable to draw a parallel, as he does, with those who come once a year at the village's invitation to see its gardens and flower festival.

To put things at their simplest, when did anyone last see a visitor to Gardens Open Day do a wheelie along The Green or make a 60mph circuit of the village centre?

When were all those within a quarter of a mile able to tell that the Flower Festival was taking place simply to opening their windows and listening?

Nor, sensibly, does equating speeding by bikes to speeding by commuters make it any more acceptable. Both are highly undesirable as potential regular features of life in Sarratt.

The main reason for my writing, however, is because the piece makes no mention at all of the impact that the massing of hundreds of bikers has on Sarratt Village Hall.

The Cricketers' premises are far too small to accommodate these numbers, so the majority of the overspill congregate on the highway obstructing vehicle access to the village hall and neighbouring properties.

Others block the pavement to pedestrians. The police and local councils have shown a continuing reluctance to act despite the fact that the village has effectively been denied the use of its hall on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer.

This situation is clearly unacceptable and the Village Hall Management Committee will be taking action, in various areas and at whatever level is necessary, to ensure that it is corrected.

We would hope that on reflection Mr Phillips might wish to support us in this.

— Ian Dorrett, chairman, Sarratt Village Hall Management Committee.

Santa's date

FATHER CHRISTMAS will be coming to Sarratt tomorrow (Saturday), to greet children on The Green outside the Post Office at 2pm. This will be followed by a Christmas bazaar in the village hall, where children will have the chance to visit Santa in his grotto. The bazaar is the major fundraising event of the year for Holy Cross Church.



Booster for hall

SARRATT residents added a further £215 to a kitty to help rebuild their village hall following a market on Sunday.

The hall is due to be partly demolished as part of a £380,000 redevelopment project later this month.

Organiser of the monthly market, Roy Eteen, said the stallholders would be taking a six month break as there are no other sites suitable to hold the market in the village.

Glennys Kavanagh of Sarratt Evening WI, pictured, shows off a tasty cake.



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

Volunteers' tree-planting work boosts common

A HANDFUL of hardy volunteers helped revitalise Commonwood Common in Sarratt by planting trees on Sunday.

Members of Sarratt Common Volunteers were joined by eager helpers, some of whom had been enticed by promises of mince pies and mulled wine.

A daunting task had been set to plant 300 oak, ash and cherry saplings in previously cleared patches of woodland, the aim being to improve the diversity of the wildlife and create a healthier environment in which the trees could grow.

The work was being carried out in conjunction with a five-year management plan initiated by Sarratt Common Volunteers with the help of the Countryside Management Service.

It had also supplied a grant of £720 to help buy the trees on the condition the majority of the work would be carried out on a voluntary basis.

Ms Hazel Walsh, countryside project officer, said: "The woodland looks fine but in terms of wildlife it could be improved.

"At the moment, all the trees are the same age and they are growing in competition with one another and that is not a healthy state for wildlife.

"We will be clearing at least 30 per cent of the woodland, thinning it out where it is really crowded to allow individual trees to grow."

By improving the infrastructure of the woods, it is hoped they will remain a vibrant area for the future.

Councillor Peter Cummings was one volunteer who gave up his Sunday.

He said: "If you do not manage nature, nature will take over. Without management you cannot get biodiversity."

It has become increasingly clear of the importance of communities working to protect and manage the wildlife around them.

Sarratt Common Volunteers work throughout the year on a variety of projects. These include hedge planting, pond clearing and tree planting.

Councillor Mrs Val Cummings, said: "We are on a real learning curve. But more volunteers would be gratefully received."

For more information about Sarratt Common Volunteers or the work of the Countryside Management Service, contact Ms Hazel Walsh on 01707 650041.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1998 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	9th / 13.4	23rd /-3.0	29th /-10.0	2nd / 15.7	88.3	
February	13th / 17.9	2nd /-4.6	1st /-12.2	6th / 4.8	9.3	This month 24 days with no rain.
March	29th / 16.3	9th /-2.1	9th /-9.4	2nd / 12.5	77.4	
April	22nd / 20.3	14th /-0.5	12th /-8.6	8th / 27.3	139.1	last air frost & last snow, 14th & 15th.
May	8,20 / 22.8	4th / 0.8	4th /-6.1	20th / 6.2	22.3	heard 1st cuckoo, 7th.
June	20th / 26.1	12th / 4.1	12th /-0.1	13th / 21.4	121.5	last ground frost, 12th.
July	20th / 25.5	8th / 7.4	27th / 3.2	31st / 13.9	55.7	
August	11th / 29.0	27th / 5.2	27th / 0.9	14th / 10.0	25.3	
September	1st / 24.3	13th / 6.0	14th / 0.1	26th / 35.1	122.3	
October	14th / 16.5	18th / 0.0	20,26/-5.0	31st / 22.2	126.8	1st ground frost, 3rd.
November	8th / 14.5	17th /-2.7	17th /-10.4	2nd / 13.1	78.9	1st air frost of winter, 11th.
December	14th / 13.2	21st /-4.0	21st /-12.8	25th / 18.0	81.8	1st snowfall of winter, 5th.

Buy a piece of local history

A PORTION of one of Hertfordshire's most famous country houses has come on to the market.

The White House is a wing of Commonwood House, Commonwood – the hamlet that nestles between Sarratt and Chipperfield.

The property is currently undergoing restoration work and the present owner hopes to complete it within two weeks.

Commonwood House was built in the latter part of the last century and was originally a modest eight-bedroom residence.

Purchased by William and Cissy Allen, members of a large Victorian family, in the early 1900's, it was used as a country retreat until 1932.

During the latter part of the 1930's Miss Allen gave rein to creative ideas gathered from extensive travel throughout Europe and set about creating a Tudor manor house with the use of decorative iron and plasterwork.

Oak panelling and other architectural features purchased or reproduced from other period houses throughout the country completed the finishing touches.

It was used as an RAF servicemen's club until, in the 1950's, it was divided up into the eight properties that exist today.

The White House stands in the middle section of the house, a three storey property.

Approached by wrought iron gates and a porch to the front, it opens out to a large reception hall with an 18th Century carved oak staircase rising to the first floor.



One of Hertfordshire's most famous homes, The White House, is on the market for £400,000.

On the ground floor the accommodation comprises a living/dining room with a feature fireplace and a handmade kitchen/breakfast room.

A staircase descends from the reception hall to a basement where there is a large laundry room and a cloakroom.

At first floor level, doors from an impressive semi-galleried landing give access to the master bedroom suite plus two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

The White House boasts many character features including fine examples of "parguet" rendering, heavily detailed ceiling cornices, many attractive fireplaces, wood panelling in many rooms and attractive radiator covers with fleur de lys patterned grills.

To the back of the property lie mature well established gardens which extend about 100ft.

Priced at £400,000, viewing is by appointment only with Proffitt and Gough, High Street, Kings Langley, on 01923 270333.

1999



Attractive 2 bedroom cottage, lounge, dining room, cellar, off street parking, overlooks Sarratt Green.

SARRATT £895 pcm



Delightful Grade II Listed period cottage, dating back in part to the 17th c, in peaceful rural setting. Sympathetically refurbished, it offers 3 beds, bathroom, cloaks/shower, 2 receps, kitchen/breakfast, barn & workshop.

Tel. Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

SARRATT GUIDE £425,000



SARRATT £199,950

Cobbled cottage built in 1781 overlooking The Green

- Living room with inglenook fireplace
- Kitchen/diner • Two bedrooms • Bathroom
- Attractive cottage-style garden • Garage



SARRATT £169,950

Pretty semi-detached cottage built approx. 1840, situated just off The Green.

◆ Good size living room ◆ Kitchen overlooking rear garden ◆ Bathroom (downstairs)
◆ Two bedrooms ◆ Garden worthy of special mention
◆ Period features include leaded light windows and pine latch doors



Attractive 5 bed, 3 bath detached residence in cul de sac, close to picturesque village green within sought-after village. Three receptions. Kitchen/breakfast room. Utility room. GCH. D.glazing. Double width garage. Gardens.

SARRATT £545,000





COMMONWOOD £385,000

Located within the quiet and picturesque hamlet of Commonwood, this unique and most interesting character property has been thoughtfully restored and enlarged to create a most impressive living environment.

Features include a wealth of wood panelling, feature fireplaces and heavily detailed ceiling cornices. Arranged on three floors, this freehold house offers versatile accommodation including 4/5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, a substantial drawing room and large reception hall. A particular feature is the very stylish hand-crafted 18th century French-style kitchen. There is also a garden to the rear approaching 100ft. Immediate possession available.

The only way is up, even without stairs at Sandfield



The three-bedroom bungalow is set in a delightful rural location.

HOUSE-hunters looking for a home in a rural area may find Sandfield, a three-bedroom bungalow in Sarratt, right up their street.

The property, a short walk from the village centre, is set in landscaped and secluded gardens.

The house, priced at £320,000, is made up of a spacious, open-plan living and dining room, with a feature open fireplace, a fitted lime-oak kitchen and breakfast room, three double bedrooms and a family bathroom.

An open fireplace with oak beams in the living room is perhaps the most striking feature of this house.

Another attraction of this idyllically set bungalow is its off-street parking facility, which can contain four to five cars.

To view the property, contact Proffitt and Gough estate agents in High Street, Kings Langley, on 01923 270333.

Publican calls time on bikers

Village 'cannot cope' with influx of motorcyclists

by Wendy Fielder

BIKERS have been shown the door at The Cricketers Pub in Sarratt after hundreds of motorcyclists began to return to the village after the winter break.

Publican Mr Derek Cox has posted notices warning that the pub will no longer serve the mass of bikers that arrive on Wednesday nights.

The notice says bikers will be welcome at other times of the week, but Mr Cox said neither the pub nor the village could cope when this grew to several hundred in the summer months.

Members of the Vintage Motorcycle Club, who now meet elsewhere in Hertfordshire, began meeting at the pub several years ago.

They were then joined by bikers from as far away as London and Oxford, who continued to visit the pub every Wednesday. As word spread, the venue's popularity grew.

With plenty of room for off-road parking and easy access from major routes, the pub provides the perfect meeting place during the summer months.

However, last year at a Sarratt Parish Council meeting, Mr Cox, who was then chairman, said: "The whole area gets full of bikers and people stop to see what is going on. They park all across the green.

"The council will take measures to enforce the village bylaws next year, which do not permit parking on the green."

Speaking as the licensee of The Cricketers, he explained that he would give "his best shot" to try to discourage the bikers.

Mr Roger Watts, 40, of Hemel Hempstead, has been visiting The Cricketers pub on his Yamaha YZF 750 for the past three or four years.

He said: "Previously, I have tried to change the venue for our meetings but there was no real atmosphere and we end up back at The Cricketers.

"There has never been any trouble and some of the residents used to come down and look at the bikes."

Some patrons share the motorcyclists' views.

Mrs Joy Mendelsohn, 45, of Greenhills Close, Chorleywood, said: "They need somewhere to go and it wouldn't worry me if they were all here as long as I still got served."

But chairman of Sarratt Village Hall, Mr Ian Dorrett, fully supports Mr Cox's decision.

He said: "It was decided last year when Mr Cox took over the running of the pub that the bikers would be given notice.

"Because they gather in large numbers outside the pub, they obstruct the access route to the village hall and this deters people from booking the hall."

Village inn flirts with TV fame

A SARRATT pub will feature in a new television series starring former EastEnders star Michelle Collins.

The new ITV drama called Daylight Robbery is set to hit our screens in September and will show a scene with Collins in the beer garden at The Boot on The Green.

The film crew were passing the pub two weeks ago and chose it because of its picturesque country look.

Publicans Richard and Christine Jones were chuffed that their pub was selected.

Mr Jones said: "It was nice knowing the pub will be appearing on television, after all it is not the sort of thing that happens every day."

The four-part thriller also stars Geraldine Somerville, Emily Woof and Lesley Sharp and tells the story of four housewives who resort to robbing banks to make ends meet.

Tributes paid at the house Sylvia built

Friends gather to remember Brownie leader

A HOUSE in Sarratt has become a living testament to the determination of a woman who wanted children to be able to camp in safety.

On Saturday, friends and family of Miss Sylvia Cross filled the small house known as The Brambles, off Plough Lane, for a service of thanksgiving.

Miss Cross died last year, aged 69, after battling against Parkinson's disease for 12 years.

She was an active woman who played many sports including cricket for the English womens' team. She travelled to many places including Peru, Kashmir and America, where she met General, later President, Eisenhower.

A keen ranger, she was heavily involved with the Girl Guide movement and, as a district commissioner, devoted her time to the Brownies.



Sylvia Cross.

by Yana De Silva

Miss Cross was determined to build a camp for the youngsters at the house and campaigned vigorously to raise the £15,000 needed, which would be matched by a grant from Westminster City Council.

So keen was she to see the project finished that when it ran out of funds, she quietly donated her entire £10,000 retirement money to ensure the house was finished.

Speaking at the thanksgiving, her brother, Mr George Cross, who looked after his sister during her illness, spoke of how he used to tease her over the building.

He said: "I used to say to Sylvie, 'why are you so concerned over a hut?' and she would get quite indignant and say 'it's not a hut, it's a house.'

"She used to say: 'Guides can camp but Brownies can't, they're too small, so the only answer is to build them a house with a dormitory so they can join in all the pursuits their older sisters can'."

The house was finished in 1985, the same year Miss Cross retired due to the progression her illness.

Mr Brian Savage, who looks after the building, paid tribute to Miss Cross at the service.

He said: "Sylvia battled to ensure the house would be built. If she hadn't persuaded Three Rivers District Council to let us be here rate free, we could not have gone on. That made the project viable.

"The house is a living monument to Sylvia. Her spirit lives on here."

PROPERTY

Peaceful and picturesque Briar Cottage has been a happy home for the O'Neill family but they tell Asha Tanna it's now time to move on

A heavenly location

THE locals have coined the area "Under the Heavens" because of its scenic beauty and tranquillity, captured between the two valleys of Sarratt and Bucks Hill.

Briar Cottage in Bottom Lane is a delightful period property that still has some original features dating back 300 years. These include the small white flint stones outside the cottage and a number of exposed beams inside.

Owners Michael and Michelle O'Neill and Michelle have lived there for more than 13 years. She said: "This has been an incredible home to us and our children. We have had some wonderful times here, but now that our children have all gone to university, we have decided to sell Briar Cottage for somewhere smaller."

Sarratt village has a small and intimate community, with a village green and pond. There are several public houses and for other leisure facilities and a wide range of shops, Watford, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth are all close by.

Approaching the front of the cottage, a visitor is greeted with a white stable door.

Mrs O'Neill said: " I love the stable door because we can open just the top half of it if we want to get a view of the fields opposite.

"The house has so much character and is definitely in keeping with the surroundings. The area was christened with the title Under the Heavens, where the valley of Sarratt meets Bucks Hill. It is so beautiful here; the name certainly does it justice.

"What I love about the area is the peacefulness. There are hardly any cars and so there is very little noise and pollution. In fact, you would probably see more horses on the road than vehicles.

"When we bought the house we had a number of horses and dogs. A really stereotypical country home in the form of this cottage was the perfect place to suit our lifestyle."

Inside Briar Cottage, the lounge has an inglenook fireplace with a brick hearth. This spacious room also has double doors leading to the garden and an arch to the inner hall. The dining room also has an attractive fire place.

The roomy kitchen has a range of farmhouse-style floor and wall units and sports a four-ring gas hob with extractor above and integrated double oven.

Keeping the kitchen tidy is helped by the addition of a utility room, which has extra work surfaces and cupboards and plumbing for a washing machine.

Mrs O'Neill said: "What is amazing is that we have gas and our own water supply. We are the only property for a quarter of a mile. The 98ft well is connected to a pump so it isn't a case of having to use a bucket!

"We have our own mains so the waste is deposited away from the cottage. It is very secluded and quiet here, perfect for those who want privacy."

All three bedrooms are situated on the first floor, the master bedroom benefiting from a triple aspect look. The family bathroom has a panelled bath with mixer taps and a shower attachment and shower screen.

Countryside lovers will find the back garden a real treat. It is next to open fields and has a good view from all sides. The garden is about 90ft deep and more than 150ft wide and has a fish pond and a large shed for keen gardeners.

Mrs O'Neill said: "We have a double barbecue, perfect for summer parties outside. There is also a big patio which is an ideal sun-trap."

To view the property, contact Peter Robson and Co at its Chorleywood sales office on 01923 282244.



> "The house has so much character and is definitely in keeping with the surroundings, an area christened Under the Heavens, where the valley of Sarratt meets Bucks Hill"

Pets slaughtered in gruesome attack

A FAMILY'S pet rabbits, ducks and chickens were slaughtered in an attack in Sarratt – and some of the corpses have still not been found.

Police are still hunting those responsible for the "sickening attack" on the pets owned by the Musk family.

A pregnant doe was stabbed and left to bleed to death, another was drowned, and the family's best exhibition buck was strung up on a neighbour's washing line and killed.

One of the family's hens was taken from the chicken house, her legs were tied together with twine and she was drowned.

Two ducks were dragged from their home and taken into another neighbour's garden. One was beaten to death against a tree, the other crushed with a concrete bird bath.

A batch of rabbits were let out of their hutches, only to be knifed to death in the back garden.

The attack happened at Limone House in Bragmans Lane, Belsize, on February 10. It is thought the culprit broke into the garden and killed the pets between 7.30pm and 10.20pm.

Although the motive for the killings is unclear, the family has not ruled out the possibility of a vendetta against them.

Mum Rita Musk, an artist, said: "The terrible suffering that my animals and birds have endured has distressed my family and neighbours immensely.

"My granddaughters' favourite pet rabbits have not been found and neither has another valuable pedigree breeding doe.

"This has been a terrible act of torture and killing.

"I would like to appeal to other people whose pets have been killed or tortured to please let the police know about it.

"We must stop this happening again. Next time it could be a baby or a child."

Anyone with information about the killings is asked to contact Rickmansworth police on 01923 472112 or the RSPCA on 0990 555999.

1999

THE CRICKETERS PUBLIC HOUSE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIKERS

THIS IS TO GIVE YOU FAIR NOTICE
THAT AFTER 1ST.APRIL 1999
WE WILL NOT SERVE THE MASS OF
BIKERS THAT ARRIVE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

****

THIS DECISION WAS MADE BY THE MANAGEMENT, AND ANNOUNCED IN THE LOCAL PRESS LAST SEPTEMBER, AND MANY BIKERS HERE AT THAT TIME WERE TOLD OF THIS.

****

WE ARE NOT DISCRIMINATING AGAINST BIKERS GENERALLY AND WELCOME INDIVIDUALS AT OTHER TIMES OF THE WEEK, BUT NEITHER THE PUB NOR THE VILLAGE CAN COPE WHEN THIS GROWS TO SEVERAL HUNDRED IN THE SUMMER MONTHS.

****

ADDED TO WHICH, WE ARE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS, OUR OWN AND NEIGHBOURING PARISH COUNCILS BECAUSE OF THE BAD BEHAVIOUR OF A MINORITY OF THE BIKERS.

****

WE WISH YOU LUCK WITH FINDING AN ALTERNATIVE, MORE SUITABLE VENUE FOR YOUR MEETINGS.





VAL CUMMING moved to Sarratt with her family in 1971 and has become like a mother to the village, outwardly protecting and promoting and inwardly praising, cheering and admonishing as she sees fit in her constant endeavour to care for and preserve the community.

Mrs Cumming became a parish councillor in 1978 and has been chairman three times. One of her major tasks was to mastermind the restoration and preservation of The Great Sarratt Scrapbook. The book had been started by village rector, the Rev Gilbert Ryley, 150 years before. With the help of grants and fund-raising the book was restored and turned into three volumes in 1993. Mrs Cumming was instrumental in creating low-cost housing, The Clutterbucks. She has also been chairman of the very active local committee of Cancer Research Campaign, which raises thousands of pounds for the charity each year.



Sarratt

John "Flight" Cracknell, former squadron leader in the RAF, who devoted most of his time and energy to the Scout movement. Developed the Lees Wood camp site and with Ralph Reader organised the popular Gang Show. Organised annual St George Day's celebration on The Green and was granted Freedom of the City of London in 1984.

Villagers fear the creep of the Tarmac

APRIL '99

Car park will turn country lane 'into an urban street'

by Diana Machin

THOUSANDS of pounds of public money will be spent on a car park in Sarratt that residents do not want.

More than £120,000 has been earmarked for the development in Dawes Lane in a bid to clear the narrow lane of parked cars.

But people living there fear the arrival of a large expanse of Tarmac is a step towards turning their tranquil country lane into an urban street.

Plans have been in the pipeline for more than a decade and funding for the project was agreed by Three Rivers District Council's Highways Partnership panel a few weeks ago.

Work on the development will begin in November, subject to the approval of planning permission.

The car park, which will be opposite the houses in the lane, will provide alternative parking for residents and the public.

The majority of people living in the road have vigorously opposed the plans and claim their objections have fallen on deaf ears.

Mr Keith Mardlin said: "We were told by the council that the scheme would only go ahead if the residents wanted it.

"We had a meeting recently where 20 residents attended and only one of them was in favour of the car park.

"It is not even a private car park but a public one and it is one step closer to turning this rural lane into an urban street."

They are also irked by the prospect of low-level street lighting being installed on the site.

Parking restrictions on the lane will be installed at a later date, however, Mr Mardlin believes the move to clear the lane of parked cars will turn the road into a rat-run and increase the speed of traffic.

Sarratt Parish Council, which is in favour of the scheme, hopes traffic calming measures will be installed to prevent this.

Parish council clerk, Mrs Jane Griffin, said: "Because of the parking, the refuse lorries, council vehicles and emergency services have been unable to get through the lane in the past.

"We hope that the car park will alleviate this problem by encouraging residents to use the alternative parking area.

"The parish council's concern is for the safety of all Sarratt residents, not just the ones in Dawes Lane."

But resident Mrs Jane Evans said: "There is very strong feelings against the car park.

"Because I work shifts I have to leave for work at 4.30am. I don't want to have to traipse up to the car park every morning to get my car and I would feel quite apprehensive about walking to the car park because the lane is in darkness."

Chairman of Three Rivers' environment committee, Mr Martin Trevett, said: "This has been a problem for years and the project was first suggested by the people of Sarratt.

"A lot of the traffic is generated because of nearby Wards Nursery and the lane gets very congested, especially during the planting season. Consequently this makes it difficult for traffic to pass through.

"Now we finally have the money for this project we can get it over and done with so we can concentrate on other road safety schemes."

The bulk of the money earmarked for the scheme will pay for the purchase of the land, the building of the car park, lighting, cameras and parking restrictions.

Mr Trevett added: "Although we have budgeted for £120,000, it is unlikely we will spend all of it on the car park."

Triple whammy adds weight to traffic calls

A SPEEDING motorist has dealt a family a triple blow and spurred calls for speed restrictions in Sarratt.

Mr Richard Waller, 17, had passed his driving test just two days before his car was written off as it sat in the driveway of his home in Dimmocks Lane.

A motorist lost control on the bend and smashed into the Vauxhall Vectra of Richard's parents, which was parked in the driveway.

The Vectra was shunted into Richard's Ford Fiesta, which in turn hit the front of the family home.

His mother, Hilary, 43, and her husband, Colin, 44, were sitting at home watching television on Friday, March 5, when they heard a loud crash outside their home.

Mrs Waller said: "The bang was tremendous. We went outside to find lots of people, then I realised that it was my car that had been hit."

The driver of the car had failed to stop, leaving only the remains of his front indicator light and paint markings to identify the car as a dark metallic blue Toyota.

Mrs Waller said: "Our son's car has been parked in the driveway for two months waiting for him to pass his driving test. We suspect that it has been written off.

"That is a great shame, but this couldn't have come at a better time for the traffic calming campaign."

Mr Ian Dorritt, chairman of Sarratt's anti-speeding working group, said: "Eighty per cent of people driving through the village are exceeding the speed limit.

"The difficulty is to come up with a scheme that works without having a detrimental effect on Sarratt's environment. But something really has to be done."

Villagers will be given the opportunity to give their views on proposals for traffic calming in Dimmocks Lane and The Green at a consultation tonight (Friday), between 6.30pm and 8.30pm and tomorrow between 9am and noon, at the village hall on The Green.

APRIL 1999

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

The following is a statement as to persons nominated for Election as Councillors for the

PARISH OF SARRATT
SARRATT WARD

STATEMENT AS TO PERSONS NOMINATED

Date of Election : 6th May 1999

1. The following persons have been nominated

Names of Candidates	Home Address	Description (if any)	Names of Proposers and Seconders	Decision of Returning Officer that Nomination Paper is Invalid or other reason why a person nominated no longer stands nominated
CUMMING Valerie	Old Red Lion Farm The Green Sarratt		Carol J. Chorley Dora E. Richens	
DEAN John Eric	Dawes Cottage Dawes Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Herts WD3 6BG	Local Resident and Parish Councillor	Geoffrey G.H. King Martin J. King	
REES David Balfour	Stocks Caroon Drive Sarratt Herts WD3 6DD	Independent	Derek W.H. Kent Francis J. Goodman	
TURNER Pamela Jane	Sarratt House The Green Sarratt Rickmansworth Herts WD3 6BL		Dawn M.L. Pitts Elizabeth J. Thomas	
WARNER Michael Vernon	45 Church Lane Sarratt		Eileen M. Adams Gerald H. Tatham	

Q DAVID SEAMAN lives in Belsize. The Arsenal and England goalkeeper has settled in the locality at the house once occupied by film star James Mason.

What other houses in the locality have been occupied by the famous?

So far, we have have actress Muriel Pavlow, who lived in Mount View Road, Rickmansworth, in the 1920's; Peter Sellers, who lived at Chipperfield Manor House; Robert Donat and the boy who portrayed Just William in the 1940's radio series, lived at a house in Wayside, Chipperfield.

What other houses in the locality have been occupied by the famous?

A WILLIAM PROSSER, of Chesham, writes:

Roger Livesey lived in a house in Under The Heavens, Sarratt.

In fact, originally, he used to stay there for the weekend.

The house belonged to the mother of his wife, Ursula Jeans. The local girls went round to get his autograph one day and Ursula Jeans' mother told them to clear off.

However, as they were walking down the lane, Roger Livsersy chased after them and signed their books.

I used to deliver meat for Bill Wingfield, in Sarratt. When meat was on ration, people also had corned beef. Sometimes, the butcher had not cut the precise weight and he would cut off a sliver to make it up and then wrap it up.

I would go off and, I must admit, there were times I was very hungry and I used to dip in and take the sliver and swallow it while I was on the way.

I have always felt guilty about that because it was part of people's rations.

We had a van and we had to make deliveries right round to Chandlers Cross. Then we would drive up to Bucks Hill.

There were a lot of shacks on the farm. Edwin Howe and he used to let them out.

There is a cattery there now, I believe. I used to have to walk round and deliver the meat to all the different places.

While on the subject of Under The Heavens, between the two turnings up to Commonwood, on the left, in the undergrowth are a number of pear-shaped lumps of concrete with once had an iron bar through them.

They were put there to stop German tanks and there are only a few of them left. I managed to get one for my garden.

A KJ COOPER of Cedar Road, Oxhey, writes:

Barbara Woodhouse lived at the top of Croxley Green.

Fanny and Johnnie Craddock lived in Grove Mill Lane.

Some members of the Tussaud family lived at the top of New Road, Croxley Green.

Lord Brockway, as Fenner Brockway, leader of the ILP, lived at Loudwater.

Evelyn Laye occupied a house on the Green at Croxley for a while in the 1920's.

Terry Scott is an old Watfordian.

A PHILIP BULLER, of Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Rickmansworth, writes:

I have been meaning to get in touch for some time concerning the query about famous people that has been in your Nostalgia page.

Going back quite a few years there was Sydney Valentine, who lived in Peartree Cottage on Sarratt Green. One of the most famous of Britain's Edwardian actors, he also did much to improve the lot of less fortunate actors, such as founding a union which in time became Equity.

There is a plaque to him in Sarratt church and a few years back Eddie Rollinson wrote an excellent biography of him. I have heard from several people over the years that Arthur Askey spent part, if not the whole, of the Second World War living at Peartree Cottage, possibly lodging there.

Even further back, Herbert Ingram, founder of the Illustrated London News, lived at the Glen Chess estate in Loudwater Lane (I found this in an Around Rickmansworth, a book by Dennis Edwards). The house is still there but is now flats. I believe that Val Doonican also once lived in Loudwater at one time.

I'm sure that someone has already mentioned Fanny Craddock living in Grove Mill Lane.

One of Cliff Richard's Shadows lived in Radlett but I cannot remember his name.

There was another actor and actress living in Under the Heavens – or Plough Lane as our council named it – when I first came here, but both have since died and I cannot for the life of me remember their names either.

As for other people's offerings, I remember reading some years ago (in a biography) that Jessie Matthews lived in north Watford during the latter days of her life.

Someone else has been asking about the Grecian-style temple that used to stand just off Grove Mill Lane – I remember walking past it in the early 60's and it was then, I believe, in a damaged state. Not long after, it was demolished.

At the same time I remember the Lees Wood site in Fir Tree Hill being cleared and replanted with trees and, as it was cleared, a single-storey flint building was exposed and I have a photo that I took of it – that building too was soon demolished!

I think that an article in your paper said it had been a hunting lodge. The same person asks about the iron gates that used to stand at the rear entrance to The Grove – that gateway featured in one episode of The Avengers as John Steed drove his car through it.

Keen fundraiser gets set for Chinese Wall challenge

A CHINESE challenge awaits a woman from Sarratt who will be walking along the Great Wall of China for charity.

Mrs Julia Lawrence, 45, of Sarratt Road, will be walking 65 miles along the wall in just five days for the Chi'ldren's Society.

S.e first got involved with the project a year ago for two reasons: the first being to raise money for charity, the second being the challenge itself.

She now has just four months left to raise the minimum donation of £2,000 required by the charity to take part.

Mrs Lawrence, said: "All my family have been very encouraging, saying I should just go for it. My husband realised everyone needs a challenge and this is mine."

Mrs Lawrence will fly out to Beijing on Sunday, June 13, where she will be given a day to acclimatise before beginning the walk.

In a bid to raise the £2,000 entry fee required from each walker, she has organised a host of events.

The latest fundraiser is an oriental cooking demonstration by Ms Jean Geary, a lecturer in Oriental Cuisine.

Anyone wishing to experience tastes of the Orient can attend the demonstration on Tuesday, February 23, at The Village Hall, Sarratt at 8pm. Tickets are priced £6.

For more information, call Mrs Lawrence on 01923 260504.











SARRATT OFFERS INVITED NEW INSTRUCTION

Positioned within a truly idyllic rural setting surrounded by picturesque countryside and woodland, a Grade II listed cottage, offered with 1½ acres.

The cottage offers a sitting room, kitchen, bathroom and 2 bedrooms, and has planning consent to extend.



Lovely 2 bedroom cottage, lounge/dining room, upstairs bathroom, attractive garden, close to village green.

SARRATT £1,000 pcm



Detached chalet house, 2/3 bedrooms, 1/2 receptions, conservatory, pretty rear garden.

SARRATT £1,100 pcm

Pub's grisly history

IT'S not until you've dodged the traffic on the busy A404 and passed through the gateway by Chorleywood parish council offices that the verdant Chess valley, now directly ahead, can be appreciated.

A path leads through woodland to the river, and crosses a little footbridge. It's a lovely spot. I was lucky to arrive on a warm, spring day. Even the ducks, bobbing aimlessly on the river, were in a good mood.

The path leads to Sarratt Mill House, a 14th Century corn mill, later a paper mill. If, like me, you climb the hill to Church End, remember to look back at the view. You will not be disappointed. The valley is clothed in woodland, penetrated by the snake-like M25.

Today, the sun glinted brightly on the windscreens of the endless procession of cars, their constant roar unable to detract from the glory of the morning. Man's creation comes second to nature's best along the Chess valley.



The house on the hill is Goldingtons, reputedly haunted by a headless butler. "Beware of Dogs", the notice says. Turn away if you don't like ghosts or the prospect of being bitten. Instead, visit Holy Cross church, where the saddleback roof unusually lies transverse to the nave and chancel, and puddingstone shores up the tower.

The church goes back to around 1140, and was restored under the direction of Sir George Gilbert Scott, who worshipped here, in 1864. The churchyard is a perfect spot to savour an English spring morn.

Opposite the church, the Cock once served as village mortuary, and has a wide door to cater for the coffins. In 1665 victims of the Black Death were brought here and buried in a nearby field.

Motorcyclists

He missed me by six inches

WHILE I was glad to see the new publicans at the Cricketers are of the "let's talk and let's do something about it" frame of mind, I write to correct one or two significant misconceptions, which need clarifying.

1. How many villagers has Mr Kemp spoken to? He supports his argument with "many villagers" and sets that against "a handful of villagers" who are said to have "grievances".

2. To say that "bikers don't cause trouble" indicates that Mr Kemp just doesn't know what's going on. Most bikers do not give trouble - but between ten and 30 per cent are real trouble.

3. I am astonished to read that PC Phil Wynes has said "the bikers have never caused any trouble", let alone "and they have every right to be there".

Phil knows perfectly well that on one evening I "booked" 35 bikers and cars mainly for obstruction plus a handful for parking on The Green.

I could also have booked upwards of ten per cent of bikers for environmental pollution, both atmospheric (needless idling and reving) and noise – both when stationery and when "going through the gate" with full throttle all the way and particularly when darkness has fallen.

And, finally, anti-social behaviour, in a class all of its own – the "wheely merchants"! This is done regularly – both at full speed on the main roads, and even in the highly-congested parking/modest drinking area.

On one occasion I saw one young lad doing a wheely across the full width of The Green part of Church Lane, turning left and straight into a deafening wheely – past the crowd and up The Green towards The Boot.

I was walking the other way on the road (the pavement was full of parked bikes). He came straight at me and as I turned sideways the whites of his eyes, the silver of his wing mirror, and the sheer bulk of a big modern bike at full revs scraped by with six inches to spare. I regret that I did not manage to take his number!

Now, to business. Mr Kemp has had some positive talks with the bikers. My wife and I have, since the outset, spent as many Wednesday evenings as we could talking to the bikers, and to the villagers who have a drink and enjoy "the activity" and the incredible range of superb bikes.

So I intend to call upon Mr Kemp and PC Wynes and Inspector Glyn Evans to put their proposals to a meeting of the Sarratt Preservation Action Group (Wednesday, May 19, 7.30pm for 8pm, Village Hall), which will be called for the purpose of finding an acceptable and maintainable solution.

I would point out that between the ages of 18 and 28 I had access to military bikes whenever I wished to use one. During that period I represented my regiment in an "Interservices Motor Cycle Grand National" – and won it. Like the bagpipes, I believe the noise etc of bikes is fantastic – in the right place. — **Peter Cumming, The Green, Sarratt.**

Lime trees face axe from green

A GROUP of ancient lime trees is set for the chop following a report which described them as "an unacceptable danger to the public".

While the four trees, which are on Sarratt Green near Red Lion Lane, look a picture of health, they have undergone irrevocable internal damage, claimed arboricultural consultant Mr Henry Girling.

The report, which was commissioned as part of Sarratt Parish Council's annual tree survey, states that the trees have become "structurally weak" due to the effect of a wood-decaying fungi.

This structural weakness and the trees' proximity to a major road prompted Sarratt parish councillor Mrs Val Cummings to raise the issue at a meeting of the council on Monday.

She said: "I am not sleeping easy at night.

"All four lime trees must be removed as they represent an unacceptable danger to the public."

Mrs Cummings was vociferous in her calls to the council for speedy action to remove the danger.

The council hopes the replacement of the trees will coincide with millennium celebrations later in the year.

Clerk hangs up her pen

CLERK of Sarratt Parish Council Mrs Jane Griffin is retiring after four years.

Mrs Griffin, who is a council planning officer by profession, took a voluntary career break to look after her children and is now looking forward to working with Dacorum Borough Council's planning department.

She said: "I miss all the planning work especially after I spent six years training to be a planner.

"It will be nice to go back, though."

Mrs Griffin will be replaced as parish clerk by Mrs Doreen Boast who can be contacted on 01923 249709.

AITCHISONS

RICKMANSWORTH 01923 771188



Sarratt, Hertfordshire

A substantial detached family residence offering spacious well appointed accommodation in this idyllic location just off the common.

£585,000

Sarratt is the victim of council negligence, villagers claim

VILLAGERS feel Sarratt is being ignored by Three Rivers District Council when it comes to maintenance.

At the Sarratt Area Forum meeting last week, residents complained there is no attention given to litter clearance, grass cutting and road sweeping and they demanded action.

They believe rural lanes need to be swept more than urban roads because there is often no drainage system.

A member of the Chandlers Cross Residents' Association, Mrs Jean Newell, said: "The council only sweeps the roads after the grass has been cut in order to control the weeds growing.

"I have never seen a policy over the maintenance of the village and its roads and I want to see one."

Sarratt resident Mrs Val Cummings also believes there is a litter problem in the village.

She said: "Before the recent Sarratt Village Day members of the Women's Institute and other villagers collected 21 bags of rubbish from behind the 'Welcome to Sarratt' sign at the Croxley Green end.

"We should not have to do the work the council workers are paid to do."

However, Three Rivers District Council refuted these claims and said that it operates a regular maintenance schedule for the village.

A spokesman said: "We carry out litter picking jobs in the village along with the parish council.

"This is done regularly every Wednesday, along with the bin collection.

"If people perceive there is a problem, they have to let us know and we will be able to increase these services."

1999

THREE RIVERS TIMES

Micklefield Hall A Family home and home to the STARS !



Micklefield Hall near Chandlers Cross is tucked away at the end of a long leafy drive and set in beautiful woodlands. The imposing red brick building has stood overlooking the valley of the River Gade for more than 250 years. But this elegant Grade II listed Georgian country house hides a secret. Situated just a mile from junction 18 of the M25 - Britain's busiest motorway - the Hall is now a haven for Britain's film directors and television producers. Its owners, Jamie and Anna Rankin, share their beautiful home with their three children. Anna told Three Rivers Times "The views of the countryside from here are quite stunning and that fact has certainly helped us attract the film industry to this part of Three Rivers. There are no buildings or electricity pylons to spoil the panorama. The film companies like it here because we're 'in the country' but still within the M25 and close to London. People seem to relax as soon as they arrive. Television and film stars like Robert Hardy, Harry Enfield, John Nettles and Kevin Whateley have all filmed at the Hall and recent productions include 'An Ideal Husband' and 'The Midsomer Murders'. We like to think we're doing our bit to help promote the film industry in this country."



Anna continued "We started letting film companies use the place about 3 years ago and business has grown from there, largely by word of mouth. Herts Film Link have been tremendously helpful as well. We also host conferences, fashion shoots, training seminars and corporate 'awaydays'. We feel there is a definite positive knock-on effect for the local economy. Members of the film crews - there are 50 or 60 people working on a production here at any one time - regularly use the local taxi firms and pubs and sometimes we need to employ outside caterers. What the area lacks is a good middle-market hotel."



In the grounds is a huge 400 year old barn, in need of some renovation, but which could one day - when restored - be used for various new functions, perhaps holding wedding receptions or parties. Near the barn, a huge ancient oak tree shades an ornamental pond - "We've been told the tree was planted by King Charles II" Anna said.



The estate used to boast a dairy herd but it wasn't economically viable. The Rankins do still keep pigs, horses and chickens and let some of their land for cattle grazing and the large house is still very much a family home.

The Hall regularly opens its wonderful gardens to the public in aid of charity.

10 Years of the Hertfordshire Community Foundation

1989 Launched at County Hall on 30 June as the Hertfordshire Community Trust - First grants presented totalling £8,000 - 14 donors become Founder Patrons

1990 First paid Director appointed - First Celebrity Dinner held at Knebworth - Endowment fund passes £100,000

1991 First London Marathon team raises £24,000 - Help launch Disability Information Service Hertfordshire - Undertake first Hertfordshire Charities Review

1992 Hertfordshire TEC sets up first Named Fund - First car Prize Draw raises £37,000 - Visit two community foundations in the USA

1993 First Vice-Presidents appointed - First grants made on behalf of the Childwick Trust - Set up first Tenancy Deposit Guarantee Scheme

1994 Launch Business Partnership scheme - Help expand SATRO scheme to re-use surplus company equipment, furniture and materials - Organise major Charities Conference

1995 Publish first *Guide to Grantmaking Trusts in Hertfordshire* - Launch High Sheriff's Fund - Launch Hertfordshire Children's Fund

1996 Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust pledges £40,000 pa for 3 years for grantmaking in Hertfordshire - Publish *Causes for Concern* - Establish new grantmaking guidelines

1997 Annual grantmaking total passes £100,000 - First Grants Manager appointed - First issue of *Spotlight* produced

1998 Slough Estates gives £500,000 to set up fund for Welwyn Hatfield - Total grants since launch pass £500,000 - Appointed to manage European Social Fund grants programme

1999 £750,000 gift from Estate of Sylvia Adams - Publish *The Hertfordshire Funding Guide* - Become the Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Announce Challenge to raise £750,000

The Hertfordshire Community Foundation

2 Townsend Avenue
St Albans
Herts AL1 3SG
Tel: (01727) 867906
Registered Charity No 299438





1992 Sarratt Care

Three Rivers



The Sarratt Care Luncheon Club provides a valuable opportunity for elderly people in the village and surrounding hamlets to get together. For people like John Marsh, the Club offers a change from eating alone at home, and the chance to be with friends. Many have lived in the area for most of their lives, and have known one another since childhood.



The Club is entirely self-supporting, with members paying for a lunch which is organised and served by regular volunteers. The main course is obtained from Shire Caterers at the village school, and together with the provision of Meals on Wheels, means that the school can afford a full time cook. This is a partnership that has benefited everyone, and enabled valuable services to continue in a rural community.

The Luncheon Club is just one part of Sarratt Care, which operates six days a week, with a 'duty officer' available at the end of a telephone line to assist anyone who calls. 'Altogether, we have between 60 and 70 volunteers on the books, and offer help to over 100 mostly elderly people,' says Chairman Eileen Adams.

Now & Then

In 1992, a grant of £400 provided equipment to set up the new Luncheon Club

In 1999, Sarratt Care is looking to develop a Rural Health Project for people in the village

Bertie's going for a very, very, long walk

ONE woman and her dog will be setting off on Monday on an eight-month walk around the coastline of Ireland that will raise money to fund research into multiple sclerosis.

Miss Genevieve Payne, 42, of Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, hopes to raise £1 million with the help of her eight-year-old Jack Russell, Bertie, who will be keeping her company during the long walk.

She said: "I am looking forward to the whole challenge of doing the walk on my own with just my dog for company."

After flying to Ireland tomorrow (Saturday), Miss Payne will travel to Cork in the south west, where she will begin her clockwise trek around the island.

Starters orders will be given by the Lord Mayor of Cork at precisely 11am on Monday.

Miss Payne, who used to be a fashion buyer in London, decided to take up the challenge after being made redundant.

Having sold her flat, she moved to Sarratt to be with her friend, Mrs Lynda Bond, 41, who was diagnosed with MS ten years ago.

Miss Payne said: "Lynda thinks I am completely mad, but I think she is very touched as well."

Using the sale of her flat to help finance the trip, which she anticipates will cost in the region of £3,500, Miss Payne hopes to raise money through donations and sponsorship during her trip.

Thanks to the support of the MS Society, she has already secured some accommodation during her journey.

Miss Payne remains adamant that she will not be camping. She said: "It is enough of a culture shock to go from being a fashion buyer to wearing walking boots and a fleece."

With eight months of walking ahead, the winter weather and rugged coastline of south west Ireland will be a challenge, but Miss Payne remains undaunted.

In addition to her fundraising efforts, Miss Payne has also set up her own web site, with which she hopes to attract both attention and donations.

She said: "I am hoping people from all around the world will dial in and give generously."



Miss Genevieve Payne, 42, and her dog Bertie, eight, who will spend eight months walking round Ireland to raise money for research into multiple sclerosis. 7-5-99 Picture S18132: JOE SHEEHAN

Tree trunks take a royal turn at Village Day

THE star turn at Sarratt Village Day tomorrow (Saturday) has royal connections.

The steam engine-driven racksaw bench, which will be used to turn tree trunks into anything you wish, from a nameplate for the house to a door-frame, post or table-top, used to belong to the sawmill in Windsor Great Park.

It dates back to the 1900s and, although it has been resident in Sarratt for some years, this is the first time it will be put on working display in the village. The parish council has already ordered suitable pieces for benches and posts around the parish.

Village ranger, Dave Baker, came up with the idea of inviting Joe Brownsell to put on the display, which has already been seen and enjoyed at fairs in other parts of the country.

Joe explained that to steam engine enthusiasts, this is "an E & H Robert of Deanshanger racksaw bench, driven by an Aveling & Porter traction engine 'Jubilee' of 1920, a 6mph compound steam engine".

To the rest of the world, it is a show of traditional village craft of a size to match the innovative entertainment laid on for and by the village for itself and its visitors.

At the other end of the scale, the day will traditionally be marked by a mug, which to many has become a collector's item. The first six were decorated by village artist, Irene Rogers. This year, relative newcomer to the village, Len Dudley, is continuing the line with a mug decorated with a sketch of the village church.

Modestly priced at £2.50, the mugs symbolise the essence of this day, which is meant to be a family fun day rather than a fundraiser.

Proceeds go to village organisations which require help, with 25 per cent donated to the national charity, St. Dunstan's, which cares for men and women blinded in the services and which has recently lost its government funding.

The green will be decked out in colourful stalls and amusements, from hand-driven roundabout and scarecrow competition for children, to a tug-of-war competition for village pub teams.

Off-beat entertainment includes a show of owls and a golf competition sponsored by the Parish Council.

Arena events have been organised by Roger Dudley to excite and amuse as well as to reflect the traditional. They include an It's a Knockout competition, Punch and Judy, dance through the ages performed by children from the village school, a display by Watford Baton Twirlers and music by the Hosier and Dickinson Band.

Village Day committee members, Val Cumming and Carol Chorley, stress the bi-annual event is meant to be mellow, a day out for families and villagers to meet, relax and enjoy.

Home-made teas are a highlight and there is an abundance of choice in the "goodie-stall" line, from plants, bric-a-brac and cakes to a stall selling locally grown watercress. The Day starts at noon and finishes with evening music in the dell by John Clack – and no doubt the odd quack from the ducks in the pond next door.



MUG SHOT: Irene Rodger started and Len Dudley is carrying on the tradition of a decorated Village Day mug for Sarratt memorabilia collectors. This year's will be the seventh.

Flower festival

A BRING and buy sale will be staged at Sarratt House on The Green, Sarratt, tomorrow (Saturday). Funds from the event will go towards the Flower Festival in June. Stalls selling cakes and plants and a raffle will be among the attractions. Admission is 50p. 7-5-99

RECEIVED FROM 3286265 02.15.1999 10:30 P. 2

Very Basic facts about Sarratt Mill

Built at intersection of what was main Roman Road from Verulamium to Silchester, & track to Villas & Roman farms along Chess Valley.

Earliest traced mention.
1538 Indenture between Ralph Hawtry & William Heydon refers to 'Sarratt Mills' (Corn)

Earliest ref. to Paper:

1740 Described in deed as 'lately converted to Paper mills'
Old cot remaining part of present house built at beginning of (18) or possibly earlier.

Most successful industrial period:
1830's → 50s. Very large industrial paper mills, steam & water driven.
Probably largest single employer in Sarratt
44 – 50 men.

House & garden 'gentrified at this time. Regency verandah, then Drawing Room block. Garden laid out with gothic bridges & follys etc.

1882 Mill no longer viable
Sold to Duke of Bedford as Fishing Lodge
1930's Frequently lived in by then Duchess of Bedford 'The Flying Duchess'
War years – used as school for evacuee children from East End.
1953. Sold as private house by Bedford Estate at some time as Cheiries Manor, to pay off massive death duties.
Present day
1985 → Occupied by Hon Sir Anthony & Lady Colman & family.

Old Red Lion Farm
Sarratt
Herts WD3 6Bp
25th May 1999

0599/pwc

The Chairman,
Sarratt Parish Council,

Dear Chairman,

Wednesday Evening Bikers at The Cricketers

At a meeting of Sarratt Preservation Action Group held on 19th May 99 a formal Motion was duly seconded and carried by the following votes :-

FOR - 23; Against 8; Abstain 11
(out of a total attendance of 47)

The Motion was :-

SPC should be asked to broker an agreement to limit the evenings when Bikers meet to once a month during the Summer - under conditions which will minimise their (adverse) impact on the Parish. This agreement should be between representatives of the Bikers; The Cricketers; the Village Hall; the Parish Council; the Highways Partnership:and the Police. Neighbouring Councils and any other interested parties should be fully informed.

It was acknowledged at the SPAG meeting that the new Manager of the Cricketers had made considerable efforts and progress in achieving better control. Sadly the better weather on two subsequent Wednesdays created more complaints - mainly about noise.

Could you please confirm that this Motion can and will be taken forward by the Parish Council?

Yours faithfully,

Peter Cumming

SPAG MEETING

A meeting of the Sarratt Preservation Action Group will take place on:-

WEDNESDAY 19th MAY 1999
in the
VILLAGE HALL
at 7.30 p.m.

The subjects for discussion (requested) are:-

1) Motorbikes on Wednesday evenings at the Cricketers.
2) General security in and around Sarratt.
3) Planning application - Norriss's field, Dawes Lane

1999

Manor set to become hotel

11-6-99

Health spa and golf course also planned

AN HISTORIC manor house in Watford is set to be transformed into a luxury hotel with health spa and golf course after two years of ministerial deliberations came to an end this week.

by Asha Tanna

The Grove, off Hempstead Road, will be converted by London developers, Ralph Trustees, into a four star hotel with more than 200 bedrooms. It will also boast a large conference centre, 18-hole golf course and state-of-the-art health centre.

Government approval for the plan has been welcomed by the developer, the planning authority and the area's MP Richard Page.

They say it will boost tourism and the economy, and bring work to the area.

A spokesman for the developer, Mr Rupert Ashe, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been granted permission for this Grade II listed building. We have waited a long time and it has been worthwhile.

"Not only will we be able to offer people in and around Hertfordshire a quality place to stay in, but we will also be able to create a number of jobs with this project.

"Ralph Trustees tends to choose areas which have good commuter routes to other areas and is particularly keen on sites outside of towns.

"This is a rare opportunity to plan comprehensively for the future of this Green Belt estate and to ensure its historic integrity is preserved for the enjoyment of future generations."

Ralph Trustees bought The Grove with the hope of restoring it to its former 18th Century glory, with the blessing of the local authority, but the delay came after the Government intervened to assess whether the application was suitable for the Green Belt site.

On Tuesday, the Secretary of State John Prescott gave the go-ahead for the developers to start the project.

MP Richard Page said: "It is a shame that it has taken so long for this project to be approved.

"It was one of the few logical uses for such a building and its application has received overwhelming local support.

"It was amazing that the Government decided to call it in for Ministerial examination which has cost the owners tens of thousands of pounds in wasted time, interest charges and professional fees.

"I am glad that this project can go ahead and it will be a welcome asset to south west Hertfordshire."

Other successful projects undertaken by Ralph Trustees include the Athenaeum Hotel and Apartments in Piccadilly, London, as well as The Runnymede Hotel and Spa in Surrey.

Three Rivers' chief development control officer Mr David Moss said: "We are very pleased at the approval and it has been fully supported by everyone."

Watford Council's chairman of the planning and highways committee, Mr Andy Head, said: "We were very pleased with the application submitted.

"The Grove is an important local landmark in south west Hertfordshire and the county is in need of a good quality hotel.

"I am sure this hotel will benefit other projects in the town as well as the business community. Watford Council welcomes this scheme and is looking forward to seeing it finished."

It is believed that the first substantial home on the site of The Grove was Elizabethan and, throughout its history, it has served many functions, ranging from a gardening school to a girls' boarding school.

During the First World War The Grove was used by The London Midland and Scottish Railway as its headquarters. Training huts were built in the surrounding parkland and gardens and a maze of air raid shelters was constructed to house employees, which still remain today.

After the war, The Grove became the British Transport Commission Work Training Centre and, subsequently, the British Rail Management Training Centre until 1995.

Ralph Trustees says the building has been left to deteriorate and the mansion and its gardens have suffered.



The Grove is soon to be rejuvenated. S232601

Leave quiet country lane as it is, say worried residents

WAT. OBS 25-6-99

'Car park will destroy character and put hedge at risk'

by Diana Machin

ANXIOUS residents of Dawes Lane in Sarratt vowed this week to fight plans to build a public car park on their doorstep.

More than £100,000 has been earmarked for the proposed development, which aims to clear the narrow lane of parked cars.

However, residents have protested against the plans because they believe the measures will ruin the quiet country lane, transforming it into a busy street.

Residents are so concerned, they have formed a Dawes Lane Residents' Association to help them battle against the proposal.

They also plan to present a petition to the Highways Partnership Panel to illustrate the strength of feeling against the car park.

The move comes after Three Rivers District councillor Tony Barton conducted a poll last year, which aimed to determine the feeling towards the project. The survey showed more than 50 per cent of residents in and around Dawes Lane were in favour of the parking measures.

However, residents have now said the public consultation was misleading because they were given the impression the car park would be for private use and they were unaware that the nearby ancient hedge may have to be moved to accommodate it and the lane altered.

Plans for Dawes Lane car park have been in the pipeline for more than a decade and funding for the project was agreed earlier this year.

Details of the proposal, which include the number of parking spaces, type of car park surface, the future of the hedge and other parking restrictions, are yet to be agreed.

However, an engineer surveyed the area last week in a bid to brief the Highways Partnership Panel on the options, before its meeting on Wednesday, June 30, to make a decision on the plans.

Resident Mr Geoff King said: "To spend an enormous amount of money on a car park for the lane is a disgrace.

"This is ratepayers' money we are talking about, that will be spent on something none of the residents want.

"Most of the traffic which uses the lane is lorries making deliveries to Wards Nursery. Putting a weight restriction on the lane would reduce most of the traffic."

Mr King, a builder, also believes if the scheme goes ahead it will attract more traffic, which will shake the shallow foundations of the cottages.

Mr Keith Mardling, who is chairman of the residents' association, said: "We are mainly concerned that the car park will destroy the character of an historic lane. The site has an ancient hedge, dating back to Saxon times, which will also be in danger of being destroyed if it is moved."

However, Sarratt Parish Council argues the scheme will benefit the village. It believes the car park will clear Dawes Lane and also relieve the congestion on The Green where residents park when there is no more room in the lane.

Chairman of the parish council, Mr David Rees, said: "Historically, the cottages were inhabited by elderly people who didn't have cars but, as time has gone on, younger people, who own at least two cars, have moved there. This has caused Dawes Lane and part of The Green to become congested with parked cars.

"There is no question of moving the hedge or Tarmacing the car park for this project."

The parking measures will be paid for out of the Road Safety Budget but, until the details of the plans have been agreed, it is not clear how much of the £100,000 budget will be spent on the car park.

Dawes Lane resident, Mr Stuart Johns, said: "I have been told that there has to be at least three serious traffic accidents there before road safety measures are put in.

"There have been no traffic accidents in Dawes Lane and the residents do not see it as a problem area.

" So why are we spending all this money on road safety measures?"



Dawes Lane residents want their quiet country lane left as it is. Picture S250812: PETE STEVENS.

Village bus rolls on to the road

25-6-99

A LONG-AWAITED evening bus service connecting the rural community of Sarratt to Watford and Hemel Hempstead will begin next week.

The pilot scheme will introduce the service on Fridays and Saturdays only.

The scheme has been grant aided by the Government as part of the challenge to improve access in rural areas.

Hertfordshire County Council's community transport officer Mr David Neilan described the scheme as a type of taxi service, where users will be able to book places in advance on the eight-person minibus.

Bookings will be accepted either on the day of the journey, or the day before on 0845 3044430.

Users will also be able to book a home request stop for the return journey if they live within half-a-mile of the main bus route.

Return tickets are available priced £2 for adults and £1 for anyone aged 17 and below.

For further timetable information contact Sarratt Parish Council's clerk Mrs Doreen Boast on 01923 249709.

School sale

11-6-99

A JUMBLE sale will be held at Sarratt School, on The Green, tomorrow (Saturday), to raise money for school funds. Doors open at 2pm and admission is 50p.

Play hardware planned

TODDLERS from Sarratt are in for a treat this summer with the installation of new play equipment at George V Playing Field.

The new attractions are aimed at children aged six to eight and will include a range of play equipment including elephant and horse spring mobiles.

18-6-99

The equipment will join existing facilities at the park in George Fifth Way.

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council David Rees announced the plans at a meeting of the council on Monday, when he also confirmed that £6,000 of funding for the project had been approved.



WO. 27-99

Visitors hand it to village flower show

ADMIRING eyes and hands feasted on the spectacular arrangements at Sarratt's annual flower festival at Holy Cross Church last weekend.

Between Saturday and Monday, the church, in Church Lane, was open to the public to allow them to admire the displays which this year were based on the theme of anniversaries.

On every available ledge, around the altar, on the steps to the bell tower and in front of the stained glass windows were ingenious arrangements for every season.

These included orange and red blossoms arranged on the church organ, which symbolised the sparks rising from a Guy Fawkes bonfire.

Poppies set in wild grass represented Remembrance Day, and the holly and the ivy, complete with white 'snow covered' branches, lent a festive touch.

Other anniversaries featured were golden weddings, 21st Birthdays, Easter and April Fools Day.

Visitors were left hugely impressed by what they had seen.

Mrs Angela Gardner, from Sarratt, said: "My favourite display was the Ruby anniversary, because the red flowers were exactly the right colour for ruby."

Mr Anthony Payne, of Watford, added: "I thought it was great and I was very impressed with the Guy Fawkes; it was very clever of the arranger to display it like that."

All the money raised from the festival will go towards repairs to the church roof.

Picture S260806: JOE SHEEHAN

Village car park plan on hold for new opinion poll

W.OBS. 9-7-99

Public's battle to maintain rural nature of lane

by Diana Machin

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build a car park in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, have been shelved until a full public consultation has been carried out.

Three Rivers councillors were scheduled to make a decision on the £100,000 development at a meeting last Wednesday.

However, in the light of strong opposition from residents living in the lane, the panel has deferred its decision to allow time to gauge wider public opinion.

General manager of Wards Nurseries, Mr Michael Rawlins, spoke at the meeting and argued the case for a car park in Dawes Lane.

He said: "There has been a problem with traffic in Dawes Lane for a long time.

"In the past, older people lived in the cottages at the top of Dawes Lane and they did not own cars.

"The average is now around two cars per household and the cottages are all quite narrow, providing space for just one car per cottage.

"As parking is only possible on one side of the road, there are four cars looking for each parking space.

"This leaves few, if any, suitable passing places for traffic and results in jams."

Mr Rawlins said clearing the road of parked cars would benefit his business because it would allow customers and delivery lorries to pass through the lane more easily.

Wards Nurseries has offered to move part of an ancient hedge, which would screen the proposed car park from the lane, to ensure clear sight-lines at the entrance of the car park.

A recent survey taken by residents revealed fierce opposition to the plans; 76 per cent of people in the lane have objected to the scheme.

Chairman of the Dawes Lane Residents' Association, Mr Keith Mardling told the meeting: "Sixty five residents in Dawes Lane are against this development. There were only three people in the lane who were for the car park and two of these were members of the Ward family.

"It is clear the majority of residents don't want the lane or it's environment to change."

Residents fear the plans will open the lane to further developments including parking restrictions, which they believe will alter the character of the lane into a street.

With the lane cleared of cars, residents also believe the speed of traffic will increase.

But Sarratt Parish Council has backed the plans, believing the car park would benefit the entire village.

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, Mr David Rees said: "We have been trying to ease congestion in the village and there is someone willing to donate land for this scheme.

"We have to look at the long-term benefits for Sarratt, not just for Dawes Lane."

SEE REVUE

JULY 1999

Fifty up for Michael!

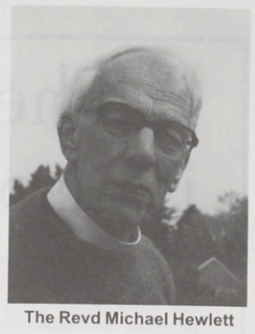
It was celebration time at Holy Cross Sarratt on Trinity Sunday when a special service was held to celebrate Michael Hewlett's 50 years in the priesthood. Ordained on Trinity Sunday 1949, he continues to serve God faithfully and actively at Holy Cross.

The son of an Oxfordshire clergyman, he decided on Easter Day 1945 to offer himself for ordination once his years in the army were over. He was accepted and served in Brighton, Crawley, Malden and a team ministry in Devon before 'retiring' in 1987 to Sarratt, the home village of his wife, Jenny.

He has acted as spiritual leader of Holy Cross during vacancies caused by three changes of rector and continues to be a valuable and versatile support to Peter Hart, the current rector.

He has a gift of teaching and over the years, as well as singing in choirs, has written the words to nearly 100 hymns (and in a few cases the music too), many of which have been published.

Michael also finds time to edit the Sarratt village monthly magazine, and we wish him and Jenny many more years of happiness.



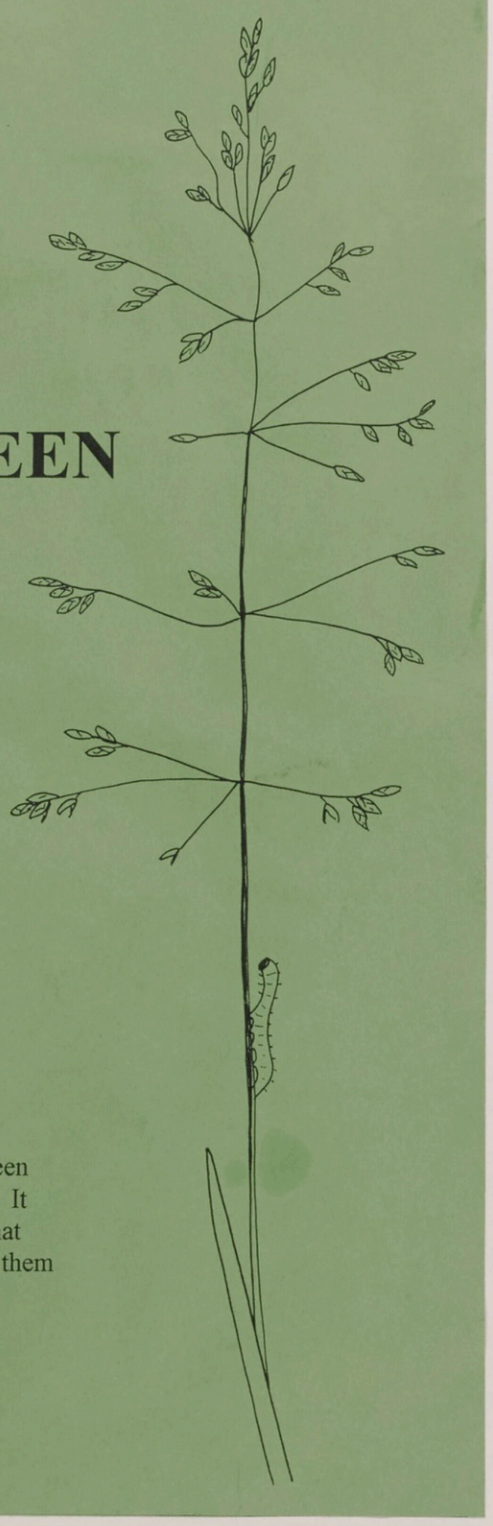
The Revd Michael Hewlett

Alex Twells

GRASSES

ON

SARRATT GREEN



Thursday 1st July, 7.30pm

Meet by the old pump for a walk around the North end of the Green to admire and identify the wild grasses. Everyone welcome.

The grass at the North end of the Green has been left to grow in order to encourage the wildlife. It will be cut and raked later in the year. Now that the grasses are in flower it is easier to identify them and there are at least 12 different species!



The grasses on Sarratt Green, Hertfordshire, 1999



DAWES LANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

RE. PROPOSED DAWES LANE CAR PARK
18-7-99

Dear Householder,
We understand that Three Rivers Council are about to conduct a survey regarding the proposed car-park. We, the residents, have had to work hard to find out information, and yet many issues still remain inconclusive. We therefore wish to present to you the facts as we understand them, and our concerns.
1. This is a public car-park, for 26 cars, with no reserved spaces for residents.
2. £100,000 has been committed from the Highways Safety Budget, and therefore can not fund a project with restricted use.
3. Unspecified parking restrictions are to be part of the scheme, but the times and the nature of them are undecided, it could entail yellow lines.
4. No weight limit, or speed reduction, in the lane is included.
5. Car-park regulations are to be similar to those used in Rickmansworth, and the Parish council will be responsible for general maintenance.
6. The hedge is to be "moved" for 60 metres to provide sight-lines for traffic exiting the car-park. The entrance \exit requires widening and a pedestrian access formed next to the electricity sub-station. At present no sightlines have been mentioned for the pedestrian access but we feel these would be essential on safety grounds
7. In addition to the £100,000 a footpath is proposed.
8 There will be no compulsory purchase of any land.

WHO WANTS THESE CHANGES?

We recently petitioned the lane, but were not able speak to everyone, 85 people are on the Register of Electors, 65 adults signed our petition, that represents 76% against the proposal.

We are told by the Parish Council that about 15 years ago the residents asked for something to be done, many of us lived here then, and cannot recollect any consultation or proposals.

We have discussed some issues with representatives of Wards Nursery, and clearly there is a desire on their part to have the car-park and the lane cleared of parked vehicles.

WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIONS.

1. The character of the lane will be altered, which would we feel become more suburban than rural.

2. The removal and moving of the hedge is in our opinion rural vandalism. Mr Gerald Salisbury , who was recommended by the C.P.R.E., has prepared a report in which he lists the constituent parts of the hedge and concludes that it "indicates antiquity.....and could well date back to Saxon times"

We feel this hedge should have a protection order placed upon it, and proper expert consultation sort for its' maintenance.

3. Safety. The only accident that anyone knows of was in 1947. The parked vehicles control the speed of traffic now, our experience is that the fewer cars there are, the faster the traffic goes.

4. If there is faster traffic the footpath is essential as the width of the lane will not allow for 2 vehicles to pass with a footpath, and where are horses expected to go, on the path ?

5. If the car-park is for public use will this increase or decrease traffic?

6. Is there an expectation to increase trade at the nursery? If so, freeing the top of the lane only makes the lower section from Downer Drive to the Nursery worse, and with the unofficial one-way system, traffic will be increased in Downer Drive, Alexander Road and the Green.

7. What will happen if theft or vandalism occurs? Will we the "problem parkers" use it? If we don`t where will we park? Many of us think that our vehicles will be more vulnerable, and a "honeypot" for trouble will be created.

8. Several ladies in the lane work shifts, they say they will not park in the car-park. which would be almost totally screened. Then where will they park?

9. It is extremely rare that residents have problems with the present situation.

10. The worse time for traffic in the Lane is when the Nursery is at its` busiest. Monday to Fridays, when people are at work there is no problem. The difficulty of cars to number of spaces, arises over night, and weekends. We the residents are mainly happy with this. Therefore, the proposed car-park appears to be a year round permanent solution, at great cost, for what amounts to be a seasonal weekend problem.

11. Although we would prefer not to have everything from a Juggernaut downwards, in our Lane we are resigned to their presence, But as with many issues in this proposal they have become included in the justification for the car-park. These all-be-it unsuitable vehicles, very seldom cause a traffic problem in the Lane. When the problems arise it is usually due to bad parking.

12. The funding source does not allow for a residents only usage.

OUR PROPOSALS

1. This scheme should be abandoned.

2. A full consultation is implemented that incorporates, Parish Council, residents, Nursery and users. To discuss such things as:-

- -Local under used garages.
- -Parking on the grass-swards at the junction with Downer Drive.
- -Setting back of the intrusive steps to the Electricity Sub station.
- -Painting of a parking line down the Lane which allows for HGV's free passage. The same line to cut in at drive ways to give proper access to off road parking, and passing places.
- -The introduction of a lower speed limit
- -Improvement of signposting , if the unofficial one way system is used.
- -Alternative parking sites with less problems.
- -Light goods vehicle park.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, we hope you join us in saying NO!

KEITH MARDLING
CHAIRMAN
01923 264703

STEPHEN BARKER
SECRETARY

BRUCE Mc KINNEY
TREASURER

1999

Biker row rolls on as noise complaints increase

W.O. 23-7-99

HUNDREDS of bikers, who congregate outside The Cricketers public house in Sarratt every Wednesday, have provoked more complaints from residents.

Sarratt Parish Council has received a series of complaints about dangerous driving and noise.

In response, the parish council has written a letter to the licensees to of The Cricketers about the complaints.

Chairman of the parish council, Mr David Rees said: "We have to keep the pressure up on this issue."

However, the bikers have refuted claims they are causing a nuisance and have said they have tried to hire the village hall for their social gatherings but have been turned away.

Village party

13-8-99

SARRATT is planning to see the Millennium celebrations go off with a bang this year with a firework extravaganza and a beacon on The Green. Sarratt parish councillors have agreed to skip this year's £650 firework display on November 5 and donate the money to the Millennium event.

Thousands of pounds still needed for hall

17-9-99

SARRATT villagers are being called to help raise more than £80,000 to complete the village hall refurbishment project.

Although the Sarratt Village Hall Management Committee won a £200,000 grant to complete the structural work of the hall, it will need thousands more to complete interior and pay for furnishings and equipment.

A brochure, explaining the different ways people can donate money, will shortly be sent to every household within the parish.

Chairman of the committee Mr Ian Dorrett said: "We are trying to encourage people to give as much as they can through gift aid, where the tax can be claimed back from the donated sum, by covenant or by a straight forward cash donation for this very worthy cause."

The committee has planned a bonus scheme for benefactors who donate sums in excess of £200 and will get hall rental vouchers.

The present hall has been earmarked for demolition at the beginning of November and the new building is expected to be completed by May next year.

The project, which was launched in 1997, is expected to cost more than £350,000.

Tree fellers say limes were diseased

WATFORD OBSERVER 27-8-99



ANGRY residents gathered on Sarratt Green on Wednesday to protest against the felling of four ancient lime trees.

Mr Philip Clack, 67, of Alexandra Road, described the act as "murder" and said: "I think it is terrible. We tried to stop them but couldn't. There's nothing wrong with the trees."

The trees were condemned by expert Mr Henry Girling in a survey commissioned by the parish council earlier this year. He said they had been consumed by a wood decaying fungi and recommended they be felled as soon as possible.

Foreman in charge of the tree-felling operation Mr Steve Burton supported the report's findings. He said: "Laymen often think if a tree is covered in leaves it can't be diseased or dangerous.

"On felling the first tree, we found it to be completely decayed, so, hopefully, now residents will see that we are taking the trees down for a good reason.

"The council's main objective here was safety, with the trees being so close to the road."

Parish council clerk Mrs Doreen Boast refuted claims residents had not been adequately informed. She said: "Notices have been in the village shop since May and it has been discussed at several parish council meetings.

"The trees were uninsurable. Either we cut them down today or Three Rivers District Council would have slapped an enforcement notice on them and taken them down."

Picture: S341622: PETE STEVENS



It's just not cricket – but the village of Sarratt is bowled over by the number of bikers who converge at The Cricketers pub.

Picture R352632A: SIMON JACOBS

13-8-99

Bikers accelerate concerns

by Diana Machin

A MOTOR cyclist caught speeding at 107mph through the country lanes of Sarratt has sparked new debate about hundreds of bikers who meet on The Green every week.

The man, stopped by police a few weeks ago, had been socialising with a mass of bikers outside The Cricketers pub before the incident occurred.

He was charged with speeding and is awaiting prosecution.

Sarratt Parish Council has argued this type of behaviour is a regular occurrence every Wednesday.

During the past few years, The Cricketers has become a regular haunt for genuine motorcycle enthusiasts.

Area Police Inspector for Three Rivers Division Mr Glyn Evans was invited by chairman of Sarratt Village Hall Committee Mr Ian Dorrett to witness the volume of bikers who congregate.

Mr Evans said: "This is not the first time I have been to Sarratt on a Wednesday evening.

"Last week, there seemed to be an exceptional amount of bikers there because of an article in Motorcycle News which stated there was parking available for between 500 and 700 bikes in Sarratt.

"This simply is not true and the police have been and will continue to deal with the worst of the excess motorbikes that come into Sarratt to help keep it a peaceful village.

"I am doing all I can but there is no law preventing anyone from riding on a motorbike and having a drink in a village pub.

"This is effectively what happens every Wednesday; the only difference being there is an extraordinary large amount of bikers."

At the parish council meeting on Tueday, community police officer Phil Wynes said: "We have been cracking down on speeding offences with a laser gun in Dimmocks Lane and video cameras in unmarked police cars in other parts of Sarratt.

"There has been many more police officers in this area over the past few weeks."

At the meeting, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council Mr David Rees said: "We have been trying to get police officers to look at the problem for some time now so hopefully with the presence of more officers the message will sink into people that they cannot abuse the traffic laws."

The recent spate of criticism about the bikers comes in the wake of a new licensee, Mr Ray Tinsley, taking over The Cricketers pub.

Mr Tinsley and the pub's management are happy for the bikers to continue drinking at the pub every Wednesday, as it would not survive without this summer trade.

The parish council's objections of the bikers were recently aired in front of magistrates, who are in charge of issuing the pub's licence. However, no action was taken by the court.

Mr Rees said: "Many of the bikers are well behaved but there is a small minority, like you get at football matches, who spoil it for the majority.

"It is the sheer volume of bikers that makes it difficult to monitor the troublemakers."

PC Phil Wynes, who also lives on The Green, commented: "As far as I am concerned there has not been any problems when the bikers are at the pub."

From: Ian Dorrett and Richard Haynes

"Sarratt is a well expensive, posh, up itself villagey place; just right for adding a little mayhem." - Bastard Bear - Biker

The police have recently acknowledged that numerous offences are committed by the bikers meeting each Wednesday at The Cricketers. As a result they are taking some interest in the situation and you may have seen in the Watford Observer that they are charging a biker for doing 107 mph on Sarratt Road.

What you will probably not have seen are the extracts above and below from messages about the Cricketers' meets posted on the Internet by bikers :

> "I trust no-one got done by the pig with the hairdryer *[policeman with the speed gun]* last night. Little git was parked in a lay-by at the top of the hill so wouldn't have been spotted until too late. .....Nah we were taking it easy at that stage and spotted him .....its f*** all use having a phone so I can warn you lot of him if you leave the frigging thing at home."

In the circumstances increased police action is unlikely to provide a long term answer! Even if it did, would you be happy paying for such action through your Council Tax when the offences are the outcome of profit making activities at The Cricketers?

An application to transfer the license of The Cricketers to yet another landlord will be made at the Licensing Sessions in Watford on 2nd September 1999. This offers the opportunity for a permanent solution if ending the motorcycle meets is made a condition of the transferred license.

If you agree that the village should not have to endure the mayhem caused by the bikers meets at The Cricketers please use the attached envelope to tell the Licensing Justices so as soon as possible. A note in your own words would be best but if that is not possible please just fill in your name and address at the top of the tear-off slip below, sign at the bottom and mail it in the envelope.

To: The Licensing Justices
Watford Magistrates Court

From: .....
.....
.....

I do not think that Sarratt should have to put up with the offences and disruption that result from bikers meets held at The Cricketers. When you consider the license application on 2nd September please make the ending of these meets a condition of the transfer.

.....

WATFORD OBSERVER 10-7-99

Anger after council ignores its own advice

by Wendy Fielder

ACCUSATIONS of maladministration were made against members of the Highways Partnership Panel on Monday after it agreed to ignore the conclusions of its own consultation.

The charge was made during a lively debate about the proposed construction of a car park in Dawes Lane in Sarratt designed to combat the problems of parking and safety.

A sum of £100,000 has been allocated for the project from Three Rivers District Council's road safety budget, but residents of Dawes Lane continue to object to the proposals.

In a bid to establish the views of all residents affected by parking difficulties in the area, a consultation document was presented to residents not only living in Dawes Lane, but Downer Drive, Alexandra Road, and The Green.

Having received the results of the consultation, the director of planning and leisure, Mr Peter Brooker, presented his report to the highways partnership panel, which consists of representatives from Hertfordshire County Council and Three Rivers District Council.

He said: "What is apparent to me is that there is a parking issue in Dawes Lane and on The Green, but residents of Dawes Lane are very clear that a car park will not address the issues they feel are important and that they will not use the car park.

"It is my belief that we should go back to the drawing board and draw up a scheme which tries to address the problems of the residents.

"For a few hundred pounds we can do that and report back to the next meeting of the panel."

Mr Keith Madling chairman of the Dawes Lane Residents' Association, criticised the consultation.

He said: "If the car park is not used we will lose space not gain it.

"Dawes Lane is narrow and cannot sustain increased development and it is a conservation area.

"The last recorded accident in Dawes Lane was in 1947 and to commit more than £100,000 on road safety measures to a road that has no road safety problem is frankly ridiculous."

Mr Peter Cumming of The Green, a former parish councillor, called for the views of the majority to be taken into consideration.

He said: "The survey shows that people are in most cases overwhelmingly in favour of the car park.

"I don't believe it would be proper for the committee to ignore the clear findings of their own research and I think there is a danger of a charge of maladministration. The results are clear and conclusive, Sarratt needs its car park."

Despite Mr Cumming's views being reiterated by the chairman of Sarratt Parish Council Mr David Rees, the panel voted for a wider investigation of the traffic issues in Dawes Lane and The Green, and further consultation with residents of Sarratt before any action is taken.

Three Rivers District Councillor Geoff Emery, said: "In my view residents of Dawes Lane do not want the car park."

Cricketers' licence renewed despite objections to bikers

2-9-99

A MAGISTRATE has been told how Sarratt residents are robbed of their peace and quiet as bikers swamp the village every Wednesday evening.

Sarratt Parish Council attended a routine licence renewal hearing at Watford Magistrates' to put on record its objections to the bikers meetings at The Cricketers public house on The Green.

Chairman of the parish council Mr David Rees told how hundreds of bikers congregated on The Green outside The Cricketers during the summer months.

He said residents were forced to cope with noise disruption and speeding motorbikes.

The landlord's licence was granted but Mr Rees felt attending was worthwhile.

At the Sarratt Parish Council meeting two weeks ago he said: "The magistrate replied that the landlord had a great responsibility to the area.

"He also advised this would have to be taken into account with any further renewal of pub licence if accidents occurred."

The CMS has worked with local people and the Parish Council on a number of sites in the area, notably Commonwood Common, Dawes Common, and Penmans Green.



Volunteers generally meet once a month for practical work:- it's interesting, keeps you fit, and there's always tea and biscuits on hand!.

If you would like to help with the management of the commons, or if you have any queries about the work, then please contact Hazel Walsh at the Countryside Management Service on 01707 650041





Work so far has included:

The felling of trees to create lighter areas for butterflies and wildflowers whilst providing space for younger trees to grow.

The Promotion of traditional methods of countryside management such as hedgelaying. At Penmans Green we have laid sections of the hedge, and planted up gappy areas with new hedgerow trees.





MARGARET
STRATFORD



The provision of advice and technical assistance for the restoration of ponds and wetland areas.

The production of circular walks and leafleted trails, and guided walks and information panels to encourage countryside exploration.

1999

Sarratt Village
Traffic Calming Proposals

The Highways Partnership would like to hear your views on the amended proposals, for traffic calming measures, which have been designed for The Green and Dimmock's Lane.

A public exhibition is to be held to give residents the opportunity to view, and comment, on the proposals.

The exhibition is to be held, at the Village Hall, on the following dates.

MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER
3.00pm to 7.00pm

And

TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER
6.30pm to 9.00pm

The latest plans will be on display at the exhibition and Traffic Engineers will available to discuss the proposals.

To Val and Peter -



The Friends of Sarratt W. I.

cordially invite you to

the launch of their latest booklet

"New Walks on Old Paths"

Thursday October 14th, 7.30pm

in Sarratt Village Hall

Dr. Brenda Harold will show slides of wildflowers to be found on our paths.

Wine and light refreshments wil be served

R.S.V.P to W.I. Sec. Dawn Pitts 01923-267071

Hope you can come.

KGV 50/50 CHARITY WALK
SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER 1999

This is our 21st Annual Sponsored Walk and the Managing Committee have decided that this year they will be supporting

1. **THE KGV PLAYING FIELDS** (Reg Charity No 266708)
2. **HAREFIELD HOSPITAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL** Reg (Charity No1014298)

If you would like to join us on this most enjoyable social occasion, please find all the sponsors you can and help us to raise funds for our charities.

All walkers are asked to report to the Pavilion at the Playing Fields between 10.00 & 11.15 am with their form. ***A FREE LUNCH FOR ALL SPONSORED WALKERS*** will be provided at Flaunden Village Hall - roughly half way round.

The maximum distance is 10 miles. Route directions will be provided.

WD. 8-10-99

War looms over parking site choice

ANXIOUS Sarratt dwellers are preparing to fight Three Rivers District Council over its choice of site for a new car park.

The £100,000 project to build a car park in Dawes Lane, to alleviate street parking, has been put on hold after neighbouring residents objected to the plans.

In a survey, 70 per cent of Sarratt villagers said they would be in favour of the Dawes Lane car park, but district councillors have said they are reluctant to spend the entire road safety budget on the scheme if a large number of people are against it.

The controversy has sparked a fresh investigation into ways to alleviate the parking problems elsewhere in the village.

Residents of Alexander Road and Downer Drive have expressed fears that an alternative scheme may be targeted in their road.

District council officials plan to meet representatives of Dawes Lane, Sarratt Parish Council, Ward's Nursery and The Highways Partnership to discuss possible solutions next week.

Proposals under consideration are a one-way-system for Downer Drive and Alexander Road and a car parking scheme using district council-owned grassland in Downer Drive and at the junction of Dawes Lane.

A district council spokesman said: "This is one of many schemes being discussed. Nothing has been put forward and we will be discussing other possibilities at the meeting."

Mrs Carol Chorley, of Alexander Road, said: "Many people are surprised that, having voted, they now find Three Rivers have ignored the findings of the questionnaire.

"Naturally people are concerned, in Alexander Road and Downer Drive, that the problems of Dawes Lane will be foisted on us.

"There are a lot of young children in these two roads, which effectively constitute an estate in this village. We do not want to lose the grass play areas, nor do we want increased traffic."

Residents have said they are being kept in the dark about the alternative measures being considered.

Mrs Chorley added: "People in the two roads feel pretty strongly about the issue and there is talk of forming an action group. We have a committee of volunteers ready to swing into action."

THE HIGH SHERIFF'S SERVICE

Sunday 21st November 1999 instead of a Service at Holy Cross at 10 o'clock those of us who wanted, went to the very memorable service at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Alban. Some went by organised coach and others made their own way there for the Matins service and to see Her Majesty's Judges and the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire our own Morton Neal of Sarratt Hall.
We in this part of Hertfordshire have of recent years had former High Sheriffs namely Richard Edmonds and Lady Joanna Staughton, who had a fanfare composed for her in 1994/95 and this was played during the grand procession at the beginning of the service. We were then welcomed by the Dean of St Albans.
The first lesson was read by the High Sheriff, the second by Michael Neal. The sermon was given by the Chaplain to the High Sheriff, The Reverend Peter Hart, which was excellent, after which we were lead in Prayers by The Reverend Michael Hewlett, so as you can see Sarratt was very well represented .
Our large group (I am afraid I did not count how many) were given very good seats on the side isle at the front with the Abbey Wardens and had a good view of the prceedings. The Abbey Choir were as usual extremely good and a very enjoyable and meaningful Service was had by all.
On a personal note I was so happy to see that Connie and Toots who both had vowed to attend the service were able to do so, it took both of them considerable effort and courage, they both wanted to support Peter and hear his Sermon and he in turn at the end stepped out of the procession to give them a blessing and his thanks, this made their day and mine.

Colin Plummer.

Why real and fictitious spies are descending on Sarratt village

WATFORD OBSERVER 2-10-99

THE secret is out. This week John le Carré, one of Britain's most eminent writers of spy-fiction, reveals why he chose Sarratt village in Hertfordshire as the location for The Nursery, the training school for spies in his famous novels.

The short story, Sarratt and the Draper of Watford, which was published on Monday, also reveals a particular, awe-inspiring, incident in the author's early "career", which took place in Watford.

"If you have ever crouched unarmed in a shallow trench with a forest full of wolves behind you and ahead of you glistening squadrons of enemy cavalry advancing at full gallop with sabres drawn, then you will have some inkling of how it feels to be standing on the receiving side of the towels and white linen counter as the shop doors open on the first day of a Summer Sale," he revealed.

"It was only as I saw the Barbarian hoardes downhill ski-racing in what Dick in draper mode deprecatingly used to call flogging knickers in Watford High Street. Whether you are behind the counter or on the piste, it is the same daredevil sensation of watching yourself hurtle into catastrophe without the least control over your fate."

Fate had ferried John le Carré, then known by his real name David Cornwell, to his endangered position behind the sales counter at Clements, through meeting and befriending Richard Edmonds, now retired boss of the family-owned Watford department store, on the ski slopes of the Bernese Oberland in 1949.

Mr Edmonds has since dined out on the story of how his now-famous friend completely and hilariously failed as a salesman – but found the inspiration for his spy school location from memories of the two young men motoring round the pretty countryside around Sarratt after work.

This story, in turn, is the inspiration behind a bold move for a new fund-raising venture for the village.

Mr Dennis Jenks, who in the past has persuaded villagers to open their gardens to the public while he himself offered rides round the village green in his classic 1932 Bedford bus as a fund-raising attraction, hit on the idea of asking John le Carré to write the story of how Sarratt came to feature in the world of George Smiley and Colonel Karla.

"He wrote back and said he would be delighted to write the story," recalled Mr Jenks, who on Monday took receipt of 10,000 books with a unique collection of "unlikely stories about Sarratt from international authors".



I spy. . . the carpets John le Carré failed to sell – Clements boss, Jamie Rankin, shares a joke with Mikhail Lyubimov.

The title story, The Draper of Watford, only stretched to nine pages, not quite enough to publish a book.

So, emboldened by success, Mr Jenks decided it would be nice to have a few more stories, starting with a Russian author.

John le Carré knew just the man: Colonel Mikhail Lyubimov, former KGB spy to London, now living and writing in retirement in Moscow and supposedly the inspiration behind Colonel Karla.

More enthusiasm, another story – a light-hearted The Adventures of Colonel Karla in Sarratt – and a visit to Sarratt by a real spy to follow.

Mikhail Lyubimov wrote his story based on information, maps and pictures sent to him in Moscow by Mr Jenks.

On a visit to this country in June, he went to Sarratt to check out the facts in his fiction.

He himself suggested he should check out climbing over a fence in the cemetery, which figures in the story – as well as a pint in The Cock pub.

"I'm in love with Sarratt, it takes about 15 minutes to walk round," enthused the former spy, who for my money is the product of a charm school, never mind two years at Intelligence School in Moscow.

Disarmingly, he admits living in London transformed an ardent Communist into someone who really appreciates genteel living, the best restaurants, a good malt and the British lifestyle.

He was crestfallen on a visit to Clements to discover Chesterfields are out of fashion. At last, he has realised an ambition and had two installed in the apartment in Moscow he shares with his lovely third wife, Tatiana.

And no manner of persuasion from Clements boss, Mr Jamie Rankin, would make him change his English tweeds for something more fashionable.

"I'm beginning to feel like a colonial Colonel returning from India, more British than the British," he gently moaned, suggesting the carpets piled high in the store were the ones his friend, John le Carré, had failed to sell all those years ago.

As for his previous dangerous lifestyle as a spy, it was met with a dismissive "phew".

"No spies get killed. It is a very safe profession and you lead a very posh life. It is less dangerous than being a pilot or a policeman," he insisted. Yes, there were James Bond-type gimmicks like a packet of Marlboro you could slide over a piece of paper and take an image of the text.

He discussed aspects of his life in the world of espionage with the writer, Alexander Norman, over lunch at one of the Roux brothers' restaurants. The resulting Lunching with the Enemy, is another chapter in the book, which was published this week to help secure the fabric of the village church and hall in Sarratt.

There are delightful little tales of A Sarratt Affair by the anonymous A Sarratt Insider, the Sarratt Talisman by Kurt Willinger and Sarratt 1980 by William Petre.

Mr Jenks twisted a few more arms – and pens – for the production of this top-flight fund-raiser. One neighbour, Michael O'Donnell, designed the book, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Morton Neal, wrote the foreword and several local artists have provided illustrations.

In a special supplement, the names of the just over 1,800 villagers of Sarratt (as of Midsummer Day 1999) are printed and the inside flaps of the book cover carry a string of special offers.

Present the book and you can enjoy a pint of beer or a bottle of wine to go with meals at local pubs, two tickets for the price of one at The Palace Theatre Watford and Saracens Rugby Club and half a dozen of "Sarratt's very own special new laid eggs" from the Village Shop – where you can also buy the book.

Sarratt and the Draper of Watford is also on sale from Clements, which offers a £10 voucher redeemable against purchases to a minimum value of £25.

"Good value, the book costs £9.75," enthused Mr Jenks, who has worked on the project for three years and hopes to "print" substantial sums of money for the preservation of the village heritage, the church of Holy Cross and the village hall through sales of the Sarratt-inspired stories by world-famous authors.

● Sarratt and the Draper of Watford by John le Carré and other unlikely stories about Sarratt from international authors costs £9.75 plus £1.20 p&p. To order, write to: Village Book, c/o Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt WD3 6BS. Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of Holy Cross Church.



Former KGB spy to London, Mikhail Lyubimov, tests the facts of his fictitious tale about Colonel Karla's visit to Sarratt's cemetery.

Dear, dead days when a small boy could safely talk to strangers



JUST A WORD
Oliver Phillips

IT is hard to imagine now in this less trustworthy age but once a week, when I was about eight or nine, my parents would go out for a drink on a summer's evening.

I would sit outside in the car with a bottle of Vimto and a packet of Smith's finest crisps, replete with that little, blue, salt bag, and feel at peace. I was never knowingly lonely. Sometimes I would leave the car and inspect the environs, talk to strangers and breathe the soft, country air.

No one offered me sweets to put my hand in their pocket or attempted to abduct me and discard my broken body in a ditch. Presumably there were people like that around, but we never heard of them: no, not in Belsize, Chipperfield, Sarratt or Flaunden. Not in the early 1950's, anyway.

I hitch-hiked everywhere to save bus fares in order to buy sweets, but I never, ever met one of those "funny, peculiar men" my father had warned me to be on my guard against.

I did bump into one old man with a stick, who seemed to be the epitome of Rupert Bear's The Old Gaffer, coming straight from Nutwood Common, but in fact heading for the public footpath behind The Boot or The Cock, Sarratt.

In comparison with my young horizons, he appeared to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the hedgerows as he walked along with me and pointed out things worthy of notice. Our footpaths often crossed, when the Vimto bottle was drained, and I was there wandering in clean, pub-visiting shirt and short trousers held up by a three-striped, snake-clipped belt. He would say "Hello young'un" and tell me of the latest developments among the flora and fauna of Sarratt.

I suppose, if he were alive today and walked a nine-year old boy into fields behind a pub, he would be berated by anxious parents and pointed at in the lanes. I can identify with their anxiety today, but how I long for the simpler naivity of yesteryear.

I did not have a Play Station to ease my boredom, but then I was never consciously bored. Let's face it, I had a whole pub courtyard, fields and footpaths to inspect. What more could a young child want on a summer's eve?

So, I would hope ferverently my parents had met someone of interest and would stay longer, because they would then come out to check on my well-being and I could try a Tizer and another packet of Smith's finest and spend more time lapping up the environment.

In the early days, on the way home, I seem to remember my father moaning about James Mason. I may have two anecdotes confused in the mists of time but apparently the actor was always talking about his daughter, Portland. It became so irritating, my parents moved on from the film star's favourite haunt at The Plough, Belsize.

Caught in the act – a former KGB spy Michael Yubimov, takes a break in Sarratt, where the lines between fiction and fact can become blurred.



Enacting or re-enacting a dead-letter drop at Sarratt Church.

The next "regular" on the weekly trip was The Green Dragon at Flaunden, where the local churchyard and some exhorbitant statuary fascinated me. I became a familiar sight outside the pub, once a week. Regulars would pass the time of the day. One of them, so I am told, was probably a pleasant Mr Burgess, who was a regular drinker there.

My father moaned about him too, some time later. Apparently he had sped off to Russia, wherever that was, with a Donald MacLean. That nice Mr Burgess was a "commie rat", I was informed.

So we moved from Mr Burgess's favourite local, my father believing the place had been tainted by association, and our once-weekly ritual took us to Sarratt where I met the Old Gaffer with his stick, who I was sure was never likely to defect to Russsia. Getting to the end of the footpath and showing me the whereabouts of hips, haws and talking of horehounds, seemed effort enough, let alone absconding to some place that wasn't even mentioned on the Green Line route-planner at Kings Langley.

We moved, apparently for my sake, away from my beloved Chipperfield and all those lovely fields in the neighbouring villages. We headed back to where I had spent the first six years of my life, to Watford. I quickly became re-acquainted and loved the town as it was then, but the countryside had been grafted on my soul and my favourite Watford spot was anywhere deep in Cassiobury Park.

Years passed and one night I found myself trasported by car with a load of "teenage bronking bucks" who, unknowingly, already had a date with a hangover, and we travelled up some windy lanes, we knew not where.

We made our way into a country pub, ordered a pint and then it hit me: nectar in a glass mug. I realised then, I had never really tasted true beer before that night.

Later, wending an uneven way to the toilet, I had a feeling of deja vu. I stood in the moonlight and the years peeled away to reveal in my mind's eye, a small boy sitting in a car in the courtyard, eating crisps and sucking the last remnants from the Vimto bottle.

I inquired as to my whereabouts and was informed it was The Cock, Sarratt.

There was a symmetry to all this, as if I had come home. The Old Gaffer had long gone. But I still knew my hips from my haws, the may and elder in the hedgerows.

For many years thereafter, I would drive out to The Cock at Sarratt, not for old time's sake, but because of the nectar of well-kept, real ale, so rarely found in Watford, despite its brewery-town antecedents.

When I moved from the parental home, I moved to the approaches of Sarratt and, some 20 years ago, I moved into the village itself.

Times have moved on. It is not a perfect village, but then it is not a perfect world inhabited by perfect people. The Lime Trees have been chopped right down with unseemly haste and there seems to be a minority group who never seem to hear anything more than a few 750 Yamahas every night, when in fact they pass only 20 nights in every 365.

But I like Sarratt, and I felt very proud about it the other night, feeling at one with the good, the bad and the ugly of a village I can secretly claim is mine but in fact I have to inhabit a further 50 years before I can get away with such a claim publicly.

The other night I received a copy of the book, Sarratt and The Draper of Watford. My colleague Grelle White has already detailed the work that has gone into the production, the enterprise, the ingenuity and love that has brought about such an engaging, possibly unique publication, the proceeds of which will advance the day of restoration of the village church and the replacement of the village hall.

It is a remarkable book, containing a succession of short stories, donated by international authors supporrting this rural cause. They have written with the village as their setting, sparked by John Le Carré's decision to site the fictitious spy-training "Nursery" in the Sarratt that captivated him as he passed through in his youth.

I sat entranced by the book, drooling over his 86-word, perfectly scanned sentence on page 16. I read on and soon was savouring the Sarratt-based story by the former KGB spy Michael Yubimov, who provides a superb insight into those cold war days.

Apparently MI5 would slacken off surveillance of suspected spies at weekends - "an English peculiarity", which prompted the Russians to double their activity while "the weekend for the Englishmen was as holy as a cup of tea at four o'clock or a pint of beer in a favourite pub in the evening".

You could almost hear the men from MI5 announcing "time for tiffin" as they packed away their binoculars.

In the next chapter, an American writer evokes those Bovingdon wartime days with a reflective story, fictitious of course, incorporating one of the many arms of the Sarratt Biggerstaff family and a GI bride.

Another by a local author, unknown to me, tackles the irony of village gossip and the need to stay ahead of the rest to retain the reputation as fountainhead of all local scandal.

At £9.95 it is worth the investment to read international writers penning about ficticious events in a local village. With judicious use of the dust-jacket vouchers, you can save many pounds on offers for beer, wine, eggs, theatre tickets, rugby tickets and store vouchers. Someone somewhere, may be able to apply higher economics and prove that someone, somewhere is making a loss, but it is certainly not the reader.

It is an amazing enterprise and, with 10,000 copies to shift, it is certainly a brave one of which not only Sarratt but the locality can be proud.

Of course, after reading this book you may gain the impression the inhabitants of the village dart about all the time, sporting Clements' bags. While breathlessly returning from Watford's store laden with the latest bargain, they are so preoccupied, they do not notice the place is crawling with spies, dodging in and out of lanes between the speeding Yamahas.

But it is all fiction, which has a tendency to evoke a bygone era, admittedly some years on from Miss Marple's hey-day, when Bulldog Drummond is seeking an easier countrified existence and Hercules Poirot is drawing a pension – village life still steeped in tradition and a touch genteel, having returned to tranquility after "beating Jerry".

Yes, the post-war era when you could imagine a faint chorus of "Bless Them All" echoing on the wind, down across fields to The Green all the way from the Bovingdon base.

It certainly took me back to old images, when spies drove Wolseys, all adulterous wives were depicted as alcoholics and most adulterous husbands appeared to wear white scarves, kid gloves and were undecided as to whether sporting a monacle was passé or still de rigueur

Because the writers were penning from memory or possibly from the information provided by Dennis Jenks, a gentleman who has always struck me as the local refugee from Yes Minister, there is a 1950's feel about the entire book, even in the more modern local contribution.

That is the essence of the book and its charm, for thankfully villages evolve more slowly where, after a hectic couple of rounds with modern business and commerce, the inhabitants return to take solace amidst the rural calm spilling over from a more pastoral yesteryear.

The book certainly took me back and, as you become older, that's a journey more readily and happily undertaken.

I began to think about James Mason, and dear, dead days with a dog called Whisky as I roamed Chipperfield, Sarratt, Belsize and Flaunden and recalled, what was for a child, that world-changing, horizon-widening, never-to-be-forgotten day when sweet-rationing ended.

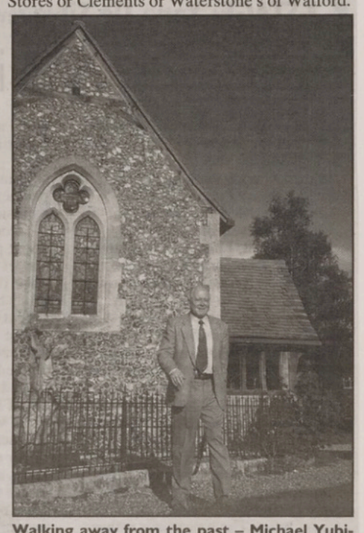
I made a mental note to read Le Carré and spot the frequent mentions of Sarratt and catch up with Karla, (even if the spy is not poking about Sarratt's churchyard), in Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy or Smiley's People and the rest.

Sarratt, "The Nursery" for spy-training, I reflected as I climbed into bed. All fictitious of course, I reminded myself.

But, as I dozed off, I wondered about the fiction. I had this vision of a bottle of Vimto and a packet of Smith's crisps and that nice man nodding goodbye to a young boy outside The Green Dragon. Could it have been that Mr Burgess?

Now what was Guy Burgess doing so near Sarratt?

● Sarratt and The Draper of Watford, priced £9.75 plus p and p £1.20 is obtainable from Village Book, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt. WD3 6BS. Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of Holy Cross Church. Alternatively you can obtain your copy at Sarratt Village Stores or Clements or Waterstone's of Watford.



Walking away from the past – Michael Yubimow strides out in Sarratt.

Le Carré tells the secrets of his spy school



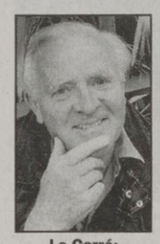
Secret love: Le Carré fell for Sarratt's charm

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 10-10-99

JOHN Le Carré has drawn back the curtain on another mystery. After identifying George Smiley's real-life counterparts, the author has now explained why he chose to set his fictional spy school, the "Nursery", in the Hertfordshire village of Sarratt, *writes Jonathan Petre.*

In a labyrinthine account worthy of his own books, Le Carré has disclosed that he first stumbled across the village through a friend he met while unsuccessfully attempting to become an Olympic skier. The friend subsequently found him a disastrous job in his father's Watford draper's shop, a few miles from Sarratt.

The young Le Carré, escaping from the daily tribulations of work, fell for the charms of Sarratt's village green, cottages and church, which he describes as the "keepers of an English mystery". The author painted so convincing a picture of the spy school, which features most prominently in *The Secret Pilgrim*, that admirers have visited the village in search of it. In February, he disclosed in a radio interview that George Smiley, his most famous fictional hero, had been partly based on the late John Bingham, the 7th Baron Clanmorris, not MI6's former chief Maurice Oldfield, as had been supposed.



Le Carré: revelation

Le Carré's latest revelations about his novels are in a book published by villagers of Sarratt today to raise money for their church roof and village hall.

Other contributors include Michail Lyubimov, a close friend of Kim Philby and former KGB agent who was once expelled from London. He has written a short story entitled "The adventures of Colonel Karla in Sarratt".

Also in the book are stories by Kurt Willinger, a former vice-chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising, and by Alexander Norman, who co-wrote the Dalai Lama's biography.

In a rare example of local initiative, the book carries offers of free beer or wine at the village's pubs, or a £10 voucher to shop at Clement's, Watford's 100-year-old family-owned department store where Le Carré once worked.

Dennis Jenks, a local businessman and the book's editor, said so many people believed that there really was a spy school at Sarratt that it seemed a good theme. He said he hoped the venture would raise £100,000 for the church and hall.

● Copies of *Sarratt and the Draper of Watford* can be obtained from Village Book, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt WD3 6BS, for £9.75 plus £1.20 packing and postage.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

SARRATT

AT Sarratt WI's meeting on October 13, members were given a talk by Mrs Anne Goldsmith on the science of reflexology.

Different parts of the soles of the feet affect different parts of the body. By massaging the appropriate part of the foot, the body will relax and provide its own cure for the affected area.

Mrs Goldsmith also spoke of Dr Edward Bach, who has produced remedies for emotional problems from plants and trees.

GARSTON



15-10-99

Draper's capers are booked in

THE former chairman of Clements of Watford, Mr Richard Edmonds, is featured in a new book, which is published this week.

Sarratt and The Draper of Watford contains a series of short-stories, written specially for the village's fundraising programme by international authors, including spy-thriller writer John LeCarre, who has been a lifelong friend of Mr Edmonds.

Villager Mr Dennis Jenks (left), who has masterminded the 10,000-book publication, and Mr Edmonds, launched the enterprise at Sarratt Village Hall on Sunday, with the doyen of Clements, autographing copies with a smile and adding the line "The Draper of Watford".

● Sarratt and The Draper of Watford, priced £9.75 – plus post and packaging of £1.20 – is obtainable from Village Book, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt, Herts, WD3 6BS. Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of Holy Cross Church.

Alternatively, you can obtain a copy at Sarratt Village Stores or Clements of Watford.

Picture S406425: SIMON JACOBS

Herts County League

Sarratt hauled themselves off the bottom of the Division One table with a much-needed victory over **Croxley Guild.**

James Frogen netted direct from a corner, but Sarratt spurned two or three one-on-one chances and could have expected a more comfortable advantage than the 1-0 half time lead.

Sarratt keeper Paul Humphries denied Croxley during a good spell by the home side. Then Sarratt sealed their second goal when Andy Kemp lobbed the keeper after he had punched the ball out.

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chipperfield	11	4	1	1	15	8	4	1	0	16	5	26
Lond Lions	11	4	1	1	18	7	4	0	1	13	5	25
St Peters	12	5	0	2	22	13	3	1	1	14	10	25
O Parmitar	11	5	0	0	16	5	2	2	2	17	16	23
N Mymms	12	2	3	2	18	13	3	1	1	13	8	19
Hadley	11	3	1	2	11	15	1	2	2	11	9	15
Herts Pol	12	4	0	3	10	17	0	2	3	7	15	14
Kimpton	10	2	1	1	11	10	2	0	4	12	13	13
Evergreen	10	3	1	1	13	6	0	2	3	9	12	12
Croxley	12	2	1	2	11	10	1	1	5	9	16	11
Mill End	11	3	1	2	24	18	0	0	5	5	11	10
Codicote	11	1	2	3	8	15	1	1	3	7	13	9
Sarratt	12	1	2	2	11	12	1	1	5	11	26	9
Standon	9	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	6	9	31	9

Sarratt inches away from halting Colney's double bid

7-5-99

Herts County Reserve Cup

Colney Heath 3
Sarratt 1



The Sarratt keeper awaits another shot from Colney Heath. Picture S175119: JOE SHEEHAN

THE achievement of reaching a cup final turned out to be the pinnacle of Sarratt's season as Colney Heath completed a double cup weekend – winning both the Reserve and Aubrey Cups.

Operating in Reserve Division Two, Sarratt were unexpected finalists in Saturday's final, but never let Colney Heath have things their own way.

Sarratt recovered from conceding an early goal and forced their way back into the game at 2-1, but finally succombed to a stronger Colney side despite a brave tactical change to revert to three at the back and throw an extra player up front.

"I thought we did really well and could have surprised them," said Sarratt reserve team manager Gavin Higgs.

"They were stronger than us, while we had a lot of younger lads who lacked experience, but we had our chances."

Colney Heath took a fifth-minute advantage when Nick Layton fired the favourites into the lead and Martin Gentleman almost doubled the lead five minutes later but lost out in a one-on-one with Sarratt's keeper Justin Higgs.

Sarratt's first chance came after 12 minutes when a mistake by Colney's Andy Knowles gave David Longhurst a shooting chance but he fired wide.

Then, good work on the left wing from Paul Ashford resulted in another missed chance for Longhurst, but Sarratt came within inches of equalising after 30 minutes. Mark Larner, possibly Sarratt's best player on the day, found himself unmarked and let fly from 20 yards, only for keeper Kevin Barnes to touch the shot on to the bar.

Two minutes later, it was Colney threatening, when Layton drew the keeper, but his shot was cleared by a well-placed Sarratt defender.

As the half drew to a close, the Colney keeper dealt comfortably with shots from Ashford and Cornish and, in the final minute, Layton hit a swerving shot wide with a clear sight at goal.

The whole game could have taken on a different complexion if events had taken a slightly different turn in the opening to the second half. Within the first ten minutes, Longhurst had a shot cleared off the line and then Ian Sumner ran through and fired a firm strike on to the post.

It was, therefore, somewhat unexpected when Colney doubled their advantage after 59 minutes with a goal from nowhere. Paul Seymour launched a speculative effort from the left which drifted into the top corner for a 2-0 lead.

Knowing it was now all or nothing, Sarratt boss Gavin Higgs pushed Larner up front, leaving three at the back, and more attacking football ensued.

Templeman and Barnwell had shots saved, the woodwork was rattled yet again and a Sumner effort was almost deflected into Colney's goal.

Inevitably and deservedly, Sarratt pulled one back when Kevin Franklin walked the ball in after 35 minutes to raise hopes of a comeback.

But five minutes later, it was all over. A cross from the left was touched back to Mark Strachan who headed home Colney's third.

Colney Heath came close to extending their lead, but Sarratt could be comforted by the fact that only a few inches had come between them and cup victory.

COLNEY HEATH RESERVES: Barnes; Knowles, Groom, Knight, Little; Turner, Seymour, Gentleman, Ramsay; Richardson; Layton. Substitutes: Strachan, Huff, Pongan.

SARRATT RESERVES: Higgs; Lawrence, Keates, Roffe, Templeman; Cornish, Ashford, Sumner, Ryon; Longhurst, Larner. Substitutes: K Franklin, P Franklin, Cox.

The act of peace needs to be worked at

VETERANS stood elbow to elbow with their children's children at a service of remembrance held at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt on Sunday.

Pews were filled quickly and spare seats were sparse as a community gathered to pay its respects to the husbands, brothers, fathers, sisters and mothers who laid down their lives for their country.

Remembrance Sunday is no longer consigned to remembering the valiant heroes who died in the two great wars, but in the many conflicts which have left their scars on families in Great Britain this century.

SARRATT

A community heard The Rev Peter Hart speak of the "act of peace" on Sunday.

He told the congregation it was not enough for them to passively accept the peace achieved by the sacrifice of others.

It was, he said, their duty to "work at peace".

He said: "Remembrance is not just a passive thing.

"You have to be active in your remembering.

"If we are not active in our remembering, generations to come will not remember."

During the service, the names of young men from Sarratt killed in the First and Second World Wars were read out to the congregation as a mark of respect.

Wreaths of poppies were laid inside the church by the chairman of Three Rivers District Council, Ivor Ambrose, and veteran and former Sarratt Parish Councillor Peter Cummings.

Branch chairman and standard bearer for The Royal British Legion in Sarratt Mr Hugh Marshall, praised the community for their dedication to the service each year.

1999

15-10-99

'No lights' for twilight zone traffic calming

by Diana Machin

TRAFFIC calming measures are to be introduced in Sarratt, in a bid to put the brakes on speeding traffic.

A scheme, presented by the Highways Partnership, proposes cat's-eyes, road narrowing, additional white lines and coloured road surfaces on The Green, plus chicanes in Dimmocks Lane.

Sarratt Parish Council is under pressure to agree a traffic calming scheme, costing up to £50,000, by next March, or run the risk of losing the funding.

The plans were discussed at a Sarratt parish council meeting on Monday, where council members embraced the proposals.

However, they were anxious to prevent street lighting from being installed, as they claim it would be detrimental to the rural landscape.

Chairman of the parish council Mr David Rees said: "Street lighting on The Green is a sensitive issue.

"I would prefer to see any of the traffic measures removed than to see street lighting installed."

Mr Stuart Walmsley, from the Highways Partnership, tried to allay fears by stressing electric lighting would only be considered after a review to see if the non-illuminated measures presented a danger to passing motorist.

He said: "There are some schemes that need lighting, but the ones we propose for The Green are not onerous and do not require any type of electric illumination."

After the meeting, Mr Walmsley added: "We hope to come up with a scheme that will strike a balance with the views of the community with that of road safety concerns."

However, chairman of Chandlers Cross Residents' Association, Mrs Jean Newell, was not convinced the proposed measures would have an impact on traffic speeds, and criticised the plans as a waste of public money.

She said: "If you make life difficult for motorists in Sarratt, the traffic will come through other parts of the parish, such as Chandlers Cross and Belsize.

"I believe the only measures motorists take notice of are red lights and speed cameras."

But she added: "Installing traffic lights at either end of Sarratt will create some relief in the traffic flow in the morning and enable people to get their cars out of the driveways."

Mrs Newell claimed Chandlers Cross is in need of traffic calming and presented statistics to illustrate the volume of traffic running through the village.

Figures showed that, between 7.30am and 9.30am on a Monday, 1,290 vehicles passed along Fir Tree Hill and 1,541 vehicles passed along Red Hall Lane.

Mr Walmsley argued traffic lights and cameras would be too expensive for the funding allocated.

He said there was no evidence to suggest they would be any more effective than the measures being proposed.

Campaign against housing schemes

report by Estelle Sinkins

BUCKS EXAM 22.10

CONSERVATIONISTS in Three Rivers have vowed to fight Government plans to build thousands more homes in south and west Hertfordshire including green field sites in Chorleywood and Sarratt.

The Three Rivers group of the Council for the Protection of Rural England,CPRE, is calling for a broad range of conservation bodies to unite in a campaign against the proposals.

Chairman of Three Rivers CPRE, Councillor Harry Davies, said it was essential for people to stand together to oppose what he called an "appalling threat to the environment."

Government proposals are calling for 92,000 homes to be built in Hertfordshire by 2016. This is 42,000 more homes than was originally forecast.

If the plans go ahead the already congested south and west of the county could be targeted by developers.

"The experience of the CPRE in fighting similar campaigns throughout the country has demonstrated the need for the Government to understand that it is facing widespread opposition to its proposals," he said.

"The imposition of a requirement to build thousands of new homes within Three Rivers would be devastating. Every year our country is losing green belt land equivalent in size to the city of Bristol, and this erosion must be stopped now."

The CPRE plans to hold a public meeting to discuss the threat to the countryside in the Bullsland Lane Hall, the Swillett, Chorleywood at 8pm, November 4.

For more information please call Councillor Davies on 01923 283886.

12-11-99

Parish council has office at last

YEARS of waiting are at an end for the people of Sarratt who will soon have their own parish council office in the village.

At a meeting of Sarratt Parish Council on Monday it was announced that it would soon have a purpose-built home.

The parish council has provided £20,000 toward the construction of the office which will be built inside the newly constructed village hall, which should be completed in July. The council has secured a 99-year lease on the premises.

Chairman of the parish council Mr David Rees is looking forward to the office's completion.

He said: "It will be an office for the people in the parish, where they can call in to get information or see plans."

Residents are currently forced to view planning applications at the village post office.

Parish clerk Mrs Doreen Boast, who currently works from home, welcomed the news.

She said: "I think it is an important thing for the parish council to have. We are the only parish council in Three Rivers that does not have its own office.

"I think its important as a focal point for the village."

● Sarratt Parish Councillors approved £650 towards a Millennium celebration fireworks display on New Year's Eve at its meeting on Monday. The Sarratt Millennium Committee will be contributing £350 towards the display.

The Millennium fireworks will begin at 8pm on The Green in Sarratt.

Go slow bid targets village

MOVES to slow down speeding motorists, including road narrowing and coloured tarmacking, have been proposed for Sarratt.

The Highways Partnership scheme, a joint venture between Three Rivers District and Herts County Councils, will cost around £50,000.

Parish councillors who discussed the proposals last week, however, made it clear that they would not support street lighting on The Green as it would "urbanise" the area.

GAZ 20/10



SARRATT

POSITIONED ON A PRIVATE AND MATURE LEVEL PLOT OF APPROXIMATELY 1/4 ACRE.

Three bedrooms, double glazed leaded light windows, modern kitchen and bathroom, drawing room with vaulted ceiling, beautifully tended garden and gravelled parking to the front.

PLEASE CONTACT CHORLEYWOOD OFFICE

GUIDE PRICE £379,950

26-11-99

PLANS

WOB 22.10.99

PLANS currently being considered by Three Rivers District Council are:

Single storey side and rear extension at **Sarratt Baptist Church, The Green, Sarratt,** for Croxley Green and Sarratt Baptist Church.



A reader has submitted this photograph of Alexander Road, Sarratt. Does anyone remember these houses? When were they demolished?

WOBS 6.8.99

Q RESPONDING to previously published photographs:

12-11-99

MRS JOAN HOPKINS, of Ryman Court, Stag Lane, Chorleywood, writes:

Q REGARDING the photograph of Alexandra Road, Sarratt. I was born in No. 2 on January 2, 1947 (no. 2 being second right in the picture).

I don't know the date of the photo, as I cannot recall the wooden fence.

We had a privet hedge, the first cottage. No. 1 had some land on the side and Mr Tom Alexandra kept bees in the small apple orchard. He also kept a variety of animals, such as chicken, bantams, geese and turkeys near Christmas.

He supplied village folk with eggs and honey. My parents, Albert and Gladys Grace, moved to this cottage as newlyweds. My mother (née Elbourne) came from Deadmans Ash in Sarratt and met my father at work. He came from Berkhamsted and they met at the John Dickinson paper mill at Apsley, near Hemel Hempstead.

The cottage was primitive by today's standards, having gas light in two downstairs rooms and candlelight in the scullery and bedrooms. There was no bathroom and only an outdoor loo.

We were moved in 1960 by the former Watford Urban District Council to Church Lane, where my older brother and elderly father still live. The houses were pulled down in 1962 to make way for flats.

No. 3 was occupied by a Mr Wallington; in the middle was Mrs Blake and the last of the three houses belonged to Mr and Mrs Wingfield. Mr Wingfield was the village cobbler and worked from a small wooden shed next to his house.

F.R. WINGFIELD, of Mead Way, Bushey, writes:

SEEING the photo of the old cottages in Alexandra Road, Sarratt, brought back memories to me as I was born at No. 5 – the far end house in the photo, 77 years ago in 1922.

My father Frank Wingfield was the local boot and shoe repairer working from the house. I left Sarratt in 1957 after getting married.

My father left that house in 1958 to move to another in the village. I can remember Mrs Blake, Mr Wallington and Mrs Alexandra being neighbours.

Sorry I cannot recall the year they were pulled down to make way for flats. I think it was some time in the 1960's.

I would be very interested to get in touch with the person who sent in the photograph.

MR TONY GRACE, of Church Lane, Sarratt, writes:

A THIS is a reply to your reader question about the houses in Alexandra Road, Sarratt. I was born in No. 2 in May 1941, and, at the time, No. 1 and No. 2 belonged to Mr Bill Young who lived in a converted railway carriage in Dawes Lane, just up from Wards Nursery.

In No. 3 lived Mr and Mrs Wallington, who had a married son who lived at the other end of Alexandra Road (The Green End). No. 4 resident was Mrs or Miss Blake. In No. 5 was a Mr Wingfield, who had a shoe repair business in a small work shop near his house. This was a long time before the Perefals were built.

Our neighbours were a Mr and Mrs Alexander and their son Peter. There was no electricity down the road. Our two houses were sold in about 1960 to a Mr Richards, who was something to do with the owners of the grocers shop who was called Mr Naylor. I believe the shop was called Barbers prior to their purchase by Mr Naylor.

As the houses became empty, they fell into ruin. Our family moved to our present home in May 1962. I think we were last to leave. In the late 60's they were all demolished. The photo in The Watford Observer is very old, as, when we lived there, all the wooden front fences were gone, so it must have been taken well before 1941.

Church victory over parking

report by Estelle Sinkins

BUCKS EXAM 19/11/99

SARRATT Parish Council's plans to give churchgoers who park on The Green on Sundays their marching orders have been stymied by the district council.

Parish councillors said they wanted to stop cars damaging the grassed area, which is owned by the council.

The issue first came under the spotlight earlier this year when hundreds of motorcyclists descended on the village. The riders, who had parked on The Green near the Cricketers Pub, were given a hostile reception by parish councillors who told them in no uncertain terms to move their bikes.

The parish council then turned its attention to the Baptist Church congregation.

But at last week's Three Rivers planning committee meeting, members approved the church's plans for an extension, without any conditions on parking. The church appears to have indicated it will provide six parking spaces on the site, and it is this which prompted the parish council to act.

Parish clerk Doreen Boast said councillors had hoped the plans would be approved with a proviso to provide sufficient car parking for churchgoers. "We all thought that parking provision would be made part of the overall plan," she said. "This hasn't happened and the council will now have to discuss what we can do."

The council's planning spokeswoman, Councillor Pam Turner, said there were no objections to the plans, providing the proposed car park replaced existing parking on The Green.

Councillor Mrs Turner said: "In the past two or three years there have been discussions and, I thought, agreement with the church authorities to allow car parking within the boundaries of the church.

"Instead, parking has increased significantly and The Green is pretty much in use every day. Parking destroys The Green, and no-one should park on it without the express permission of the council."

The church plans include a new Sunday school on the first floor of the building, and the existing single storey structure behind the main building will be enlarged to create space for bigger kitchen facilities and new toilets.



SNC BUCK EXAM 19/11

● Left: Hugh Marshall, branch chairman and standard bearer for Sarratt branch of the Royal British Legion, and Councillor Ivor Ambrose, chairman of Three Rivers District Council, pay their respects at the memorial to villagers killed in the First World War.

Demolition clears way for hall

24-12-99

A DEMOLITION team began dismantling Sarratt Village Hall on Monday in preparation for £290,000 rebuilding work.

The only features to be retained of the village hall, in The Green, will be the small hall and the kitchen.

The new hall will be larger and will contain a purpose built parish council office.

Sarratt Parish Council has provided £20,000 for the office, which will be the first of its kind in the village.

Mr Robin Gain, of the village hall committee, said: "Construction of the new village hall is due to begin in the new year, with the hall set for completion in June."

Residents of Sarratt are being called upon to donate funds to the rebuilding appeal.

Tree-planting to mark new era

10-12-99

VILLAGERS of Sarratt are being called to mark the Millennium by planting a tree to replenish the environment.

The planting, which has been organised by Sarratt Commons Volunteers, will take place on Sunday. People can meet at Commonwood Common car park at 10am.

Tree planting

A MILLENNIUM field maple tree will be planted in The Green, Sarratt, at noon on Saturday, January 22, by Sarratt Horticultural Society's president, Mr Norton Neal, to commemorate the new century.

24-12-99

Pram service

A SHORT service is being held for parents with children in prams or pushchairs by the Rev Peter Hart of Holy Cross Church in Sarratt. The service will be held in the Baptist Church in The Green, on Thursday, January 13, at 2.30pm, followed by tea and biscuits. Similar services will be held on the last Thursday of each month.

24-12-99

Bazaar tale

A GRAND total of £1,411 was raised at the Holy Cross Church Christmas bazaar earlier this month. The bazaar was held in Sarratt Primary School in The Green.

New Year's Eve

A FIREWORK display will take place on The Green in Sarratt at 8pm on Friday, December 31, to celebrate the Millennium. Church bells in Sarratt will chime the old year out from 11.30pm and there will be a special Watchnight service at Holy Cross Church in Church Lane, at 11.40pm. On New Year's Day, there will be a Millennium service at 11.30am at the church. 24-12-99

The act of peace needs to be worked at

SARRATT

VETERANS stood elbow to elbow with their children's children at a service of remembrance held at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt on Sunday.

Pews were filled quickly and spare seats were sparse as a community gathered to pay its respects to the husbands, brothers, fathers, sisters and mothers who laid down their lives for their country.

Remembrance Sunday is no longer consigned to remembering the valiant heroes who died in the two great wars, but in the many conflicts which have left their scars on families in Great Britain this century.

A community heard The Rev Peter Hart speak of the "act of peace" on Sunday.

He told the congregation it was not enough for them to passively accept the peace achieved by the sacrifice of others.

It was, he said, their duty to "work at peace".

He said: "Remembrance is not just a passive thing.

"You have to be active in your remembering.

"If we are not active in our remembering, generations to come will not remember."

WOB 19/11

During the service, the names of young men from Sarratt killed in the First and Second World Wars were read out to the congregation as a mark of respect.

Wreaths of poppies were laid inside the church by the chairman of Three Rivers District Council, Ivor Ambrose, and veteran and former Sarratt Parish Councillor Peter Cummings.

Branch chairman and standard bearer for The Royal British Legion in Sarratt Mr Hugh Marshall, praised the community for their dedication to the service each year.

The Old Wheatsheaf, The Green, Sarratt, Herts WD3 6BR

Built about 1850 with later additions, originally a Public House and now a charming and beautifully presented character cottage fronting onto The Green. The Old Wheatsheaf offers deceptively spacious accommodation with the additional benefit of a cellar, secure parking and delightful "Japanese" garden with water feature.



Price Guide: £385,000 Freehold

Reception hall, drawing room, music room, 20' Shaker style kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, cellar, principal bedroom with adjacent bathroom. three further bedrooms, second bathroom. Superbly landscaped gardens with secure parking behind remote controlled gates.

Viewing: By appointment with Hamptons International
21 Station Road, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1QP
Telephone: 01923 776291

Old House Cottage, Old House Lane, Bucks Hill, Nr Chipperfield, Herts, WD4 9AA

An enchanting detached house built, we understand, circa 1700 with later additions. Set in delightful grounds of about one acre, the property is surrounded by open countryside with delightful views from most rooms.



Price Guide £550,000 Freehold

Spacious reception hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, TV room,. Study, superb fitted kitchen/breakfast room with Aga. Principal Bedroom with dressing room and bathroom en suite (the dressing room and bathroom have yet to be completed cosmetically) three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Grounds of about one acre with detached brick and waney boarded built games room with attached workshop, double open garage.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 1999 taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane by Philip Buller						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	6th / 13.2	22nd /-2.0	12th /-13.0	15th / 18.1	124.3	
February	19th / 12.1	14th /-4.4	11,14/-13.4	26th / 7.4	26.3	
March	17th / 18.3	11th /-2.3	11th /-12.0	7th / 7.0	38.0	
April	30th / 19.7	14th /-2.8	14th /-11.8	20th / 14.2	56.1	last snow & last air frost, 13th & 16th.
May	29th / 23.8	1st / 2.7	1st /-1.8	20th / 13.9	45.2	First cuckoo, 1st. Last ground frost, 7th.
June	26th / 25.3	9th / 3.7	8th / 2.6	1st / 41.2	100.7	
July	31st / 30.1	23rd / 6.8	23rd / 3.3	2nd / 17.7	22.3	7th, night min. =19.8C, highest recorded 1980-2013
August	1st / 28.0	17th / 6.6	17th / 3.7	9th / 36.2	120.8	
September	11th / 27.1	13th / 6.3	13th / 3.0	19th / 16.9	67.4	
October	10th / 17.5	6th / 0.5	6th /-3.8	27th / 11.3	50.4	1st ground frost, 5th.
November	1st / 15.9	30th /-0.9	30th /-7.0	26th / 13.1	39.3	1st air frost, 18th.
December	1,3rd/ 11.6	20th /-5.3	20th /-11.8	21st / 21.0	117.7	1st snowfall of winter, 14th.



Holy Cross Roof Repairs

Work is progressing very well, with the latest completion date 25 January. The not unexpected delay for a building of this age was due to the need to replace and treat a number of the roof timbers, and to a slight delay in erecting the scaffolding. The church is available for all Sunday services, but will continue to be closed on Monday to Friday whilst the roofing work continues. The church bells will be rung, as planned over Christmas and the New Year.

Michael Clark

Dell House, 3A Church Lane, Sarratt, Herts, WD3 6HN

An opportunity to purchase a family house just off The Green with the benefit of a mature southerly aspected 180 ft rear garden.



Price £310,000 Freehold

Storm porch, entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, garden room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, car port, single garage, brick built garden shed.

Meadow Lodge, Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, Herts WD3 6BN

A pretty cream coloured detached house sit in the ever popular village of Sarratt



£595,000 Freehold

Drawing room, dining room, family room, kitchen/breakfast room, large utility, five bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms (two en-suite), two double garages, mostly double glazed.

1999



TIM REGAN CHARLES REGAN SUE CRAWT PAM REGAN







SARRATT JMI SCHOOL







LEN DUDLEY



PHIL WYNDS





RAY ADAMS | KEVIN BIGGERSTAFF | JANE ADAMS | JOAN ADAMS | EILEEN ADAMS

SARRATT VILLAGE SCHOOL

STAFF + TEACHERS



JAN MARDLING | CHRISTINE CAVALIER | ANNE GRIFFITHS | SHEILA ROE | SHEILA MALIN | RITA COOK | MANDY WARNER | AGNES BONWICK | CHRISTINE BUSH (HEAD)



ANN DERBY | PAM TURNER | MARY BOND | VAL ROGERS

1998





THE OLD INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL)



1999

Sarratt
Local History Society



An Introduction to Landscape Archaeology
With special reference to
ROMAN SITES IN SARRATT
Come and hear the
Director of the Herts Archaeological Trust,
Dr. Lee Prosser,
speak on this subject on
Thursday May 13th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
All are welcome. Coffee and biscuits available.

1999

Sarratt
Local History Society



Our next meeting will be on
Thursday July 22nd 1999
when we visit the
Chiltern Open Air Museum.
Meet at the entrance promptly at
7.30pm
Refreshments available.
Entrance £4.50 Over 60s £3.15
If you need transport please phone
Pam Turner on 01923 267000

The Watford Observer

A souvenir issue celebrating 100 years of reporting the news in south west Hertfordshire



Shaw talks of fear in warfare
June 1925
Page 19



Monster movie set to hit town
September 1933
Go magazine



Britain's worst railway disaster
October 1952
Page 21



7-1 Hornets win stuns critics
September 1980
Page 14



Gorbachev visits as Cold War is over
April 1989
Page 15

Established 1863 Friday, December 31, 1999 50p

INSIDE

Germany surrenders

JOY spread through Watford and districts on Monday with the news that the war is over. Flags and bunting appeared on an unprecedented scale to mark the monumental occasion and munitions girls and soldiers danced together in market place as the town celebrated. **Page 20**

Artist at National



WORK by Bushey artists Professor Hubert von Herkomer (left) and Lucy Kemp-Welch can be seen at this year's exhibition of the Royal Academy at Burlington House, Piccadilly. Professor Herkomer contributes six works that are up to his usual high standard, while a canvas from Miss Kemp-Welch is considered by many to be one of the best oil works from the younger artists. **Go magazine**

Witch hut blaze

MYSTERY surrounds the blaze that destroyed Sarratt's notorious witch hut. A decaying horse head on a pole, cauldrons and a ceremonial ring were among the remains found after fire gutted the hut near Red Lion Farm. **Page 12**

Taylor grilled



NEW Hornets manager Graham Taylor spoke this week about his hopes for the club. He has promised to bring exciting, disciplined football to Vicarage Road. Mr Taylor joins the Hornets from Lincoln City and has a reputation for being a hard man who aims to bring stability to his new club. **Page 29**

Arctic conditions

A WEEK of arctic weather has caused chaos for road users and pedestrians. Milkmen have been forced to abandon their floats and soldiers have helped clear ice and snow from train lines. **Page 22**

The key to Watford:
www.thisishertfordshire.co.uk

At the dawning of a new millennium

by The Editor
Peter Wilson-Leary

WELCOME to this souvenir issue of The Watford Observer, produced as we prepare to enter a new century and millennium.

When Samuel Peacock founded this newspaper in 1863, he could not have foreseen the enormous changes that would take place in the next 137 years.

Watford was little more than a sleepy market town, there was no proper drainage, no street lighting, and no means of receiving



'ilson-Leary: "The columns of this issue testify to The Watford Observer's crucial nating information and providing a platform for views."

newspaper's disseminating providing a expression. n obtaining the is the lifeblood of coming harder re is a creeping ty that is threat- to know – the information on ıould be a matter while local r setting up cabi- ur affairs, cabals in secret, informing us of their deliberations weeks later.

We will expose and oppose any move in this direction by the bureaucrats, as we have done for the past one hundred years and more.

While the Observer was bravely conceived as a business venture, behind the commercial mind was an altruistic ideal of service to the community. This was daring, as newspapers in those days were in the main partisan, frowned upon and lampooned by one side, and supported by self-seeking and sycophantic zeal by the other side.

In fact the early days of unofficial publications were not happy ones; they met with hostility by the pundits of power because they had the ear of the people, could expose injustices and right wrongs

The ability of The Watford Observer to weather the winds of change through a turbulent century should be celebrated by liberty-loving people who have the community's best interests at heart.

It is a testament to the publication and its standing in south west Hertfordshire that nearly 23,000 people buy a copy each week. Newspaper sales are buoyant and the title will soon record its sixth successive half-year sales increase.

So, The Watford Observer is in good shape to continue holding that mirror to the community as we enter the 21st Century.

Please join us again when we resume that role next week. However, in the meantime, I hope you enjoy this special issue, a collection of articles from our columns that reflect the issues and lifestyles of our readers over the past 100 years.

Remaining faithful to style of the day



GIVEN the parameters of space and the various claims of so many stories and events clamouring for inclusion, this cannot be a definitive review of the community in the 20th century, *writes Oliver Phillips*

But it is reflective, capturing the essence and texture of the ten decades in south west Hertfordshire and how we and our predecessors described and presented the news and progress of the locality.

While the newspaper has grown in size and content over the century, we have attempted to give the earlier decades fair representation.

In that respect, some reports were wordy and flowery, others included more comment than we would chose to embody in reporting events today. In this case we have stayed faithful to the original concepts, including punctuation and local spellings, such as Tollpits Lane.

Many reports were extremely long and in some cases, such as council meetings, were written in chronological order, commencing with the names of those who attended and subsequent minutiae before reaching the meatier debate, some 3,000 words later. Likewise, reports on Watford's football matches were three-times larger than our coverage today.

Consequently, we have had to cut and sub-edit reports and features but, in doing so, we have remained faithful to the style and approach of the time. Essentially, although shortened, they have not been paraphrased, so the events are recorded in this souvenir as they were reported at the time.

The pages provide a fascinating pot-pourri of contrasting styles in approach and phraseology, the changing mores of the community, the tastes and lifestyle.

We have focused essentially on the locality, departing but briefly from that remit with our record of significant births. In the cases of weddings and obituaries, the selection has been largely random, again seeking to reflect the evolving styles and standards of the century.

The years 1900, 1930, even 1950 seem remote to us now, populated by people with whom we do not empathise easily. Yet occasionally, when reading the news items in this issue, you may find so much from yesteryear is familiar today, giving validity to the old proverb: opposite extremes have much in common.

Sinister remains found in debris of Witch Hut fire

DECEMBER 23, 1960

WHO burnt down Sarratt's lonely, notorious witch hut? Police are investigating a case of suspected arson.

The alarm was raised in the cold, black early hours of Monday by Mr Colin Plummer, of Red Lion Farm. He heard crackling, then saw the glow from the nearby spinney dell which sheltered the big wooden hut.

Water tenders from Watford and Rickmansworth were soon ploughing down the narrow mud-deep track to the blaze.

When the firemen arrived the hut was already an almost-charred ruin around the refectory table, the ceremonial ring, and the overturned witches' cauldron, in which heavy brews of rice beer were stirred.

There was no sign of life, but on the ground, snapped from its pole, lay an eerie skeleton of a horse's head.

Sarratt residents, some of who know – but will not tell – what went on at the hut, are mystified.

"Was it personal?" or "was it the work of some anti-witchcraft avenger?" are queries raised.

Tall Major Derek Boothby helped build the hut, in which he had lived for about 18 months with his big brown pinscher dog.

Men and women, some local, some from further afield, attended late-night parties and barbecues there. Visitors from Bricket Wood lent colour to reports that nudism was practised.

More sinister were the reports of witchcraft. A wire enclosure and warnings against "live reptiles" and dogs kept the curious at bay.

A tree was "stepped" as an observation post. There was the decaying horse's head on its pole, the cauldron, the magic circle, the swords and other evidence of witchcraft.

Several local residents, who had attended ceremonies, were alarmed. The Rector, the Rev. T McArdle, warned his people to keep away from the sinister spinney, and tackled Major Boothby himself about it. Then, a few weeks ago, Major Boothby vanished and has not been seen in Sarratt since.

Some villagers prefer not to discuss Major Boothby, witchcraft or witches, while others laugh it off, but the fire remains an intriguing mystery and no one believes it was accidental.



Typewriters and reams of paper were the stock in trade for the besuited jo when the actor Kim Peacock, better known as Radio's Paul Temple, was th



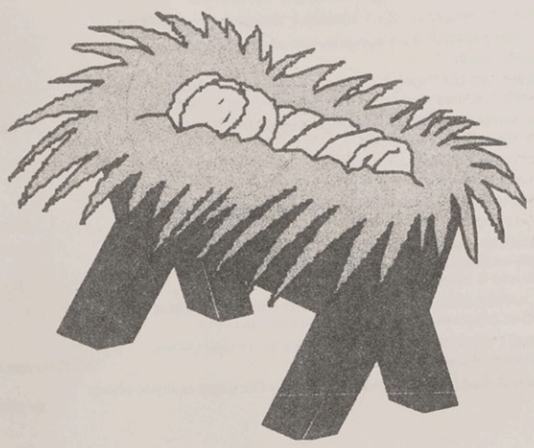
rk to a large compositing and print works, modern journalists can he pages using the latest hi-tech equipment.



JUNE 1977: **Sarratt, in common with the rest of the nation, enjoyed the day off to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in 1977. Here, two village children hark back to the Coronation Day in the fancy dress competition.**

SPOTLIGHT

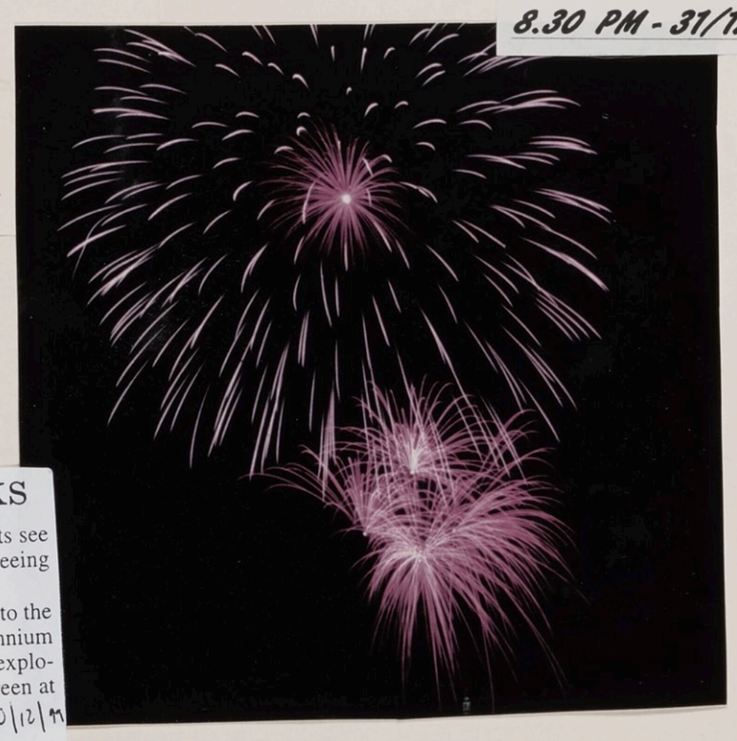
ON SARRATT PARISH



AD 2000
How it all began

SARRATT GREEN

8.30 PM - 31/12/99



New Year fireworks

SARRATT Parish Council will help residents see in the new millennium with a bang, after agreeing to contribute £650 to the cost of fireworks.

The council's contribution will be added to the £350 put forward by the village's millennium committee, and will be used to pay for an explosive, half-hour fireworks display on The Green at 8pm, December 31. BUCK EXAM 10/12/99

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE the following events will take place:

Fireworks display on the Green starting at 8 pm
Church bells bidding farewell to the old year at 11.30 pm
Special Watchnight Service at Holy Cross at 11.40 pm
Church bells at midnight, nationwide, to welcome in the new millennium

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Holy Cross will be open all day
Millennium Service at 11.30 am
Church bells ring out nationwide at noon

Christingle

An ancient Moravian tradition has developed into a modern tradition. Around Christmas time we celebrate Christingle. This year Christingle will be on SUNDAY 9 JANUARY at Holy Cross. Children of all ages come at 4.0pm to be given an orange. The orange represents the world, a red ribbon shows the blood of Jesus, four sticks with fruit represent the seasons and the fruits of God's Holy Spirit. We place a candle in the orange to remind the children that Jesus is the light of the world and He calls Christians to be a light in our world. A darkened church, lighted candles and the reflected light on children's faces are a wonderful sight and a real incentive to give thanks and worship God. I look forward to seeing a full church on 9th January at 4.0pm at Holy Cross.

Absolutely Fabulous Fireworks



LONDON LIGHTS UP WITH A SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS

31 **Friday.** NEW YEAR'S EVE.Bells 11.30pm at Holy Cross Church.SERVICE to welcome in the New Millennium 11.40pm. Bells 12 Midnight to ring in the New Year. At Ex-Servicemen's Club: Disco with free Buffet 8pm ticket only. Tickets: adults £5, children £2, family £12, OAPS £3, available from the Club.

January 2000

1 **Saturday.**NEW YEAR'S DAY. Holy Cross open 9.30am for quiet and prayer. Village SERVICE for the MILLENIUM 11.30am. Bells ring out at 12 midday.

2 **2nd Sunday of Christmas.** At Holy Cross: 8am Holy Communion, 10am FAMILY SERVICE for the MILLENNIUM with Baptism; 6.30pm Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing at the Baptist Church. At the Baptist Church: 11am Brian Hill: At the Threshold of ?.

3 **Monday.**NEW YEAR PUBLIC HOLIDAY.Rector at HMP The Mount 8am-12noon [weekly].

4 **Tuesday.**Sarratt School Staff Training Day. School closed. Rector at HMP The Mount 8am-4pm [weekly]. 'Prayers for Sarratt' 7pm at the Baptist Hall.

5 **Wednesday.**Early Prayers 7am at The Rectory [weekly]. 8.55amSarratt School Term begins. **Holy Communion** [MU Corporate] 10am at the Baptist Church [all welcome].. SPOTLIGHT Editorial meeting 7pm at The Rectory.

6 **Thursday.**THE EPIPHANY. Home Group 9.30am at Mossmere Deadmans Ash [264844]. Infant Health Clinic 2.30-3.30pm in Doctors Surgery [Liz Corp 776003]. House Group New Year's Tea 2pm at Red Lion Cottage [263176]. **Holy Communion** with Hymns 7.30pm at Holy Cross Church. Holy Mass 7.30pm at Church of Our Lady, Dunny Lane.

7 **Friday.**Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament 1-5pm at The Church of Our Lady, Dunny Lane.

8 **Saturday.** preparation of CHRISTINGLE oranges 10am at Baptist Hall [p5].

9 **1st Sunday of The Epiphany.**At Holy Cross: 8am Holy Communion, 10amParish Communion, 4pm CHRISTINGLE Service [p5].Choral Evensong. at 6.30pm at St Paul's Chipperfield. At Sarratt Baptist Church:11am Brian Hill with Communion. SARRATT COMMONS VOLUNTEERS 'Hedgerow Management' meet 10am at Dawes Common Carpark. All Welcome.

10 **Monday.** Mums & Toddlers Group re-commence 10am in the Baptist Hall [264842]. Healing Prayer Group 2.30pm at The Rectory. Friendship Club 2.30pm in the Baptist Hall. Sarratt Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm in the Pavilion KGV. PCC Meeting 8 for 8.15pm at The Rectory.

11 **Tuesday.** Home Group 7.45pm at Willowcott The Green [269864]. Understanding Group 8pm at Minstead Red Lion Lane [268762].

12 **Wednesday.** Early Prayers 7am at The Rectory. **Holy Communion** 10am at the Baptist Church.. Rickmansworth Deanery Chapter Meeting 11am at St Peter's Mill End. MOBILE LIBRARY 10.45am-12.15pm. ALPHA GROUP & Meal at The Rectory [last of present course]. WI Meeting 2.15pm in the Pavilion KGV:The Peace Hospice & the Hospice Movement.All welcome[p18]

13 **Thursday.** Home Group 9.30am at Mossmere, Deadmans Ash [264844]. PRAMS & PUSHCHAIRS SERVICE 2.30pm at The Baptist Church.[p2].

16 **2nd Sunday of Epiphany.** Services at usual times at local Churches. JUNIOR CHURCH re-starts at 10am in Baptist Hall. At Sarratt Baptist Church: 11am Brian Hill. Evensong 6.30pm at St Lawrence's Bovingdon.

17 **Monday.** SARRATT CARE Lunch 12.30pm in the Pavilion KGV [p8]. START OF WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY [p12].

18 **Tuesday.** Sarratt Local History Society's AGM 7.30 for 8pm at Sarratt School [p13]. Flint/September Cottage Home Group 8pm at Greenacres, Dimmocks Lane [267736].

19 **Wednesday.**Early Prayers 7am at The Rectory. **Holy Communion** 10am at the Baptist Church. Mothers Union Annual Meeting & Birthday Tea, 2.30pm at The Rectory. PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 7pm in the Baptist Hall [p12]. FORWARD FROM ALPHA 8pm in the Baptist Hall [p7].

20 **Thursday.** Home Group 9.30am at Mossmere, Deadman's Ash [264844]. House Group 10am at Pevensey Church Lane'Time.....to Make a Difference' [263176].

22 **Saturday.** Tree Planting by Morton Neal for Sarratt Horticultural Society 12 noon on Sarratt Green [p19].

23 **3rd Sunday of Epiphany.** Morning services as usual at local Churches. JUNIOR CHURCH 10am at the Baptist Hall. PRAYER & PRAISE 6.30pm at Chipperfield Baptist Church. At Sarratt Baptist Church: 11am Revd. David Walker with Communion; 6.30pm Service of CELEBRATION& PRAISE.

24 **Monday.** Friendship Club 2.30pm in the Baptist Hall.

25 **Tuesday.** Home Group 7.45pm at Willoucot The Green [264844]. Understanding Group 8pm at Minstead. Red Lion Lane [268762].

26 **Wednesday.** Early Prayers 7am at The Rectory. **Holy Communion** 10am at the Baptist Church. MOBILE LIBRARY 10.45am-12.15pm. FORWARD FROM ALPHA 8pm at the Baptist Hall [p7].

27 **Thursday.** Home Group 9.30am at Mossmere Deadmans Ash [264844]. Evening WI Meeting 8pm in the Pavilion KGV: Mrs. Barbara Harvey on ACWN [p18].

30 **4th Sunday of Epiphany.** Morning Services as usual at all local services. JUNIOR CHURCH 10am at the Baptist Hall. At Sarratt Baptist Church: 11am Brian Hill. PATRONAL FESTIVAL 4.30pm at St Paul's Chipperfield.

'I will surely deliver thee.....said The Lord' Jeremiah 39:18

STOP PRESS:

TOOTS DOWNER, BELOVED OF US ALL DIED AT HOME AT 4.30PM ON FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER. GOD REST HER SOUL AND COMFORT HER BERNARD

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, CHURCH END, SARRATT

Priest in charge	Rev. Peter Hart	264377
Hon.Asst. Priest	Rev. Michael Hewlett	263803
Church Wardens	Mr.Michael Clark	264529
	Miss Joyce Newton	267291
Organist / Choirmaster	Mr David Clough	264884
Junior Church	Mrs Edith Twells	448167

1st Sunday in Month
8.00 amHoly Communion
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Holy Communion with Healing

Other Sundays in Month
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Communion
10.00am Junior Church in Sarratt Chapel
6.30pm Various Services

Weekdays
Major Holy Days as announced

Wednesdays
10.00 am Holy Communion

SARRATT BAPTIST CHURCH, THE GREEN SARRATT

Minister	Rev. David Walker, Croxley Green	231403
Lay Pastor	Brian Hill, Willoucot, The Green Sarratt	269864
Sundays	11.00 am Morning Worship	
	(With Communion **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Sundays in Month)	

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR, CHIPPERFIELD

Priest	Father Desmond Cantwell	
	The Presbytery, Dunny Lane, Chipperfield	265327
Saturdays	Holy Mass 6pm	
Sundays	Holy Mass 9.00am & 11.00 am	
Weekdays	Holy Mass 10.00am Monday,Tuesday & Friday	

SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:	Mr. David Rees Home 270387	Work 260382
Clerk:	Mrs. Doreen Boast, 106,Cassiobury Park Ave	249709
9.30am-12.30pm	Watford, WD1 7LF	
Monday - Friday	Ansaphone available when the Clerk is out of the office.	
Excluding Bank Holidays		

Sarratt Junior Mixed Infants School

Headteacher	Mrs.Christine Buck	262003

Sarratt Community Bookings

Village Hall	Mrs N. Singleton	266088
King George V	Mrs B. Biggerstaff	267584
Field / Pavillion		
SARRATT CARE	Monday - Saturday, 9.00 am - 2.00 pm	270577
POLICE	(Ask for Rickmansworth Police Station)	472000

SARRATT GREEN



8.30 PM - 31/12/99



REV. PETER HART. 1-1-00

7/1/00

Honourable efforts recognised

A few special individuals were recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours but, as they admit to **YANA DE SILVA** and **LIZ FORD**, the awards recognise a myriad more people

CBE – Commanders of the Order of the British Empire
OBE – Officers of the Order of the British Empire
MBE – Members of the Order of the British Empire
CB – Companions of the Order of the Bath

'Well deserved' honour of a community figure

TEAMWORK, determination and support have led to a hard-working member of Sarratt Parish Council being named in the Queen's New Year's Honours.

Mrs Valerie Cumming, of Old Red Lion Farm, Sarratt, was awarded an MBE for her services to the community as a parish councillor, her work for the Cancer Research Campaign, Sarratt Care – a volunteer service to help the housebound – Sarratt Preservation and Conservation group – preserving the natural areas of the village – and as a member of Holy Cross Church.

This week, her family and colleagues spoke of how "well-deserved" the honour is.

Her daughter, Ms Jane-Fiona Cumming, said: "My mother is absolutely thrilled by this. I know she feels it is very much a result of all the hard work by the wonderful people in the area and Rickmansworth who have given so much."

Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council David Rees added: "It is a well merited award. This lady has worked very hard for the parish, borough and Cancer Research.

"People go to her if they have concerns and problems, as she is a very caring person. Of all the people in the borough, she gives her all and you can't ask more than that. It is a great honour for the village and the parish council."

The Rev Michael Hewlett, of The Green, Sarratt, who has known Mrs Cumming for 14 years, said: "Valerie is a public spirited lady, who has done a great deal for the village.

"She is a great contributing factor to the village and has the gift of prominence and energy that makes her a well known and valuable member of the community."

Mr Roger Widdecombe, area fundraiser for the Cancer Research Campaign, was delighted by the news.



Mrs Valerie Cumming.

He praised Mrs Cumming for the "Herculean" efforts she and her team in Rickmansworth regularly make to raise much-needed funds.

He said: "In late 1998, her team won the Nuffield trophy for raising the largest amount of funds in the UK. Every year, they manage to raise up to £40,000, which is fantastic.

"They are absolutely brilliant at what they do, from events such as the Latimer House Christmas Fair, which raised around £22,000, to golf tournaments and house-to-house.

"I'm delighted she has won this MBE, as it is richly deserved. We are very proud."

● Mrs Cumming became ill on Christmas Eve and was taken to the intensive care unit of the Middlesex branch of the University College of London Hospital. On Wednesday, a spokesman described her condition as "stable".

WATH. OBS., 7-1-00

MP devoted for two decades

DEVOTED political figure Richard Page has been praised for his commitment to his constituents, after celebrating 20 years as Conservative MP for South West Hertfordshire.

Mr Page, 58, celebrated a double decade of service to the community with members of the constituency party past and present at a reception held in Chorleywood last month.

Mr Page, who attended with his wife, Madeleine, received a letter of support from leader of the Conservative Party William Hague, who was unable to attend the reception.

In a letter of support, Mr Hague paid tribute to Mr Page, thanking him for his "help and advice" through the years.

Mr Page has been a member of the House of Commons since 1976, when he was first elected a Member of Parliament for Workington in Cumbria.

After losing his seat in the 1979 election, he came south where he successfully fought for the South West Hertfordshire seat in a by-election on December 14, the same year.



MP Richard Page.

He has successfully fought off attempts by Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates to take the seat ever since.

Boundary changes have seen his political constituency alter greatly in the past 20 years.

With the loss of Bushey, Kings Langley and Carpenders Park and the addition of Tring to his constituency he now serves a population of more than 73,000.

Honorary treasurer of the South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association Mr Andrew Green described Mr Page as "an excellent Member of Parliament".

He said: "He is best known for being a very hard working constituency Member of Parliament, dedicated to caring for his constituents rather than seeking high office."

As a businessman, Mr Page chose to accept a ministerial appointment with the Department of Trade and Industry under the last Conservative administration, concentrating in particular on issues relating to small business.

He has worked on the public accounts committee in Parliament but his work has largely been at grass roots level, working for and with his constituents.

It is for this dedication to his electorate Mr Page is best known.

Mr Green said: "I have known Richard Page for ten years as a constituency officer, and I have always found him a good source of common sense advice. He is friendly and genuine, with a strong sense of integrity."

Mr Richard Page has pledged to defend his seat again in 2002.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2000

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

Dear Resident of Sarratt Parish,

We are delighted that work has now commenced on the rebuilding of Sarratt Village Hall.

Demolition of the rear portion of the building took place before Christmas and groundworks and foundations are in the course of construction. Shortly, framework and wall construction will begin. Internal works should start in April with final completion expected in the mid part of the year.

The plans for the new hall included a greatly increased auditorium, more stage area, a larger bar, facilities for the disabled and an improved kitchen. In addition, the new building will have a permanent Parish Office.

Most of all, the rebuilt hall will mean that we will have a light and airy meeting place in Sarratt for community functions for many years ahead.

The Village Hall Rebuilding Fund (money already raised by you over the years), supported by grants from the National Lottery, Groundwork Hertfordshire, The Countryside Agency and Three Rivers District Council has enabled us to place a contract for the construction of the main section of the hall. Unfortunately, these monies will only provide the basic construction of the building.

In times gone by, residents of the Sarratt Parish would give freely of their time to physically construct and maintain their village amenities with hammer and paintbrush. Our society today may be somewhat different but the spirit and needs of the community remain. In this age it is money that gets the job done and we desperately need your support.

The committee has placed the maximum value of contract that the current funds allow and this covers: Rebuilding the main hall, a Parish office, rear meeting room, storage room, bar area, totally new roof and access paths.

We are now in great need of more funds to create a truly worthwhile centrepiece to our community.

The items as yet unfunded include: Refitting the kitchen, staging, car park surfacing, 1st floor clubrooms at the rear, updating existing front section (refurbishment of front entrance and porch) and landscaping.

In September last year, the Village Hall Management Committee sent an appeal to the residents of Sarratt Parish. We thank those people who have already contributed. We urge anyone else considering the matter to contribute either as a donation (no matter what size) or by way of tax efficient gifts or covenants.

Yours sincerely,

Sarratt Village Hall Management Committee

Please take this opportunity to support your community. As you can see, we are still some considerable way from our overall target and you can help by sending contributions, however **large or small**, to:

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL
c/o The Treasurer,
13 Alexandra Road,
Sarratt,
Herts WD3 6AX

Telephone:
Clive Saddler on 01923 265986
or Muir Stratford on 01923 260475

Carey attacks worship of fame

By Alan Hamilton

A SPIRITUAL dimension was finally added to the millennium celebrations yesterday when Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, attacked the worship of fame, wealth and power and urged a return to the basic Christian values of love and faith.

Dr Carey, addressing the Millennium Service for England in St Paul's Cathedral, said that the morality preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, extolling the meek and the poor in spirit, now appeared topsy-turvy to today's generation, but challenged fundamentally so much of what was taken for granted.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh headed the congregation, which also included Tony Blair and his family, several Cabinet ministers, invited representatives of other faiths, and 2,000 ordinary parishioners from every county in England nominated by local Christian churches. William Hague was invited, but chose to holiday in America instead.

ADMIT ONE

St. Paul's Cathedral

MILLENNIUM SERVICE FOR ENGLAND

Sunday, 2

Tickets holders ar

PHOTOGRAPHY

ADMIT ONE

St. Paul's Cathedral

MILLENNIUM SERVICE FOR ENGLAND

on

Sunday, 2nd January 2000 at 2.30pm.

Tickets holders are requested to be seated by 2.10pm

PHOTOGRAPHY NOT ALLOWED IN CATHEDRAL

BIDDING

read by MR BEN OKRI

The Millennium is a moment we have marked out; a moment when we are faced with the larger questions of time, new beginnings, the unknown. History only knows two responses to the unknown: silence or terror; praying or panic; courage or cowardice. Which is why it is important that we clear our minds, that we listen, that we prepare ourselves for what we are going to bring about. We are living on the cusp of wonders and terrors. Time is yet young.

Is humanity exhausted? Individuals are, nations are, some civilisations are; but humanity isn't. There can be no exhaustion where there is much to be hoped for, much to work towards. Have all the possibilities of the last two thousand years been exhausted? Has Christianity really found its fullest fruition? I do not think so.

The Millennium is here already. Never again will we stand at the threshold of a new Millennium. The new Millennium happens every day. Every day is a new world. Our future is greater than our past. The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to love, to transform.

Ben Okri (extract from *Mental Fight*) published by *Orion*





THE OLD VILLAGE HALL



SARRATT SKIES: **Even in winter, Sarratt Green and The Boot can still be enjoyed by residents and visitors nipping in for a quick post-walk drink to warm them up.** Picture TO33712:DIMON JACOBS



Putting down roots for the new Millennium

NEW beginnings were celebrated at the weekend when Sarratt Horticultural Society planted a tree to commemorate the Millennium.

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Mr Morton Neill (pictured left), who is also the society's president, carried out the honour of planting the field maple on Saturday afternoon.

He said: "I often plant trees for various charity and memorial events, so it is something I am quite good at and do enjoy. The fact I am president of the society has helped to make it all the more enjoyable."

Mr John Lyons, chairman of the society, added: "The field maple, which is about ten to 12 years old, was grown in a local nursery by Mr Graham Peiser. It is something that will grow with the village and something we can all relate to and think of as ours.

"It will take about another two generations to grown to its full height of 35 to 40 feet, and we will get much enjoyment from it. The millennium is all about new beginnings and new things, so we thought a tree was an ideal way of welcoming it."

Picture T033701: SIMON JACOBS

Stolen table

A PICNIC table was stolen from the children's play area in George V Way last month, Sarratt Parish Council was told on Monday. The theft came five months after the table was installed in the pavilion grounds with a selection of play equipment. The £400 table was bolted to the ground. Councillors believe thieves would have needed to use a spanner or bolt cutters to take it.

Guided walks

A GUIDE to 12 circular walks around Sarratt, compiled by members of the WI, is still available from Sarratt Post Office Store in The Green. New Walks on Old Paths is priced £1.50.

2000

Mrs Connie Buller

WELL-KNOWN and successful businesswoman Mrs Connie Buller of Sarratt has died at the age 60.

She is survived by her husband Phillip and daughters Suzanne, Alex and Sylvia and grandchildren Lucy and Thomas.

During her life she built up a highly successful employment agency with business partner Peggy Pearce called The Peggy Pearce and Connie Chong-Tai Employment Agency.

It began in Villiers Road, Oxhey, in 1988, and moved a year later to Bushey High Street.

Mrs Buller ran the agency herself when Mrs Pearce retired and it is now run by her daughter Suzanne at its new premises in Park Road, Bushey.

A member of the family said: "Connie saw the good in everyone and was a constant source of encouragement to us all in our work and play and never failed to congratulate any success.

"She was full of life and had a prodigious memory for names and dates. She never forgot anyone's birthday or anniversary."

Mrs Buller was born in Northern Ireland and came to England with her sister Pat in 1958 to train as a nurse at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

She met her first husband Horace Chong-Tai at RAF Halton and they married in Singapore.

They came to Watford in 1969 and lived in The Harebreaks, north Watford, subsequently living in Kings Langley and Abbots Langley. The couple later divorced.



Mrs Connie Buller at her 60th birthday.

Mrs Buller worked as an Avon lady in 1974 and prided herself on an excellent memory of the customers she visited. She even remembered the details of the first sale she ever made.

She was promoted to area manager for Watford, Hemel Hempstead and parts of Tring.

Mrs Buller was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1979 but the family said she never allowed it to affect her life.

In the same year, she joined the Blue Arrow Employment Agency and became manager of the Rickmansworth branch, as well as a trouble-shooter, dealing with problems within the company area for Watford, Hemel Hempstead and Ealing.

Mrs Buller was active in the community as a Baptist visitor at St Lawrences Church in Abbots Langley.

She was also involved with Victim Support, the Samaritans in Watford and a member of the Bedmond Women's Institute.

When she moved to Sarratt, she became an active member of Holy Cross Church in the village and served for a time on the Parochial Church Council, helped with the Sunday school and supported various prayer and discussion groups.

She shared many interests with her second husband, Phillip, in the Austin 7 Owner's Club, The Veteran Cycle Club and the Rambler's Association.

Mrs Buller had a passion for travelling, and visited many parts of the world and England with Mr Buller.

But in 1996, Mrs Buller developed bowel cancer and underwent surgery at Mount Vernon Hospital.

She appeared to make a full recovery in 1997 and visited her daughter Sylvia in Zimbabwe and Botswana, where she was teaching.

The cancer emerged again in 1998 but, despite chemotherapy treatment, the cancer could not be treated.

In spite of her illness, she celebrated her 60th birthday in February with more than 130 friends and family and attended the Millennium celebrations at the Sarratt firework display.

On Wednesday, January 5, Mrs Buller entered the Michael Sobell House at Mount Vernon and died two days later.

Mrs Buller was buried at Holy Cross Church on Monday, January 17.

Eight-month walkies raises charity cash

by Liz Ford

AN eight-month charity trek around the coast of Ireland, undertaken by a woman from Sarratt, ended with an official fanfare on Saturday.

Miss Genevieve Payne, of Dimmocks Lane, was greeted as she crossed the finishing line by the deputy Lord Mayor of Cork at Cork City Hall, where she began her 3,200-mile jaunt in May last year.

Accompanied by her eight-year-old Jack Russell dog, Bertie, Miss Payne raised more than £9,500 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society through sponsorship and donations received along the way.

The former fashion buyer was so taken with the places she visited while undertaking her charity trek, she is planning to move to County Donegal next month to write a book about her extraordinary adventure.



Miss Genevieve Payne and her faithful companion, Bertie, who have just completed a 3,200-mile walk around Ireland.

Picture S181328: JOE SHEEHAN

She said: "Having spent eight months walking the highways and by-ways of Ireland I need a quiet place to live. It's an incredible place for clearing out the cobwebs."

Walking an average of 15 miles a day, with only her dog for company, Miss Payne wore out two pairs of boots as she trekked through 18 counties in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Tough weather conditions which could have hampered her progress failed to materialise as the Irish enjoyed their warmest summer since 1995, last year, and a mild autumn.

The worst weather came on the penultimate day of the walk when Miss Payne said strong, cold winds whipped the rain in her face.

"But I just kept my head down and put my waterproofs on."

The 43-year-old said she relished the freedom the trip brought and added that warm welcomes from the locals she met en route helped to keep any feelings of loneliness at bay.

"I didn't get lonely. I stayed in bed and breakfasts, where there were always people," she added.

"I'm used to a solitary existence and, having worked in the fashion industry, talking to people all the time. It was a great joy not having to talk to anybody and just being able to walk around, completely emptying my mind. In our normal lives we don't get a chance to do that."

Television and radio appearances and articles in the local press as she toured round helped draw attention to her fundraising efforts. She was regularly stopped in the street by residents wanting to find out more.

Miss Payne said highlights of the marathon hike included a chance meeting with the leader of the Social Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) and winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, Mr John Hume.

However, her most treasured memory is the generosity of the people she encountered.

"Overall, the real highlight was all the people I met. They were what made the trip so special.

"They were fabulous, so welcoming. In the rural areas people had time to talk and were curious about what I was doing."

Her dog was also able to revel in the trip, returning home a father of 12.

Reading about her journey, a man from Limerick tracked the pair down to see if Bertie would mate with his two bitches.

Inspiration for the trip came from Miss Payne's friend Mrs Lynda Bond, 41, with whom she currently lives and who was diagnosed with MS ten-years-ago.

After being made redundant and selling her London flat, Miss Payne found she had the time and money to undertake the adventure.

Arriving back in the UK on Monday, Mrs Bond was the first to greet her friend with a bottle of Champagne and flowers.

"The trip confirmed to her I was completely mad, but I think she was touched that I thought to do it to raise money for MS."

ART: Grelle White speaks to artist Lady Angela Colman on her love of India

Magic of the east

TO most people, India is a captivating contrast of beauty and poverty, which leaves you feeling both enriched and helpless.

Sarratt artist Angela Colman, however, has developed a love for the sub-continent, which has resulted in both the stuff dreams are made of for herself as an artist and as a real act of support for the country and people who fired her inspiration.

It all happened through a mixture of fascination and chance and culminated in the ultimate accolade for the artist – a permanent show of 50 paintings of India at the London offices of Indian solicitors, Zaiwalla and Company, and a limited edition book of the collection, entitled India, Colours of a Continent.

From her quiet studio at idyllic Sarratt Mill House, the artist suddenly found herself elevated to being the celebrity at a high-profile gathering to celebrate the launch of the book, which will benefit India though the charity WaterAid getting all the proceeds.

For Angela it has all been a head-spinning experience, which started way back in childhood and consolidated itself during student days at Cambridge, where she came into close contact with the texture of India through a friend, whose bright silk saris and different outlook on life fascinated her.

She was drawn to India and when finally she went there as an adult, she was not disappointed.

Her first visits resulted in a show of paintings at the Mall Galleries in London, which was a complete sell-out success. Angela donated the entire proceeds, more than £10,000, to the MacMillan Fund to establish breast cancer screening clinics in India.

Shortly after the show, she was contacted by solicitor Sarosh Zaiwalla, who had seen the exhibition and wanted to buy some of her pictures for his offices.

"I only had four sketches left, which he bought," Angela recalls.

Two years later, out of the blue, she received another call from Zaiwalla's office. The firm had moved to bigger premises and would like to buy 50 paintings, preferably Indian landscapes.

The fact that Angela had run out of material was no stumbling block.

"They offered to send me to India and agreed to an open timescale. I didn't want to rush and lose the impact," said the artist.

It took three years and several visits to complete the commission, which was delivered in sets of four or six at a time and finally completed a year ago.

The reaction by staff and clients was such, Sarosh Zaiwalla decided to publish a limited edition book of prints of the collection.

"Lady Colman's ability to see India though English eyes while revealing the essential quality of her subject" was his reason for commissioning the paintings in the first place. The book is dedicated to the memory of his late father, Ratanshaw Bomanjee Zaiwalla, who was amongst the first Indians to qualify as an English solicitor and the first to set up his own business in London.

Sarosh added the ultimate accolade, as far as Angela is concerned, by inviting distinguished BBC India correspondent, Mark Tulley, to write the foreword.

The launch party, where the book was sold exclusively in support of WaterAid for a minimum donation of £30, was a glitzy affair with former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, among the guests.

Cameras were flashing, journalists poising their pens and a television crew from Delhi captured the scene of celebrating the artist from Sarratt, whose paintings reflect India as they themselves see it – one visitor who has been able to return the compliment of an amazing experience with tangible support for the future of the country she has come to love and respect.



Benazir Bhutto was among the guests at the London launch party.



India through English eyes – Sarosh Zaiwalla with Angela Colman and the book of prints from the Zaiwalla Collection at the launch party.



A typical example of the work of Angela Colman.

Concerns will not stop plans

by Liz Ford

FINAL plans to slow down traffic in Sarratt cannot be changed, the Highways Partnership announced this week, despite concerns raised by parish councillors.

Area engineer for the partnership Mr Steve Parsons said it was too late to change the proposals - published last month - and added contractors were scheduled to start work next month.

The move follows more than five years of consultation with Sarratt Parish Council and residents on the best way to introduce a traffic calming scheme in the village.

However, at a meeting of the parish council on Monday, councillors said they were still unhappy with some of the proposals and wanted proof residents had been sufficiently consulted on the scheme.

They also wanted to see a breakdown of costings for the work.

Parish councillor Mr John Dean said, although the partnership had addressed a number of issues raised during consultation, the council was "disappointed" it had not considered others.

The main area of concern for councillors in the £40,000 scheme lies in the introduction of granite strips at the entrance and exit of the village.

Current plans include the installation of two width-long, raised strips of granite at points in Sarratt Road and The Green. Further raised sections of road will follow, which will be painted red.

Councillors believe more granite strips, some covering just half the road, would be more effective in slowing down traffic but were told such a move would be more expensive, too noisy for nearby residents and could endanger cyclists because of its slippery surface.

Mr Dean said: "There will already be rows of granite. What we are asking is to put them halfway across the road.

"This has been done by the same engineers in other places.

"We don't understand how they arrive at their costings. The suggestion is we could go over budget. We don't think so."

The council also agreed to seek assurances from the partnership that residents living in Dimmocks Lane were adequately consulted about the introduction of chicanes along the road.

The move will see sections of the pavement extended into the road, causing cars to slow down as they weave around them.

Mr Dean said he wanted to ensure the new layout did not infringe on the use of residents' driveways.

Commenting on the council's requests, Mr Parsons said: "We have carried out a separate consultation with residents in Dimmocks Lane, and the vast majority have supported chicanes.

"We are not going to introduce more granite strips. We have looked at what the parish council has asked and taken safety advice. We wrote to the council and told them that."

He added that speed limits in the village would be reviewed in the next financial year.

Parish council would like to put horse plans out to pasture

A FIVE-METRE stable to provide shelter for four horses may be built in a historic Sarratt field.

At a recent meeting, members of Three Rivers District Council's planning committee agreed to grant permission for the proposal, which includes building a road at The Goslings in Bottom Lane.

The decision has provoked ill feeling among Sarratt Parish Council. Parish councillors feel the proposal would be a blemish on the site, comprising a small woodland with two fields, currently used for grazing horses.

Sarratt parish councillor Ms Pam Turner said: "We have objected to this development because the fields are very old and small, and the stable will dominate this lovely rural area.

"The applicant wished to build a concrete road, which will undoubtedly create a scar on the landscape."

Last September, Three Rivers District Council refused planning permission for an eight-metre stable block for six horses, and the creation of a road on the same site, because it was felt the proposal would be overbearing and would detach from the character of the area.

The council has subsequently said it agreed to this application because the reduction in size of the building will have less impact on the landscape.

In an attempt to safeguard the area, the council said it has imposed a condition to prevent the road being built in concrete.

Fears for badgers

A PAIR of badgers found dead in Sarratt may have been the victims of badger baiting.

The animals were discovered by the Sarratt Parish Council ranger, Dave Barker. Baiting was suspected because one of the animals had a cord tied around its neck.

Councillor Mick Warner said the ranger was monitoring the situation but no other badgers had been found since the initial discovery.

Mr Warner is keeping the area where the badgers were found secret to ensure that other animals in the sett are left undisturbed.

Jenny Bowen, spokeswoman for English Nature, said the possibility of badger baiting was always worrying, but was of particular concern at this time of year because it was the animals' breeding season.



Century capsule goes to ground

EVER wondered what life will be like in a hundred years time? Sarratt residents certainly were when they buried their time capsule on Thursday.

Councillor Mick Warner organised the burial, which was observed on Sarratt Village Green by a large crowd of local contributors, including pupils from Sarratt Primary School.

Councillor Warner said: "The things that went in were family trees, information on businesses which operate within the village, history on the village and most notably, pennies spanning from 1924 with three different monarch's heads on them.

"I'm thinking of registering it with the International Time Capsule Society on the World Wide Web through the British Museum."

The capsule will compliment the multitude of lime trees that have been planted by the parish council on behalf of local resident, Dr Michael Tomlinson, who passed away in February 1999, aged 36.

Councillor Warner is pictured left with youngsters Jack Adams and Emma Jane Owen, who helped him with the interment.

Valerie's prayers are answered before she receives her honour



A STALWART of parish council and community life says the prayers of those close to her helped her fight back to health from a serious illness - just in time for her to receive an MBE from the Queen.

Parish councillor Valerie Cumming *(pictured)*, whose award was announced in the New Year's Honours list, has just been presented with her honour after a six-week fight against a lung infection in Middlesex Hospital.

Mrs Cumming said she has been overwhelmed by the love and support she has received from residents and friends.

She said her husband Peter, and their daughters Fiona and Debbie, were inundated with well-wishing letters during her time in hospital and Mrs Cumming, who believes in the power of prayer, said she felt the prayers of those who had prayed for her to get well.

Mrs Cumming, of Red Lion Farm, The Green, Sarratt, received the prestigious honour in recognition of her service to the community of Sarratt.

But in typical fashion she told the Queen she was accepting the gong on behalf of the whole village and invited Her Majesty to visit one day.

Mrs Cumming, who has been a parish councillor since 1978, is a tireless campaigner for the village, offering her time to Sarratt CARE, the Cancer Research Campaign and, with her husband, has encouraged the preservation of wild flowers, hedges, woodland and ponds in the area.

"I think this village is marvellous. We want it to stay a village and we don't want it to become a suburb of London," said Mrs Cumming.

Mr and Mrs Cumming have also been the driving forces behind the restoration of the Sarratt Scrapbook, which contains a history of the village dating back to the 1850s.

The book, started by the Rev Riley, was professionally restored and rebound by a company in Scotland after Mrs Cumming sent the immense work to London's Guildhall.

John Cuthbert, a senior conservator at the Guildhall Library, described the book as a unique document of church and village life and urged residents to help restore it as soon as possible.

D270

INVESTITURE
AT
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
ON
TUESDAY, 7th MARCH 2000
(ENTRY FROM 10 O'CLOCK A.M.)

NAME OF GUEST CAPTAIN PETER CUMMING

This Card is not transferable and must be1 shown at the Entrance

Camogs.
LORD CHAMBERLAIN

What to do if the Queen turns up

I READ an item in last week's The Watford Observer with particular interest. It set my imagination running.

Valerie Cumming, who was rushed into hospital on Christmas Day and spent two months without speaking, has made what doctors described as an amazing recovery and was able to receive her MBE from the Queen last week.

Valerie won the deserved recognition for her services to the community of Sarratt.

Her work on the preservation and development of the great Sarratt scrapbook, a unique record of the past 150 years, is just one of many ventures she has been involved in, enriching the tapestry of village life.

However, it was the concept of Val telling the Queen about the village and suggesting she might visit one day that prompted a few visions, along with the mental reminder to clean up my front drive. Imagine the Queen coming to your community, be it Rushton Avenue or Chess Way.

I can picture the Royal Rolls, flag a-fluttering, negotiating the new traffic-calming obstacles, avoiding the probable collisions. PC Phil Wynnes, as the pedal-cycling outrider, is helping the procession to steer clear of the ducks crossing the road and making allowance for the village's perpetual road-walker, Bert.

"Visiting the treacle mines Ma'm? Well, that might be a bit of a problem. Yes, we do have a garage if you need to fill up, but bring cash – Bonzo doesn't accept credit cards.

"No, there's no one you should really avoid. The local inebriate will tell you he's 'dashed glad to see you' but he means well. Other than that . . . well, keep away from that Mr Jenks.

"You'll know who he is because he will have a load of books under his arm. He will only try and sell you a box of John Le Carre books. Mind you they are good value because you can get a £10 voucher for Clements and half a dozen eggs at the post office for free, just by showing the cover, Ma'am.

"Yes, you can bring the corgis, but, you can't let them off the leash on The Green because if Bob sees you, he will probably give you a roasting. Against the by-laws, Ma'am."

Actually, Val may been lulled into feeling it was a home from home at Buck House. Determinedly, she walked to meet the Queen, but the royal footman, who looked after her and her wheelchair, making her feel comfortable, was Johnathan Callun, who, it transpired, hails from Croxley Green.

Not only that, his brother Paul is the restaurant manager at The Cricketers, Sarratt.

"Yes, we could have an evening meal there, Ma'am, but don't make it a Wednesday. There are too many motorbikes about."



Val and husband Peter, attended by the Royal Footman, Croxley Green's Johnathan Callun, at Buckingham Palace.

Holy Cross Church, Sarratt,
Hertfordshire

Requiem Mass and Thanksgiving Service
for the life of

Michael Edward Hewlett (Priest)
1916 – 2000

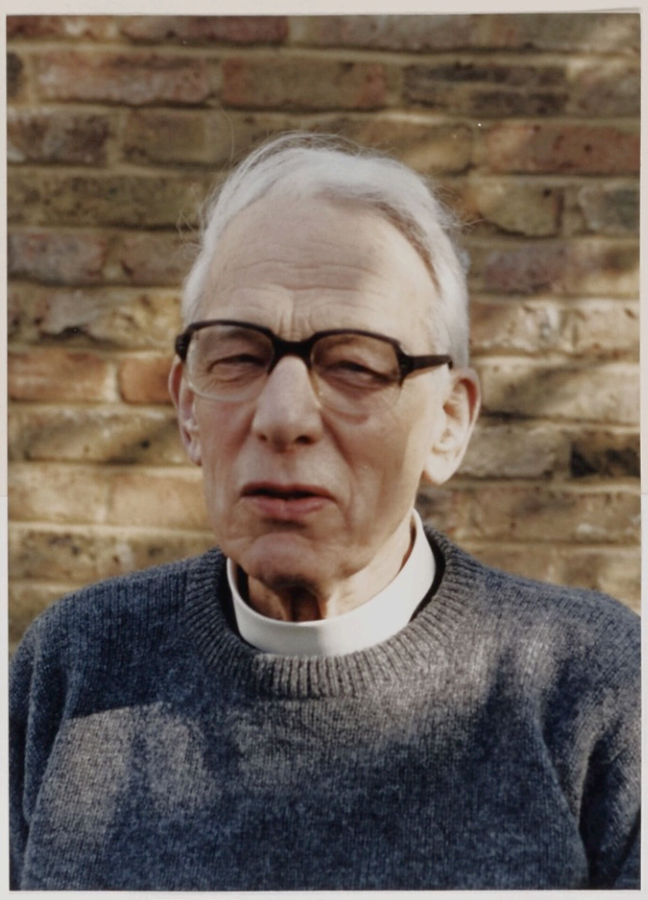
on

Wednesday 1st March 2000

at

12 Noon

**Celebrant – The Rt.Rev.Robin Smith,
Bishop of Hertford**



Order of Service

INTROIT

Lovers and carers all
Of him for whom we speak,
Though love goes on, we know
The chain of care must break.
No human touch can now fulfil
This love of ours, who love him still.

Helpless, we turn to God
Who loves and understands,
Who lets no living soul
Slip through his caring hands.
Into his keeping we commend
Our well-beloved one, our friend.

Father, forgive the faults
Which only you may know;
And what there was of Christ
In him, empower to grow;
That he may find his destined place
Within the heaven of your grace.

© 1989 Michael Hewlett

Tune: Love Unknown

"VALIANT FOR TRUTH" – Pilgrims Progress
Read by Rachel Belringer

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

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.

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.

And by that cross upon the hill
Spreading abroad its influence still,
Though trees may mask it, houses hide,
Our weekday world is sanctified.

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.

*© 1990
Michael Hewlett*

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

COMMUNION

Anthem

"Veni Creator Spiritus" (To be sung by Choir only)

Hymn

Bread on the table,
wine in the cup,
where the disciples
gathered to sup;
yet of these things
thou gavest thy word,
"This is my Body,
This is my Blood."

This is his Body,
This is his Blood;
Strength for the journey,
Heavenly food;
Healing for sickness,
Pardon for sin;
Jesus, our Saviour
Living within.

Thou in whom our
Redemption began
Under the earthly
Form of a man;
Here we adore
Thy Presence divine
Under the forms
Of bread and of wine.

This is his Body…etc.

Go with us, Master,
Out from this place,
Wrapped in thy Presence,
Filled with thy grace.
Sent out to serve
Yet never alone,
We will return
To kneel at thy throne.

This is his Body…etc.

*© 1965
Michael Hewlett*

2000

S.P.A Notice

Swimming pool meeting
Weds 10th May 8pm
Sarratt school hall

The Sarratt school pool can no longer be maintained by the S.P.A alone due to the on going heavy maintenance costs. A meeting is planned to discuss the fate of the pool. Everyone is invited to attend

Your school pool needs you if it is to continue

PARTY on THE GREEN

Saturday 27th May

You are invited to a party to celebrate the year 2000 in Sarratt.

Please bring, if you can, **a chair**.
Tables and some chairs will be provided.

If you like, you can bring your own food and drink or you can purchase these on The Green.
There will be:

A pig roast run by The Cart and Horses.
A barbecue run by The Boot.
A beer tent run by The Cricketers.
Ice Cream and Candyfloss.

Entertainment and music throughout the day.

Like to see the village from the air? – no problem – take a ride on a tethered balloon - weather permitting!

Limited Car Parking in Hyrons Trees' field – entrance just up from the Baptist Church.
This will not be signposted to prevent passers-by from stopping!

PARTY TIMETABLE

3:00	Start - free games and entertainment. Children's face painting for the Mediaeval parade – in the tent. Afternoon Teas served from "Curlew Café" – free! Bar open. Music : Brass band
4:00	Village photo - Please be there. - We are attempting to photograph everybody in the Parish! Please try and participate in this one-off historic event.
4:30	Children's Mediaeval "Lords & Ladies" parade – leave from the face painting tent.
5:30	Jazz band – Music for 'a feast'.
8:00	Dancing on The Green to a live 5-piece group.
10:30	Party ends.
11:00	The Green cleared.

Party open to all who live/work/play in Sarratt and guests.

19/5/00 W.D

Traffic calming measures met with local fury

by Liz Ford

PARISH councillors from Sarratt will decide next month whether to report the body responsible for the village's recent traffic calming measures to a Government ombudsman.

The move follows complaints by residents that the work was a misuse of public money.

At a Sarratt Parish Council meeting last week, residents called for an ombudsman – appointed to look into local government procedure – to investigate the handling of the traffic calming scheme by the Highways Partnership.

Sarratt parish councillor Mr John Dean said: "If a member of the public makes a complaint of that order, then we have to discuss it at the next parish council meeting. It's a serious complaint and needs to be looked into."

The £50,000 traffic calming scheme was installed in the village in March, after five years of consultation between villagers, the parish council and the Highways Partnership.

Chicanes – sections of pavement extended into the road, causing drivers to reduce their speed to weave around them – have been introduced along sections of road, along with rumble strips to force drivers to slow down as they enter and leave the village.

Speed limit signs of 30mph have also been painted on the village's main roads.

Traffic plans – which sought to stop drivers using the village as a rat-run from the M25 – were not greeted enthusiastically by villagers or the parish council when unveiled in January.

Mr John Biggerstaff, part owner of Biggerstaffs Garage in The Green, said: "Nine out of ten people who have spoken to me say it's a waste of time and money. They're not happy with the way it looks and people are still not slowing down."

He said once drivers travelling along Dimmocks Lane arrive at the junction with Church Lane and George V Way – past one set of chicanes – there is nothing to stop them accelerating through the main part of the village.

Other complaints were made about the white lines painted in the road around the chicanes, which were not deemed aesthetically pleasing.

Mr Dean added: "Enough complaints are coming out that people are not entirely happy with the measures. It's not what they expected.

"There's been a lot of criticism and it probably goes right back to the brief the consultants were given."

A spokesman for the Highways Partnership said: "We have worked closely with local residents and we have made changes to the scheme in response to their comments.

"We believe we have achieved a good balance between road safety and remaining sensitive to the character of the village.

"However, it's only been in a few weeks and will take time to settle. We will be carrying out an assessment in the next few months and will make any changes if necessary."

A representative from the partnership is expected to attend the parish council's meeting in June.

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Sarratt Parish Council will take place in the KGV Pavilion on Monday 8th May, 2000. Members of the public are cordially invited for 8.00 p.m.

CLARENCE HOUSE
S.W.1

20th May 2000

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has asked me to thank you for your letter in which you have told The Queen Mother of the celebrations which you and Sarratt Care are planning to mark Her Majesty's 100th birthday on 4th August.

The Queen Mother, who appreciated all the good wishes you have conveyed, was touched to learn of these arrangements, and Her Majesty hopes that it will be a very happy occasion for all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Leslie

Lady-in-Waiting

28/4/00 WD

Highlight in art calendar springs up

SURPRISE guest at this year's Spring Exhibition of Art in Sarratt this weekend is former Lady Mayoress of London, Lady Shelagh Nichols.

After a year of supporting her husband, Sir Richard Nichols, in the important role of Lord Mayor of London, Shelagh has returned to her own business, floral art, with renewed enthusiasm and vigour and has produced an amazing array of dried flower arrangements for what has become one of the highlights in the local art show calendar.

The event, in aid of Cancer Research Campaign, is hosted by Sarratt artist, Jan Clutterbuck, whose studio, gallery and home – Pentlands House on The Green – this year will be brimming over with a big city buzz, as well as a multitude of work by no less than 12 artists and crafts people.



Jan Clutterbuck – 'at home' with 11 other artists this weekend.

The American-born artist, who celebrated her 80th birthday last summer, is still an inspired artist, teacher and hostess with the ability to gather talented artists around her and make a visit to her home and exhibitions a rewarding experience.

Every year a surprise is in store, this year there are several.

Former Sarratt-based artist, Gillian Burrows, who is now making her mark in London, returns to the village with a selection of new paintings and prints from the Docklands and will be selling local Sarratt cards and prints.

Ian's daughter, Camilla, unveils a series of works she will be showing in London later this year. Camilla is a stage manager, currently working on the musical The Witches of Eastwick, whose talent for painting has been coming to the fore throughout the past few years.

Dick Onians, sculptor, who rarely emerges from his hide-away studio in deepest Chipperfield, will be showing some of his intriguing wood sculptures, often carved from one piece of wood – from branches to tree trunks.

Potter Sally Marks has prepared a new range of tactile and off-beat ceramics, and jewellers Iano Biggins and Diana Phillips make a return visit with objects of their art to tempt for both giving and keeping.

Every vacant inch of wallspace in the house, as well as gallery and studio, will be covered by works by Jan's painter friends, Mollie Binfiled, Justin McCabe and Liz Ogden, all well-known for their individual styles and outlook on local scenes.



Lady Nichols back in her floral art business after a year in the City.

As for Jan herself, she has spent most of her time since last year's show working on pictures of dogs, some straight, some humorous, some offered for sale as originals, some as low-priced prints.

Over the two-day show period, the grand lady of local art will take a break from practical hostessing. Members of the local Cancer Research Campaign committee will be on hand to welcome guests with cups of coffee and £1 admission and raffle tickets, while Jan herself takes up residence in her studio, a wonderful work room with views over the village green.

You can meet and chat to her and her guest artists from 10am to 4pm, tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

Time-warp trip ruffled no feathers

WE were told to bring our "cossies", because the last time the Jenks' jolly busload made the trip to Brighton, they actually went in for a swim.

The invitation also carried a polite request to wear something in keeping with the vintage bus, a Bedford 1931, but, with a distinct chill in the air, I came close to donning my historically as well as politically incorrect, but cosy and comforting, fur coat from 1994 – I think. I don't remember exactly when I bought it.

I tend to live in the here and now with an eye to the future, but must admit that the invitation to join this particular trip down memory lane, the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society's London to Brighton run, was too tempting to refuse. Besides, my husband was needed as co-driver and mechanic as someone who is genuinely fascinated by what goes on under the bonnet of old cars.

Dennis Jenks bought the bus as a retirement toy to ferry family and friends to places of fancy, from France to Ascot and – bus willing – back again. He admits he hasn't a clue what goes on under the bonnet.

Two days before the grand Brighton tour, the weather suddenly changed to promising, so I decided to do my period bit. I went to Watford Market, where general consensus approved a 1930's style black feathery cocktail hat, now back in fashion, to go with my straight, low-belted off-white linen dress. I threw in a cheap black feather boa for effect.

We rendezvoused in Sarratt at 5.30am and feathers were flying from the start.

"Your feathers or mine?" we joked, as black feathers drifted through the early morning mist while crates and baskets containing our picnic were loaded on to the bus.

Actually, only Jean O'Donnell and I were wearing black feathers. Sue Bull from Bovingdon was fairly swanking in a pale blue, real ostrich feather confection, which she modestly insisted had come from her grandchildren's dressing-up box. My grandson only dresses up in football kit.

I glanced enviously at our hostess, Judy, who had chosen tennis as her theme and was rewarded by wearing a sensible skirt, shirt and boater – not to mention hyper-comfortable shoes.

The flying feathers were definitely mine. The growing, fluffy black pool in front of my seat and all around my feet proved it.

Personal misgivings soon gave way to the excitement of heading down a near-empty M25 at maximum speed, 35 mph. At this rate we would have no trouble reaching Battersea Park in time for our official start time, 7.30am.We didn't even have to resort to the privilege of using the bus route on the M4. The road was empty.

We were picking up passengers en route. The Jenks' young grandson, Freddie, and father, Mark, joined us with a box of hot pain au chocolat and a pile of every single Sunday paper. The papers came in handy in Brighton, where they were used to cover up dog mess on the grass beside the spot where we had our picnic.

It was in Battersea Park with the delicious French pastry melting in my mouth that I began to truly feel a sense of occasion, of being part of something special.

Men and their motors! Lovestruck owners of vintage vehicles will lavish unlimited quantities of love, polish and elbow grease on the objects of their affection.

And here they were, gleaming, owners and toys, greeting each other by sounding horns as diverse as the vehicles themselves.

The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Mrs Lola Ayonrinde, was on the start line with a smile and good wishes. Cameras were clicking all around.

It is an extraordinary feeling being greeted by smiling, waving people as you drive through shopping centres and down country lanes. Hundreds of cameras were pointed at us, people had gathered in little clusters with picnic chairs, classic cars parked on grass verges at strategic points – crossroads or long, slow hills, which reduced speed to about 15 mph.

The Bedford bus with its festive bunting and jolly crew of 16, who cheered the driver every time he made it to the top of a hill or just made it through a green traffic light, must have felt like the ugly duckling elevated to a beautiful swan. Quite a different scene for a bus born to carry passengers on short journeys in deepest Monmothshire and, later in life, serving as a shed on a Welsh farm before being discovered and restored to renewed beauty, enjoying its retirement in the luxury of making people smile a lot.

We were beginning to feel like royalty, graciously waving and smiling all around us.

Increasingly I was beginning to feel like the Queen of Tonga.

I had stopped worrying about shedding feathers, but could not ignore the fact that black spots on my dress were not just feathers. They were black blotches. My boa had most probably been constructed from chicken feathers, dipped in cheap dye. With the heat of the excitement, the dye was parting company with the feathers.

I removed the constrictor – to reveal a totally black neck.

Happily, the public loos somewhere south of Croydon did not have mirrors and the unfortunate smear was forgotten during the stop for coffee and marmalade sandwiches (Pam Dickens, dressed like a schoolgirl, had done her period homework).

The London to Brighton run is not a race and the historic vehicles had been released into the traffic at intervals rather than in procession.

It was our turn to cheer – and commiserate. The only vehicle we had actually overtaken en route, the electric Harrods van, had been struggling. It came to a final halt nearby with our lot muttering words about "mean Mr Fayed" not coughing up the cash for a new battery.

For most of the more than 200 vehicles gently rolling towards Brighton, this was a no expenses and effort spared trip. There were pots and prizes awaiting and the contestants had been chosen from more than 800 hopefuls.

The line-up on Brighton Beach promenade was spectacular. We were allocated a space next to the only survivor of a batch of 60 Dennis Dart coaches built in 1933" and a magnificent Leyland type charabanc with rows of empty leather seats. The four men on board were "plain clothed" and spent the first half-hour after arrival rubbing and polishing every bit of brass on the already shiny beast.

We enjoyed a leisurely picnic. After the five-hour trip we were in complete period mode.

We had truly travelled south. The sun was shining, the Palace Pier beckoning. This is what it must have felt like going on holiday 70 years ago. Pam the schoolgirl shed her thick, black tights and dipped her toes in the water – the nearest anyone came to doing the beach thing this year.

We were lounging around pretending not to care when it came to prize-giving and magnificent silverware being presented by the Mayor of Brighton. The seats in the charabanc next door were filling up with boxes.

"We have three extra prizes this year," droned a voice through the loudspeaker. Best dressed firemen from somewhere (we had switched off) deservedly took the prize. "Second for best dress – Mr Jenks ."

I can honestly say I have never seen anyone propel themselves from a low beach chair with the speed at which our host and driver left his seat under the arches to claim the honour.

Smile of the day spread over his face, as Dennis Jenks, owner of Bedford coach 1931, entry no. K136, held up a cheque for £50 as if it were the World Cup.

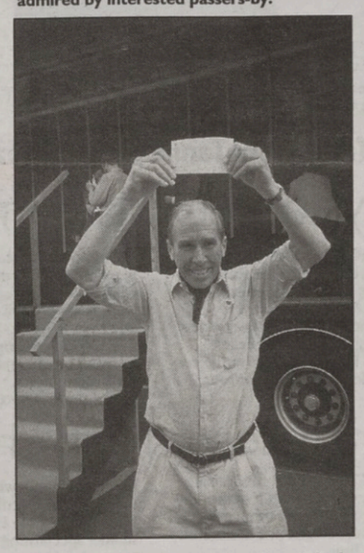
This was the icing on the cake and it was shared, a team effort. We may be asked again and, believe me, we will go – into a timewarp where motoring made you smile.

And I have learned my lesson: if you want to strike a posh pose on Brighton Beach, don't go for cheap feather boas in Watford Market.

It took a great deal of old-fashioned scrubbing to clean my neck that night and seconds to bin the offending object amid a final flurry of feathers flying all over the bathroom.



The bus that made the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society's London to Brighton run is admired by interested passers-by. Pictures: GRELLE WHITE



Whoopee, I won, says a jubliant Dennis Jenks as he holds up his prize.



Former village doctor Michael Scorer and his wife, Joyce, enter into the spirit of the trip.

Traffic-calming plans due for publication

16/6/00

PLANS to calm traffic along Dawes Lane in Sarratt are due to be published in the next four weeks, it was announced last week.

Mr John Westell, area manager at the Highways Partnership, said proposals are currently being drawn up for the introduction of chicanes – sections of pavement extended into the road – and parking bays along the road.

The announcement came at Sarratt Local Area Forum on Monday, June 5.

Once initial proposals are ready, they will be put before villagers for comments.

Plans for a car park on land along Dawes Lane have yet to be finalised, although a planning application is likely to be submitted to Three Rivers District Council before November.

The car park is dependent on the cutting back of a hedge beside Wards Nurseries in Dawes Lane, which cannot be undertaken until the winter.

Splat meeting

SARRATT residents are invited to the annual meeting of Splat – the village's own pantomime group – at 7.30pm on Thursday, June 15, at Sarratt JMI School in The Green. Anyone wanting to join the group, which has produced eight pantos in the past nine years, is welcome to attend.

2/6/2000

Plaque laid in memory of Michael

26-5-00

A PLAQUE was laid between four new lime trees on The Green in Sarratt on Saturday in memory of the son of a former rector.

The Rev Jack Tomlinson, minister of Holy Cross Church in Church Lane, Sarratt, for 23 years, oversaw the ceremony in honour of his son, Michael, who died in February last year.

Mr Tomlinson, who now lives in Norfolk, was rector of the church between January 1962 and November 1985.

The front bedroom of the then rectory, where Michael had been born, looked out onto the original lime trees, which were felled because of disease last year.



Michael's seven-year-old son, Navid, and his brother, Christopher, lay the plaque. Picture T205208: PETE STEVENS

Michael Richard Tomlinson

BRITISH MEDICAL SEPT 1999

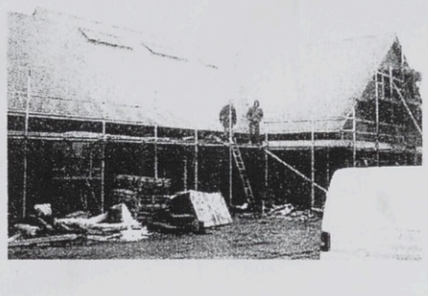


General practitioner Redhill, Surrey (*b* Sarratt, Hertfordshire, 1963; *q* Royal Free 1987), died from a heart attack while training for the British Heart Foundation's London to Brighton cycle ride on 28 February 1999. After vocational training in Ilford, Mike worked at Wamganui Base Hospital in New Zealand and then as a general practitioner in Australia. When he joined the Redhill practice his first priority was to establish a better team spirit and he then guided his colleagues towards improving the premises. He was ceaseless in his generation of ideas, often to the exasperation of others. He inherited a large list of elderly patients and never grumbled at the extra workload. In order to spend more time with his children, Mike devised a job share with his wife. His spare time was spent swimming, cycling, and entertaining his children. His favourite pastime was strolling with the family on Box Hill. He leaves a wife, Taraneh; a son; and two daughters. [JANET FRICKER]

UPDATE ON SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

May 2000

Work continues apace on your village hall



The contract is broadly on schedule and it is anticipated that completion of the basic structure will occur on time in June.

The building is now weatherproof and internal fitting out has commenced. The hope that the original woodblock floor would survive in situ has been dashed. This means that substantial additional cost is involved in implementing the 'green' and cost effective option of raising, cleaning and relaying the floor.

A grant from Three Rivers District Council has helped to plan a fine new kitchen that will provide greatly improved facilities for many years ahead. New commercial style cooker, dishwasher, refrigerator and kitchen units will serve the new functions anticipated for our twenty first-century village hall.

Many things have to be done before the Village Hall can become operational. Therefore provisional bookings are now being taken for September onwards.

Since the building contract was signed in December 1999, donations have raised a further £25,000. This generosity gives us the ability to expand the works to include a few of the much-needed extras. With limited funds available, choosing the most beneficial items for inclusion in the project is very difficult. Our current budget will not yet allow us to fund certain essential works such as updating the retained front section of the hall and landscaping. Changes in taxation now mean that all donations can attract tax relief rather than just those donations in excess of £250. Therefore a donation of £20 is worth in excess of £25 to the village hall.

A couple of notes for your diary.....

Prior to the completion of the building works you will have the opportunity to see the interior of the new hall. As part of the village celebrations on 27th May, the part-completed hall will be open for guided tours to village residents between 10.00 – 12.00.

On 2nd July, a number of village gardens including Nobles and Little Nobles, will be open to visitors in aid of The Village Hall and The Peace Hospice.

Sarratt Village Hall

Anger as cracks gape in pothole promises

OFFICERS from the Highways Partnership were told to shape up or ship out by residents attending a local area forum in Sarratt on Monday.

Residents criticised the partnership for its failure to repair potholes along the village's roads, despite a policy of fixing a pothole within 24 hours of receiving a report.

Mr Peter Cumming, who lives in The Green, said Sarratt's roads were now in a poorer state than at any time he could remember and he believed they could be among the worst in the country.

At the forum, held at Sarratt JMI School in The Green, he said: "We have had promises and promises and it's always the same.

"If you want to live with the job, do something about it. If not, find another job.

"Roads in Sarratt need a thorough survey and a thorough job doing to them. Don't say you will try to get there within 24 hours because it never happens."

Sarratt Parish councillor Mr John Dean said: "It's a horrendous problem, which needs serious investigation."

Sarratt Road and Church Lane in Sarratt and Plough Lane in Belsize were highlighted by residents as some of the most hazardous roads in the parish.

Defending the partnership, area highway manager Mr Chris Allen-Smith said all roads were subject to annual inspections. He said not all reported potholes were considered dangerous enough to warrant immediate attention and sometimes more urgent cases had to be given priority.

Contractors often "patched up" reported potholes until problems could be dealt with permanently, he added.

He said: "We have contractors 24 hours a day, every day of the year. We don't always achieve 100 per cent, but it's a lot closer than you may perceive.

"Roads are in a bad state nationwide and highways have been underfunded nationwide for years. It's a real problem.

"We don't have the funds to fix all roads in Sarratt, but we will try to keep them safe."

Potholes can be reported to the Highways Partnership on 01923 777320.

2000

Traffic calm after political storms

10/3/00 WO

by Caroline Graham

AFTER four years of discussion, traffic calming measures will be installed in Sarratt.

At an emergency Sarratt Parish Council meeting last Friday, residents settled the on-going debate by agreeing to the measures proposed to stop drivers speeding through the village and using it as a rat-run from the M25.

Progress has recently been stalled because the parish council and the Highways Partnership were unable to agree on the type of measures suitable for the village.

At the meeting, however, it was agreed chicanes, painting sections of the road red with the speed limit marked on it and rumble strips at the entry and exit points to the village will help slow down drivers.

Parish council chairman Mr Dave Rees said: "The Highways Partnership has come a long way in amending the plans so we are happy with them.

"The present plans are much better than the ones we were first presented with, but there are a few minor points which need sorting out.

"The urgency of the situation is that building work must start this month, before the end of this financial year, or the £50,000 allocated to this project will be lost forever.

"We called the meeting because we wanted the views of the people. We had gone as far as we could go as a parish council with amending the plans and trying to get the issues with these traffic calming measures resolved."

More than 40 residents from the village and nearby areas attended the meeting, many of whom contributed their varying views on the subject.

There were concerns the introduction of traffic calming would lead to further urbanisation of Sarratt, such as the installation of more street lighting.

Mr Frank Watt, of Red Lion Lane, said: "The money will be much better spent on repairing potholes in the roads. Traffic calming is the first step of urbanisation and more of that will lead to a net loss of income to the village."

The consensus among villagers, however, was that it would be best that some measures be introduced rather than risk losing the money altogether.

Mr Ron Higgs, of Rose Hall Farm, said: "We have got to take advantage of this scheme, if only as an experiment. It is quite a good idea, let's endorse it and hopefully we can control some of the traffic and make Sarratt a peaceful and safe place to live."

Suggestions were made by the parish council and residents that the red roads be replaced with green or terracotta and for rumble strips to be made from granite to be more in keeping with the rural tone of Sarratt.

Three Rivers District Councillor Mr Tony Barton and Hertfordshire County Councillor Mr Gerry Pullman agreed to take the proposals to the Highways Partnership.

A starting date for the work has not been finalised because councillors need to discuss amendments, but work is scheduled to go ahead before the end of March.



Winner of the children's section of Sarratt Horticultural Society's spring show, nine-year-old Joanne Horwood.
Picture: T124631: JANE PARR

31/3/00 W.O

Villagers' talents in bloom

THE talents of Sarratt villagers were in evidence at Sarratt Horticultural Society's spring show at the weekend.

Once again, residents showed their community spirit by coming together to stage another successful event with 310 entries by 41 entrants.

This year the school hall at Sarratt JMI School in The Green was transformed into a festival of spring flowers to house the show because of repair work taking place at the village hall, the show's usual venue.

The abundance of daffodils, vegetables, home-made lemon curd, handicraft, desserts and plants on display were admired by young and old including, the society's president, Sheriff of Hertfordshire Morton Neal.

Secretary of the show and winner of the Pinnaroo trophy in the Roy Ward Millennium section, Mrs Margaret Stratford was extremely pleased with this year's entries and her win.

Mrs Stratford said: "The show went very well and we had lots of support.

"We are also thankful for the use of the school, without it the show may not have taken place. We are also pleased it remained a fairly nice day, which always helps to bring people out to visit these shows."

Mr Roger Dudley, who triumphed with the best bloom of the show, said: "My secret is to enter every single class, that way I am bound to get a win.

"I don't have any special way that I tend to my daffodils, they come up pretty much the same each year. I guess it must be down to good bulbs."

A panel of four had the hard task of judging the show. Joanne Horwood's entry in the children's class emerged as the winner, among several imaginative entries.

In the arts and craft section Philippa Stower received a certificate for her patchwork quilt and knitting and in the cookery category Breda Tiernan and Audrey Griffith-Jones came joint first with their marmalade and raised pork pie.

Gifted gardener Joan Horwood won the Roy Ward trophy and the Dickins trophy for other flowers went to Patricia Watson. Joan North's artistry in the floral arrangements section merited her receiving the prize-winning certificate.

Presenting the prizes Mrs Jean Newell said it had been a wonderful show.

Keen gardener Mrs Newell said: "I am very impressed with the standard of exhibits, they are truly marvellous.

"These shows are instrumental in encouraging people to keep a good garden, no matter what the size. It also helps village interest and spurs on young gardeners to try their hand at exhibiting.

"It is all part of Sarratt's community spirit.

"The flower show brings us all together."

24/3/00 W.O

Grant cooks up funds for kitchen

THE "jewel" of Sarratt will soon gleam again after a grant was given to help refurbish the village hall's kitchen.

The management committee of the Sarratt Village Hall – a venue described as the village's jewel in the crown – is in the process of refurbishing the kitchen, after discovering the current equipment could not be brought up to the current environmental health standards.

The committee has resources available to fund half of the £20,000 revamp, but had to ask Three Rivers District Council for the remaining £10,000.

At the council's leisure meeting on Wednesday, March 8, the committee agreed to the funding, after a plea from ward Councillor Tony Barton.

Councillor Barton said: "Sarratt always feels like it misses out when it comes to help with funding.

"I am constantly feeling like Oliver Twist saying 'please sir, can I have some more', when it comes to the welfare of the village and its residents.

"The council seems to pump money into Watersmeet Theatre and it is about time the village hall, the jewel of our crown, has some much-needed funding."

Sarratt Care, which organises meals on wheels at the village hall is delighted with the donation.

Sarratt Care chairman Mrs Eileen Adams, who has been on the Sarratt Village Hall management committee for four years, commented: "We are in desperate need for something to produce decent food on."

Mrs Cummings returns

7/3/00

A WARM welcome back was offered to Sarratt Parish Council's missing member, parish councillor Mrs Val Cumming MBE this week.

Chairman of the parish council Mr David Rees welcomed back Mrs Cumming at the council's meeting on Monday. It was the first time Mrs Cumming had attended a meeting since her return from hospital in January.

Mrs Cumming celebrated her return with a glass of sparkling wine with her fellow councillors. The impromptu celebration gave her the opportunity to show off her MBE.

Mr Rees said: "She was in good humour."

SARRATT'S LIVING HISTORY

Would you like to become an everlasting part of your village's history?

One of the many attractions of our beautiful village is its ancient and absorbing history Sarratt was recorded in the Doomsday Book in the early part of the last millennium and in this historic year we wish to provide a chronicle of Sarratt life from the year 2000. With sufficient sponsorship and support we propose to place a

MILLENNIUM TIME CAPSULE

beneath the village green at the end of this year. The proposed secure burial site is beneath the new lime trees and a plaque will mark the location and plantation date. The contents of the Millennium Capsule will provide future generations with a true insight into village life in the year 2000.

Local organisations, business and families representing a cross section of our community can provide accounts of their lives and contributions to Sarratt life. Relevant artefacts, testimonials and registers may also be included. Research into this project has established links with the British Museum who wish to follow our project for inclusion in their records of historical community activities.

This initial letter provides a brief outline of the project and we wish to monitor the level of interest amongst the Sarratt community. This is a unique opportunity to work together as part of Sarratt's living history. If you would like to receive further information on this project, please let us know and it will be sent to you.

Please return the attached form to:
Mick Warner, 45 Church Lane, Sarratt or telephone/fax 01923 264618



PHIL BULLER
HIS DAUGHTER
SUZANNE
BILLSTONE

The Great Scrapbook of Sarratt – handled with protective gloves. Picture T153907: SIMON JACOBS

21/4/00 WO

Scrapbook 'is pride and joy'

THE Great Scrapbook of Sarratt got its first of two yearly airings on Saturday.

Inhabitants of the village old and new leafed through the scrapbook, which took pride of place at an open day of the Sarratt Local History Society at Sarratt Primary School in The Green.

Mrs Dawn Pitts, the society's president, said: "The scrapbook was started by the rector Wilbert Ryley in memory of his father, Edward, who was the village rector from about 1860 to 1912. It dates back to 1859 and we have carried on updating it through the years.

"It's a wonderful visual resource of the society and is our pride and joy."

Past editions are kept on microfiche for permanent record. Villagers made the most of the chance to see the real thing on Saturday, being provided with protective white gloves to leaf through its pages.

Mrs Ursula Lumley, 78, of Belsize, said: "I was born in the village in the Wheatsheafe cottages, went to Sarratt School, was married in the church and had the children christened there. We are very proud of the book. There's a memory on every page."

The exhibition contained objects dug up from Morton's Pond in 1996, the oldest of which was a half-groat dating from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

A photographic display depicted life in Sarratt at the turn of the millennium. Ensuring the society is keeping up with the times, the pictures have been transferred to CD-ROM.

7/4/00

Lights, camera and take action to finish film

by Liz Ford

FUNDS are needed to complete a project which captures Sarratt life on film at the dawn of a new Millennium.

More than £3,000 is needed to buy specialist editing equipment to finish Sarratt Millennium Club's film project.

So far, money to film snapshots of village life on a semi-professional digital camera has been sourced from club members.

The extra cash is needed to ensure the high standard of the recording is maintained during editing.

Cameras began rolling in the village last summer and filming is expected to end in June.

Throughout the year, the crew of villagers responsible for the project have been recording a range of village events, special celebrations, countryside pursuits and seasonal activities – many of which have been organised by the club.

No area of village life is said to have been ignored, with the work of clubs and societies captured on tape.

The idea for the Millennium film was conceived more than two years ago, and the 18 months prior to the start of filming was spent taking photos of locations, seeking permission to film subjects and approaching village organisations.

Sarratt Millennium Film director Mr John Rickard explains: "We had the idea we would like to make a record available to everybody of how the Millennium passed. There are plenty of things written but no-one seemed to be in a position to record events taking place in the year.

"It took a long time to put together. Filming is the easy part."

Among the moments already recorded are a children's summer camp, the demolition of the village hall and Millennium Eve celebrations.

Recollections of village life from older inhabitants have been recorded, as has a meeting of Sarratt Parish Council and a sample of the village's wildlife.

The crew has been on call to record unexpected events.

"It's unpredictable," added Mr Rickard. "Someone might ring you up saying something is happening and you have to get down there, whatever the weather or occasion, which makes it very interesting."

With the year of filming scheduled to end shortly, the millennium club is appealing to businesses and organisations to donate money to ensure a quality edit.

Villagers will be invited to the film's premiere, which club members hope will take place at the new village hall on The Green, when its building work is completed later this year.

A copy of the film will be lodged with the County Records Office, and recordings will be available for the public to buy.

Mr Rickard added: "A lot of people have shown interest in the project. It will be a shame to be let down by the last push.

"We need specialist equipment for editing. It is something we need to get right as, if it's not done correctly, two years work will not have been any use."

Anyone wishing to donate funds, or find out more about the project, can contact Mr Rickard on 01923 266913.

Village time capsule put on hold

THE idea for a Year 2000 time capsule in Sarratt has been put on hold due to lack of money.

The proposal by Sarratt Parish Council to bury a time capsule in the village, full of items representing this year, has been left in the lurch until £1,000 can be secured to finance the project.

Parish Clerk Doreen Boast said: "We unfortunately do not have £1,000 to fund the project so it can only go ahead if is it self-financed, and this is dependent on the number of residents wanting to join in."

APRIL 2000

Dead hedge will protect wild flowers

by Asha Tanna

VOLUNTEERS helped to create a dead hedge in Sarratt at the weekend in an attempt to protect the village's common.

The Sarratt Common Volunteer group put up the dead hedge – a fence made by weaving branches between stakes in the ground – to prevent intruders from climbing over a broken fence dividing the common with a neighbouring field.

A volunteer of the group and Sarratt Parish Councillor Mrs Pamela Turner said: "We were really just filling a gap in the barbed wire fence separating the two areas.

"Very often we find people who have been camping in the field next to the common have climbed through the fence and have trampled down all the bluebells to get through.

"The common has a beautiful oak tree, which often attracts unwanted attention and everyone at Sarratt Parish Council agreed we needed to stop this from happening again this summer.

"We decided to create a dead hedge, because we were advised by the Hertfordshire Countryside Agency that a living one would take too long to grow."

Councillor Turner added: "The gap in the fence is in the shade and it would take small plants a long time to grow to create a hedge – if they weren't eaten by rabbits first.

"It was an enjoyable morning and it only took two hours to construct our dead hedge, thanks to the help of all the volunteers and the ranger, Dave Baker."

These traffic measures leave you feeling anything but calm

21/6/00 WO



JUST A WORD
with **Oliver Phillips**

THERE is a growing trend towards curtailing speed on the roads. I can see the point, although I tend to agree with the motoring organisation which claims it is the quality of driving that is in need of improving. Bad driving is responsible for more deaths than speed, it is argued.

Well, there are various attempts to calm traffic. In Baldwins Lane, Croxley Green, they inrtoduced two mini-roundabouts, which tell you, whichever way you approach them, to "give way".

Now, whenever mini-roudabouts are introduced on main roads, there is a residue of mistaken thinking among those approaching it from a side road, that they should give way.

As a result, when all four approaches are occupied by cars, sometimes you can sit there looking at each other, wondering which one to the right is going to move first, like the scene from The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, waiting for the watch to stop ticking.

The county council introduced a couple of "pinch-points" in the road, but one of these was abandoned, presumably because it rendered Baldwins Lane dangerous.

There was also a few changes in Tarmac colour, which may have inspired Herts County Council to unravel a barber's pole of colours down St Albans Road, with a myriad instructions painted on the road.

If you travel round Watford nowadays, reading all the instructions on the road makes War and Peace seem like a short read.

You are so busy reading these instructions, you have run over a couple of pedestrians before you discover you are in the wrong lane.

Well, those looking after the exclusivity of the Moor Park estate have come up with a new form of traffic calmer to discourage the riff-raff from using the private roads. They have installed the heavy-duty rubber version of a razor blade, and placed three of them across the road.

Try taking them at anything more than five miles per hour and your eyeballs start spining round like Popeye after a blow from Bluto, and end up showing two cherries.

They are horrendous. If you failed to notice them and went over them at 28 mph, I should imagine your genitalia would be permanently rearranged.

But what's this? Back home in Sarratt, a number of islands have been built, installed in the road, in the cause of calming traffic. They have reflector lights and are strategically placed for some two-wheeled travellers to treat them like a chicane, weaving in and out of them.

On a river they would be called jetties but, apparently, they are dubbed "build-outs" – obstacles placed four feet from the kerb.

It is a novel concept, to say the least.

I know when seeking to calm traffic, it is a difficult one to call. I notice one reader, talking about the proposed traffic calmers in New Road, Croxley Green, questioned how many deaths in the road have been down to speeding traffic.

Then again, it could be countered, do you wait for a death before taking action?

My concern is directed at the wisdom of rendering something dangerous in an effort to force caution and so calm the traffic.

As in Baldwins Lane, when the bus stops opposite a calmer or obelisk, the traffic has to wait. In Sarratt, you run the risk of attempting to overtake the stationery bus, opposite one of these build-outs, just a few yards from a sharp bend.

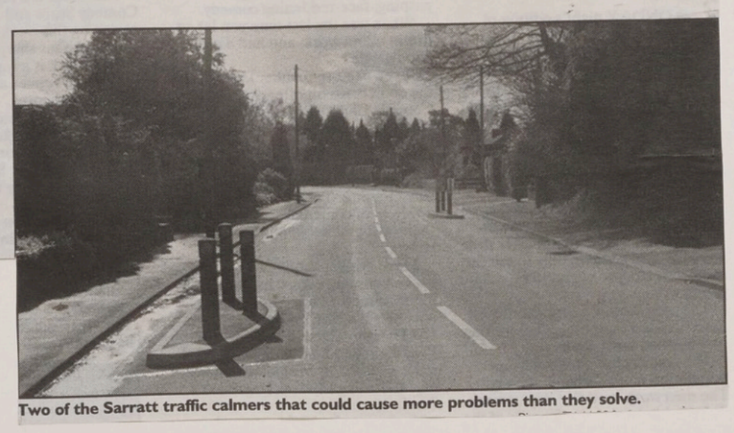
The alternative of being patient and waiting for the bus to move, so following "the flyer" all the way down to Croxley, which, believe me, is anything but calming.

They've also introduced a pinch-point at the Sarratt crossroads. Now some local wags contend these have been built so the nobs from off the green – the ones owning cars with long bonnets – can actually get near the crossroads to look up and down the main road.

In fact, this is just so they obtain a better view when pulling out, because with traffic haring past, it can be a little dicey.

The only query I have is if these traffic calmers are supposed to work, the traffing will not be haring past, so the give-and-take at the crossroads should be sufficient without the introduction of awkward pinch-points.

Personally, I think the calmers pose more of a threat to safety than the open road. I sincerely hope I'm proved wrong.



Two of the Sarratt traffic calmers that could cause more problems than they solve.

WATFORD OBSERVER - FRIDAY 28 APRIL 2000

All's fair in boys' love and war



JUST A WORD
with **Oliver Phillips**

THE football season is nearly over. I am usually reminded of that by the lorries and caravans parked on the approach road to Sarratt.

I pass them every year, contesting various verges and lay-bys, waiting for the green light to progress to The Green, and I am immediately reminded that summer is coming.

These lorries carry all manner of mechanical constructions which, quite amazingly, are bolted together and then provide hours of fun and/or nausea for those who attend Sarratt Fair.

It takes place every May Day. Some say there is a charter, but either way it is the established custom and practice. I can remember being taken to the fair from Watford and then Chipperfield as a child, and Topsy Smith, who has worked on it from her days as a toddler before the war, can go back even further.

"It has been going for hundreds of years," she tells me.

Fairs are one of those annual events which help to punctuate your life.

I can recall, when working locally, my boss fancied a trip to Sarratt Fair one year and with our respective girlfriends, we set off for the village.

After going round on sundry rides, we came to the dive bombers: those two capsules on the end of a Meccano-like arm, which go round and round, spinning at the same time.

It was a summer evening and he elected to take a ride. Sportingly, I joined him but as soon as we started to move, he began invoking the Almighty and, by the time we had completed two circuits, was calling upon me to "get this thing stopped".

I laughed at his humour only to discover he was in deadly earnest.

Going out on a social occasion with your boss, when only 19, is quite a coup but I could see the entire evening turning sour because when you are hurtling around in one of those pods, it is not very easy to call out: "I say my good man, could you stop this contraption - immediately".

I saw this as a career setback as The Green, the sky and my boss's agonised face merged while they flashed before me in quick succession, unable to instigate his pleas to "stop this thing".

Eventually we ground to a halt and, as we prepared to climb out, he advised me: "Don't say a word about this".

I could see my salvation. I kept quiet, described the ride as "quite amusing" and it was never mentioned again.

Years later, living in Sarratt, my children would see those lorries and caravans parked up on the approach roads the night before, and excitedly confirm that "the fair is coming", making sure I knew, because Dad would have to dig deep into his pockets that weekend.

I enjoyed Sarratt Fair vicariously, through my children. They would wait in anticipation of my return from work on a Friday evening and watch impatiently, almost willing the dinner down my throat.

We would be out on The Green, almost as soon as the power from the generators was switched on. The children would have already cased the lay-out, telling me what had changed and what was new.

Before long "Cyclone 2000" would start whirling and spinning, along with the contents of my stomach, as I took the kids in pairs on the ride.

The lady who works it, presses the accelerator towards the end and informs you, stretching the syllables to: "Hold ti-i-ight now, for and extra fast ri-i-de".

My wife would join us later, relieved to see that no calamity had befallen the children but for many of the years, concentrated on taking the baby on some of the more sedate amusements.

Gradually the children grew older and I had no further need to accompany them on the rides. I felt some relief, I must admit, because, as I grew older, my resistance to being tossed and hurled, upended and twirled, lessened somewhat along with the enjoyment.

So I just served as a mobile safe-deposit, with additional duties with regard to holding ano-



Sarratt Fair at the turn of the century.

David Spain Langley Archives

raks, coconuts, packets of forlorn and confused goldfish and the odd toffee-apple.

"Did you see us Dad. Why didn't you wave?" they would say breathlessly before racing off to the next ride, as I stumbled behind them like a beast of burden.

Nevertheless, there were blessings to be counted. I was relieved to have gone through the entire era, without ever needing to mount the Big Wheel, for none of the eldest four children had shown any enthusiasm for it.

I don't like being that much off the ground, and like it still less when it stops with you at the top.

But the escape was brief. My youngest, however, having something of a contrary streak, took a fancy to the Big Wheel and I would have to go with her every year, grinning through my teeth at the joy of it all.

"Why are you closing your eyes, Dad?"

"I'm feeling so relaxed I could go to sleep," I suggested as we spun high in the air. I think I got away with it.

In fact, the Big Wheel used to be situated just by The Boot, and I would promise myself an immediate pint if I ever got off the thing.

Before long I was able to second one of her elder sisters to accompany her, while I stumbled upon an approach to Sarratt Fair, I should have thought of much earlier. I became a stationery safe deposit box and anorak holder, situated on the forecourt of The Boot.

I found the goldfish were quite relaxed in their water-bags, taking a close look at the gravel courtyard and I relaxed with the aid of a different liquid.

For some years, I have had no need to go and, in fact, no desire to go. Which I suppose is sad. When you are younger, you can never imagine such a day.

There was a time when you could not keep me away from another fair. Every Whitsun there would be a fair in Cassiobury Park and I would watch them unpack and assemble, attend every day and then watch them depart, as often as not, to Pinner and their High Street Fair.

In Cassiobury, first the wire fencing would be put in place, embracing the gymkhana and motorcycle speedway track and the site of the fair.

I would walk into the Park every evening and savour the anticipation of the forthcoming weekend.

I remember that every fair had a record, one that was played regularly over the weekend, providing a backdrop to your experience. You would saunter round, imagining you were James Dean when in fact you were "that skinny geek from over on the estate". It was a time of illusion and delusion and you would find yourself walking in time with the beat as you strolled up to watch the waltzer, leaning against the railings while Heartbreak Hotel pounded out among the cedars of Cassiobury in 1956. A year later, Johnnie Ray's Yes Tonight Josephine hammered in your ears as you chased after the girls in the dodgems.

The Crickets with Maybe Baby caught my ear in 1958 and Buddy's It Doesn't Matter Anymore was the record of the 1959 fair in Cassiobury.

I probably remember that fair more than most because I was accosted by an acquaintance from prep school days a fortnight before it, and was asked if I knew the lad going out with a girl in Cassiobury Park Avenue.

"My pal fancies her. Tell your mate to keep away. We'll be over in numbers for the fair," he told me.

It was hardly West Side Story and even to my teenage ears the thought of a gang from Merchant Taylor's School threatening a quartet of youngsters from Cassiobury Estate in posh accents, seemed a little incongruous.

My friend decided to match threats with threats and came up with an imagined knife-throwing mate from Brazil, who was working with one of "the hards" on the fair.

So we threatened each other with these imagined comrades, which I found disconcerting. Come the crunch, I could not see us coming up with a knife-throwing Brazilian but the prospect of half of Merchant Taylor's rugby side coming to Cassiobury seemed more realistic.

The four of us, two of whom have now sadly passed on, had to make a speedy reconnoitre of the fair to try and establish who would fit the bill for our conjured descriptions. It was one thing making such a claim but, faced with the prospect of brawny rugby players quivering on the horizon . . . we had to come up with someone.

We suspected that our adversary was bluffing, but we could not afford to take the risk. So we were somewhat relieved eventually to discover at the outset of that wonderful summer in 1959 just the man. He was a really hard-looking individual with three-inch crepe soles, hair so dangerously long, it touched his collar, and a Presley-type sneer upon his lips as he jumped from dodgem to dodgem and dispatched his duties with an almost Brandoesque nonchalance.

Before we had a chance to establish a relationship or approach our "friend", our public school adversary was upon us, informing us pretentously: "The guys will be over later".

He then he asked dismissively where Pancho was, and we had to admit we had been unable to find the Brazilian but hastily stressed: "His mate is on the dodgems".

I often felt like approaching that dodgem-jumper in subsequent years for, as we pointed him out to this rugby-playing hood, crepe-soles caught us doing so.

Now people like that, in those days, tended to make irresistible offers if they thought you were talking about them. Things like "do you want your face rearranged?" and such-like.

Well, he looked straight at me and, would you believe it, not only smiled but stuck his thumb up in the sign of friendship.

That was enough in this game of bluff. It was obvious crepe-soles was a life-long friend and so the boys from Taylors never came over from Northwood.

But then, I suspect, they never were going to anyway. It was just that we were better at laying our hands on a bit of bull's excreta.

The summer burned on memorably and, before long, it was fair-time again with the Everly's Cathy's Clown booming out over what was once the Earl of Essex's preserve and, the following year, Del Shannon's Runaway was the flavour, but then I lost touch.

Years later, when with my young children, I fancied I saw the "hard" from the dodgems. The years had taken their toll but he still had that aura.

I thought of him as I spotted the whitewash marks on Sarratt Green this week. After commencing tonight (Friday), Sarratt Fair goes through the weekend opening on Saturday and Monday afternoons and then Tuesday evening.

After that, they break camp and head for Woburn Green, near High Wycombe, probably hoping for a kinder deal from the weather.

"We have been operating for four weeks and it has been flooded everywhere," says Topsy Smith, whose husband Tom will be hosting a Sunday morning service on the dodgem car rink this weekend.

Topsy has been working on the fair as girl and grandmother. The rides had once been all steam, but much is unchanged, including the tendency to call in other "show people" with their stalls and rides to produce one really big fair in the locality.

Her grandchildren and children still work on the fair. "We have to do it ourselves. I'm still working. There are thousands unemployed but we go down the job centre and we cannot get anyone to work on the fair." That sounded quite surprising. If I was young and unemployed, certainly the chance of working on the fair for a season would have appealed.

But then attitudes, not just times have changed. We are all part of that.

As a teenager, there seemed to be a certain glamour in such work. You never contemplated the months living in a caravan, you just thought of all those young girls you could impress leaping from dodgem to dodgem, or spinning a pod-load of screaming nubiles on the waltzer.

And all that tax-free change you could find under the rides after it dropped, having been haphazardly stuffed into pockets.

Yes, there was a time I could picture myself dancing from dodgem to dodgem, collecting the fares. But one thing I do know, had I ever got the chance, and spotted four wimps pointing at me, I would not have been so uncool as to give them the thumbs up.

I would have growled and sent them running.







2000

Residents only party is a success

2/6/2000

DESPITE the sporadic showers and blustery wind, residents in Sarratt turned out in full force on Saturday for their parish millennium party.

The outdoor event on The Green, organised by the Sarratt Village Day Committee, was the result of four years careful consideration and planning.

The event was to mark the beginning of a new century, and was arranged solely for residents in and around the parish.

One of the organisers, Mr Roger Dudley, said: "This is a one-off event organised for villagers to take advantage of.

"There has been a village day for a number of years but today is special because most of the stalls and activities on offer are free.

"The event is for a good cause because it is for the whole parish and brings people together."

Residents clad in waterproofs and umbrellas managed to huddle together on the grass for the group photograph of the parish, taken by resident Mr Steve Cavalier.

Standing on a ladder, Mr Cavalier orchestrated the residents into a mass at 4pm with the help of a megaphone for the momentous picture.

It is hoped the photograph will be printed as a poster and will be available for residents to buy.

The original photograph is planned to be hosted in the new £400,000 village hall in The Green, which is expected to open in July.

Mr Derek Cox, a former chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, said: "I was born in the village and only moved away to Cornwall about a year ago.

"It is lovely to come back for this event, and Sarratt looks as well as it was when I left it.

"I was one of the original members of the committee who started planning for this event four years ago and it is great to see it come to fruition.

"Everyone has contributed something to the event to make it work, which is what the villagers of Sarratt are all about."



Fire-eating clowns entertain at Sarratt's millennium party. Picture T214022: PETE STEVENS

by Asha Tanna

A marquee was put up to shelter weary residents from the rain, and hot tea and coffee was served up with home-made cakes.

A bouncy castle was available for children, and jugglers and clowns paraded around The Green entertaining visitors.

A beer tent was put up, courtesy of The Cricketer public house, which proved a very popular spot for both old and young, and food was put on by the pubs The Boot in The Green and The Cart and Horses in Common Wood, which included a barbecue and a spit roast.

Melodious tunes of the jazz era filled the air, played by a live band, and, later that night, a local group, Band in Hand, provided uplifting entertainment between 8pm and 10.30pm.

A resident of The Green, Mrs Pauline Hermandez, said: "I think the day has been great and it has been really well organised.

"It is a shame about the weather but it hasn't stopped people having fun.

"I have come here with my family and friends, and the children are really enjoying themselves.

"This is the first time I have been to one of these community events, having moved into the area just over a year.

"Everyone has been very friendly, and I think it is lovely to see such great community spirit and people having a good time."

Mr Jeremy Fern, of Deadman's Ash Lane, dressed up in traditional medieval costume to join in the spirit of celebrating the passing of another 1,000 years.

He said: "Since the village was celebrating the Millennium, I thought it was a good idea to show some historical interest.

"Sarratt has such a great community feel like no other, and today is proof of that."



RAY OF SUNSHINE: **Armed with an umbrella against the weekend downpours, Mr Peter Lambert, alias Pepe The Clown, entertained villagers at the Sarratt Millennium party, which took place on Saturday.** Report, Page 11 Picture T214012: PETE STEVENS

2600

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church. Registered Charity 1018991

Stephen Lawrence - Chairman, Micklefield Green House, Sarratt, Herts. WD3 6AH

June 28, 2000

Dear Peter

Flower Festival 2000

I am delighted to report that this has been a record year with £4,215 raised for the Church.

The breakdown is as follows:

		2000	1999
Donations		1,463	1,157
Teas and Refreshments		939	696
Cake Stall		515	349
Plant Stall		418	367
Yew Tree Stall		650	443
Saturday Evening Concert		180	105
Coffee Morning		350	317
Less Expenses	Flowers	(300)	(200)
TOTAL		**£4,215**	**£3,234**
Estimated attendance		1,340	780

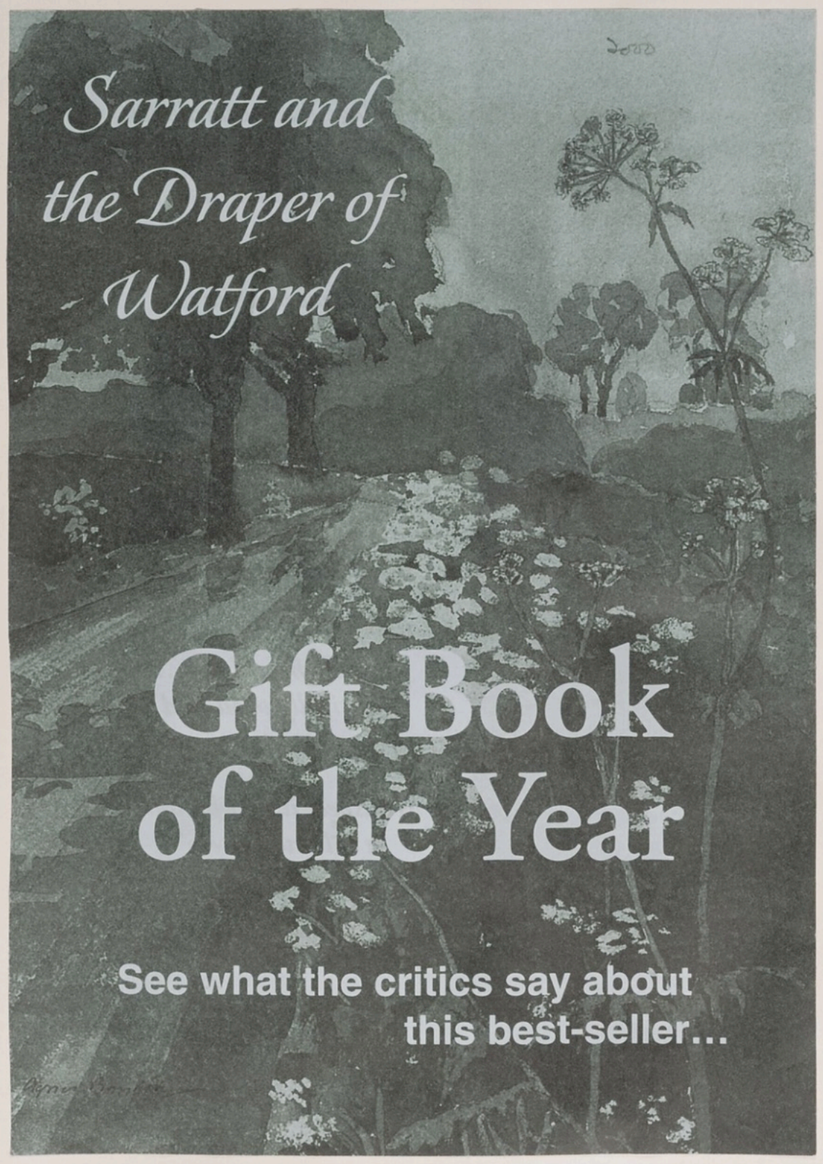
Thank you so much for all your hard work in making this result possible. It all looks so effortless but it takes a great deal of planning and determination to pull it off. Your contribution is very much appreciated by us all.

I would like to wish you a very happy summer.

With kind regards,

Stephen.

Stephen Lawrence
Chairman



Holy Cross Flower Festival 2000

Our theme this year is British Christians through the Millennia

Woman crawls from flipped car

A WOMAN crawled from a car that flipped on its roof after hitting a traffic-calming obstruction in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, last Friday.

The incident happened shortly after 5pm as the red Kia Pride car travelled past Biggerstaffs Garage towards the junction of Deadman's Ash Lane and Sarratt Road.

As the car rolled on to its roof, it collided with a silver Mercedes travelling in the opposite direction. The Kia had failed to negotiate a chicane constructed earlier this year. The driver was taken to Watford General Hospital, the extent of her injuries unknown. The Mercedes' two occupants were uninjured.

Firefighters from Rickmansworth made safe a petrol spill.



'Dangerous' traffic calming to be changed

THE traffic calming measures in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, are to be adapted after another accident on the road.

The Highways Partnership is set to put additional road markings down after accepting they have not worked as it was hoped.

The chicanes, obstructions which cause cars to slow down, were introduced in the summer because of concern about cars going too fast along the stretch of road near the Biggerstaff Garage.

The latest accident on the stretch of road occurred at the end of last month and resulted in a car damaging its bodywork, wheel and wing mirror.

The most serious accident took place on Friday, July 7, when a car failed to negotiate the chicanes and ended up on its roof. A woman crawled from the car and was taken to Watford General Hospital.

Mr Stuart Walmsley, the manager of the Highways Partnership, said: "There have been some obvious problems. We have now proposed to provide some additional road markings and we will be in discussion very shortly with the parish council about our proposals, which aim to reduce incidents of this kind.

"We undertook an extensive consultation process with residents and with Sarratt Parish Council, and chicanes were the preferred option for that stretch of road, partly because it has street lights. I think these chicanes have succeeded in slowing vehicles down.

"However, while we recognise we need to do something about speeding, drivers should have no problems negotiating the chicanes at 30 miles an hour."

Mr John Biggerstaff, who is a partner in the Biggerstaff Garage, is not in favour of the chicanes.

He said: "When the icy weather comes, this part of the road will be like a skating rink.

"The chicanes were not a good idea. They are dangerous and most people in Sarratt would say the same thing."

Sarratt parish councillor Mr John Gell said: "There was a lot of debate in the council about this.

"We would have much rather had speed cameras but we were told we were not allowed them because they were too expensive.

"At the time, we preferred wooden chicanes to the plastic ones because the plastic ones did not look right. Now, we will have to wait and see what happens next."



TEA'S UP: Mrs Eileen Adams pours tea at a party on King George V Field in Sarratt, last Friday. The event, to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday, was attended by 130 people. They were entertained by children from Sarratt Primary School, who sang old music-hall songs, accompanied by Mr Len Dudley on keyboards. Picture T312114: DAVE HERRING



Vera Woodward, who was born in Sarratt in 1919 and now lives in Hyde Heath, joins in the Queen Mother celebrations. SNC

Queen Mother sends thanks for invitation

SARRATT residents raised their tea cups to toast Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on her 100th birthday at a special party in the village on Friday.

Volunteers at the Sarratt Care charity, of Church Lane, Sarratt, even invited the nation's favourite royal to the party, but she declined, pleading a prior engagement - she was taking a horse-drawn carriage ride down The Mall to Buckingham Palace for her special birthday lunch.

But the Queen Mother did write to say thank you and wished Sarratt Care every success with its event.

The tea party, held at King George V Field, was attended by 130 people, many of them elderly residents who are looked after by the charity's volunteers.

Spokeswoman Eileen Adams said: "We had a lovely time. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed themselves."

Guests enjoyed tea and a slice of birthday cake, were entertained by Len Dudley on keyboards and pupils from Sarratt JMI School, who sang old time musical numbers; tried their luck on a free tombola; and took part in a raffle for a bouquet of flowers.

More celebration reports on page 19.

Scheme to stop bikers may be unenforceable

Police have commitments elsewhere

by Liz Ford

PLANS to restrict parking in Sarratt on Wednesday evenings – in an attempt to stop motorcyclists congregating – could prove fruitless, police warned this week.

Sarratt parish councillors were told at their monthly meeting on Monday there was no guarantee that weekly parking restrictions in roads around The Green would be regularly enforced by police if they were introduced.

Community Safety Inspector for Three Rivers Shakil Qasim said the availability of his officers on the same day each week would depend on what else was going on in the district.

Each summer for the past three years, up to 600 motorcycle enthusiasts have converged on Wednesday evenings on The Cricketers public house in The Green.

This year's summer gatherings have begun and at Monday's meeting residents and councillors voiced their concerns to Mr Qasim.

Residents said bikers swamp the village, causing congestion around the pub and the green. Some said they were too intimidated to walk near the green on Wednesday evenings because of the large crowd, while others living in The Green complained they had problems getting to their homes because of bikes parked outside.

They complained about motorbikes speeding through the small country lanes, saying a minority of those gathering at the pub have been seen revving engines and accelerating to speeds of up to 70mph. Others have been spotted doing wheelies.

Councillor John Dean said: "We're not against people enjoying themselves, but we have a problem of public safety due to the sheer volume of people who turn up to park.

"They prevent access to people's homes around that area and the village hall."

Mr Qasim assured people at the meeting that traffic police had been monitoring parking problems in the village and would continue to do so.

He said plain clothes officers had visited the village and spent time monitoring the bikers at The Cricketers on Wednesday evenings, but had found no criminal activity.

On a night when some bikers had been caught speeding, residents had also been issued tickets.

Mr Qasim said: "I don't like standing up and making wonderful promises. We know it's a concern and, if I have the officers, parking orders would be enforced, but it depends what else is going on.

"I'll get the traffic department to look at it again, but if there are no offences we have no powers to stop them."

lford@london.newsquest.co.uk

QUEEN MUM'S 100th BIRTHDAY

SARRATT CARE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU

TO TEA AT THE PAVILION KING GEORGE Vth

PLAYING FIELD TO CELEBRATE THE

OCCASION ON FRIDAY 4th AUGUST 2000

FROM 3pm.

R.S.V.P. ON ENCLOSED POST CARD

THIS POST CARD COULD WIN YOU A RAFFLE PRIZE

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.



Volunteer Breda Tiernan clears a footpath by cutting back a tree. She was one of many who helped out on the day. SNC

Common sight to see after clear-up

SARRATT'S Dawes Common is looking green and pleasant, thanks to a small army of volunteers who spent Sunday morning trimming, planting and clearing.

The Sarratt residents, who call themselves the Sarratt Commons Volunteer Group, worked on the area, off Dawes Lane, as part of a rolling programme of maintenance of Sarratt's three commons, which are tidied by the group under the aegis of the parish council, on the second Sunday of every month.

Organiser Dawn Pitts, of Dimmocks Lane, said: "We have been doing this for several years now. We started it up because the commons got into rather a sorry state.

"The footpaths were overgrown and there were not enough walking areas. Volunteers go out and plant saplings, cut down trees, cut back footpaths and make bridges over damp patches.

"Every little bit helps to get the balance between saving sites for wildlife and providing amenity spaces for humans."

The group welcomes new volunteers. Telephone Mrs Pitts on 01923 267071 for more information.

IN SHORT

Driving report

HEAVY goods vehicles illegally driving through Sarratt should be reported to the Highways Partnership, Sarratt Parish Council was told last week. The advice followed reports of HGVs driving on some of the village's narrow country roads which have weight and size restrictions.

Tree thanks

THANKS were expressed to those who helped plant 250 trees in Commonwood Common in Sarratt last week, by Sarratt parish councillor Mrs Val Cumming. The trees were planted on the common, off Bottom Lane, by the Countryside Management Service on Sunday, July 9.

Bench vandals

A VANDALISED seat outside the General Store and Post Office in The Green, Sarratt, is to be replaced at a cost of £100, Sarratt parish councillors agreed on Monday.

Another bench may be installed outside The Boot public house, also in The Green.

This was also damaged by vandals last week.

Good housekeeping

HOUSEKEEPING and rural issues will be the topic of Sarratt WI's next meeting at 8pm, on Thursday, at the King George V Pavilion. The speaker is from Home and Country Magazine. Call 01923 497795 for details.

1-9-00 WD

Refurbished village hall opens its doors

AFTER months of renovation, there will be an open day at Sarratt Village Hall tomorrow (Saturday), when people can see the changes that have been made.

Money for the project was raised by the management committee of the Sarratt Village Hall, which has been helped with fundraising by individuals and organisations throughout the community.

Mr Ian Dorrett, who has been involved in the project, said: "It has taken eight months to renovate the building.

"We have got a completely new main hall, refurbished the kitchen, got a new multi-purpose meeting room, some new toilets and an office for the parish council.

"The village hall was built in the 1920's and it was at the end of its useful life.

"We have had lots of support both from organisations and individuals, and we are very pleased with the result. It will give a real focus for the community."

A total of £400,000 has been spent on the refurbishment. The hall can be viewed from 10am to 12 noon.

CLASSICAL: Grelle White previews the launch of the Sarratt Music Festival

Lill tops the bill at village music festival

ANOTHER famous person has revealed his fondness for Sarratt and is about to prove it by "doing his thing" for the village.

Internationally acclaimed pianist John Lill has accepted the invitation to give the opening recital at the first Sarratt Music Festival, a new event designed "to bring musicians of international calibre to the village", hopefully on an annual basis.

It all started on a note of friendship – a few friends sitting around saying: "Wouldn't it be lovely if Sarratt could have a big music event as they do in other beautiful settings."

With the Millennium celebrations, a new village hall and the old church resplendent with a new roof, the ground was fertile for something special. The idea grew and the festival is due to take place in mid-September.

The first Sarratt Music Festival features three concerts of very different styles.

John Lill's opening recital of "appealing piano music including popular classics", on Saturday, September 16, is followed by a chamber music concert by the English Piano Trio and soprano Ann Mackay in an evening of music from Vienna 200 years ago, also in the village hall the following Saturday.

The programme will be narrated by actors Tenniel Evans and Evangeline Banks.

On Saturday, September 23, the festival concludes with the Demon Barbers, a close harmony vocal group performing a light-hearted programme in the 800-year-old village church, Holy Cross.

The church recently attracted world-wide attention, when famous spy-thriller writer, John le Carré, revealed why he chose Sarratt as the setting for the spy school in his novels.

The story, Sarratt and the Draper of Watford, formed part of a book, sold in aid of the church roof appeal.

Famous friends are helpful, but Sarratt has its own talent to draw on as well.

One of the festival organisers is the violinist Jane Faulkner, who plays with the English Piano Trio.

Jane admits her own group was part of the equation, when the idea was first mooted. But it is was very much a case of people who love music and happen to live in a particularly picturesque village, feeling a desire to create something special for Sarratt.

Her five fellow conspirators are David Clough, organist at Holy Cross church and leader of the Sarratt Singers, Oscar-winning composer Ann Dudley and local singers and choristers Julia Sadler, Vicky Fern and Julia Cheetham.

Julia Sadler, who sings with the Sarratt Singers and is a member of the church choir, said: "We started talking about it in a very low key way about two years ago.

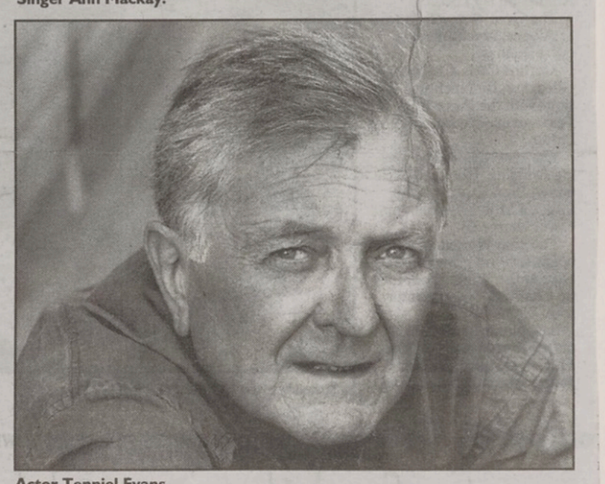
"The idea of promoting the beautiful setting of Sarratt with beauitful music by people connected with the village festered and festered."

The festival idea really took off when the go-ahead was given for the village hall to be rebuilt at a cost of £427,000.

"We decided to approach John Lill, who has friends in Sarratt and is known to have a soft spot for the village. He does a lot of walking round here and was only too pleased to come," said Mrs Sadler.



Singer Ann Mackay.



Actor Tenniel Evans.



Pianist John Lill.

The opening recital by John Lill will also mark the official opening of the village hall.

In future years, Sarratt Music Festival will probably take place in July and have a bigger programme. The response to the first festival has been very positive. Local businesses have sponsored the event and ticket sales are taking off for all three events.

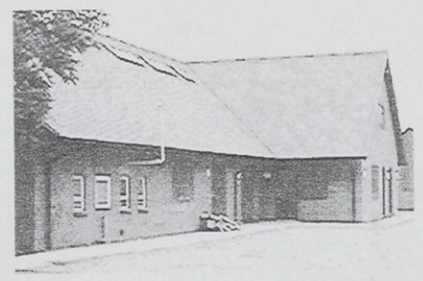
Ticket prices are £15 for John Lill on Saturday, September 16; £12 for English Piano Trio on Sunday, September 17 and £12 for Demon Barbers on September 23.

Tickets for all three £35 (concessions available). Telephone the box office on 01923 269083.

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL NEWSLETTER August 2000

V H Day is 2nd September 2000!

THE VILLAGE HALL IS BACK IN BUSINESS



The rebuilding contract for Sarratt Village Hall has been completed, on budget. Our community now has a fine new hall.

Provisional bookings are now being taken for the beginning of September. As promised, these greatly improved facilities are offered to the parishioners at hire rates very similar to those previously enjoyed for the old hall.

The Village Hall now offers:

- **New unobstructed auditorium (No Pillars!) is capable of seating 200 people**
- **Newly decorated small hall**
- **New meeting room at the rear of the building with shower and toilet facilities**
- **New fitted kitchen – All new equipment**
- **Parish office**
- **Disabled facilities**
- **Improved car parking**
- **Dedicated bar area**

Thanks go to the generous donations from residents, National Lottery Charities Board, Groundworks Hertfordshire, The Countryside Agency and Three Rivers District Council. These enabled a building contract to be placed for the main structure of £302,000 with additional costs of £125,000 for V.A.T., fees and expenses.

The design was deliberately kept flexible so that two additional meeting rooms and a gallery room can be easily installed at a later date, thus giving the hall potential for more local clubs and events.

As stated in previous newsletters, additional funding and activities are needed to fully equip the hall. Local volunteers have already refurbished the old small hall and below are some of the other items for which help would be most gratefully received (cash or in kind):

• **Kitchen Utensils**	**£150**
• **Landscaping**	**£300**
• **Crockery/ Cutlery**	**£400**
• **Disabled Hearing Loop**	**£500**
• **Bar Fitting-out**	**£950**
• **Additional Tables & Chairs**	**£1,000**
• **Stage Rigging**	**£1,200**
• **P.A. System**	**£1,400**
• **Curtains & Blinds**	**£1,400**

Please come and see your new village hall on Saturday 2nd September 2000 from 10.00a.m. to noon. There will be refreshments and folk that will be pleased to show you around.

Contact: Clive Saddler (Treasurer) 01923 265986



Sarratt Festival of Music

September 2000 sees an innovative musical venture in the popular and lovely village of Sarratt.

To coincide with the millennium opening of the new Village Hall, the first Sarratt Festival of Music will take place using the Hall and the historic church of Holy Cross.
This venture is designed to bring musicians of international calibre to the village, and for the Festival to expand and become an annual event which will attract people from far and wide.
This first Festival features three concerts of differing styles. The internationally acclaimed concert pianist John Lill will give the opening recital in the Village Hall, with an appealing programme of piano music including popular classics. The second concert, also in the Hall, features chamber music with the English Piano Trio and soprano Ann Mackay in an evening of music from Vienna 200 years ago. The final concert will be performed in the beautiful setting of the 800 year old village church, Holy Cross. The "Demon Barbers", a close harmony vocal group, will perform a light-hearted and highly entertaining programme.

We are certain that this Festival will be an event of genuine quality and will attract audiences from a wide area. Sarratt will be a focus for the performance and enjoyment of wonderful music.

THREE RIVERS

Official District Guide



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

SARRATT

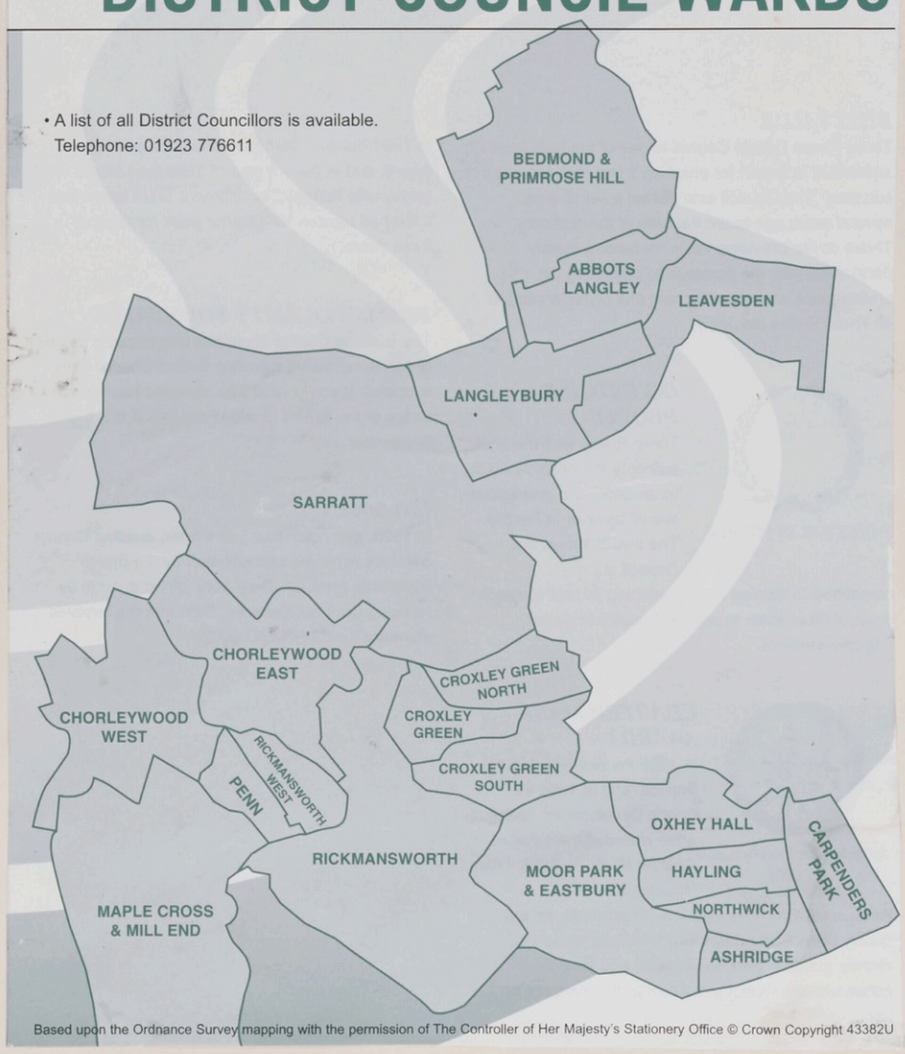
Sarratt Parish is the largest within Three Rivers. It is rural with well cultivated farmland, interrupted only by the odd copse and woodland area. Within the village of Sarratt is the ancient and attractive Church of The Holy Cross. The village green is often used by film crews as a period setting. The nearby mansion 'Goldingtons' was used in the film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'.





Three Rivers

DISTRICT COUNCIL WARDS



- A list of all District Councillors is available. Telephone: 01923 776611

Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 43382U

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT

Population: 84,500
Area: 8,752 hectares (21,630 acres)
Council Tax: There are 33,635 properties on the valuation list.
Bands A-H range from £505 to £1549 per dwelling.

(Information as at April 1999)





WT.065. 22-9-00

An everyday story of village folk, armed police unit and all



JUST A WORD with Oliver Phillips

CUE the Archer's theme tune.
The village green glistened after the early morning rain as I walked the dogs down to the post office to pick up my morning paper.

"Have you heard the latest?" called out a friend.

I knew instinctively he was referring to the police armed response unit, which had recently been summoned to the village.

My friend filled me in on a detail on the incident I had not heard, before he headed off to his breakfast.

He had left me, both of us shaking our heads as we considered the latest anecdote, with the observation: "It can only happen in Sarratt."

Of course, it could have happened elsewhere but, being in a village, news and gossip travels fast and like Chinese whispers, fact can become distorted by fiction, embellishment or misunderstandings.

Every community or area of a town has a similar pot pourri of incidents and characters, but those areas are not defined by surrounding fields and borders as is a village.

It's been quite a week in the village, but then, it was not so long ago I was told that "nothing has happened" in the village in four weeks. When you are away a month, as I was in the summer, you expect something to have happened. Even a little thing.

I had driven back at the end of my 3,600-mile trip and noted Sarratt looked much the same as I had left it, except the grass and weeds on the verges and hedgerows had grown apace.

I was soon informed as to the reason for the latter development. It had rained. And it had rained. And it had rained.

Everyone I met felt compelled to observe, from my tan, that I must have seen the sun and then informed me it had never stopped raining while I was away. It was as if, by sharing the experience, they did not feel so wet.

If I inquired if anything had happened in the village, the initial reference would be to the rain. As someone once observed. the English talk about the weather simply because there is so much of it.

But, otherwise, nothing had happened. There was no news. Sarratt had slipped damply from June into July, with no more than a whimper or a squelch.

It hardly seemed worth travelling all those miles back. Yet the village had not been in a state of suspended animation while I was away. As someone muttered about what is perceived as the local council's over-zealous obsession with bikers, another was heard to remark

'As quick as a flash, the Sarratt man joined the lady and they shared the taxi, which then proceeded to the village and his house. There he washed and shaved before summoning a fresh taxi and returned to the hospital'

about, what is to me, the far more important matter of traffic calming.

"Oh yes, did you know a car overturned and a driver was hurt, hitting those traffic calmers?" I was asked. Now that was something.

As we stood chewing the Sunday morning cud, really, we agreed, there was no surprise in that. The traffic-calmers have always been an accident waiting to happen, from the moment the ludicrous things were put in place and whomsoever designed them is in serious need of therapy.

But that was it. A predictable accident apart, it was all quiet on the village front, or so it seemed.

By the end of the week, a slightly different picture began to emerge as I bumped into numerous acquaintances. It had been quite a significant month in the village: the events had not come readily to people's minds, but gradually they had seeped out.

Among my favourites was a piece of trivia concerning a gentleman who happens to be somewhat fastidious with regards to washing facilities. After a shower, he wipes the walls down as well as the tray, I have been informed, which immediately prompted me to start looking at my shower's walls with a mixture of guilt and fascination, because I restrict my attentions purely to the shower tray.

Anyway, it transpired he was in hospital, suffering from an infection and was advised one morning, as he sat by his hospital bed, he could go and undertake his ablutions in the hospital washroom, now he was out of bed.

He was appalled at the prospect of washing in shared facilities, which had not impressed him on previous functional visits.

At that very moment, a call went out for a patient, who lives in Croxley Green. Apparently her taxi had arrived.

As quick as a flash, the Sarratt man joined the lady and they shared the taxi, which then proceeded to the village and his house. There he washed, shaved before he summoned a fresh taxi and returned to the hospital.

With that, he sauntered back to his bedside seat, washbag in hand. And they never noticed he had gone.

I enjoyed that. The whole anecdote had a ring of style to it.

So something had happened while I was away. "Oh yes," I was told, "did you hear that Terry and Daphne Tyler were on TV?"

It transpired the two villagers had featured quite extensively on a television documentary on the Chess, while I was driving alongside a somewhat bigger river in France.

Now Terry not only appears to work all hours that God made, but also seems to be able to work in a few the good Lord never thought of, as he plies his craft in the Sarratt watercress beds. Then he takes his produce to London, while the rest of us in the village are going to sleep, some counting motorbikes, I assume, the others, sheep.

The Macleod Matthews over in Chenies were also featured on this charming look at the brief life of the Chess but, it seemed, as the television programme researchers followed the short course of the river, they became fascinated with Terry and his 100-hour working week. They even travelled with him up to London and, when the programme moved on from Sarratt, they quickly brought it to a close with the end of the Chess in Rickmansworth.

Chenies Manor and Terry Tyler are hard acts to follow.

It took me a few days before I could locate a video of the programme, but by then I had heard more on what I had missed in the village.

"The parish council is still on about the bikers at the Cricketers on Wednesday nights. They had someone up there the other night, telling them they can't do anything about the bikers," I was informed.

There seems to be a view that the council's activity with regard to the bikers is in direct disproportion to the local interest in the subject.

One local businessman told me he had been serving one of the village's leading lights and had asked her just how many people in the village are against the bikers.

"Not very many," she apparently admitted, to which he replied: "Well, I reckon there are about eight. The rest of village either doesn't care or is quite happy about them."

Actually, I know for a fact, it is more than eight, because when they mail-shot the village, 41 people turned up to discus the problem. Twenty-one were in favour of action against the bikers, 10 abstained and eight voted against action.

By far the majority did not bother to turn up. We can take it, most of them were not that fussed by the subject.

"Oh yes," said another. "Have you heard this anecdote about the bikers?"

He then went on to refer to something he had heard. He admitted, it might be apocryphal.

Apparently, someone had made yet another phone call to the police, complaining about the bikers on some pretext or another. Some of them do break the speed limit, but then you see cars doing that every day and, when the police ran a check one night, the majority they caught going too fast across The Green were local inhabitants on four wheels.

Anyway, so the story goes, the police upon receiving another call about the bikers, promptly dispatched two officers to the village . . . on motor bikes. Apparently, a number of villagers found that amusing.

But, still more had happened. Returning from my mini-tour of France and Spain, I had approached the village from the motorway. Had I travelled up the doughty North-South Hill axis, I would have noticed something more than just overgrowing hedgerows and weeds.

Sarratt church now boasts a new roof. I was to notice that within a day or two of my return, it being within sight of my favourite drinking hole.

It is an impressive roof and the appearance is not dissimilar to that adorning buildings in Mediterranean regions.

The new village hall and church roof are, of course, the major developments within the village over the last few months.

Such advancements are invariably down to the hard work and fundraising of a number of local inhabitants, who will be lying beneath the churchyard sod long before the church needs re-roofing again.

It is an irony that you can go into a village church and note the north transept, or the rood screen, or whatever, had been funded by a local lord of the manor or ruling family, many years ago. The individual, perhaps conscious that he had kept the serfs poor and wanting a good word in the ledger for the time he met his maker, had bestowed a modicum of largesse on the community church.

Such contributions are often celebrated in stone but the names of those who raised £92,000 to re-roof the old church, by quilt-making, launching the Sarratt doll's house or just general fund-raising, have a brief moment of local publicity but largely have to sustain themselves on the satisfaction of having played a part in a worthy cause.

So, in reality, a lot had happened in the village, after all. And it keeps happening as my friend advised me, on Sunday morning. For instance, we discussed last week's smash-and-grab raid on the local garage's till and the totally unconnected arrival of the police response unit, complete with helicopter, a couple of days later.

It transpired a local man was shooting rats but the anecdote that my friend added to the story was the rumour that a young lad had been lying in bed that morning, half asleep when the telephone rang by his bedside.

On picking up the phone, he heard the snapped instruction: "Come out now with your hands above your head."

My friend watched me as I tried to digest the concept and said: "It can only happen in Sarratt."

Cue the Archer's music now and fade out.

Bikers' convoy motors along to raise funds

MORE than 50 bikers turned up in Sarratt at the weekend to form part of a convoy for a charity ride to London.

The motorcyclists met outside The Cricketers pub in The Green at noon on Sunday, and, at 1.15pm, drove to The Ace Café on the North Circular in Neasden.

Organiser of the event, Mr Phil Harrison, of Lynbury Court, Watford, said: "The Ace Café has a history of attracting bikers since the 1950's.

"On Sunday, many of the people who supported the ride-out were either from the old school of bikers, so they were dressed from that era and had classic models, or they were sporting bikers and had high performance motorcycles."

A total of £400 was raised at the weekend, which is being given to the charity Faculty of Accident and Emergency Medicine, based at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

Mr Harrison added: "Everyone knows someone – a rider, pedestrian or motorist – who has been involved in an accident.

"The surgeons do some remarkable work, which often goes unnoticed.

"In the lead up to winter, I decided to organise this event, which is the first of its kind, to get bikers to support those involved in accident and emergency cases.

"My brother, Mark, had a terrible accident a few years ago, and is still partially disabled in one of his arms. At the time, the surgeon didn't even know whether he would live but he did, thanks to the help of the doctors."

A large contribution was given by members of the London Riders' Group, which donated £150 to the total.

Mr Harrison added: "The day was a great success, and everyone enjoyed meeting other bikers to swap stories and compare models.

"We made quite an impression on the motorway, as we all managed to stay together, and on our arrival at the café.

"I think I will definitely organise another event but it will probably be in spring, as the weather doesn't seem to be getting better."

● See Back Page for photo.

Sarratt shock

Resignation of chairman after 'clash'

report by Kate Porter

SARRATT Parish Council is in disarray after the shock resignation of its chairman.

Councillor Charles Wood announced his decision to quit at the council's meeting on Monday night. He gave a personality clash with a colleague as his reason.

Until a new chairman is appointed, vice-chairman Councillor Valerie Cumming will take charge.

Speaking to the Examiner on Wednesday Councillor Wood said his actions were prompted by criticisms of parish clerk Doreen Boast. "I will not have the clerk attacked," he stormed, praising Mrs Boast's efforts in her role.

"I've had enough. I wash my hands of them. I tried to do it a couple of months ago, but this time I'm adamant. I will not change my mind."

This was the third time Councillor Wood had been chairman of the parish council, on which he has served 15 years. He had been in the chair for 18 months.

One of the duties he leaves behind is responsibility for allotments, which Councillor Wood took on in 1982. "I've been paying to have the empty plots Rotavated, liaised with a local farmer to get the hedges cut, and collected rents."

But now, a frustrated Councillor Wood, from Long Pightle, Chandlers Cross, has said: "Let someone else do it!"

Mrs Boast told the Examiner that she was grateful for Councillor Wood's support.

The parish council's next meeting is on Monday, December 11, at the King George V Pavilion. Members of the public are invited to meet their parish and district councillors between 7.15pm-7.30pm to discuss any problems they may have.

Row over 'biased' minutes caused council resignation

6/12/00

THE resignation of Sarratt Parish Council's chairman last month was because of a row between the clerk and one of the councillors, it has emerged.

The minutes of the meeting show Mr Charles Wood resigned at the meeting, on Monday, November 13, following criticism of Mrs Doreen Boast, the clerk of the council, by Mr Richard Haynes, a parish councillor.

Previously, the matter had been kept secret because he had resigned during a part of the meeting from which the press and public are excluded.

At the meeting, Mr Haynes claimed the minutes of council meetings have been incorrect, incomplete and biased.

Mrs Boast disputed this, claiming the minutes gave a balanced account of proceedings.

Mr Haynes also criticised the clerk for writing to a Sarratt resident, making unsubstantiated complaints about the condition of his stiles. Mrs Boast agreed with this, but said she believed the matter had been resolved satisfactorily.

Mr Haynes also blamed the late arrival of correspondence from the clerk for his incomplete report on The Grove estate, where there is controversy surrounding the closure of footpaths because of a planned golf course.

He claimed the clerk had not responded to a letter dated Monday, October 16, from the Russells Residents' Association, which is concerned about the golf course.

The clerk said no such letter had been received by her.

Chairman Mr Wood announced he was resigning from the council because he could not support the criticism of the clerk, and the conduct of some members.

Mr Wood declined to comment on the matter afterwards, saying Mrs Boast would read out a statement from him at the next meeting of the council at the King George V Pavilion, on Monday.

Mr Haynes also declined to comment, as did parish councillor Mr Mick Warner.

But Mr John Dean, another parish councillor, said: "We have lost a chairman of great experience. Our big problem is getting people to come forward to serve on Sarratt Parish Council."

Pompous idiocy of a parish council

23-11-00



TAKING STOCK with Roy Stockdill

WHAT on earth gets into people when they are elected to a local council?

They appear to undergo some kind of metamorphosis that transforms them from rational human beings into paranoid exponents of secrecy and intrigue.

I thought we had seen enough nonsense from the Carry On councillors of Croxley Green but now they have been joined by the Silly Burghers of Sarratt.

The chairman of Sarratt Parish Council apparently resigned in the middle of a council meeting but hardly anyone knows why because the press and public were excluded and the chairman refuses to explain.

Compounding the mystery, the parish clerk and a string of councillors joined in the conspiracy of silence and wouldn't elaborate either.

What are the taxpayers of Sarratt, who elected these jumped-up pipsqueaks, to make of this pompous idiocy?

Just who do these parish bureaucrats think they are?

Parish councillors sit at the very bottom of the local government structure.

They are elected to deal with strictly parochial affairs, like dogs messing the streets, and should be answerable to residents at all times.

It is hard to think of anything in the affairs of a piddling parish council that demands secrecy but some councillors exhibit an inflated sense of their own importance.

One whisper says the chairman resigned because of "personal differences". With whom, pray, and why?

Aren't the taxpayers of Sarratt entitled to be told?

It's funny these things seem to happen in the posher parts of south west Hertfordshire, like Croxley Green and Sarratt, where the better-off congregate in affluent enclaves.

Perhaps having a bit of money softens the brain eventually.

The Watford Observer buried for 100 years in time capsule

A COPY of The Watford Observer was among the items buried in the Sarratt Millennium Time Capsule last Thursday.

Children from Sarratt School in The Green gathered to watch the event. The capsule will be dug up in 100 years time, on December 21, 2100.

Among the items buried, are a map of the area and a Millennium mug.

They were all vacuum-packed in the capsule to ensure they will be in good condition when it is opened.

The aim of the project is to show people in the future what life is like in Sarratt today and it is one of the ways the village is celebrating the new millennium.

Emma Jane Owen, 11, and Jack Adams, aged ten, from Sarratt School, were chosen to take part in the ceremony and helped bury the capsule.

Jack said: "Putting people from the school's addresses in the capsule was a particularly good idea."

Parish councillor Mr Mick Warner said: "The capsule has been a lot of hard work but it has been a very worthwhile exercise."

Now clerk will quit council

15/12/00

report by Kate Porter

COUNCIL tax payers could be forced to meet compensation costs following the resignation of Sarratt Parish Council's clerk.

Doreen Boast announced her decision to quit on Monday, claiming she was being constantly harassed by a colleague. Her last day in the role will be February 8.

She is now deciding whether to take the council to an industrial tribunal over her alleged treatment. And any compensation would have to come from parish council funds - council tax.

Her announcement comes a month after chairman Charles Wood resigned from the council. As the Examiner reported at the time, Mr Wood said he quit because of a personality clash with a colleague, adding: "I will not have the clerk attacked."

Mrs Boast told the Examiner: "The parish council is there to represent the community. This is so silly. I wish the next clerk luck!"

At Monday's meeting, Mrs Boast read a statement explaining her decision.

In it, she referred to "continuing problems" and a part two - to which the press and public are excluded - at November's parish council meeting during which Mr Wood resigned. The part two was called by Councillor Richard Haynes and, Mrs Boast said, was "devoted entirely to criticising me".

Experience

Her statement also clarified how she came to be clerk. She said: "I did not apply for the position but was asked by a number of councillors in April 1999 if I would return, on the departure of the previous clerk, as I had a number of years' experience with the parish council before I retired in 1995, during which time I had worked with these councillors."

Mrs Boast was initially employed for 12 months, with an option to renew if she wished. At the time, it was thought the new village hall would be completed by then. But, as this was not the case, she agreed with Mr Wood to continue for three months under the same conditions and pay.

Both thought it would be a formality for the council to agree this interim measure. But, although the majority of members agreed it, the suggestion was vetoed by Councillor Haynes because it was not a specific item on the agenda.

The clerk's contract was later extended by three months. When this expired, the matter was put on the agenda under part two. Again, although the majority supported her continuation as clerk, Councillor Haynes disagreed with it being passed because the agenda stated "discussion" not "decision".

'Antagonism'

Mrs Boast turned down a nine-month contract, due to Councillor Haynes's "continuing antagonism". But she agreed to stay six months to get the council's new office in the village hall up and running.

Councillor Haynes was unavailable for comment as the Examiner went to press yesterday.

£70,000 car park comes under fire

PLANS to build a £70,000 car park in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, have been criticised by residents of the road, who claim it is not needed.

In September, the Highways Partnership panel decided to look into the proposed car park because of concerns for pedestrian safety in the road.

A questionnaire from Three Rivers District Council indicated parking in the road was a problem.

At a meeting of the Highways Partnership panel on Tuesday, December 5, it was decided to carry on with the planning application for the car park.

Due to the Christmas period, there will be an extended period of public consultation, and the application will be considered at the February meeting of Three Rivers District Council's development control committee.

At the panel meeting, Mrs Lee Lott, a member of the Residents of Dawes Lane Association, attacked the plan.

She claimed it was not needed because there had not been an accident in the road since 1947, it would encourage crime and litter, and would threaten a conservation area because a 1,000-year-old hedge may have to be moved.

She suggested a car park would be more suitable near Sarratt School, The Green.

Three Rivers District Councillor Brian White criticised the scheme.

He said: "I question how much this parking space is going to be used. Unless we are certain it will be utilised, I cannot see why we are pressing ahead with it at this moment in time."

However, Councillor Tony Barton was in favour of the car park.

He said: "We seem to forget the parish council are in favour of going ahead, as are a lot of people in Sarratt. We need to listen to the people of Sarratt. If we do not get it now, it will be lost."

After the meeting, leader of the council Mrs Ann Shaw questioned whether the car park represented value for money.

She said: "I was very surprised there were only 23 spaces, as £70,000 has been set aside in the budget for it.

"Normally, we say it would cost about £1,000 for every car parking space. I am concerned whether it is a good use of money and whether you should move a 1,000-year-old hedge.

"Experience says people do not like to leave their cars a long way from home. I would be anxious about travellers."

However, Mrs Shaw proposed to go ahead with the planning application, to gauge community reaction.

Chairman of the Highways Partnership panel Councillor Martin Trevett said the matter needed to be resolved quickly.

After the meeting, he said: "All I am anxious to do is to resolve it, one way or the other.

"If there is a problem at the planning committee, we need a report to come to the cabinet to decide whether we will carry on or use the money elsewhere. There are plenty other projects throughout the district that could do with the money."

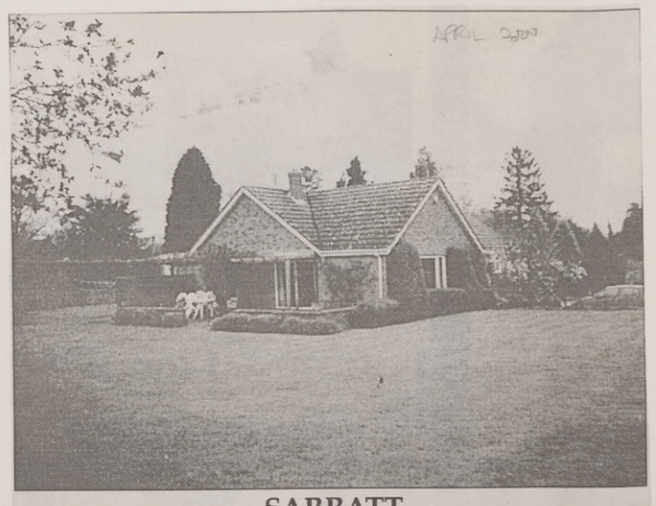


SARRATT

SET IN AN IDYLLIC SEMI RURAL SETTING FRONTING A PADDOCK AND OPEN COUNTRYSIDE, A VERY ATTRACTIVE TWO BEDROOM BRICK AND FLINT CHARACTER COTTAGE WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED AND REFURBISHED TO CREATE A COSY AND WELCOMING HOME.

The property offers a host of features to include a modern equipped medium oak kitchen/breakfast room, refurbished bathroom, attractive open fireplace to sitting room, and a good size dining room. The property is also offered with the benefit of an option to rent the front 5½ acre paddock.

GUIDE PRICE £280,000



SARRATT

A detached bungalow built in the 1970's within a rural setting with formal gardens and paddock in excess of one acre. Entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms, one with en-suite bathroom, family bathroom, separate w.c. and double garage.

£575,000 Freehold

Sarrat



Attractive detached residence offering generous five beds, three reception rooms and three bathrooms. Double width garage. Large gardens. Sought after village location.

£530,000

BUCKS HILL, CHIPPERFIELD £820,000 F/H



Superb 4 bed country home of character, in enviable rural location on Great Westwood Estate near Sarratt.
3 reception rooms, luxurious family bathroom, two en-suites plus en-suite dressing room to master bedroom. Outstanding gardens backing onto fields, detached garage with attic.
Beautifully fitted property meriting an early inspection.

Rural village location within reach of city

FAMILIES looking for a four-bedroom home in a rural village should look no further than Sarratt.

A well-presented detached property in Church Lane, a short walk from the village centre, and on sale for £399,000.

It boasts spacious accommodation, comprising a living room with an open fireplace, dining room, a fully fitted kitchen and breakfast area plus a utility room.

On the first floor, there is a master bedroom with en suite bathroom, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The garden at the back of the property extends to approximately 110ft and has been well landscaped with a patio.

The house is two-and-a-half miles from the Metropolitan line station at Chorleywood, providing a service to London with a journey time of about 40 minutes.

Anyone wishing to view the property can contact Proffitt & Gough on 01923 270333.



This home in Sarratt is within walking distance of the village centre.



Two bed terraced cottage, lounge/dining room, upstairs bathroom, garden, sought after position close to the Green.

SARRATT £1,000 pcm



SARRATT £630,000

A modern detached bungalow on the edge of this popular Hertfordshire village. Own equestrian facilities with adjoining paddocks amounting to approximately six acres.

RICKMANSWORTH OFFICE - (01923) 776291



Charming detached Grade II listed conversion in courtyard setting with rural outlook, but minutes from nearby Rickmansworth & Watford. 3 bedrooms, family bathroom & en-suite shower, large living room, kitchen/diner, reception hall & cloakroom. Garden.

CHANDLERS CROSS GUIDE £375,000



A charming detached listed cottage in a beautiful setting in the grounds of a large house but within minutes drive of the M25.

Sarratt £1850 pcm Furnished



SARRATT

A spacious 3 bedroom detached bungalow situated in a delightful rural location just a short walk from the village centre.

- Living/dining room
- Limed oak fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Well landscaped gardens
- Viewing highly recommended

Guide £320,000



COMMONWOOD £559,500

A substantial country home dating back to circa 1800 extended in recent years and situated within grounds of approximately 0.85 acres. The accommodation comprises three reception rooms, farmhouse kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, utility room, cloakroom, master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, four further bedrooms, and two further bathrooms, garaging with first floor office space and stable block.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2000
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	29th / 12.5	11th /-4.8	27th /-11.4	14th / 10.7	44.1	
February	8th / 12.9	21st /-4.0	20,22/-8.8	24th / 13.0	73.5	
March	9th / 16.3	26th /-1.3	4th /-7.5	2nd / 6.3	17.2	
April	29th / 19.0	8th /-1.5	6th /-7.4	3rd / 24.0	137.3	last air frost,last snow & 1st cuckoo, 11th,15th & 27th.
May	15th / 25.3	20th / 3.3	20th /-0.7	27th / 23.5	85.7	last ground frost, 20th.
June	19th / 30.5	24th / 5.0	7th / 2.2	29th / 10.3	25.2	
July	30th / 25.0	17th / 5.8	12th / 1.8	-------	67.6	
August	24th / 26.3	21st / 6.4	--- / 4.0	8th / 10.3	37.4	
September	11th / 26.0	4th / 3.9	4th / 0.7	27th / 17.6	88.6	
October	1st / 17.1	9,17,20/3.0	17th /-2.0	29th / 43.0	175.3	First ground frost, 9th. Wettest Oct, 1980-2013
November	28th / 13.5	15th /-1.8	15th /-8.7	5th / 24.4	141.1	First air frost, 14th.
December	11,12/12.5	29th /-10.7	31st /-15.2	12th / 20.5	122.7	First snowfall, 28th. House shaken early in morning of 11th by explosion at Buncefield oil storage,Hemel.
						Total rainfall for year = 1015.7mm [40inches], max 1980-2013

2000

Sarratt
Local History Society

"Recent work by the Herts Archaeological Trust"

is the title of the talk
to be given by

Dr. Lee Prosser

on

Wednesday March 15th
2000

in

Sarratt Village School

at

7.45pm for 8pm

All are very welcome

Coffee & biscuits available

Sarratt Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society
will be held on
Thursday May 11 2000
in Sarratt Village School
at 7.45pm for 8pm.

The speaker will be
Mr. David Stevens
on the subject of

"The history & work of the
Boxmoor Trust"

Coffee / Tea & biscuits available

All are very welcome to this and all meetings of the Society.

Pay at the door or become a member for £5 per annum.

Concessions available.

Sarratt
Local History Society

Our next meeting will be held on
Tuesday 19th September 2000 in
the New Sarratt Village Hall
at 7.30pm for 8pm.

Coffee & biscuits available from 7.40

Our speaker will be a senior guide
to St Alban's Abbey
Mrs. Pam Martin.

who will speak about

"Early History of StAlbans Abbey"

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME



The Abbey of St Alban as it appeared at the time of the dissolution of the Monasteries.

Sarratt
Local History Society

Bois Mill, Chesham
and other mills on the river
CHESS

Come and listen to a talk by

Rob and Chris Stanners

on Wednesday 22 November 2000
at 7.45pm in Sarratt Village ~~Hall~~ SCHOOL
Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

All are very welcome.

Bucks Examiner News & Advertising 01494-792626 JUNE 2001

OBITUARY

Played a part in Churchill's war

LT-COL Alistair Macleod-Matthews, of Chenies Manor, was a gifted linguist, who once acted as interpreter for former Prime Minister, the late Sir Winston Churchill.

He was also a man of business, a Francophile, countryside expert, lover of all things local and, most importantly, a good old-fashioned, courteous gentleman.

Although he was a councillor for many years, Lt-Col Macleod-Matthews, 81, believed passionately that party politics had no real place in local government.

Awarded the OBE in the 1970s, the Lt-Col was at the cutting edge of exploration work in the oil industry. But he was equally committed to life in Chenies, where he was chairman of governors at the local school for 40 years. He was also a great supporter of the Chenies Society - generously allowing the group to hold its annual meetings in the Long Room at the manor.

The Lt-Col was also a devoted family man. Chesham and Amersham MP Cheryl Gillan said: "He was so proud of his wife Elizabeth and the garden at Chenies. Alistair was such a good friend."

Territorial Army

Educated at St Paul's School before going on to Oxford's Christ Church College, Alistair Macleod Matthews's degree studies were interrupted by the Second World War. Already a member of the Territorial Army, he was - as it were - seemingly in the front line to receive call-up papers.

He served briefly with the Royal Artillery in France before a war wound brought him back to London and a desk job at the War Office. Later, he moved into intelligence work, travelling to Egypt, Italy and Greece. It was in Greece that the Lt-Col acted as Churchill's interpreter.

His fluent Greek enabled Sir Winston to conclude some vital negotiations with Prime Minister George Papandreou and Joseph Stalin. The talks took place against the background of a Communist insurgency which threatened to sweep the ultra-left into power.

After the war, Lt-Col Macleod Matthews joined British Petroleum on the oil exploration side of the business. He visited India, Italy, Persia and Alaska. He was also responsible for helping to develop North Sea Oil.

Opening of North Sea Oil

His widow Elizabeth pointed out that among her husband's responsibilities at BP was "the eastern hemisphere, which included North Sea Oil." Later, said Mrs Macleod-Matthews, her husband attended the official opening ceremony of North Sea Oil, in 1975, which was presided over by former Secretary of State for Energy, Tony Benn.

The Lt-Colonel went on to work for Rothschilds, then Volvo, for which he acted as a consultant. He was also a director of British Gas.



Lt-Col Alistair Macleod-Matthews: "A wonderful, old-fashioned, courteous man." SUB1506

A longserving Buckinghamshire County councillor and rural district councillor, Alistair Macleod-Matthews was High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1988.

Renowned for its gardens

The family have lived at Chenies Manor since the mid-1950s. Alistair and Elizabeth Macleod-Matthews were married in 1954 at St George's, Hanover Square. They then moved to Chenies and the manor has become particularly renowned for the splendour of its gardens, and hundreds of visitors make annual pilgrimages to admire the tulips.

Mrs Macleod-Matthews said her husband's hobbies included music, gardening, and learning languages. "He was quite brilliant as a linguist,"she said. "And he loved old buildings. He was determined to live in an old house and that is why we came here. Alistair was a wonderful, old-fashioned, courteous, man."

Lt-Col Macleod Matthews died on June 6. A funeral service will be held at the parish church, Chenies, today, at 2.30pm. The Lt-Colonel leaves a wife, Elizabeth, and a son, Charles, who is in his 40s.

KILFIL



Kilfillan Park Apar
are designed for
people who can no
cope with the famil

Sarratt
Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on
Saturday October 21st 2000
in Sarratt Village School from
10am until 12.30pm
This will be an open day at
which the Village Scrapbook
will be on display.
Also Laurie Reading's updated
photographs of the village,
and some of its inhabitants,
and also various items found
in and around Sarratt.
All are very welcome.
Coffee & biscuits will be
available.

Lives in Brief THE TIMES - 25.6.01

youth hostels and taking a group of Jamaican children on a visit to the West Indies.

He married Emma Rogers in 1976, but following an acrimonious divorce he returned to Ulster in the early 1990s. It came as something of a shock and a surprise to his new colleagues in the Social Democratic and Labour Party when he announced that he had stood as a Conservative candidate in the 1979 general election for East Flint, coming a respectable second. More recently he worked enthusiastically for the SDLP, and in 1998 he unsuccessfully stood for the new Northern Ireland Assembly in loyalist East Belfast.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alistair Macleod-Matthews, OBE, wartime intelligence officer and oil executive, was born on April 12, 1920. He died on June 6, 2001, aged 81.

A gifted linguist who had learnt both classical and modern Greek, during the war Alistair Macleod-Matthews interpreted for Winston Churchill in his discussions with George Papandreou, head of the Greek government-in-exile and later Prime Minister. Macleod-Matthews had begun his war serving in the Royal Artillery with the British Expeditionary Force in France. But he was wounded and after a period at the War Office he was drafted into Intelligence, serving in the Middle East, Italy and Greece.

After the war he joined British Petroleum, where he was at the cutting edge of oil exploration in Alaska and the North Sea. In retirement he and his wife Elizabeth lived at historic Chenies Manor in Buckinghamshire, renowned for its beautiful gardens. He was High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1988.

155 Paid UP 1523.
Except Cost Pumping.
TYNERS & FRERS

MRS. ELIZABETH MACLEOD MATTHEWS
THE MANOR HOUSE, CHENIES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WD3 6ER
Telephone: 01494 762888

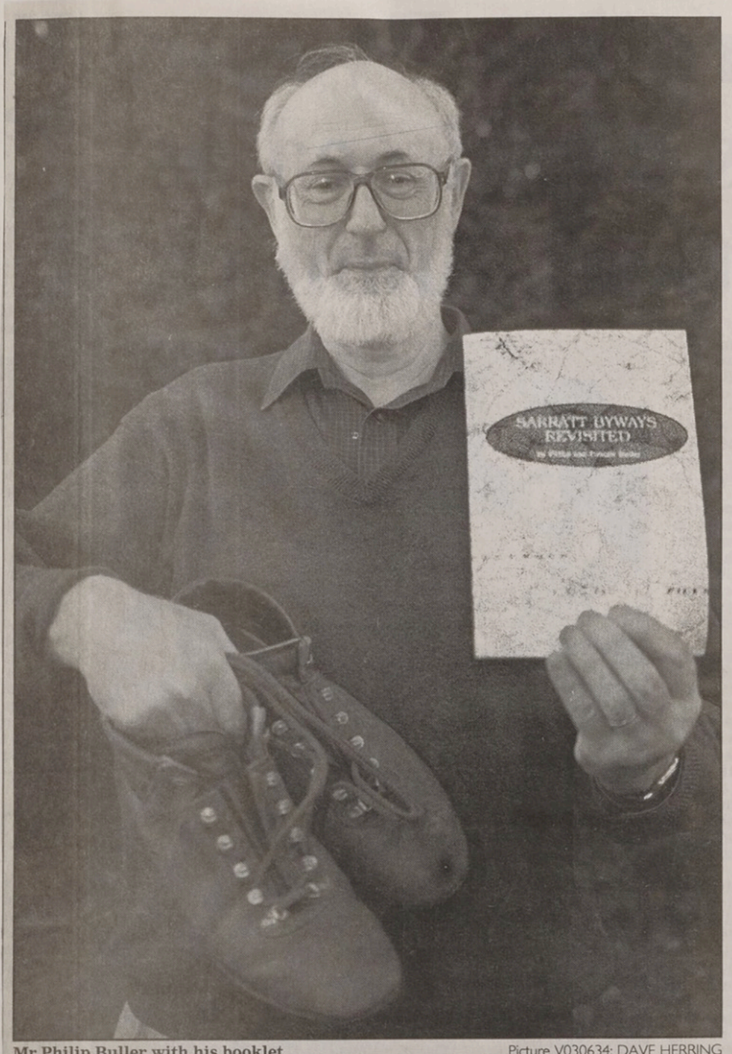
Dear Pam,

Thank you for your lovely letter + for coming on Friday. I am glad you were in the Chapel though I am sorry you had to stand.

I am at Denmark

2001

W.O. 17-1-01



Mr Philip Buller with his booklet. Picture V030634: DAVE HERRING

Memories of wife in words on walk

A BOOKLET on a walk from Rickmansworth to Sarratt has been produced by a rambler in memory of his wife, who died of cancer last year.

Mr Philip Buller, from Bragmans Lane, Sarratt, and his second wife, Connie – keen walkers and members of The Ramblers Association – are the authors of Sarratt Byways Revisited.

They planned to take the route together but were unable to because of Mrs Buller's illness. However, Mr Buller did the walk on his own in May last year, producing the booklet and getting it published at Christmas.

He said: "My wife could not walk it with me, because she was dying of cancer and couldn't walk far at that time.

"She loved it around here and loved walking."

The idea for the booklet came after reading a 1902-published book in the library, called Highways and Byways, by Herbert Tompkins, which described the walk. Mr Buller wanted to see how things had changed.

He said: "The disappointing thing about the old book is there are a lot of things he does not mention, like the Cricketers pub on Sarratt Green. I wonder what he would have made of the motorway because he liked the railway.

"Someone said I should go around the whole of Hertfordshire like the original author did but, although I am retired, I do not have that much time on my hands."

A copy can be bought from Sarratt post office for £2.75, or by writing to Mr Buller at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt, for £2.50, plus postage and packaging, or by telephoning 01442 832517.

WATFORD OBSERVER 26-1-01



Mr Dennis Jenks, a fundraiser for the new hall, unveils a plaque to celebrate its opening. VD034402: SIMON JACOBS

New £400,000 village hall celebrates its opening

WHY was access by ladder to the old Sarratt Hall store room only possible via the ladies loo?

That was one of the many questions posed when the new and impressive £400,000 village hall was opened on Saturday evening.

"It remains a mystery," conceded Mr Ian Dorrett, former chairman of the village hall committee, who, along with Roger Dudley, was among the prime movers of the scheme.

Pointing out there are the "doers" and the "contributors", the former chairman said: "The people who actually worked on the project would probably fit on the stage at the end of the hall.

"But a lot of people contributed."

Even so, that was enough, for the biggest fundraising event locally was the £27,000 raised by a national organisation at Latimer House.

Mr Dorrett said: "We would have had to hold such a fete every year for 15 years to raise the £400,000. Thankfully, we put in six lottery bids. Four failed, one is pending and one was successful."

The former chairman went on to express disappointment that when you have been granted a lottery bid, you cannot go back for more if you run into further problems, whereas The Dome received more funding.

The lottery paid for half of the £400,000 Sarratt Hall, which was opened by Mr Dennis Jenks, whose tireless efforts raising funds with the book Sarratt and the Draper of Watford continues.

The committee is now looking to raise funds to develop the remainder of the building before attempting to rebuild the front of the hall.

In the meantime, the ladder to the attic storerooms has been shifted.

Village does not qualify to have speed cameras

W.O. 12-01-01

by Alex Hill

A HALL packed with Sarratt residents was told on Monday night speed cameras would not be allowed in the village.

Residents heard cameras would not be considered as an alternative to the controversial £50,000 traffic calming scheme that needs another £7,000 of recommended improvements.

The scheme has received widespread condemnation from residents, particularly opposed to bollards and chicanes in Dimmocks Lane, designed to reduce drivers' speeds, which they say have caused accidents.

Mr Stuart Walmsley, manager of the Highways Partnership, said cameras cost about £35,000 each and Sarratt did not qualify because there were not enough serious accidents in the village.

The public was given half-an-hour before the parish council meeting to quiz Mr Walmsley and Mr Johnathan Westell, area highways manager, after a presentation about the amendments to the present scheme.

Mr Westel said various problems had been highlighted in the safety audit, which is a practice routinely carried out by the contractors after installation to recommend improvements. The problems indicated could be remedied by widening the roads, more road markings and adding cats eyes.

However, residents pointed out, since the introduction of the chicanes and bollards in Dimmocks Lane last year, the area had been plagued with accidents.

They complained speeding had increased since the measures had been implemented, and unanimously agreed speed cameras were the only solution to increase safety on their roads.

Dr Colin Adams, who lives in Dimmocks Lane, near the bollards installed outside Biggerstaffs garage last year, said there had been six accidents at the spot – two more than previously thought.

He asked for statistics showing how speed had been reduced, but was told investigations had not yet been made.

Mr Walmsley said: "When I presented the scheme, we had two public exhibitions but speed cameras were never an option in this case.

"We have now done a safety audit to view the scheme, see how successful it has been and to meet everyone to identify other changes needed.

"We have identified a couple of changes we need to do to make the scheme final."

One suggestion at the meeting was that two speed cameras be placed at either end of Dimmocks Lane, without film in, to act as a deterrent.

Mr Brian Luckhouse, of Moor Lane, said: "Going up and down Scots Hill in Croxley Green, which has cameras, you never see anyone travelling more than 30mph."

Mr Walmsley's announcement that the speed limit on the road would be reduced, from 40mph to 30mph, was no comfort to the residents, who said there was no way of enforcing it without cameras, because the police are too stretched.

ahill@london.newsquest.co.uk

W.O. 16-2-01



Beating the traffic: Roland Absalom arrives by helicopter at his Micklefield home in Sarratt, watched by his wife, Elizabeth, in 1965.

W.O. 22-2-01

Land dispute resolved

A LAND dispute in Sarratt, has finally been decided by the European Court of Human Rights – 17 years after it began.

The dispute started after Mrs Sally Chapman put a caravan on Green Belt land they owned in the village.

Three Rivers District Council asked her to remove it but she refused.

She then applied to the council for permission to build a mobile home on the land, but this was refused.

Mrs Chapman then said, because they were gipsies, they had the right to put the caravan on the land, and claimed the council was discriminating against her.

In the end, the long-running dispute went to the European Court of Human Rights, which took seven years to reject Mrs Chapman's appeal in a decision on Thursday, January 18.

Although the council had an enforcement order to remove the caravan, it could not do anything while the matter was tied up in court.

However, following the court's decision, the enforcement order has come back into effect.

Council solicitors will put a case before the next meeting of the council's development control committee on Thursday, March 22.

Leader of the council Mrs Ann Shaw said: "We are determined to protect the Green Belt, and this case shows our perseverance."

Society AGM

W.O. 19-01-01

THE Sarratt Local History Society holds its AGM on Tuesday, January 23, in Sarratt Village School at 8pm. A talk from Mr Steve Morrell follows, called The History of Commonwood House. Everyone is welcome.

Former clerk considers legal action

Mrs Doreen Boast claims she was forced out

W.O. 19/1/01

THE former clerk of Sarratt Parish Council is considering taking legal action against the authority she once served.

Mrs Doreen Boast resigned her post in December, after accusing parish councillor Mr Richard Haynes of forcing her to quit.

At a meeting on Monday, January 8, Mr Haynes asked Mrs Boast if she was intending to sue the council.

She replied the forms were with the relevant bodies and the matter was in their hands.

The specific details of Mrs Boast's accusation of being forced out of her postion have not yet been discussed in the public domain.

However, included in the minutes for a meeting in December was the clerk's report – illustrating the tension between herself and Mr Haynes – in which she answered criticisms about her appointment as clerk.

In the minutes, she stated: "In view of the continuing problems and following last month's Part II [a section of the meeting the public and press are excluded from] called by councillor Haynes, devoted entirely to criticising me – which I resent, particularly from someone who was, himself, asked to resign due to his actions at the annual parish meeting – I feel I need to clarify the situation regarding my appointment as clerk.

"Following last month's [November] meeting, Councillor Haynes has succeeded in his objective of the past 18 months, and I am resigning my position of clerk as of now."

Copies of the clerk's report, and minutes from meetings, have been referred to the national and the Hertfordshire associations of local councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and the Employment Tribunal.

Chairman of the parish council Mrs Valerie Cumming was unavailable for comment on the proceedings.

However, she read a statement at the end of the last meeting, in which she praised Mrs Boast, and said the council would be sorry to see her go.

Mrs Cumming said: "Sadly, this is the last time Doreen will be clerk, and I would like to thank her.

"I have known her for four years before she became a clerk, and she has done wonderful work.

"People in the council are sorry you are going, so we would like to thank you for all the hard work you have done.

"I know the job is now going out to tender, and she would have to re-apply, but I, for one, am very sorry she is going."

Mr Haynes declined to comment about Mrs Boast's departure.

The financial chairman of the parish council, Mr John Ruggles, who has the job of finding a new clerk, said the council has no comment to make at this stage.

ahill@london.newsquest.co.uk

Councillor attacks poor state of roads

W.O. 13-2-01

THE state of the roads in Sarratt has been criticised by a member of Sarratt Parish Council.

Mr John Dean, a member of the council, has long been critical of the state of the roads in Sarratt and the methods used to fix potholes.

At a meeting of the council on Monday, February 12, he urged residents who find potholes to come to the parish council office in the Village Hall, The Green, to report them.

He said: "We have a continually worsening situation that is potentially seriously damaging.

"We are extremely critical of the Highways Partnership's methods in dealing with potholes in comparison with Dacorum Borough Council."

Later, Mr Chris Allen-Smith, area highway manager for the Three Rivers Highways Partnership, said: "The roads in Three Rivers and Dacorum are both treated in line with the county council standards.

"Both areas receive equal treatment."

However, Mr Allen-Smith acknowledged recent bad weather had caused problems with roads in the district.

Church has to hold on after 800 years without a toilet

W.O. 2/2/01

AFTER 800 years without a toilet, Holy Cross Church in Sarratt will have to hold on a while longer before one is provided.

Plans for a separate building for toilets, a crèche and to house the Sunday School were turned down at a Three Rivers District Council development control committee meeting on Thursday, January 18.

The Rev Peter Hart was disappointed with the decision – the proposal was out of character with the 12th Century building – because it is limiting the expansion and use of the church.

He said: "We have no toilets, or any space to store things.

"We have a congregation of 70 or 80 on Sunday mornings, and there is no way for us to grow.

"There are people, especially the elderly, who cannot come to church because they cannot hang on for an hour service, which is even longer if you take into account travelling time.

"The embarrassment is weddings, when I have to tell people there are no toilets.

"They end up jumping up and down during the photos, especially if they have had a drink before hand."

Mr Hart was surprised the proposals were rejected because, before they were submitted, the church had liaised with the council.

He said: "We came up with a design, detached from the church, which would be in keeping with a barn in the neighbouring property."

Claims by the church the toilet was needed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 were dismissed by the council.

Church warden Mr Michael Clark wrote to the council, saying the church had until 2004, as a service-provider, to make changes which allow the disabled to use the church.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst said: "The church does not need to meet the act. If is only applicable if there are toilets there in the first place."

Concern was raised by the council about the design and proximity of the proposal to the church, a Grade II listed building.

Leader of the Council Mrs Ann Shaw said: "I cannot vote for this. This is going to be so close to the church."

Councillor Phil Brading said: "We all appreciate the church wardens need more capacity but it is far too prominent."



STATELY PILE: An imposing property stands out in the surrounding countryside on the road between Chorleywood and Sarratt. WATFORD OBS 19-1-01 VO31527: DAVE HERRING

14 February, 2001

Mr. T. Turk,
Case Officer,
Planning & Leisure Department,
Three Rivers District Council,
Three Rivers House,
Northway,
Rickmansworth,
Herts. WD3 1RL

Dear Mr. Turk,

Application No. 01/00081/FUL – Dawes Lane Car Park and Access Road

Earlier this month I wrote to you reminding you of the petition I sent to you in1999 when the Car Park was initially proposed. This was signed by most of the residents of Alexandra Road and Downer Drive supporting a Car Park in Dawes Lane.

After sending that letter stating that, as nothing had apparently changed, we were still in support of it, a plan was put through our doors showing in detail the proposed application. Looking at it more carefully, we realised that, although there was no change to the Car Park, the proposed Entrance on the application by Wards Nurseries now appears to be not only for private cars, but for commercial vehicles also.

In discussing this apparent commercial entrance, the residents are now extremely alarmed that this will encourage even larger commercial vehicles to access Wards Nurseries via Alexandra Road and Downer Drive. Large commercial vehicles already use these roads because they cannot get down Dawes Lane due to excess parking. These two roads are primarily for young families and for elderly residents. To have increased use of these roads by commercial vehicles is totally unacceptable.

To conclude, we the residents of Alexandra Road and Downer Drive are strongly in support of a Car Park in Dawes Lane because of the excess parking spilling into our roads. However, we consider enlarging the entrance for Wards' use is a totally separate issue, and the entrance to the Car Park should only be for private cars and should be proportional for this use only.

Yours sincerely,
Signed on behalf of the Residents,

CAR PARK – DAWES LANE, SARRATT, HERTS

The District Council has commissioned this application for a car park to be constructed on land currently occupied by Wards Nurseries.

There has been a long-standing suggestion from the Parish Council for a car park primarily for residents in order to alleviate the traffic problems in Dawes Lane.

The proposal is for car park with twenty-three spaces (see map overleaf). The landscaping would involve changing the existing access to Wards Nurseries by setting back the existing hedgerow to provide visibility for vehicles entering and leaving the car park.

The landscaping work would be undertaken by Wards supervised by the Council's landscaping and arborist staff who are satisfied that the method proposed will not endanger the long-term health of the hedge.

The surface of the car park and access road would be similar to the existing, but with parking bays marked. There will be low level lighting and a height restriction to preclude vehicles not entitled by the byelaws to use the car park.

The Parish Council have agreed to maintain the car park and the District Council would enforce the off-street parking regulations.

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL

URGENT NOTICE

IN ORDER TO STOP THE SPREAD OF FOOT AND MOUTH

DISEASE IN OUR AREA IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY WITH

IMMEDIATE EFFECT, TO CLOSE ALL FOOTPATHS,

BRIDLEWAYS AND COMMONS IN THE PARISH OF SARRATT

TO THE PUBLIC.

ANYONE WORKING IN THE AREA OF THE COMMONS WILL

BE SUBJECT TO STRICT CONTROLS BY THE RANGER.

THIS WILL INVOLVE DISINFECTING FEET AND VEHICLES.

BECAUSE WILD ANIMALS MOVE ACROSS COMMONS AS

WELL AS FARM LAND THERE IS A VERY REAL RISK OF

WALKERS OR HORSE RIDERS UNKNOWINGLY CARRYING

THE VIRUS.

WE ASK FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN SUPPORTING THE

FARMERS EFFORTS TO COMBAT THIS TERRIBLE DISEASE.

Valerie Cumming ***CHAIRMAN SARRATT P.C.***

FEBRUARY 2001

W.O. 23-2-01

Bus service suffers more criticism

THE controversial bus company that serves Three Rivers has been the subject of more criticism.

Arriva has been dogged by complaints during the past six months and, on Monday, February 12, a member of Sarratt Parish Council added his voice to those attacking the company, when he criticised the 352 service, which runs through the village.

Mr John Gell said: "I understand the timekeeping of the bus service is very bad indeed.

"Busses often turn up late and sometimes early. Sometimes they do not even stop."

He urged residents who have experienced similar problems to inform the parish council.

Mr Peter Cummings, a resident of The Green, Sarratt, has written to the company to complain about the service.

He complained about a driver going straight past four passengers waiting at a bus stop and said the service's timekeeping was not good enough.

He also pointed out while the timetable had been changed, the roadside timetables had not.

Mr Nick Knox, Arriva's general manager, has written to Mr Cumming to apologise.

He blamed the problems on inexperienced drivers who were unfamiliar with the area and promised, in light of the difficulties experienced, Arriva would be rescheduling the journey to attempt to ensure regular drivers covered the route.

He said the driver who had driven past four passengers was new to the route and it had been an exceptionally foggy day.

He added the out-of-date bus timetables would be changed.

Last year, Three Rivers District Council passed a motion criticising Arriva's service to the area.

It emerged last week the Watford Citizens Advice Bureau was taking part in a survey to monitor Arriva's complaints policy.

People who have written to the company and not received a reply, or are waiting for a promised return telephone call, can visit the bureau at St Mary's Churchyard, High Street, Watford, where they can fill in a short questionnaire.

The Abbots Langley Citizens Advice Bureau is also monitoring the service for the public at the office at The Old Stables, St Lawrence's Church, High Street.



Farmer Mr Timothy Norris displaying his organic eggs. Picture V101730: CHLOE PEARSON

NAT 065. 7-3-01

Going organic round the Mulberry Bush

A FARMER from Sarratt has gone organic.

The Mulberry Bush Farm, in Dawes Lane, has started selling organic eggs, and is about to go into organic meat production.

Mr Timothy Norris, who owns the farm, believes the change is partly a response to customer demands.

He thinks people have become increasingly interested in organic farming, following the BSE crisis and the current outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

He said: "I am very worried about factory farming techniques producing food that is not healthy.

"From a business point of view, I believe if you produce something special, you are going to be able to sell it.

"The move is a response to market demands. People are losing confidence in factory farming techniques and want to buy locally produced food. Also, they can come to the farm and see what is going on if they want."

He added: "The chickens are on an organic pasture that has not had any artificial fertilizers or chemicals applied to it for at least two years.

"They are not subjected to any medication, so you have not got the antibiotics associated with the agricultural process. The food they eat is organic and has not been genetically modified. That is a guarantee."

The eggs are available at outlets in the district, including Sarratt Village Stores in The Green, Sarratt, and Hamblings Butchers in Moneyhill Parade, Rickmansworth.

2e01

THE WIZARD OF OZ



Presented by SPLAT
Written by John E Parker

Directed by Di Parry & Anne Griffiths
Produced by Pippa Alexander

Thursday 15th February to
Saturday 17th February 2001

50p

Cast list

Dorothy	The Heroine	Freya Saddler
Kim	The Arch-Villain	Julia Saddler
Roz	The Lesser-Villain	Jan Mardling
Uncle Henry	Type casting !!	Robin Gain
Auntie Em	His long-suffering wife	Jane Bryson
Lydia Blotch	A nasty piece of work	Ann Rickard
Sheriff	Who else but…….	Phil Wynes
Madame Mildew	A smelly old soul	Di Parry
Glinda	A glamorous witch	Fiona Hildick
Lavinia	A "glamorous" witch??	Paul Dennant
Scarecrow	No brains	Anna Clements
Tin Man	No heart	Sarah Cronin
Cowardly Lion	No courage	Anne Griffiths
Gatekeeper	At the Emerald City	Nicola Clough
The Wizard of Oz	A master of disguise	Mike Rogers
Sergeant Major	A balletomane	Jeremy Fern
1st Citizen	A pillar of Society	Linda Clough
2nd Citizen	Also a pillar of Society	Keri Hildick
Major Domo	An uncivil servant	Wendy Salter
Middle sized Kim	Wait and see	Emma Jane Owen
Little Kim	Wait even longer & see	Jodie Simm

Yellow Winkies/Winged Monkeys: Hannah Parry, Harriet Dennant, Helen Rogers, James Mitchell, Elizabeth Mitchell, Chloe Brown, Emma Jane Owen, Sarah Welsh-Welling,
Townspeople: Wendy Salter, Jeremy Fern, Di Parry, Phil Wynes, Ann Rickard, Emma Jane Owen, Ken Hildick.
Flower People: Nicola Clough, Keri Hildick, Emma Jane Owen.

And not forgetting those masters of disguise
John Lyons John Rickard Clive Saddler
In another unforgettable role.

The Production Team

Directors	Di Parry & Anne Griffiths
Producer	Pippa Alexander
Musical Director	David Clough
Lyrics	Larry & Anne Griffiths
Sound Engineer	Gordon Harold
Sound Assistant	Roger Prior
Lighting Engineer	Ian Smales
Lighting Assistant	Jonathan Bryson
Lighting Assistant	Al Barnett
Props	Fiona Wynes
Scenery construction	Greg Leveridge
Scenery Painting	Leigh Martins
Stage & Rigging	Colin Plummer
Costume Co-ordinater	Mary Crail
Costume makers	Agnes Bonwick, Chris Head, Pippa Brown, Daphne Tyler, Nicky Morrin, Rosemary Pyne.
Hat makers	Anne Rickard, Sue Ward
Stage Manager	Ben Wynes
Stage hands	Sarah Rogers, Joanne Crawt, Richard Nice
Make-up Co-ordinater	Jan Dennant
Make-up artists	Pippa Brown, Jackie Tydeman, Mair Lewsey, Georgina Twomey, Kate Warwick-Oliver.
Box & Front Office	Julia & Hannah Cheetham
Programme Production	Pippa Alexander & Robin Gain
Front Cover Design	Leigh Martins
Cast Refreshments	Sue Crawt
Audience refreshments	Sue Crawt, Roy Eteen & Brownie helpers.
Auction & raffle	Julia Cheetham
Photography	Laurie Reading

The Orchestra

Keyboard	David Clough
Percussion	Larry Griffiths
Guitar	Chris Day
Clarinet	Jodie Hitchcock
Flute	Philip Beausire



Anna Clements played the role of the Scarecrow in SPLAT's pantomime, *The Wizard of Oz*, in Sarratt village hall last week. *Photo by Tony Bell.* Rick. Examiner 23-2-01 TB1202

SPLAT panto a huge success

SARRATT residents joined Dorothy, Toto, the Scarecrow, Tinman and Cowardly Lion, on a trip down the yellow brick road during a visit to Sarratt village hall last week.

Sarratt Pantomime Light Alternative Theatre - better known as SPLAT - staged an extremely successful version of Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*, selling all but 20 tickets for its four performances.

The Examiner caught up with producer, Pippa Alexander, after the show to ask how it went. She said: "We were really pleased. We were sold out except for 20 seats and everyone kept coming up to me afterwards and saying how good it was."

Pippa described the show as "a traditional tale with a few added extras in typical pantomime fashion", one of which was the Dame, Lavy the Good Witch, played with great aplomb by Paul Dennant.

She added: "The cast had a ball and we had a huge party to celebrate on Saturday, It really is a community thing and gets everyone working together during the really awful winter months. It's also a lot of fun and a lovely way to involve the younger members of the village."

W.O. 16-3-01

Secret meeting claims made

by Richard Evans

CRITICISM has been levelled at Sarratt Parish Council by its own members, over allegations of secrecy.

At a meeting of the council on Monday, councillors expressed their concern that meetings of the planning committee are not open to the public.

This is despite Government guidance that council meetings should all be held in public, unless there is a good reason to hold it in private.

The council has been hit by controversy recently, following the resignations of the chairman and the clerk, and claims too much of the council business is being discussed behind closed doors.

Parish councillor Mr John Gell said: "It worries me the general public cannot get to planning meetings. If we are opening up our committees, then we really should look at the planning committee."

At the meeting, Mr Mick Warner, a member of the committee, said he believed it was right the meetings should not be open to the public.

He said: "It is very easy to open up the greens committee to the public but it is not so easy to open up the finance committee. It is even more difficult to open up planning because we are talking about individuals' houses. We are talking about a house, an address and somebody's name."

However, of the five parish councils in the district, Sarratt Parish Council is the only one not to hold meetings of its planning committee in public. Watford Rural Parish Council discusses planning applications in the area at its main meeting.

Leader of Three Rivers District Council Mrs Ann Shaw, who was in the public gallery, told the meeting: "The basic principle is every meeting should be open to the public unless there is a legal reason. How do you think we manage on the development control committee on the district council? If people do not want to have their names made public then they should not have come forward in the first place."

Mr Dean agreed. He told the planning committee: "We want more openness. You need to take into account what Councillor Shaw has said. Three Rivers District Council has opened up and we have to do the same."

Three Rivers District Councillor Roy Clements, who is also a member of Watford Rural Parish Council, expressed amazement Sarratt Parish Council did not discuss planning in public.

After the meeting he said: "There should be no secrecy on these matters and it should be be open to all members of the public to come along and listen to what is being debated. This is totally wrong."

Mrs Valerie Cumming, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, said after the meeting: "I agree we have not had public meetings but there has never been anything underhand, and there has been no secrecy. We will be reviewing the matter.

"At the full council meetings we show any plans that come up. There is only the odd one we do not discuss."

A spokesman for the National Association of Local Councils said: "According to the terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, every meeting should be open to the public except where discussion in public would be prejudicial to public interest. The private part of the meeting should be limited to where this confidential matter is being considered."

W.O. 16-3-01

No common ground in car park battle

OPINIONS were vehemently split at a public meeting in Sarratt on Monday, as frustrated residents discussed the unrelenting proposal for Dawes Lane car park.

Many residents of Dawes Lane say a car park is a waste of money, as it will not be used.

However, other residents from surrounding roads claim the car park would be used by people having to park irresponsibly at the moment in the area.

The discussion took place at Sarratt Parish Council in the George V Pavilion, off George V Way.

The idea for a car park in the road has been the subject of debate since it was first mooted in 1997.

Among the concerns expressed at the meeting were the possible detrimental effects on an historic hedge in the road, and that the car park would increase crime in the village.

However, parish councillor Mr Richard Haines said: "What I do not find acceptable is Dawes Lane residents not accepting they cause a problem. The parking habits of some of the residents is disgraceful, and I think you should all be ashamed of yourselves.

"People should have the right to drive up and down the roads of Sarratt without being put in danger from bad parking."

Parish council Mr John Dean is against the car park.

He said: "We are not sure about this car park. We should urge Three Rivers District Council to put this on ice and get ideas from people about alternatives."

Mr John Gell responded to claims from residents no one would use the car park by saying he did not know a car park in the area that had become a white elephant.

However, a resident pointed out The Plough public house in Belsize has an adequate car park that is not used due to car vandalism.

The matter is set to be decided at Three Rivers District Council's development control committee on Thursday.

If it receives planning permission, it will then go before a meeting of the council's cabinet executive committee, which will decide if it wants to spend the money on it.

Passengers praise a better bus service

W. OBS 23-3-01

A RESIDENT of Sarratt who complained about the reliability of buses in the village has reported an improvement in the service.

Mr Peter Cumming, a regular bus user, made a complaint about the service, along with Sarratt parish councillor Mr John Gell.

The comments were reported in an article in The Watford Observer on Friday, February 23.

At the time, Arriva acknowledged the level of service had been poor, but promised it would improve.

Mr Cumming said: "One is a bit guarded because of the history, but we have definitely seen an improvement.

"There are now inspectors, and we have seen a lot more people sitting with drivers who do not know the route.

"However, the timekeeping has not improved. In the afternoon the buses are very infrequent, so if you miss one you are in deep trouble.

"Having said this, I would congratulate Arriva for the changes it has made."

Mr Nigel Eggleton, commercial director of Arriva, said: "We are very pleased to see there has been some improvement. There are further improvements still to be made, particularly to the punctuality of the service, and we are working closely with Hertfordshire County Council to identify some minor timetable changes."

W.O. 16-3-01

Officers question police views on village car park

A POLICE report that describes the proposed car park in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, as a "honeypot" for crime has been questioned by officers from Three Rivers District Council.

In a report to the council's development control committee, which met to discuss the proposals last night (Thursday), officers questioned the findings of the police report, and recommended plans for the car park are approved.

The police maintain the car park plans do not come up to the Secure Car Park Award's specification for a safe car park. The specification has been designed by the AA and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The officers' report states: "The suggestions made by the police are not considered to be appropriate in a rural setting.

"While their requirements for a car park are, of course, reasonable, the nature of the area must also be considered.

"The village does not have street lights, and the suggestion Dawes Lane should have street lighting would detract from the rural nature of the lane. There is a suggestion lighting does not actually assist security anyway.

"The comment that the nature of the car park would make it "a honeypot" for crime is not understood.

"Some existing public car parks in Three Rivers are unlit, and have areas that are not overlooked. There is no evidence of concentration of crime or abandonment of vehicles on these car parks."

However, PC Mike Powell, who compiled the report, said: "We have prepared our report, and it is up to the development control committee to decide what to do.

"If it is dark, unlit and not looked over, it will not take criminals long to realise they could commit crime and get away with it."

Regardless of the committee's decision, the matter still has to go to the council's cabinet executive committee for final approval.

The idea for the car park has divided Sarratt. Some claim it is needed to combat parking problems, while others say it is a waste of money, because nobody will use it.

W.O. 22-3-01



TAKING STOCK with Roy Stockdill

Secret shame

I SEE the Silly Burghers of Sarratt are at it again. They never learn, do they?

Just about everybody has told them they must end the nonsense of holding secret meetings and not telling taxpayers what's going on.

Government guidelines say all council meetings should be public, unless there are very good reasons for holding one in private.

Even some members of Sarratt Parish Council itself are having twinges of conscience about meetings of the planning committee not being open to the public.

However, listen to the idiotic remarks of one member of the committee, Mick Warner, arguing for the secrecy to continue.

He says: "We are talking about individuals' houses. We are talking about an address and somebody's name."

So what? If someone applies to build an extension on their property, then all their neighbours are entitled to know about it if it affects them, and, moreover, they are entitled to know what the council's planning committee thinks about it.

Discussing such matters in secret can only foster an unhealthy belief that underhand and backdoor deals are being done.

Car park plan turned down

W.O. 30-3-01

Dawes Lane residents celebrate victory

by Richard Evans

A PLANNING application to build a car park in Sarratt has been rejected.

The decision was greeted by loud applause from residents of Dawes Lane – the site for the plans – at a meeting of Three Rivers District Council's development control committee last Thursday.

The application was turned down for environmental reasons, because it would mean the removal of a hedge, alledged to be 1,000 years old.

Since the idea for a car park was first mooted in 1997, the issue has divided the village, and has been the subject of heated debate.

Some people have suggested the car park would solve many of Sarratt's parking problems but others have claimed it would not be used and would lead to an increase in crime.

A recent police report that suggested the car park would be a "honeypot" for crime, fuelled residents' fears.

Many residents complained the "ancient" hedge in the road would have been damaged if the car park had gone ahead.

The committee felt this damage was unacceptable.

This was despite claims from Sarratt resident Mr Peter Cumming that the hedge was not as old as some people claimed.

He said: "That hedge used to be a post and rail fence, so I do not believe, despite its beauty, it is the end of the world to remove it. You could plant species into a hedge and make it a 1,000-year-old hedge in about three years. Hedging is being restarted successfully all over the country."

Leader of the council Mrs Ann Shaw, who attended a public meeting in Sarratt this month, told the committee she could not see who would actually use the car park.

She said: "Nobody in Dawes Lane plans to use this car park, while other people think they ought to use it. There was nobody at the meeting volunteering to use it themselves."

Councillor Shaw added: "It would be totally unjustified to destroy this hedge. It has been there a long time, although there is some debate. There has to be a good reason to destroy something like that."

Sarratt Parish Council has long been in favour of a car park in Dawes Lane.

However, Mrs Valerie Cumming, chairman of the parish council, told the meeting the parish council could not support the application anyway, unless an amendment was made to make the entrance to the car park smaller.

District councillor Tony Barton, who represents Sarratt, said: "In this day and age, to turn a car park down seems unreasonable, but I can see both sides of the argument. The council has been very fair and it is a difficult decision."

Committee chair Councillor Sara Bedford said: "You cannot make people park in the car park if they do not want to. We are not going to start double yellow lining the roads. People want to park outside their houses and that is not unreasonable."

Mrs Lee Lott, a resident of Sarratt, spoke against the car park.

She said: "This would be a gross misuse of public funds. There is a far greater need for a car park at Sarratt School in The Green."

Council prepares to close common

Bucks Examiner 2-3-01

report by Kate Porter

CHORLEYWOOD Common is likely to become out of bounds to protect farms from the foot and mouth threat.

Hertfordshire County Council was yesterday awaiting the Government's go-ahead to ban public access to the county's rural footpaths, bridleways and common land. It will affect all rights of way, other than tarmacked routes, and closure notices are being prepared.

Spokeswoman Jane Vine said a decision was imminent, and that the closure declaration was "very likely" to come into force.

As the Examiner went to press last night, no cases of foot and mouth had been recorded in Hertfordshire. But, as fears of the outbreak mount nationwide, the county council is trying to minimise the risk to local farms and livestock.

Ian McLachlan, head of Hertfordshire's trading standards, said: "The whole of the UK is a controlled area, and we cannot be complacent with the disease already in Essex."

Council staff banned

The council has banned its officers and vehicles from unnecessarily entering farms, and is telling the public to avoid agricultural land. The authority has closed its outdoor centres for schools.

Chorleywood Parish Council is also stressing the need for caution.

Parish clerk Yvonne Merritt said: "There is no livestock on the common, but there is a wild group of muntjac deer that roam freely. If they got onto farmland it would be possible for contamination. But there are no registered signs of foot and mouth here at the moment.

"In our experience so far, everyone is being very responsible. For example, the Ramblers Association asked our permission to cross the common during its walk at the weekend."

The county council stresses that owners of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or deer must not move any animals on or off their land until further notice, and should ensure animals are not able to stray. This also applies to people with pet pigs.

There has been a steady increase in business over the past few days at Higgins the Butchers in Lower Road.

Clifford Atkins said customers were concerned, but were being sensible. He said: "Our supplies are OK this week, although prices are rising. We've managed to get mostly UK meat at the moment, but will be getting Irish pork.

"Obviously, choice is dwindling and our supplies will depend on how long the situation lasts."

There have be no signs of panic buying at Budgens in Chorleywood, but the supermarket has been forced to find alternative meat suppliers.

Director of corporate communications, Rod Alexander said: "Like most multiples, we had about a week's worth of meat in our chain when the news broke.



Sarratt was transformed into a winter wonderland on Sunday when flurries of snow blanketed the countryside. PW2502

Show cancelled

THE annual flower festival in Sarratt has been cancelled because of the foot and mouth crisis. The festival uses the field next to Holy Cross in Church Lane for car parking. The festival had been due to take place at the end of June.

New fears over foot and mouth

Rickmansworth Chorleywood Leader 21-3-01

BY RACHEL WARD

HERTFORDSHIRE farmers fear the spread of foot and mouth disease with the public ignoring a ban on the use of footpaths.

County council signs have been torn down despite the closure orders.

Although Three Rivers Council has reopened the Rickmansworth Aquadrome and South Oxhey Playing Fields, it stresses that visitors should stick to park paths and not let dogs wander in the undergrowth.

Ted Massey, Three Rivers chief environment officer said: "We've taken this action as a response to the current situation. We've carried out a risk assessment and now feel able to relax our control measures slightly. But all public footpaths remain closed by order of the county council."

The council is keeping the wooded section of Oxhey playing fields closed but reopening an area to the east.

Hertfordshire County Council put up signs banning people from public footpaths and sections of countryside at the beginning of March in a bid to curb the spread of the disease.The council was amazed at reports that the ban was being ignored considering the seriousness of the situation.

Councillor Iris Tarry, environment executive member, said: "We had hoped that such a serious situation would bring out people's sense of responsibility, but it seems that some are prepared to put livestock, livelihoods and the rural economy at risk purely to suit their own personal convenience.

"We are appealing again for people to keep off the footpaths, and would like to stress that there are no exceptions to this ban. We will not hesitate to prosecute people breaking the law in this way."

Anyone found breaking this ban could face a fine of £5,000. All public access to footpaths is currently prohibited.

Mrs Tarry said: "We don't know whether some people are trying to make a point, but whatever their motives, removing the notices does not remove the risk to livestock, or the risk of prosecution for anyone ignoring the ban."

Sally Lound of Bowmans Farm, Radlett, said: "We are extremely worried and have taken many precautions to protect our farm."

A National Farmers' Union spokesman added that individual farmers remained vigilant and were urged to take their own precautions to stop the spread of the disease.

Martin Hartup, the manager of Aldenham Country Park, which was closed early during the current crisis said: "We are concerned that the situation is still not rectified."

Pub included in guides

W.O. 30-3-01

A PUBLIC house in Sarratt has been recognised as one of the best in the country by two industry guides.

The Cock Inn in Church Lane has been included in the latest editions of the Good Pub Guide and The AA Pub Guide.

The Good Pub Guide describes it as a "cosy, cream-painted 17th Century country pub."

The pub is managed by Mr Dale Tozer and his wife, Amanda. Mr Tozer was delighted by the news.

He said: "Being in the Good Pub Guide and The AA Pub Guide is a great achievement, and we are delighted to be recognised in this way.

"The food and atmosphere is one of the reasons we get people coming back time and time again, and I am sure this is why we have been selected for entry into these prestigious guides."

The Good Pub Guide relies on consumer recommendations to compile a shortlist. Each of these is then visited anonymously by the editor or deputy editor.

The AA Pub Guide has a team of inspectors, who visit each pub to determine its suitability for entry.



The Cock Inn's head chef Mr Alan Nyman with Mr Dale Tozer and his wife, Amanda.

1/4/01

RECTOR'S REPORT

The year 2000 was for Holy Cross a very busy year, with much happening. There are therefore many thanks to be given. I have already thanked the churchwardens for their efforts and you have heard how busy the PCC have been. Many thanks to everyone from the bellringers, through the choir and organist to the readers and coffee makers for their contribution to the worship of Holy Cross. There are too many involved to thank you all individually and by name. However I would like to thank Anne. The unpaid and unofficial curate, who does more than she should and also keeps me more or less going in the right direction. The year 2000 also saw the appointment of a Parish Administrator based more formally at the Rectory than was the case before. All I can tell you is that Alex has taken an enormous amount of work from my shoulders and I guess from Anne's. Many of the things the church has done during the year were only possible because Alex was at work in the Rectory. He also does far more than even his hours as Parish Administrator suggests

At Holy Cross we had the new roof completed at the beginning of the year. Thanks to the Friends who made it possible to pay without too much immediate heart ache. Thanks to Michael Clark, who saw the whole thing through and all those who helped by spring cleaning every week. By the end of the year the PCC had approved plans for the church room and these were to go before the District Council. We have no provision for a creche on Sunday, the Junior Church is some distance away, which is good for some Sundays, but a space for teaching at the younger age level at other services would be helpful. We have very few young families and no significant youth membership.

There is no storage and no space for a growing congregation. Also we lack toilet facilities. I am convinced of the need but I also wish to retain the uniqueness of Holy Cross. However a church without people will die.
It is hard to summarise a whole congregation's spiritual progress. The spread of the healing ministry to our morning services is important and seems to have been well received. Sadly our prayer times have remained numerically static but our home groups have grown in number and I believe content. We have also established a group leaders meeting from time to time. By the end of the year we had moved into Common Worship, to which I believe we shall become accustomed..

We have maintained our links with children, especially the enormous amount of work done for Junior Church, by an overworked and increasingly older team. I attend assembly each week. We have run holiday clubs and Kings Clubs. During last year Prams and Pushchairs became a part of the monthly programme for young families. Thanks to the team of helpers and to Brian and Penny Hill who have made this a really ecumenical event. have All this young people's work have been jointly organised as have our outside services and united services, Home groups and Lent and Advent talks. Anne and I have found the presence of Brian and Penny Hill a real support over the last year. Sadly no Christian Centre at the Baptist church, but a real sense of working together. This has been especially true in our efforts to spread the Gospel. Books about Jesus for all Junior School aged children in Sarratt or Sarratt school, Gospels to every household at Christmas 2000 and a really big project to visit every house and offer a Jesus Video. More than thirty people from both churches did the work. We learnt a lot about working together and about how the village perceived Jesus. I believe we shall see the results of that work bear fruit in the years to come.

This work and other projects have been guided by the short term objectives of our Mission Statement. This work took the PCC and a small committee a long time but I believe the work was very worthwhile. Our Alpha Courses continued throughout the year. with two starting in the autumn, the members are now part of a discovery group and are continuing to meet as part of our joint work. Anne, Alex, Edith, Brian and Penny plus others from both churches have enabled this work to continue

The Rector's report could not finish without a look forward. The Stewardship and pledge Sunday results speak of a church moving and working together but slowly. Church isn't just Sunday worship. I would like to see the continued growth of Home groups, prayer groups and other weekday activities like Open Door.

I believe that one thing will become critical in the next couple of years. Leaders and leadership by lay people are going to be a vital need in the church. If I phoned a churchwarden at 7.0am on a Sunday morning and said I can't make it to church, what would happen? If the answer is to shut down then I would feel a failure. I need in the next couple of years to encourage and help lay people lead and plan services. I shall be involved in that work during this year. A few people have volunteered to be part of Home group leadership, a few have agreed to be preparing the church for worship, lots of people have volunteered to be a lesson reader. If anyone would like to begin to help plan and organise and lead services please let me know. I shall be inviting people to join me in this work in the very near future.

Will we have a church room? Will we be part of a team with Chipperfield? Will you have a Rector in the Rectory in four years? I don't know, but I do want now to be working for the good of Sarratt and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus in our community for many many years to come. We need to start now to achieve this end and not in three years when I retire.

2001

HOLY CROSS CHURCH 2000

GENERAL ACCOUNT – INCOME

	1999	2000 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
Envelopes	4452.27	4124.47		
Covenants	7259.50	9679.50		
Tax refund on covenants	2841.82	6295.18		
Collections (loose cash)	7484.66	7136.62		
Insurance recovery transferred	(1598.86)	–		27235.77
	20439.39			
Christmas Fayre (net)	1411.41	1591.18		
Harvest Supper (net)	714.43	615.70		
Boxes	576.45	631.24		
Donations & bequests	13215.64	1321.00		
Fees (Marriages & Funerals)	3780.00	3607.00		
Junior Church income	140.49	240.15		
Sundry income	262.85	58.94		
Interest on current a/c etc	37.07	94.90		
Interest on CBF deposit a/c	1951.97	2396.66		
Michael Hewlett collection	–	1054.61		
	22090.31			11611.38
Special Collections				
British Legion	209.68		311.24	
NCH & Childrens Society	–		251.40	
Biblelands	–		386.61	949.25
	42739.38	38847.15	949.25	39796.40
Other income and expenses				
Surplus/Deficit on spotlight	825.42	(237.90)		(237.90)
Village collection for Christian Aid	921.04		941.43	941.43
	44485.84	38609.25	1890.68	40499.93

HOLY CROSS CHURCH 2000

	1999	2000 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
General Account & Expenses				
Altar supplies	454.22	110.40		
Bible study Alpha etc	686.80	398.62		
Church supplies	14.52	296.98		
Junior Church Services	725.62	339.04		
Village videos (net)	–	273.75		
Church cleaning	693.49	774.75		
Heating, lighting and water	1164.16	1159.19		
Organist, music, tuning etc	1126.64	1894.66		
Sundries	1076.63	772.41		
Boiler insurance	192.23	192.48		
Deficit on churchyard account	487.29	984.31		
Charity (village) Christian aid	921.04	–	941.43	
Clergy fees paid	120.00	45.00		
Rental on Sarratt Baptist Church	500.00	1000.00		
Accountancy review	141.00	152.00		
Advertisement	–	429.13		
Altar frontal	–	1105.00		
Architect planning fees – new hall	–	1303.67		
Furniture and equipment	1155.62	–		
	9459.26	11231.39	941.43	12172.82
Diocesan, office and incumbent expenses				
Diocesan Common Fund	16400.00	19854.00		
Diocese fees due for weddings	1100.00	500.00		
Rector's expenses	439.88	1239.00		
Sundry office expenses	1289.48	2573.54		
Parish manager and secretary	1620.00	4249.72		
	20849.36	28416.26		28416.26
Charitable giving				
Home (local)	2300.00	1755.00		
Home (National)	209.68	750.00	562.64	
Overseas	350.00	1350.25	386.61	
	2859.68	3855.25	949.25	4804.50
Total expenses	33168.30	43502.90	1890.68	45393.58
Surplus/Deficit on General Account	11317.54	(4893.65)		(4893.65)
	44485.84	38609.25	1890.68	40499.93

HOLY CROSS CHURCH 2000

Charitable Donations	1999	2000 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Bishop's Harvest Appeal	350.00	305.00	
Royal British Legion	209.68		311.24
Samaritans	250.00	250.00	
New Hope Trust	600.00	805.00	
Peace Hospice	250.00	250.00	
Relate	250.00	250.00	
St Luke's Hospital for Clergy	250.00	250.00	
South Oxhey All Saints Church	500.00	–	
Michael Tomlinson Appeal	200.00	–	
Leprosy Mission	–	245.25	
The Pepper Foundation	–	200.00	
Shaftesbury Society	–	250.00	
Tear Fund	–	300.00	
Church Missionary Society	–	300.00	
Toybox	–	200.00	
NCH Action for children	–	250.00	
	2859.68	3855.25	311.24

Spotlight Account
(Designated Fund)

	Income 1999	Income 2000		Expenses 1999	Expenses 2000
Adverts	969.13	843.67	Paper servicing etc	1392.70	1763.50
Donations – General	1407.75	1726.29	Postage etc	158.76	83.36
– Restricted	–	2832.00	New equipment		3793.00
Deficit	–	237.90	Surplus	825.42	–
	2376.88	5639.86		2376.88	5639.86

Churchyard Account

	1999		2000	
Income				
Trusts income	109.10		109.41	
Parish Council Grant	1000.00		1000.00	
		1109.10		1109.41
Expenses				
Grass hedge cutting etc	1596.39		2093.72	
Deficit charged to general expenses	(487.29)		(984.31)	
		1109.10		1109.41

HOLY CROSS CHURCH 2000

REPAIRS AND PROPERTY FUNDS

Balances as at 31 December 1998 and 1999

	1998	1999
Restoration Fund at Central Board of Finance	22290.59	23859.69
Restoration Fund in current bank account	(348.09)	154.13
School Fund interest in Restoration Fund, CB of F	6358.89	7419.02
	28301.39	31432.84

Receipts during 1998 and 1999	1999	2000
Central Board of Finance interest on Restoration Account	1569.10	1879.81
School Fund interest	1060.13	1160.98
Donations to the current account Restoration Fund	262.07	
Contributions by Friends to insurance and repairs	2399.66	1148.53
	5290.56	4189.32

Payments in 1999 and 2000 – all from current account Restoration Fund		
Insurance of Church	800.40	671.70
Repairs etc	1358.71	–
	2159.11	671.70

Balances as at 31 December each year	1999	2000
1) Restoration Fund at Central Board of Finance	23859.69	25739.50
2) Restoration Fund held in current bank account	154.13	630.96
3) Interest on School Fund (held in fund 1)	7419.02	8580.00
	31432.84	34950.46
General Fund balance at end of each year	43645.78	38752.13
Church total financial assets	75078.62	73702.59

NB Funds are held in trust by the Rector and Church Wardens arising from the sale of the School House, which are considered a connected charity.

W.O. 6-4-01

Still waters run deep in village

THE sun poured into Sarratt Village Hall to illuminate Sarratt Horticultural Society's spring show on Saturday.

Nearly 40 entrants submitted 280 entries, which delighted society secretary Mrs Margaret Stratford, who said: "Considering the bad weather we are very pleased with the support we have had.

"It is difficult for entrants to get entries together with weather such as we have had."

Flowers, fruit and vegetables, arts and crafts, home made food, fresh eggs, embroidery and knitwear were some of the categories displayed, with one person entering a detailed house made of matchsticks in the craft section. A surprisingly high number of entries were submitted in the photography section.

Mrs Stratford said: "The subject for the photographs was still water, and it has obviously captured the imagination of people because we have had a bumper number of entries this year.

"We have hardly any tulips because of the weather, but, to be honest, I am just relieved we have a show to put on at all, considering the weather and foot and mouth."

A new trophy was given out this year in memory of one of the villagers. The Toots Downer Cup for Floral Art was given in memory of Mrs Toots Downer, a long-time Sarratt resident and staunch supporter of the horticultural society.

The trophy was presented to the winner by Mrs Downer's husband, Bernard.

Results:

Daffodils, Pinnaroo Trophy: 1st - Roger Dudley, 2nd -Lina Fermont, 3rd - Patricia Watson; Daffodil Society Diploma - John Lyons; Daffodil Best Bloom - John Lyons; Other Flowers, Dickins Trophy: 1st - Patricia Watson, 2nd - Toby Biggerstaff, 3rd - Brenda Harold and Leigh Martins; Vegetable/ Fruit/ Produce Roy Ward Trophy: 1st - Toby Biggerstaff, 2nd - John Lyons, 3rd - Linda Fermont; Guild of Judges Certificate: Toby Biggerstaff; Flower Arrangements, Toots Downer Trophy: 1st - Breda Tierman, 2nd - Noreen Singleton, 3rd - Audrey Bond; Arts and Crafts certificate: 1st - Marguerite Browning, 2nd - Jennifer Peiser, 3rd - Roger Dudley; Cookery certificate: 1st - Brenda Harold, 2nd - Audrey Griffith-Jones, 3rd - Noreen Singleton and Joan North; Children's Classes, Junior (Dorrett) Trophy: 1st - Joanne Horwood, 2nd - Angela Dudley, 3rd - Sarah Welsh-Welling; Maximum points in show - Toby Biggerstaff with 34.

Q INFORMATION about an auction of a Travelling Fair on Sarratt Green, sometime between 1900 and 1925 is being sought. The auction was conducted in the Red Lion public house, situated near Red Lion Lane.

MR V.C. ADAMS, of Westmoors, near Bournemouth, recollects fair people staying at Red Lion Farm in Sarratt:

A I WAS born in Red Lion Farm in Sarratt, and we had the public house and the farm. My grandfather ran it. My father was in the guards in the First World War, and I was born in 1915.

The fair people used to pull on to the green in carts. It was just a caravan they used to pull. Well, of course, nowadays they have all got lorries, which is different. They used to put horses on the green to feed, and put a rope round their legs, so they couldn't run off.

The Smiths, the Rollings and the Chappers – there were three or four families of each – used to park there all through the winter, and drink in the pub.

They were marvellous times, those days, parked there all through the winter when the fairs had finished in the summertime. The fairs didn't keep on as long as they do nowadays.

I knew the Smiths very well. I have got a china horse in my bedroom which Old Chapper gave me sometime in the 1950's. I knew them all; you see, you got to know them.

They were marvellous. They would do anything they could to earn a living in the winter. They were all working people.

There were about six families altogether. We all knew each other, and we used to play together. My grandfather used to let them stay at the farm, and they used to drink his beer.

I lived there from when I was born until I was 11. We used to take our horses out with theirs to the pond on the green, to water the horses. Now the pond is gone, and that's a shame really, because what caused that was me.

When I came back after the war, I started in the nursery business right opposite the farm.

One night, the electricity went. I bought a television in 1950 and I couldn't get anything on it. I got on to the electricity board, and they put a new cable in across the pond and that caused the pond to dry up, but I got my electricity back.

When I was 11, we moved from the farm because Benskins Brewery sold the farm and pub to Mrs Allen. So, we came to live in the new council houses down Church Lane in Sarratt.

We used to have cherry sales in the barn at the farm. They used to hold auctions in the barn to see who would bid the most for their cherries. Old Jack Newman and his son used to pick all the cherries in the orchard, and we used to pinch them.

There were eight children in my mother's family, and we used to have to go out in the fields to go stone-picking, which we used to sell to the council to repair the roads. We used to pick these stones in little buckets and put them in a sieve. When the sieve was full, we could get money for it. In those days, we never had Tarmac; we just had shingles. When we got Tarmac, the first bit they laid was from The Boot public house, down to the Red Lion. We used to spin our tops down there.

ENTRANT MADE BY HUGH BALL OF BERKHAMSTED CONCERNING HIS FAMILY ANCESTRY

The Friends of Holy Cross Church Sarratt
Registered Charity No. 1018991
Income and Expenditure

For the year ended December 31,2000

		2000	1999
Income			
	Fund-raising events:		
	Flower Festival	4,202	3,093
	Bridge Club	746	607
	Sponsored Bicycle Ride	385	484
	Quiz Night	287	323
			-
		5,620	4,507
	Donations		
	Covenants	525	535
	Donations	1,550	647
		2,075	1,182
	Other income		
	Tax refund	515	154
	Interest income	692	4,311
	Sales of merchandise	4,832	40
		6,039	4,505
	Total income	13,734	10,194
Expenditure			
	Church repairs and maintenance		
	Insurance	672	853
	Repairs to Church	781	92,228
	Total Expenditure	£ 1,453	93,081
Surplus (deficit) for the year		£ 12,281	-82,887

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL 12TH APRIL 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS

Following numerous telephone conversations with Herts. County Council regarding the above matter we regret that no positive decision has yet been taken by them with regard to opening the Commons and Woodlands in the Parish of Sarratt.

They are continuing to contact the adjacent landowners to establish whether they have any objections to these areas being opened and will advise us as soon as a decision has been made. There are no plans at this stage to open any footpaths that cross farm fields.

We understand that no further areas will be opened by Easter, as there is evidence that the Official Green Opening Notices have been unlawfully photocopied by the public and have then been placed at the entrance to footpaths, which should actually have remain closed. They are reviewing their procedures accordingly.

For your information the following local areas are now open – Chorleywood Common, Whippendell Woods and parts of Chipperfield Common.

GREENS COMMITTE



SARRATT

A semi-detached two bedroom property in the picturesque village of Sarratt with stunning views over the countryside. UPVC Double glazing, Gas central heating and multi-vehicular off-street parking.

Hallway, Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Area, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom.

MAY-2001

£225,000

Please contact Chorleywood Office



Bucks Hill **£1.25 million**

An excellent conversion of former farm and agricultural buildings to create a magnificent family house of great charm and character set within superb grounds of some 6½ acres adjoining open countryside with some splendid views.

Reception hall, four receptions, country kitchen/dining room with gallery over, six bedrooms, two bathrooms, gardens in grounds of some 6½ acres. Two attached barns.

MAY 2001

4-5-01 W.O.

Home is struck by lightning

by Alex Hill

DEBRIS from the roof of the former Lord Mayor of London's home was thrown more than 100 feet after it was struck by lightning.

Mr Richard Nichols was at work last Thursday afternoon, when the five-bedroom house in Bucks Hill, Kings Langley, was struck, but his wife, Shelagh, and mother-in-law, Mrs Mary Loveband, found themselves right in the firing line.

Mrs Loveband lives in a converted barn on the hill opposite her daughter's house, Newhall Farm.

The 82-year-old was standing in her doorway looking out into the courtyard as the missiles thudded at her feet, and disappeared into the shingle.

She was there because Mrs Nichols had telephoned her mother by mobile phone to ask if she too had lost her electricity. Mrs Nichols was standing under her porch in view of her mother when the bolt hit the top of the roof.

If Mrs Nichols had decided to walk those few steps across the gravel, rather than use her telephone, the incident could have been more serious. Instead, she was protected by the porch in the front entrance of the house.

The force of the blast caused a small bedroom window on the side of the house and door to blow out, ripped a radiator from the wall and left a 12-foot by six-foot hole in the gabled roof.

Tiles and bricks from the building are still on the front lawn outside and remnants lay strewn across the courtyard.

Despite the lucky escape for mother and daughter, Mrs Loveband said she was not scared at the time.

She said: "It was the most terrific noise, there was the most terrific bang and a flash and a bit of smoke.

"She [Mrs Nichols] had just phoned me on her mobile and she just had time to say 'hello it's me' when the phone went dead.

"She was standing in her doorway and I was standing in my doorway. I was not frightened. I was more astonished than anything. There was just one alarming crack, then bricks and tiles and everything flew in the air."

Mrs Loveband praised the fire service's handling of the situation, which was alerted when the lightning set off her automatic fire alarm.

She said: "We could hear the fire service coming. They were absolutely brilliant.

"First they asked 'Is anyone hurt?' and then they looked at the roof for a while to see if anything else was going to fall down, before putting a tarpaulin up."

The fire service arrived at 5.30pm and did not leave until 9.10pm, after making the building safe.

Rickmansworth fire station commander David Lovett has been a fireman 15 years.

He said: "It was fortunate nobody was injured. We get lightning strikes from time to time, but this was the most damage I have seen from one.

"It is one of those things that looks quite dramatic.

"Our main concern was the inclement weather and preventing further damage. When the first crew arrived, they said it was like the heavens had opened."



SHATTERED: The barn at Newhall farm after lightning ripped through the roof

4-5-01 W.O.

Festival success is music to village organisers' ears

SPECTACULAR recorder player Piers Adams will feature at a Sunday afternoon family concert in Sarratt Village Hall on Saturday, June 9, as part of the second Sarratt Festival of Music.

The festival was launched last year to celebrate the revamped village hall and designed to bring musicians of international calibre to the village for what would hopefully become an annual event.

The festival, which opened with a recital by pianist John Lill, was a sell-out success with concerts in both village hall and village church.

It was music to the ears of the organisers when comments such as "I kept thinking I was in the Festival Hall" and "Sarratt's first Music Festival was a brilliant success!" turned up in the mailbag after the event.

Thus encouraged, the organisers have planned another feast of music over two weekends, this time with five concerts of differing styles and all performed at the village hall.

The festival opens on Saturday, June 2, with a rousing evening of popular music performed by the Locrian Ensemble, followed by Piers Adams with his outrageous baroque group, Red Priest.

The second weekend features A Musical Century with well-known soprano Marilyn Hill Smith and baritone Ian Caddy, and the English Piano Trio return to perform favourite works for piano and strings.

The Sunday afternoon family concert with Piers Adams is a new addition to the festival.

"This should prove an ideal way to involve the younger members of the community," said festival chairman Jane Faulkner.

With just under 200 seats in the village hall, the initial launch has been low-key, to give Sarratt villagers a chance to enjoy their own festival, before opening bookings to a wider audience.

The festival, however, is also seen as a way to attract visitors to "our beautiful village", so posters and brochures will shortly be appearing in local libraries. For copies, information and bookings, telephone the festival box office on 01923 269083.



Piers Adams' outrageous baroque group, Red Priest.



The English Piano trio is back to perform favourite works.

Issues causing a problem in Sarratt -

Type of problem	Major problem in your local area	Minor problem in your local area	Not a problem in your local area
Nuisance behaviour	6%	34%	60%
Litter and rubbish in the streets and open spaces	26%	44%	29%
Abandoned cars	10%	38%	52%
Poor street lighting	15%	11%	74%
Driving offences such as speeding	55%	29%	16%

- Burglary from homes – 47% of respondents felt this was likely or fairly likely to happen to them in the next 12 months
- Cars being broken into or damaged – 50% of respondents felt this was likely or fairly likely to happen to them in the next 12 months

The above issues were identified as of most concern through a telephone survey of a representative sample of people living in Sarratt

D001

Footpaths open

BUCKS EXAMINER 29-6-01

But farmers fear it may be too soon

report by Helen Usborne

CONFUSION as to who can walk where in Chorleywood and Sarratt is finally resolved as Hertfordshire County Council lifts the last of its footpaths restrictions today.

The council had come under fire for its slow response to a Government directive to reopen footpaths back in May. Until now, only 53 per cent of the network was open to the public, despite the fact that the county has remained disease-free throughout the foot and mouth crisis.

"We were waiting for restrictions on the movement of animals for slaughter and welfare to be lifted," said a spokesman for the county council. We did not think that it was fair for farmers to have to adhere to a strict set of regulations on their farm when walkers could pass across their land uninhibited."

Exasperated

And Councillor Robert Ellis, leader of the council, said: "We appreciate that many people in Hertfordshire have been exasperated at the long delay in getting all the paths reopened, which is quite understandable.

"However, it would have been irresponsible of us to proceed with a removal of the blanket ban while there were still issues to be clarified on the guidance that we received in May."

Cynics, however, accused the Conservative-controlled local authority of maintaining the restrictions to pacify Conservative landowners until after the county council elections. Councillor Bob Mays, leader of the county council Labour group, said: "There is a Conservative majority in this council and the delay in lifting restrictions was clearly for political reasons to help the Conservatives to win more votes."

But one Sarratt farmer is very clear where the blame lies. "It's just another example of the work of Mickey Mouse Blair and his Mickey Mouse Government who are determined to destroy the countryside," said Ron Higgs, of Rose Hall Farm, Belsize.

Disgrace

"I think it's an absolute disgrace. There has been no consultation. In fact, we've had no contact with the county council whatsoever. Keeping paths closed around livestock does not hurt or inconvenience anyone - opening these paths is just a risk that does not need to be taken."

The farming community fears the threat of contamination is not over. Brian Finnerty, area representative of the National Farmers Union, said farmers are concerned the reopening is "premature". He added: "What we need is some sort of mechanism whereby widely used footpaths across livestock areas could remain closed."

Meanwhile, Councillor Richard Haynes, footpaths spokesman for Sarratt Parish Council, is reserving judgment on the timing of the reopening. He said: "It has been our policy not to bully the county council one way or the other over the foot and mouth crisis. It is a serious decision and it would be terrible if there was another outbreak."

And residents walking in the countryside are being urged to adhere to a strict code of conduct to minimise the risk of contamination.

VC

for INFO = All COUNCILLORS

SARRATT

Sarratt Parish Council

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL **16TH MAY 2001**

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS UPDATE

Herts. County Council have informed Sarratt Parish Council that the footpaths and bridleways on DAWES COMMON, PENMANS GREEN, and COMMONWOOD are now open.

In addition to this Footpath SA3 that leads from the entrance to Hillmeads Farm to Chipperfield Woods is also now open.

Please observe the instructions on the Herts. County Council "Green for Open " signs which are posted at each end of the Right of Way.

ALL OTHER FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

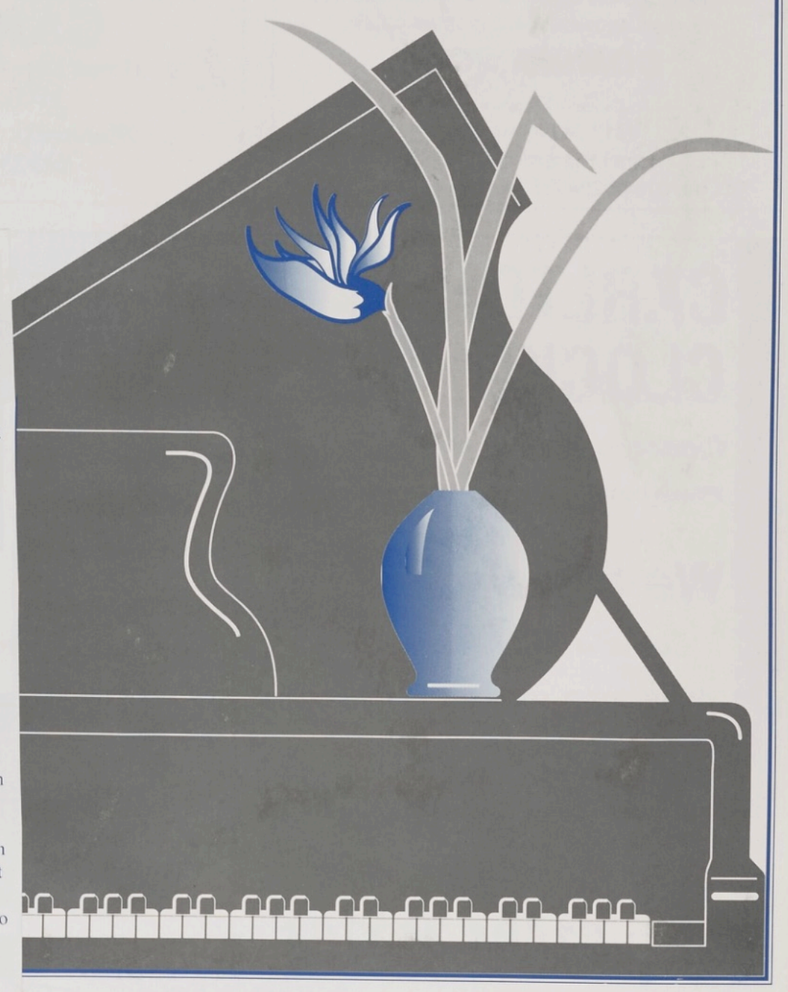
GREENS COMMITTEE

*THIS NOTICE IS TO BE PUT UP IN :- OFFICE WINDOW
POST OFFICE
PARISH NOTICE BOARDS X3
THE BOOT
THE CRICKETERS
THE COCK
THE PLOUGH
THE CART & HORSES

Sarratt Festival of Music

2001 Season

Saturday 2nd June - Saturday 9th June



All concerts take place at Sarratt Village Hall. For location see map on back. All evening concerts include a complementary glass of wine or soft drink.

Saturday June 2nd 7.45 pm

The Locrian Ensemble

This versatile group of virtuoso performers has gained a national reputation for interpretations of the classical repertoire. Featuring some of the finest instrumentalists in the country, the Locrian Ensemble "delights audiences with a full bodied and rich sound that will leave the rafters ringing"!
The programme will include Vivaldi's concerto for two violins, Vivaldi's concerto for two trumpets, Haydn's Serenade, Albinoni's oboe concerto and Mozart's Divertimento.
This will be a rousing and joyful opening concert for the Festival.

Tickets at £15.00 (concessions £12.00)

Sunday June 3rd 3pm (please note time)

Piers Adams "The Flying Recorder" Family Concert

"Staggering!"..."Breathtaking!"..."Legendary!"... "Has to be heard to be believed!" – just a few of the comments from national papers and music press describing the flamboyance, charisma and irrepressible virtuosity of Piers Adams. Now widely regarded as one of the greatest recorder players of our time, he regularly performs as soloist with leading symphony and chamber orchestras. His extraordinary concerts for families and children have been featured on BBC TV's Newsround and many regional news programmes. This unmissable concert is suitable for families with children and will include medieval dance music, classic showpieces, wild gypsy folk and strange modern music – as well as a collection of flying pieces including a skylark, a goldfinch and a bumble bee!
Children should be at least 5 years old and accompanied by an adult. Piers invites those who wish to bring along their own recorder for an audience participation number – you should be able to play B,A,G and E. The concert lasts approximately 1 hour.

Tickets at £8.00 (adults) £5.00 (children)

The Boot Sarratt



A la Carte Restaurant & Bar Meals Tuesday-Saturday Traditional Sunday Roast Luncheons. Pre-concert suppers, Real Ale and Fine Wines, Large Garden & Car park

The Green, Sarratt, Herts. Telephone: 01923 262247

Sunday 3rd June 7.45pm

Red Priest present "Priest on the run"

Another chance to hear Piers Adams, this time with his groundbreaking group Red Priest, hailed by Gramophone Magazine as "the UK's most dynamic, theatrical and outrageously different baroque ensemble". The group has developed a thrilling, no-holds-barred approach to music of the 16th-18th centuries, delighting audiences in many of the world's most prestigious festivals and concert halls. As well as Piers it combines the extraordinary talents of Julia Bishop (violin) Angela East (cello) and Julian Rhodes (harpsichord).
This programme will take us on a lightning journey through Europe encountering some of the leading baroque composers en route, and presenting electric new interpretations of the music. Featured composers will include Vivaldi, Bach and Purcell.
"Not so much reconstruction as total re-interpretation ... they are sure to introduce a new audience to baroque music" Early Music Today.

Tickets at £15.00 (concessions £12.00)

The Cock Inn

Church Lane, Sarratt, Herts. Telephone: 01923 282908

A la Carte Restaurant & Bar Meals Daily Traditional Sunday Roast Luncheons. Badger Beers and Fine Wines, Large Garden & Car park



Friday 8th June 7.45pm

"A Musical Century"

with Marilyn Hill Smith (soprano), Ian Caddy (baritone) and Rebecca Holt (piano)

Two versatile singers well-known from the BBC's long-running "Friday Night is Music Night" present an entertaining programme of songs from operettas and musicals of the twentieth century. With music from Lehar to Lloyd Webber via Gershwin, Bernstein and Kurt Weill this is certain to be a hugely popular, varied and enjoyable evening.

Tickets at £15.00 (concessions £12.00)

Saturday June 9th 7.45pm

English Piano Trio and Friends

Described in January 2001 by the music press as "sparkling and virtuosic", and frequently praised for the infectious enjoyment of their music making, the award winning English Piano Trio returns to Sarratt to perform some of the great and well loved repertoire for piano and strings. The Trio will open their concert with the British premiere of an arrangement for piano trio by Oscar winning composer Anne Dudley of Bach's astonishing masterpiece The Chaconne. They will then be joined by leading viola player Stephen Tees for the Mozart Piano Quartet in G minor and double bassist Lucy Hare for the ever popular "Trout" quintet by Schubert. This promises to be a truly enjoyable evening.

Tickets at £15.00 (concessions £12.00)



The Cricketers

Next to the Village Hall

Open all day. Home-cooked pre-concert suppers available from 6pm

To book call 01923 263729

Sarratt Festival of Music gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Three Rivers District Council

LIST OF FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS NOW OPEN

LIST UPDATED 1ST JUNE 2001

BUCKS HILL

SA10,11,57,64,65,66,67,69.

MICKLEFIELD FARM and NEW HOUSE FARM AREA

SA31,33,35,43,PART OF 45.

VILLAGE to COMMONWOOD

SA48,49,55

WHIPPENDELL WOODS

GENERALLY OPEN

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Village has garages to rent

EIGHT garages are available for residents in Sarratt to rent.

Three of the garages are in Downer Drive and five are in Alexander Road. The cost is £7.86 per week for council tenants and £9.21 per week for non-council tenants.

For more information telephone Three Rivers District Council's housing department on 01923 776611.

Bucks Exam 8-6-01

Residents say bikers make village unsafe

BUCKS EXAMINER 8-6-01

report by Estelle Sinkins

RESIDENTS in Sarratt are fed up with bikers making parts of the village a no-go area on a Wednesday night.

The residents claim that the hundreds of motorcyclists who are drawn to The Cricketers public house, The Green, are intimidating in such large numbers and are creating a traffic hazard by parking outside the boundary of the pub car park.

The comments - made at the Sarratt Forum on Monday night - follow a mass gathering of 700 bikers, many of them professional men, at the pub on Wednesday last week.

Despite ongoing discussions between Sarratt Parish Council and the landlord of the pub, Ray Tinsley, and new boundaries having being painted at the site, the visiting bikers continue to park in Church Lane and The Green, obstructing private drives and creating serious traffic hazards for residents.

Ian Dorritt, of Deadmans Ash Lane, said he sent an e-mail to the police community safety co-ordinator after one Wednesday evening in the village, adding: "I flagged up the obstructions, the moving traffic offences and the trespass and obstruction on private premises.

"I am fed up with the centre of the village being made a no-go area for pedestrians and people with disabilities. These meetings are having a big impact on the village, but nothing is being done about it."

His claim was, however, denied by Inspector Shakil Qasim, head of Rickmansworth Police Station's community safety team, who told the 50 residents at the meeting in the Sarratt JMI School hall, that plans were underway to crack down on speeding on the roads leading into Sarratt.

But the inspector made it clear he would not introduce a policy of zero tolerance policing in the village.

His audience was not convinced. Residents claimed they were feeling intimidated by the bikers and let down by their local police officers, with one woman saying it had become a "terrifying ordeal" to drive home at 10pm on a Wednesday.

Sarratt Parish Council chairman, Councillor John Dean said the villagers were not against the bikers but were worried about the sheer numbers that came to Sarratt, a point also raised by Councillor John Ruggles, who said it was unlikely that more than one third of the bikers would have fitted into The Cricketers on Wednesday last week.

And Councillor Gerry Pulman, who took time away from campaigning for re-election in the Hertfordshire County Council elections, said residents were being intimidated by the presence of the bikers. "More people are turning up here on a Wednesday than live around the green," he added.

Councillor Pulman also urged the inspector to reconsider his stance on zero tolerance policing, claiming that a two or three week blitz on the bikers and others coming into the village would make a difference.

But Insp Qasim insisted that any policing would have to be done impartially and urged residents to give the planned crackdown a chance.

The White Cottage The Green
Sarratt Hertfordshire WD3 6BL

A Grade II Listed property reputed to date from 1840/1850 with later additions. Situated on The Green at Sarratt this property offers excellent potential and has pleasant grounds which are well stocked and well screened to both front and rear.



Price Guide £575,000 Freehold

Entrance Hall, Drawing Room, Family Room, Morning Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Second Kitchen, Four Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Two Garages, Stable Block and Gardens.

Mortons Cottage The Green
Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire

This delightful detached red brick cottage situated at the end of the village Green and with reputed 18th century origins has been sympathetically extended and is presented to the highest standard. The ground floor has the benefit of underfloor heating.



Price Guide £600,000 Freehold

Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Study, Dining Room, Living Room, Inner Hall, Downstairs Cloakroom, Utility Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Four Bedrooms one with adjacent Bathroom, Family Bathroom, Gardens.

SW Herts is paying £81m more tax

Herts Exam 8-6-01

report by Helen Usborne

RESIDENTS in Chorleywood and Sarratt are among Britain's biggest tax losers.

A survey by market researchers Experian, for the accountancy firm Grant Thornton, shows that voters in South-west Hertfordshire are paying £81million more a year in tax than before Labour was elected in 1997. This makes the constituency the second worst tax loser in Britain after Woking in Surrey.

Council tax has increased across the county due to inflation as well as enhanced spending. And the comparatively wealthy profile of the average voter in South-west Herts means that Chorleywood residents have forked out for much of the difference.

Liberal Democrat, Ann Shaw, leader of Three Rivers District Council told the Examiner: "There are lots of people living in grand houses around this area. Any increases to council tax are merely a reflection of the high value of land and property in the area."

But the increases in council tax remain a relatively small proportion of the tax burden faced by Chorleywood residents, who are being hit by Labour's so-called "stealth taxes" - for example changes in national insurance payments, tax on fuel, and the loss of tax allowances for married couples. Constituents are also having to pay more to maintain private pension schemes and to send their children to university.

Hertfordshire County councillor Gerald Pulman (Conservative) is opposed to these changes. He told the Examiner: "It's just not fair. The increase in tax is astronomical and what are we getting? People are queuing for operations, not for weeks, not for months, but for years.

"It's typical of a Government whose members have never had a proper job in their lives. They rob from the rich but they don't give to the poor. Dick Turpin was hanged for less 300 years ago."

And Richard Cawdron, a chartered accountant, has lived in Chorleywood for 27 years, said: "My council tax has gone up this year by 9.7 per cent, which is well above the rate of inflation, and the rise in fuel prices has obviously had an impact but to be honest it is not something that causes me financial hardship.

"If I were struggling, I would be concerned but I am at the top end of my career and these relatively small increases do not affect me."

The Rickmansworth Road resident added: "I do, however, resent the fact that we've seen precious little in the way of improved services. The state of the roads is terrible, transport is hopeless and hospitals are failing. There has been no obvious improvement in street lighting, policing or ambulance service - the whole thing is a deplorable."

Conservative MP Richard Page, who took time out from the election campaign to comment, was also critical of the tax increases which have hit his constituency. He said: "It is not exclusively the rich who are suffering. The pain is felt throughout all income groups."

Good guys do finish first

Bucks Exam. 8-6-01

SARRATT policeman Phil Wynes *(pictured)* is celebrating after he romped home first in a charity race organised to raise money for leukaemia research.

Pc Wynes, who is part of the community safety team at Rickmansworth Police Station, won a trophy in Sunday's race at the Gosling Stadium in Welwyn Garden City to help drum up support for the Adam Dealey Fund.

His time in the veterans (over 40s) race was five minutes 30 seconds. Around 50 policemen competed in the event, which was split into three separate races. BJ0608





WE'RE QUACKERS: **Motorists get the bird in Sarratt as they are asked to look out for web-footed pedestrians with a tendency to walk in line with several babies following on behind.** Picture V223134: DAVE HEP

30 June 2001

ALL HERTFORDSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY ARE NOW

OPEN

Please continue to take special care to protect the countryside from foot and mouth disease by complying with the code of conduct shown below:

- If you have handled cattle, sheep, goats or pigs in the last 7 days please stay off all other farmland.
- Do not go near, and never touch, handle or feed livestock:

- if you come across them unexpectedly, move away slowly;
- if necessary re-trace your route.

- Keep dogs on short leads where there are livestock.
- Do not leave any waste food or litter.
- Stay on the path and leave all gates as you find them.
- Use disinfectant where provided.
- Start your walk or ride with clean equipment, footwear and clothing.

Your help & co-operation is appreciated

If you have any queries call:-

01438 737321 or 01923 471321
or
www.hertsdirect.org

Hertfordshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Environment

Director of Environment
Hertfordshire County Council

2001

NOTICE BOARD GREEN

Please note New Address :-
Sarratt Parish Council, Parish Office, Village Hall
The Green, Sarratt, Rickmansworth WD3 6AT
Tel. & Fax. No. 01923 262025

SARRATT
Sarratt Parish Council

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL 28th JUNE 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS UPDATE

Herts. County Council have informed Sarratt Parish Council that all footpaths and bridleways in Hertfordshire will be open by Friday evening.

The Parish Council are aware that many footpaths will be very overgrown and a concentrated effort will be made to clear them as soon as possible. Please advise us of any serious problems you may encounter so we can prioritise this work.

Please observe the guidelines on the Herts County Council Poster and in particular avoid going near to any livestock you may encounter when walking the footpaths or riding on the bridleways.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

SARRATT LOCAL AREA FORUM

NOTICE and AGENDA

For a meeting to be held on

Monday 4 June 2001 at 7.30pm at
Sarratt JMI School, The Green, Sarratt

(Parking on the Green is not permitted) (Map overleaf)

(Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm)

1. **INTRODUCTION**
2. **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

   Come along and have your say about crime and disorder issues you feel need tackling in your local area.
3. **PLANNING ISSUES**

   The Chief Development and Planning Officer will explain the process for administering planning applications and will answer questions on specific planning issues in Sarratt.
4. **POLICING IN SARRATT**

   A Police representative will answer questions on the current and future roles of the Police in Sarratt.
4. **LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGET**

   The Forum is asked to make suggestions for expenditure of its budget allocation of £500.
5. **LOCAL ISSUES** – Points and questions from the floor
6. **IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**
7. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING** –

YOUR CHANCE TO MEET YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor:- Anthony Barton

Your Parish Councillors have also been invited to attend.

If you require more information contact: **Ian Jeffries, Committee Manager on (01923) 776611 ext 7252 or e-mail ian.jeffries@threerivers.gov.uk**

\\trdclgf1\users\jeffrii\my documents\sarrat laf\agenda - 4 june 2001.doc(4)

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC NOTICE

THE GREEN

THE ENTIRE VILLAGE GREEN IS PROTECTED BY CONSERVATION ORDERS AND BY-LAWS. IT IS ALSO ADMINISTERED BY SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL THE DECLARED, TITLED, AND RIGHTFUL CUSTODIANS.

ANY EVENTS, COMMERCIAL USE, SKIPS, TENTS NOTICES, ACTIVITIES, PARKING, FAIRS OR PUBLIC GATHERINGS OTHER THAN NORMAL RECREATION. WILL REQUIRE THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE GREENS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL WHITHOUT EXCEPTION.

BY ORDER OF Sarratt Parish Council

Please apply in writing only to,
Cllr M Warner
Chair Greens & Environment Committee
Sarratt Parish Office. The Village Hall
The Green. Sarratt Tel/Fax 01923-262025.

SPC-Public notice.01/Greens Ctee July 2001

BUCKS EXAMINER 3-8-01

Bikers debate held behind closed doors

BIKERS basked in the waning sunlight on Wednesday as police and councillors conferred behind closed doors on the future of the weekly gatherings at The Cricketers, Sarratt.

report by Helen Usborne

A parish survey last week counted over 800 visitors to the country pub, and residents continue to agonise over the assembly of motorbike enthusiasts, who have frequented the village for over six years.

Barred from the private meeting, the Examiner quizzed the congregating bikers about the community's concern.

David Foster, from Watford, who works for a university in London, said: "The gatherings are always very passive and friendly. Nobody is here to cause trouble.

"There are always going to be a few idiots, but most of us are pretty chilled out. If there is a problem, one of us would be the first person to have a word with the person causing trouble."

Mr Foster stressed that the gatherings attracted genuine enthusiasts. He said: "These bikes are expensive. You need to be a professional person to afford them. The kit costs around £1,500 and bikes around £8,000. It is not a hooligan thing."

He added: "It's very pleasant and relaxed and there are lots of nice bikes - from modern ones to bikes from the dawn of time. It is good to gather together with other bikers and not feel like an outcast."

Ian Bailey, from St Albans, works for Royal Mail in Enfield. He said: "Bikers come here because it is THE meeting place, but we are all respectable people.

"I understand that residents might be worried by the noise, but the majority of people are sensible. It is lovely to come hear and have a chat with other like-minded people."

"It's a lovely spot," said Simon Ward, who works for the Mirror Group in Watford. "On a summer's night, the best part is getting here," added Mr Ward, who has travelled to the pub on his Suzuki TL1000 for the last two months.

As well as concerns over speeding in nearby roads, Wednesday's meeting was due to debate the option of sectioning off part of The Green for bikers' parking.

And the landlord of The Cricketers Ray Tinsley, himself a biker, is investigating the possibility of providing bikers with metal discs to insert over a bikes' parking spike and prevent them overturning on the grass. He is liaising with Sarratt Parish Council on this.

Councillors wanted

SARRATT Parish Council has vacancies for two councillors. If you would like to offer your services to the village and learn about local government, telephone 01923 262025 or visit the parish office in the village hall from 10.30am-2.30pm Monday to Friday.

W.O. 24-8-01

Storm over plans for garden centre site

A PLAN to build homes in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, has sent a shiver up the spines of people in the village, a meeting heard last Thursday.

The comment was made by village representative Councillor Tony Barton at the meeting of Three Rivers District Council's development control committee.

He added residents had already met in the village hall to discuss what action to take

Councillor Barton said: "The concern the plan aroused was phenomenal. We need a site visit to hear the concerns of people in Sarratt."

The proposal is to build the houses where the Ward Nurseries Garden Centre currently is.

Although this would be on Green Belt land, Heathview Developments contends permission should be given for up to seven properties because of the reduction in traffic that result in replacing the nursery with homes.

Council officers recommended the plan be approved, although they considered seven properties to be excessive.

Mr Dave Rees, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council's planning committee, spoke against the application.

He said: "The parish council is astounded at the planning officer's recommendation of permission.

"This application is totally contrary to long-established Green Belt policy and should be refused for this reason alone, though we also raise objection on grounds of access, rural character and precedent grounds as well."

Leader of the council Ann Shaw also expressed concern at the proposal and said: "This is a very important site in terms of protection of the Green Belt. If we were to agree this, we would be setting a precedent for the Green Belt. I am not convinced the circumstances justify this."

Crash reignites motorbike debate

by Richard Evans

A MOTORBIKE crash has reignited the debate about bikers going to The Cricketers public house in The Green, Sarratt.

The crash, in Deadmans Ash Lane on Wednesday, June 20, involved a biker who was on his way to the pub at about 8.05pm.

No one else was involved in the incident and the 40-year-old local man was taken to Watford General Hospital, where he was treated for a sprained wrist and two broken ribs.

The gathering of bikers every Wednesday evening around the pub has been the cause of debate in the village, with a number of residents claiming some bikers drive dangerously and park irresponsibly.

At a meeting of Sarratt Area Forum last month, residents criticised the police for not taking firm enough action against the bikers, but were told the police would not start a policy of zero tolerance against the bikers.

Mr Ian Dorrett, of Deadmans Ash Lane, witnessed the accident. In the past, he has been a vocal opponent of bikers congregating outside the pub. He said: "There is a sharp left hand bend as the road changes from Sarratt Road to Dimmocks Lane but the rider did not make it around the bend.

"He hit the kerb and somersaulted, ending up in the top end of Deadmans Ash Lane, with his bike next to him in the hedge. He finished up 40 feet away from where he hit the kerb."

A policeman arrived on the scene shortly after the accident and the two men tried to stop the accident victim from lapsing into unconsciousness.

The man's sister arrived on the scene shortly after the collision.

Following the accident, the police have secured the co-operation of the landlord of The Cricketers to put up posters highlighting the dangers of riding at high speeds. They will be setting up a stand in the pub car park on Wednesday evenings so bikers can discuss safety issues with police officers.

Mr Dorrett called for an end to the bikers meeting in the village on Wednesday evenings.

He added: "If I had taken a slightly different route, I could have been in danger. We need to sort out this problem before someone in the village is less fortunate. I am sure a more suitable location can be found.

"What they really need is a large car park with a soft drinks stand and a barbecue. That needs to be in a non-built up area with easy approach roads.

"Sarratt does not fit the bill. There are not enough parking spaces for the number of bikers that come, the approach roads to the pub are not easy and the noise is a great concern to people in the area. The current situation is now damaging the life of the community."

Mr John Dean, the chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, agreed. He said: "The village remains overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of bikers.

"The police should show their presence very strongly and take note of the traffic offences that occur. We are on to higher authorities to get that in place."



Bikers gathering at The Cricketers pub in Sarratt has caused debate in the village.

revans@london.newsquest.co.uk

'Blitzkrieg' call on bikers

WAT 065 8-6-01

by Richard Evans

NO special measures will be taken by police against the bikers who congregate in Sarratt on Wednesday evenings, Sarratt Area Forum heard on Monday.

The bikers gather at The Cricketers public house in The Green during the summer, and their presence is always a bone of contention in the village.

Residents of the village claim they drive dangerously and commit parking violations, stopping people from accessing their homes.

Facing calls for a clamp-down on the bikers from a hostile gathering of more than 40 people at the forum, Inspector Shakil Qasim, community safety officer for Three Rivers, said police in the area would apply the law regardless of whether someone was a motorcyclist or not.

He said: "I will not introduce zero tolerance policing in relation to motorcyclists because I am not introducing it elsewhere. I will not take my officers' discretionary powers away from them."

He added: "I cannot take sides. I am quite willing to work towards a solution, but that solution might not be what some people want."

Parish councillor Mr Richard Haynes claimed two police officers who visited the village on Wednesday, May 30, were unable to deal with the situation.

He said: "They refused to issue even one ticket. They were trying to get you [Inspector Qasim] down here because they were so concerned about the dangerous situation your incident room had put them in.

"They said they could not uphold the law. They tried to get you to come but you refused to come down."

Inspector Qasim said this was not his understanding of the incident.

Mr John Dean, chairman of the parish council, said: "People are concerned about the sheer overwhelming numbers.

"Tell us how to get people to park in car parks and not preventing access to the village hall and people's houses."

Hertfordshire County Councillor Gerald Pullman also called for action. He said: "There are more motorcycles than people living in the area on Wednesday evenings and it is intimidating.

"You could stop them on their way into the village with speed traps and have a really good blitzkrieg.

"One day, somebody will get killed and you will hold your hands up and you will say you are addressing the subject."

Most people at the meeting were against the bikers congregating in the village, but one defended them.

She said: "A lot of those bikers are motorbike police. Others are solicitors and magistrates. They do not come to cause trouble."

As tempers became flared, general policing in the village was also criticised.

Parish councillor Mr Dave Rees said: "Sarratt ratepayers contribute £50,000 per year towards policing. Do you think we get value for money?

"We have vandalism going on the whole time, but every time we take it to the police we get no action.

"The under-16's can do what they like but nobody comes out because you are understaffed."

Inspector Qasim replied: "You do get value for money. With youths causing crime, compared to Mill End and Maple Cross, the volumes are quite low."

Inspector Phil Wynes, also at the meeting, said during the last two weeks of April, seven officers had been deployed exclusively in Sarratt and Chorleywood on a special operation.

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL 18th JUNE 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS UPDATE

Herts. County Council have informed Sarratt Parish Council that the footpaths and bridleways on DAWES COMMON, PENMANS GREEN, and COMMONWOOD are now open. WHIPPENDELL WOODS is also generally open.

In addition Herts. County Council have opened a number of footpaths and bridleways including those leading from the village towards Commonwood and Micklefield Farm. Most of the footpaths in Bucks Hill are also open.

Some footpaths are now open along the River Chess from Chenies to Solesbridge Lane.

Footpaths, which pass through farmyards, or fields which contain livestock will remain closed.

Please observe the instructions on the Herts. County Council "Green for Open " signs which are posted at each end of the Right of Way.

NO "GREEN FOR OPEN SIGN"= MEANS THE FOOTPATH IS CLOSED!

A full list of footpaths, which are now open, and a map are displayed in the window of the Parish Office.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL 28th JUNE 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS UPDATE

Herts. County Council have informed Sarratt Parish Council that all footpaths and bridleways in Hertfordshire will be open by Friday evening.

The Parish Council are aware that many footpaths will be very overgrown and a concentrated effort will be made to clear them as soon as possible. Please advise us of any serious problems you may encounter so we can prioritise this work.

Please observe the guidelines on the Herts County Council Poster and in particular avoid going near to any livestock you may encounter when walking the footpaths or riding on the bridleways.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

28th JULY 1931



ROY ETEEN

SATURDAY 28th JULY 2001

TO ..... Val & Peter .....

You are cordially invited to join with us to celebrate Roy's 70th Birthday

Opening times are from 4 p.m. onwards with supper served around 7.30 p.m.
However, if those times are not convenient, please drop in for a drink and a snack from 12 noon.

NO presents are necessary, thank you, but if you would care to make a small contribution to our project to build and fit out the new Village Hall Bar (a subject dear to Roy's heart) it would be much appreciated.

Please join with us if you can.

ROY & MARGARET ETEEN

Last Orders 10.30 p.m. (or later)

R.S.V.P.

Oakwood
Dunny Lane
Chipperfield
Herts
WD4 9DQ
01923 –269 918

2001

BUCKS EXAMINER
Friday, August 3rd, 2001

Concern that green belt land may become an eyesore

RESIDENTS fear their neighbourhood will degenerate if plans to build four houses on the site of an old garden centre are refused.

Chandlers Cross residents attended last week's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council, determined to oppose the council's recommendation to turn down planning permission for the construction of four dwellings on the site of Chandler's Cross Garden Centre.

"If the garden centre falls into deterioration, we are at risk of travellers moving in," said resident Ken McArdle at last Tuesday's meeting in the village hall.

"We are really, really concerned that if something doesn't get done the value of our property will decrease and there will be security worries.

"At the moment, the site is in a state of near dereliction, with spilt diesel on the tarmac. It fills us with trepidation and concern as to what others will do. It could be bought up by light industrial units, shed construction firms, etc."

'History of failure'

Mr McArdle said the site had a "history of failure" as a garden centre, adding: "We want to live in a green environment and we can't see how any business of this kind could work. We moved to a green belt area to be away from this sort of development. If it is re-offered for sale, it could be a problem."

The parish council intends objecting to the plans to develop the site into four new houses when the plans go before Three Rivers District Council's development control committee. Planning committee chairman, Councillor David Rees said the construction of an access route raised the possibility of infilling in the future.

He added: "We have to defend green belt policy, where restrictions exist unless there is an agricultural need or low cost housing is constructed for rent. If you start allowing green belt development, where do you stop?"

W.O. 24-8-01

Farmer finds body in car

A FARMER from Sarratt discovered the body of a man in a car while walking his dog on Tuesday morning.

Mr Richard Styles, of Sarratt Hall Farm, off The Green, raised the alarm after discovering the body in a field off Plough L .ne at about 9am.

Mr Styles was walking his dog down the lane and away from his farm when he noticed the vehicle, a black Mini.

He said: "On first seeing the car I assumed that it had simply been abandoned. However, as we neared the dog began to bark and ran ahead sniffing around it.

"On getting much closer to the vehicle I could see the hose pipe going into the near-side window and moved closer to see if there was anything that I could do to help, but the windows were all smoked over inside, leading me to believe I was too late.

"I rang the police, who arrived at the farm almost immediately and arranged for the vehicle and body to be removed."

A post mortem was carried out on a 51-year-old man from Kings Langley the next day and police are now awaiting the results, although a spokesman for Hertfordshire Police said that at this stage they were not treating the death as suspicious.

Mr Styles, a farmer in Sarratt for more than 40 years, said: "Nothing like this has ever happened at the farm before.

"I strongly doubt the body could have been there for more than 24 hours, as a number of people use the lane and I am more than certain somebody would have noticed it before me."

8/9/01



SARRATT £430,000

Charming cottage in delightful secluded rural setting. 3 bedrooms and bathroom upstairs. Large sitting room, sep. dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory. Additional bathroom downstairs. Large double garage. Attractive gardens.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

PROJECT LEADER - MRS BRENDA HAROLD - SARRATT



Rake's progress: Cadbury Trebor Bassett employees and Councillor Geoff Emery tidy up.

Office workers get back to nature

MORE than 100 Cadbury Trebor Bassett (CTB) employees took part in an environmental challenge day last week.

The workers, based at the company's headquarters in Maple Cross, helped out with a number of local environmental projects last Thursday.

The project was set up between CTB and Three Rivers District Council. Councillor Geoff Emery, Chairman of the council, was among those who attended the event.

The three sites were Stocker's Lake, Chorleywood House woodlands and Dell Wood nature reserve.

The day was a chance for employees of the new company to get to know each other outside the work environment.

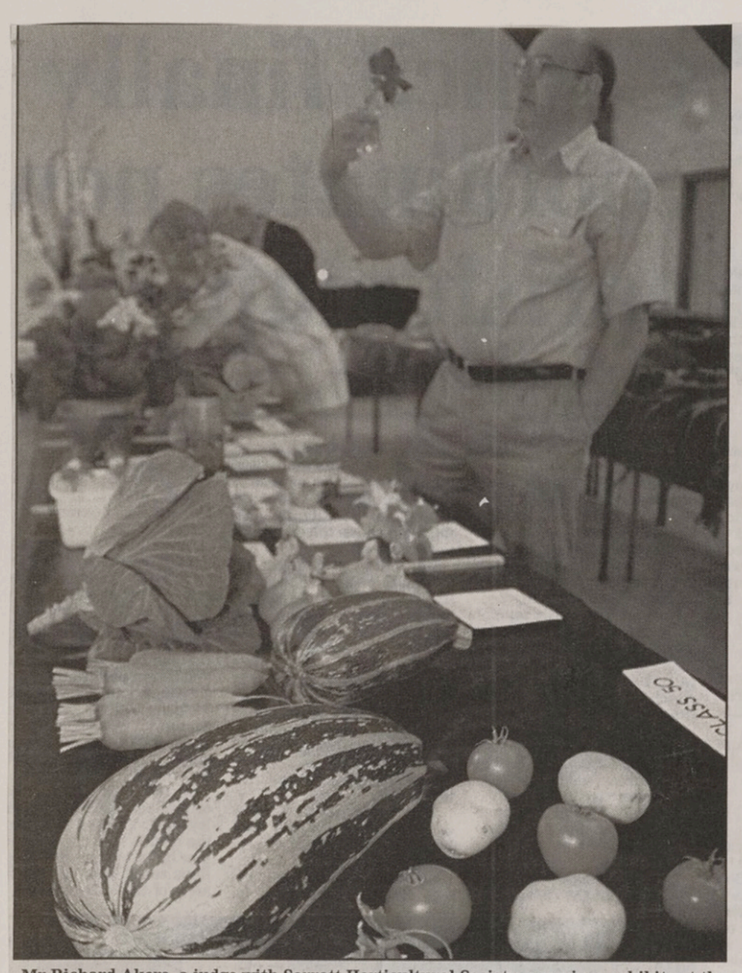
Mr Andy Crosslet, managing director of CTB, was among those getting their hands dirty, taking part in activities such as clearing out ponds, cutting back undergrowth and re-seeding wildlife areas.

Mr Crosslet said: "It is great to have an opportunity to put something back into our local community and be part of something that improves the local environment for everyone living and working in the area."

Councillor Emery said: "There was a good turn out. It was an initiative from their side that I was delighted with.

"Despite the weather, they were all cheerfully beavering away. I hope this will be the first of many initiatives struck up between local business and the council."

He added that Mr Alastair Robertson, the council's chief executive, is writing to more than ten large businesses in the district to discuss links.



Mr Richard Akers, a judge with Sarratt Horticultural Society, examines exhibits at the autumn show on Saturday. W.O. 14-9-01 Picture V363012: PETE STEVENS

Village show a close contest

THIS year's autumn show by Sarratt Horticultural Society produced one of the closest results in the society's history.

Had it been an athletics race, a photo finish would have been required as only one point separated the top three competitors.

Mr Morton Neal had won all the major prizes at the society for many years until he was beaten last year by Ms Joan Horwood.

He was determined to regain his position this year but, although he won back the vegetables trophy, Ms Horwood pipped him to the overall crown by a single point.

Miss Merle Liddy, the society's press officer, said: "He took it on the chin."

One of the highlights of the show was the photography section. In previous years, it had attracted only one or two entries, but this year the window theme inspired 29 entries.

The winning photograph was of a pod on the Millennium Eye, taken from the air. The second prize went to a photograph of an old factory with all its windows broken.

Miss Liddy pointed to the chrysanthemums as a standout. She said: "They were as big as footballs, the biggest I have seen for many years."

She added: "The show went very well. Entries were up and there were a few old exhibitors we had not seen for a few years."

W.O. 21-9-01

Argument over Sarratt bikers moves up a gear

MP joins efforts to reduce numbers who congregate at The Cricketers

by Richard Evans

THE MP for South West Hertfordshire has entered the debate on bikers who visit Sarratt in the summer.

Some residents of the village have complained about the hundreds of bikers who congregate at The Cricketers public house in The Green on Wednesday nights and there was a heated debate about the subject at a Sarratt Area Forum in June.

Sarratt Parish Council has been at the heart of efforts to try to reduce the number of bikers.

In response to this, Mr Richard Page recently visited the village on a Wednesday evening to see it for himself.

At June's meeting, residents claimed the bikers drove dangerously and committed traffic violations, but Mr Page said he found the bikers were impeccably behaved.

However, he did acknowledge there was a problem with the sheer number of bikers who visit the village.

He said: "I had heard of the numbers but I was not quite prepared to see how many people were there. The huge numbers were potentially capable of causing a problem.

"It was enormous, and I do recognise the parish council's view on the sheer numbers. They are not exaggerating but they were perfectly well behaved."

He emphasised he had no problem with them being bikers, saying: "It could be dog breeders or pigeon fanciers."

The police have been criticised in the village for not taking tougher action against the bikers, with former Hertfordshire County Councillor Gerald Pullman calling for a "Blitzkrieg" of speed cameras against them.

However, Mr Page defended the police. He said: "I can understand why they have acted as they have."

"We will see if we can get some sort of system where they exist together. I can understand why motorcyclists want to go to Sarratt. It's a lovely place."

With the weather getting worse, the numbers of bikers are decreasing, but the parish council is already trying to find a solution in time for the good weather next year.

At a meeting of Sarratt Parish Council on Tuesday, parish councillor Mr John Gell said negotiating with representatives of the bikers is the way forward and contact has been made with Herts Motorcycle Action Group.

There was a meeting about the bikers in the village on Monday and another one is planned for the end of November.

Mr Gell told the parish council: "Then we will be in a position to have definite proposals about what is going happen for next year."

After the meeting, Mr John Dean, chairman of the council, said: "The main objective is that numbers do have to reduce. We are now getting about 30 cars coming down to have a look because they are very nice bikes."

At the parish council meeting, Mrs Valerie Cumming, a parish councillor, suggested the Cricketers was about to change hands.

However, on Wednesday, Mr Simon Ward, the manager of the pub, denied this. He said: "That is totally unfounded."

W.O. 21-9-01

Homes plan thrown out

Developers cannot build houses on nursery site

Richard Evans

A PLAN to build houses on Green Belt land in Sarratt has been rejected.

The application to replace Wards Nursery in Dawes Lane with homes has been the subject of fierce criticism by residents of the village. About 100 had attended a meeting to express their concern.

Councillors on Three Rivers District Council's development control committee made the decision last Thursday, ignoring the advice of the local authority's officers.

It is not the first time this year residents have opposed a development in the road. Earlier this year, a controversial plan to build a car park was turned down.

Councillor Tony Barton, who represents Sarratt, spoke against the development.

He said: "This issue is unprecedented in the concern being shown throughout Sarratt. This would change a nice village and it is abhorrent to me."

Council leader Mrs Ann Shaw agreed. She said: "I am committed to seeing no new houses on this site. It is right on the edge of the Green Belt and we would be setting a most unfortunate precedent."

In their report, council officers had argued it would not set a precedent because each case would have to be looked at on its own merits.

They also said that replacing the nursery with houses could be of an overall benefit to the village, partly because it would mean less traffic.

However, there was criticism of their report at the meeting. Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst said: "It would create a very dangerous precedent for other sites in and around Sarratt. I was disappointed with the officers' recommendation to grant this."

A resident of Dawes Lane told the meeting: "The planning officers' recommendation must surely be an error of judgement. This would involve the removal of an ancient hedge we have already fought for (during the car park application).

"If this is granted, the village and the whole area will change. We do not want Sarratt to become developed and this must not be allowed to happen."

A number of Sarratt residents objected to the plan, saying the development would be an eyesore and would lead to lack of privacy for nearby properties.

Sarratt Parish Council also objected. Mr John Gell, a parish councillor, said: "We strongly oppose this Green Belt application."

He disputed the applicants' claim that there was a lot of traffic generated by the nursery, saying that at times traffic was down to a trickle.

However, an agent for the applicant defended the plan. He said: "We are not swapping a few glass houses for a few dwellings. The nursery has substantial buildings.

"We would be replacing 3,000 square metres, less than what is there at the moment. We feel residential use would have no detrimental effect on anybody."

Despite this, the committee voted unanimously against the plan.

Horse judge makes the jump to highest level

W.O. 21-9-01

A WOMAN from Sarratt has fulfilled a lifelong ambition by being selected as a judge for the Horse of the Year Show.

Mrs Sue Featherstone, of Red Lion Lane, has been working with horses for 30 years and judging for 25 years.

The show is held at Empire Pool, Wembley, on Friday, October 5.

Mrs Featherstone was delighted to have been selected. She said: "I felt ecstatic when I found out.

"It is a dream I never thought I would be able to fulfil. A lot of the judges are very high flyers but I am just an ordinary person who has come up through the ranks.

"It is something that you cannnot buy. You hope that you've made no mistakes in your judging career and they recognise your performance."

Building set for church

W.O. 26-10-01

A BUILDING at Holy Cross church in Church Lane, Sarratt, looks to go ahead.

Last month, the church successfully appealed against Three Rivers District Council's refusal of a plan to put up a building – including a toilet – in the church grounds earlier this year.

About 60 people attended a meeting of the Sarratt Preservation Action Group to discuss the decision on Monday.

After the meeting, Mr Peter Cumming, a member of SPAG, said: "Everybody accepts a loo is a good idea, but when you tag on another building, a lot of people think that is trouble.

"There are people whose families have been going there for more than 100 years. The general feeling at the meeting was there must be a better way of dealing with it but the church has got the right to go ahead and do it."

With permission now in place, it looks likely the development will go ahead.

Dr Robin Gain, a warden of the church, said: "The decision will be made at the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)."

revans@london.newsquest.co.uk

W.O. - 26-10-01

House proposals resurface

THE prospect of houses in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, has re-emerged.

Residents thought they had defeated a proposal to build homes in the road last month when an application was turned down by Three Rivers District Council at a meeting of its development control committee.

But Heathway Developments has appealed against the decision.

There will now be a public enquiry into whether the development should go ahead, the date of which has not yet been announced.

At the same time, the company has put in another application for seven houses in Dawes Lane. This application will be considered at a future meeting of the council's development control committee.

The last application was vociferously objected to by Sarratt Parish Council and was the subject of a meeting in the village attended by about 100 people.

Mr Dave Rees, chairman of the parish council planning committee, could not comment on the proposal until it is discussed at a meeting of the committee at the Village Hall in The Green on Tuesday, November 6.

revans@london.newsquest.co.uk

((3/4))

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Three Rivers District Council
Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1RL
Tel: (01923) 776611
Fax: (01923) 896119
DX: 38271 Rickmansworth

The Owner/Occupier
Chess Bungalow
Dawes Lane
Sarratt
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 6BQ

My Ref : 01/00709/OUT
Date : 18th October 2001
Contact : Mr T Turk
Extension : 7111
Department : Planning & Leisure

Dear Sir,

Re : Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 78

Site :	**Wards Nurseries (Sarratt) Ltd Dawes Lane Sarratt Rickmansworth Hertfordshire WD3 6BQ**
Proposed Development	**Outline application: Demolition of existing retail and storage buildings and development of site for residential purposes**
Application Ref No	**01/00709/OUT**
DoE Appeal ref :	**APP/P1940/A/01/1075414**
Appellant's name (s):	**Heathview Developments Ltd**
Appeal Start Date:	**15th October 2001**

I am writing to advise you that an Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 in respect of the above development. The appeal is against the failure of the Local Planning Authority to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period on an application for permission or approval.

Both parties have agreed that the appeal be dealt with at a Public Inquiry. You will be informed of the date and venue of this Inquiry when it is confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Copies of any comments already made following the original application for planning permission (unless they are expressly confidential) will be forwarded to the Secretary of State and to the appellant, and will be taken into account by the Inspector in deciding the appeal. Should you wish to withdraw or modify your earlier comments in any way, or make any further representations about the proposal you should write direct to the Planning Inspectorate, Room 301 Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. Please ensure that the Planning Inspectorate receives three copies of any additional representations you wish to make on this appeal by 26.11.2001 (i.e. six weeks from the start date); otherwise there is a risk that your representations will not be considered. You can obtain a copy of the booklet "Guide to taking part in Planning Appeals" from the Inspectorate, free of charge at the same address.

This letter has been sent to the occupiers of properties adjoining the site, and those who responded to the original notification.

Copies of the application documents and the appellant's grounds of appeal are available for inspection at these offices.

The Planning Inspectorate will send a copy of the decision letter to you provided you specifically ask for one.

ALNEI1

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Turn-of-the-century cottage close to village green
• Living room • Dining room • Kit/breakfast • 2 beds
• Luxury bath • Cottage style rear garden
01923 285123

W.O. 16-11-01

Date set for nursery site inquiry

THE date for the public inquiry into the Wards Nurseries site in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, has been set.

Three Rivers District Council's development control committee turned down an application to build on the Green Belt land in September but Heathview Developments has appealed.

At the same time, another application has been submitted to develop the site, which will be discussed at a future meeting of the council's development control committee.

When the planning application was submitted, there was a public meeting in the village attended by about 100 people and Sarratt Parish Council objected to the proposal.

Councillor Tony Barton, who represents Sarratt, told September's meeting: "This issue is unprecedented in the concern shown in Sarratt, This would change a nice village and it is abhorrent to me."

The public inquiry will open on Tuesday, February 19, held at Three Rivers House in Northway, Rickmansworth.

'Huge' stables development granted permission

W.O. 30-11-01

A HORSE-LOVER was granted planning permission this month to build six stables at her home in Sarratt.

Mrs Sian Sheridan, of Church Lane, told Three Rivers District Council's development control committee it had always been her dream to keep her own horses.

Currently, the six animals are stabled in Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

The new stables, which will include a wash box, tack room, feed room, haystore and rug room, will be built on the site of two existing stable blocks and a garage. Officers had recommended planning permission be refused.

However, after a site visit, members voted to grant planning permission for the development, with a condition the stables were kept for personal use only.

At the meeting on Thursday, November 15, councillors expressed concerns that the stables would be turned into a business venture.

They commented on the size of the plans, which officers had concluded were an "inappropriate development in the Metropolitan Green Belt detrimental to its openness and character".

Leader of the council Ann Shaw said: "This is a huge development on the Green Belt. I think we have got to be consistent about this."



Mrs Ann Shaw.

However, in a speech to the council, Mrs Sheridan defended the size of the stables. She explained two of her horses are equivalent in dimension to Shire horses at 18 hands and 750 kilograms.

Two of the proposed stables are 16 by 18 feet, in line with the recommendations of the British Horse Society.

Mrs Sheridan added, in keeping with the property, storage had been kept to a minimum and the site was in a secluded corner.

She said: "I simply wish to replace the existing stables to a suitable size for my horses.

"If it's acceptable I have six horses, it should be acceptable they need that much space."

BUSHEY FRIENDLY LEAGUE
by Fionntan Murphy

Oct. 2001

BROTHERS Kane and Connor Callutt gave **Sarratt Rebels** victory in their under ten showdown with **Gadeside**.

Kane scored twice in the 4-1 Challenge Cup win, while Matt Sawyer claimed the last goal.

Landowners have power to thwart the extraction plans

W.O. 23/11/01

A JAPANESE dentist, a doctor and local farmers hold the fate of the Bucks Hill countryside in their hands.

The reason is land Hertfordshire County Council is investigating for potential gravel extraction to meet the 2.4 million tonnes a year target set by the Government is owned by them.

Parish council representatives, concerned residents, environmental groups, dog walkers and horse riders gathered at George V Hall in George V Way, Sarratt, on Monday, to organise a response to make sure the area to the east of the main road is not included on the county council's Minerals Local Plan when the present one expires in five years.

The area has been repeatedly examined and satisfies the requirements. It is now at the final consultation stage, which gives the public until Friday, January 4, 2002, to lodge objections.

The council will decide, by May, whether to include the site in its extraction plans.

During his presentation, consultant Richard Tipton, who owns Jeffries Farm, told an audience of 80 that four of the five landowners would not sell-up.

He said: "Great Westwood is owned by a Japanese dentist, who spends most of her time in Tokyo. First of all, we know she will not sell. I have e-mails from her and she has written to the council, in the strongest terms, saying that no way will she sell, and I believe her."

He argues that although the remaining farmer, Mr Crawley, is prepared to sell, the amount of gravel that could be extracted from the land would not meet the council's guidelines.

Mr Tipton said the county council has said they would not consider a site unless it can provide one million tonnes.

By his calculations, the site would need to be 20 hectares in order to provide this amount, and with buffer zones – An area of 100 metres to separate the gravel pits from properties – this would be reduced to 17 hectares.

The council has made assurances it will not force purchase the land, but members of the meeting were still concerned, that with the present farming climate, land owners may be tempted to sell up.

Mr John Foulgham from Bucks Hill asked why, if the investigation had been going on for three years, they had been given only weeks to respond.

He said: "This sieving business has been going on since 1998 and I would like to know who has been representing our interests for that period of time.

"When I phoned Three Rivers [District Council] two weeks ago, they said they did not know anything about it."

A county council spokesman said there had been public consultation in the summer of 1998.

He said the consultation process, which began on Monday, October 29, started as soon as the proposal was agreed by the executive committee.

He said: "People will have further opportunities to comment on deposit draft plans in the summer and late autumn."

In his opinion, whether four of the five land owners would sell-up or not was irrelevant to the process, it is still the job of the council to identify the area for extraction.

And it would be up to individual companies to approach the owners of the land about selling it.

The Key Issues document and summary is available from the county council's environment department, district council offices, local libraries, or from the county council web site at www.hertsdirect.org/minerals\localplan.

Extraction will ruin site

BUCKS EXAMINER 23/11/01

report by Helen Usborne

PROTESTERS packed out a Sarratt hall to oppose Hertfordshire County Council plans to extract gravel from Bucks Hill.

An audience of nearly 90 gathered at the King George V Hall, on Monday, to object to the development outlined in the minerals local plan review published three weeks ago.

Jean Newell, chairman of Chandlers Cross, Bucks Hill and Penmans Green Residents' Association, told the Examiner: "All of them are going to write to the council – they were really quite perturbed that they had such short notice about this.

"It is such an important issue for us who live on this very, very beautiful patch of countryside."

Richard Tipton, owner of Gyfres Farm, which lies in the specified area between Old House Lane and Bucks Hill, said at the meeting: "On the map, the area looks like a laughing clown and I dream about it every night.

"The county council accept access to the site would be difficult – it would mean crossing an area of ancient woodland used by ramblers, horseriders and cyclists. The landscape has not changed over the last 10,000 years.

"County council policy says: 'If we extract gravel then we will restore the land to as good as it was'. But how can they restore the landscape? Landfill in itself is destructive to the environment."

Mr Tipton also outlined the cultural heritage of the 70 hectare plot. Four listed building exist on the site as well as the remains of a Roman villa.

Sarratt Parish Council said it supported the views of the residents.

Chairman John Dean told the Examiner: "We will defend the interests of people who live in the area.

"There is concern that extra vehicles would cause congestion in the lanes. It would cause pollution and noise aside from the destructive impact it would have on wildlife in an area of outstanding natural beauty."

The plan outlined for public consultation does not include provision for compulsory purchase of the site, occupied by eight landowners. Only one farmer has said he will sell his 12 hectare plot.

County councillor for Chorleywood Dr Eleanor Clarke described the area as a "hidden jewel" and added: "The site is quite a small one and so wouldn't be worth extracting anyway."

Residents have until January 4 to put views to the council on plans to extract from the site.



Opposed: Resident Richard Tipton is opposed to plans for a gravel pit, in Bucks Hill. Picture: Brian Jordan 1075.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Watford Observer 9-11-2001

SARRATT (EVENING)

IT was with utter disbelief and total shock we learned on Saturday, October 27, of the sudden death of our well-loved member and friend, Ms Joyce Newton. Joyce was a founding member of Sarratt (Evening) Women's Institute when it was formed in 1984, and throughout the past 17 years worked tirelessly with such enthusiasm, cheerfulness and a wonderful sense of humour, which has been an inspiration to us all.

She will be sorely missed.

Joyce, you have built your Jerusalem. Rest now, sleep well in England's green and pleasant land and we promise you the Parcel Force saga will be sorted. Goodnight, God Bless.

In October, Ms Shelagh Nichols gave us a brilliant talk on dried flower arrangements. Shelagh briefly described how things went from arranging church flowers to going on a City and Guilds course to learn about the preserving and drying of flowers, and much more. After realising it would be better to grow her own flowers for drying, Shelagh fenced off some farmland and started planting.

Today, her shop is thriving and there are daily workshops for those who wish to learn more.

We hope to see many of you at our Christmas party on Thursday, December 6. This will be our farewell to dear Joyce. If we do not see you, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful new year.

OBITUARY



Mrs Joyce Newton.

THE Sarratt community was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Joyce Avril Newton on Saturday, October 27, at the age of 64.

She was known as Miss Newton by generations of children who attended Sarratt School. She retired four years ago after 35 years of dedicated teaching to reception and Year One classes.

Miss Newton also took an active part in village functions. She had taught children Maypole and country dancing for years.

This year she also performed one of her Joyce Grenfell monologues for the Harvest Supper. Evening WI and keep-fit, the Christmas Bazaar and children's Holiday Clubs all came within her remit.

Underpinning her life was a deep Christian faith.

She showed this faith in her everyday life, and by her involvement with Holy Cross church.

She made and sold more than 1,000 "Crosses in a Pocket" to raise money for the church and until last year was a Churchwarden.

She was a sidesperson, a reader, a Chalice bearer and an intercessor. This was in addition to her work as Child Protection Officer for the Parish, Alpha Course leader, King's Club leader, and member of a home group and prayer groups.

Her many friends included those who had worked with her in the Guide movement, where she had been active in running camps and working in the Guide shop.

Miss Newton had also run the Brownies in Sarratt and had been a County Commissioner.

Her family came from Croxley Green, where they owned a florists. She was involved for more than 40 years with Croxley Revels, and taught there for a short time before moving to Sarratt.

She lost her brother, Gerald, earlier this year. She had spent as much time as possible with him and his family in Wiltshire during his long illness.

A friend, Mr Robin Gain, said she would be remembered as a lovely person with a great sense of humour, whose much loved presence will be greatly missed.

Her funeral, and the thanksgiving service for her life took place on the Tuesday, November 6, at Holy Cross Church.

2001

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office, Village Hall,
The Green, Sarratt, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire. WD3 6AT

Tel & Fax: 01923 262025

GUY FAWKES

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY

NOVEMBER 5TH AT THE VILLAGE GREEN

Presented by **SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL** for the enjoyment of all those who wish to attend on Monday 5th

As a sign of respect for all the victims of the terrible events in America on Tuesday September 11th there will be a **RED CROSS** collection during the event where donations can be made.

The Bonfire will be lit on 6.30 pm

Fireworks will commence at 7.30pm and will be only one main display

Have a safe and enjoyable evening.

In the absence of a formally appointed Clerk to The Parish Council
please address all correspondence to The Proper Officer, Cllr J. Ruggles

SARRATT PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office, Village Hall,
The Green, Sarratt, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire. WD3 6AT

Tel & Fax: 01923 262025

GRAVEL EXTRACTION

- **BUCKS HILL IS A POTENTIAL SITE FOR GRAVEL EXTRACTION**

- **FURHER INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM LIBRARIES AND PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILS**

- **YOUR VIEWS COUNT**

- **PLEASE WRITE BY 4TH JANUARY 2002**

TO
MRS S DAVIDSON
HEAD OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
COUNTY HALL
HERTFORD
SG13 8DN

THERE WILL BE A MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER

ON MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2001

IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM.

In the absence of a formally appointed Clerk to The Parish Council
please address all correspondence to The Proper Officer, Cllr J. Ruggles

Wildlife Conservation in Sarratt

Come to a slide presentation
by local wildlife expert

Brenda Harold

Tuesday Nov. 20th, 8pm
Sarratt School

Admission Free

Spend an enjoyable evening finding out about the wildlife around us why it's important and what you could do to help it.

Free coffee and biscuits

S P A G

Sarratt Preservation Action Group

(1) **CHURCH ROOM & TOILET APPEAL N°:- APP/P1940/A/01/1067190**
Letters to the COMPLAINTS OFFICER, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT, ROOM 4/O9 KITE WING, TEMPLE QUAY HOUSE, 2 THE SQUARE, TEMPLE QUAY, BRISTOL, BS1 6PN. This must reach him by 8th NOVEMBER 2001.

You may wish to give a copy of your letter to the Rev. Peter Hart and send a copy to MR BARRY ROGERS, 11 CHARMOUTH ROAD, ST ALBANS, HERTS, AL1 4RS. (The Officer concerned at the Cathedral).

(2) **GRAVEL PITS (CHANDLERS CROSS etc). NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
Letters to MRS SUSAN DAVIDSON, HEAD of COUNTY DEVELOPMENT, COUNTY HALL, HERTFORD, SG13 8DN
REFERENCE SITE AS2. Date of public consultation – closes 3rd January 2002.

(3) **NORRIS'S APPEAL (DAWES LANE/CHESS VALLEY) APPEAL REFERENCE:- APP/P1940/A/01/01197/FUL** APPEAL DATE 14th NOVEMBER 2001– TRDC at 10a.m.
Comments on the proposal to erect BRICK BUILT PERMANENT BUILDINGS in place of current moveable poly tunnels for egg and chicken production/rearing. Letters to ROOM 301 KITE WING, TEMPLE QUAY HOUSE, 2 THE SQUARE, TEMPLE QUAY, BRISTOL BS1 6PN - to reach there by 12th NOVEMBER 2001.

(4) **SARRATT BOTTOM – Freehold Plots in the Chess Valley**
Nothing can be done at present regarding the sale of 7 Plots of Land at Dawes Lane/Sarratt Bottom. Careful watch on this one will be maintained!

(5) **WARDS NURSERY**

a) **APPEAL REFERENCE:- APP/P1940/A/01/1075414** – DATE & VENUE to be advised. Letters to ROOM 301 KITE WING, TEMPLE QUAY HOUSE, 2 THE SQUARE, TEMPLE QUAY, BRISTOL BS1 6PN - to reach the Inspector by 25th NOVEMBER 2001.

b) **NEW APPLICATION:- REFERENCE 01/01413/OUT** (Outline Application) dated 22nd October 2001. Comments by letter to PLANNING DEPARTMENT, THREE RIVERS HOUSE, NORTHWAY, RICKMANSWORTH, WD3 1RL.
Letters should arrive by 14th NOVEMBER 2001 – date of meeting to be confirmed.

SUMMARY
Please keep a copy of any/all letters sent. They may be needed for Appeals etc.

If you are unsure about anything please contact:-
Sarratt Parish Council – Mr Dave Rees - 01923 262025
Three Rivers District Council – Mr Tony Turk – 01923 776611
Val and Peter – 01923 262920

W.O. 9-11-01

Chicanes: A fatality in waiting

by Alex Hill

A 30-year-old woman escaped serious injury when her car overturned after colliding with a traffic calming device in a country road.

Mrs Louisa France, from Hemel Hempstead, was left hanging upside down by the seatbelt of her Ford Scorpio, after hitting a chicane in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt.

The accident, just after 8am on Monday, could have been much worse say residents, who predicted months ago the concrete outcrops and wooden stakes would lead to accidents.

The victim was taken by ambulance to Watford General, and released after treatment for minor injuries.

Her father, Mr John Stonestreet, who owns Fantasy Flowers in New Road, Croxley Green, arrived at the scene after his daughter called him on her mobile telephone.

He said: "She co[illegible]s round this road every day. She phoned me from inside the car, and said 'I am hanging upside down in the car. I can feel everything and I am all right'."

Monday's accident was the second in which a car has turned over in a matter of months, and residents say many more minor incidents go unreported.



Mrs Louisa France, from Hemel Hempstead, miraculously escaped serious injury when her car collided with a chicane in Dimmocks Lane and flipped over.

Picture V452602: ALEX HILL

It is thought the low sun shining in drivers' eyes makes the out-crops particularly hazardous in the morning, and a firefighter on the way to work minutes before the accident backs this claim.

Leading firefighter Dave Chamberlin, from Rickmansworth fire station, said: "The sun was so low on that day that the bollards took me by surprise. You can hardly see them, and I had to swerve to avoid them."

Councillors and residents fear it will take a death before their pleas to replace the chicanes with speed cameras are heeded. There has been universal disapproval of the scheme, and a constant call for speed cameras to slow the traffic instead.

Residents on the scene stressed if the accident had occurred minutes later, children walking to school could have been injured.

Mr Roy Ward and wife May's house is adjacent to the accident spot.

Mr Ward said: "I said at the beginning they are going to have problems with them. They are going to get hit."

Three Rivers District Councillor Tony Barton said: "This is a fatality waiting to happen. It has been a constant source of worry for us, and I am concerned about the consequences of it.

"Something serious will occur there and then it will be too late."

Mr John Dean, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, said they had asked the bollards be made of plastic rather than wood so they would bend when hit, and again called for speed cameras.

He said: "We have now got an accident black spot. We told the council the bollards would be dangerous."

A Hertfordshire County Council spokesman said the area did not qualify as an accident black spot because there had to be at least six accidents in three years before it qualifies.

He said: "Central Government regulations mean you can only put them [speed cameras] in certain places. We would be willing to visit the site and, if we agreed with them, we would do something about it."

A spokesman for the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions contradicted this saying the county council had the power in conjunction with the police to implement speed cameras to improve safety.

ahill@london.newsquest.co.uk

Mr. & Mrs. P. Cumming,
Old Red Lion Farm,
Sarratt,
Herts,
WD3 6BP.

The Diocese
of St Albans
Roger Collor
Pastoral & Advisory Secretary

5 December 2001

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Cumming,

Holy Cross, Sarratt - Parish Room

Thank you very much indeed for the concern which you have for the situation at Sarratt, and for writing to the Bishop. I am replying on his behalf.

I can tell you that although the parish has taken the parish room proposals through the secular planning system, there are still some ecclesiastical steps yet to be taken. The 'footprint' of the new building will need to be the subject of a pastoral scheme to remove the legal effects of consecration. That process is subject to a wide but specific consultation procedure leading to an application to the Queen in Council. Although that consultation does not include the general public, there is a second approval process which does. The room will require a 'faculty' - a form of ecclesiastical permission - and public notices inviting objections will be displayed for 28 days inside and outside the church before the application is considered. The faculty consultation is extensive and includes English Heritage, and might involve one or more of the amenity societies as well.

I have to say that the original plans of the parish - as you probably know - were to build an attached facility on the north side of the church, but the various interested external parties favoured a detached building in a vernacular style to match the adjacent farm barns, hence the present scheme.

I cannot predict yet when the public notices will appear, but I would have thought not before the spring.

I hope this information is of use to you.

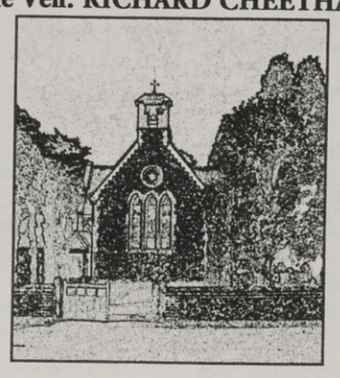
Yours sincerely,

Roger J. Collor
Advisory Secretary

Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. AL1 1HE
Telephone: 01727 854532 Fax: 01727 844469 E-mail: rcollor@stalbansdioc.org.uk

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

THE LICENSING
of
The Revd. PETER HART
as
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE
of
ST PAUL'S CHIPPERFIELD
by
The Bishop of Hertford,
The Rt. Revd. CHRISTOPHER FOSTER
and Installation by the Archdeacon of St. Albans,
The Ven. RICHARD CHEETHAM



10 a.m.
SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER 2001

W.O. 12-12-01



WELCOME INN: **The Horse and Cart public house at Commonwood near Sarratt looks inviting in the winter sun – it might even be warmer outside in December than in July.** Picture: V444620: JANE PARR

Village has spate of break-ins

W.O. 14-12-01

THERE has been a spate of break-ins to sheds and outbuildings in Sarratt in recent weeks.

In one incident, between 5pm last Friday and 8.30am on Saturday, a petrol can was stolen from a locked barn in Church Lane.

In another incident, damage was done to an alarm system linked to sheds at a business premises in Red Lion Lane last month, although nothing was stolen.

PC Michael Powell, crime prevention officer for Watford and Three Rivers, said: "I would advise people to consider the value of what they are storing in sheds and outbuildings, and if appropriate store this equipment elsewhere.

"If this is not feasible, I would recommend the use of good quality chains and padlocks with which to secure equipment together.

"People can contact me for more specific advice on 01923 472030."

2001

Literary hat-trick for village church bazaar

W.O. 7-12-01



The ever-optimistic Dennis Jenks.
Picture V491710: SIMON JACOBS

WHEN it comes to selling books, self-established village book publisher Dennis Jenks could give lessons.

The faint-hearted among us sagely shook our heads when we learned Dennis had ordered a print run of 10,0000, when he published Sarratt and the Draper of Watford, by John le Carré, and other unlikely stories about Sarratt from international authors two years ago.

The classy hardback book was based on the brilliant idea le Carré had placed his fictitious spy school in Sarratt, through long-time friendship with Dick Edmonds, retired chairman of Clements department store in Watford.

The top-selling thriller writer agreed to reveal his connections in a short story, which formed the basis for a delightful collection of Sarratt-related tales. It was bound to sell well – but 10,000 seemed rather a tall order.

Dennis, however, had a challenging edge to his literary business sword: the book is sold in aid the local Holy Cross village church. Every penny is going to the charity and Dennis intends to sell every single copy, using whatever trick of the trade, it takes to achieve his target.

From getting John le Carré to sign copies of the book, to spreading the news through radio, television, national, international newspapers and the internet, to flogging the book at every other fair and bazaar, Dennis is constantly coming up with new ways of promoting and selling what was initially labelled the best-selling gift book of the year 2000.

Copies of the book can be spotted on bookshelves in stores in Guildford, Lewes, Oxford, Australia, America and the Falklands, but, tomorrow, Dennis will be performing a high-flying literary hat-trick on home ground, the Holy Cross church bazaar in the newly refurbished Sarratt Village Hall.

This time, he has enrolled the support of celebrated travel writer, Graham Coster, whose book, Corsairville – The Lost Domain of the Flying Boat, is part of the special bargain – three books for the price of one.

The £10 offer includes one of two of Out and About with John Pilgrim, presenter of the Three Counties radio show, Down Your Way – as well as Sarratt and the Draper of Watford.

Graham Coster will be coming to the village bazaar to sign copies of his book alongside Dick Edmonds, who signs himself "The Draper of Watford" and two of the artists, who contributed pictures to the Sarratt book, Jan Clutterbuck and Agnes Bantock.

"Corsairville is a marvellous story from the era of flying boats, which takes you back to the great days of flying from the United Kingdom to South Africa in five days with stops for lunch (and refuelling) and overnight stays in five star hotels," said Dennis, who has thoroughly enjoyed reading the bargain book he persuaded the publishers to "gift" for the village cause.

The price-tag on Sarratt and the Draper of Watford remains the fixed £9.75 and the book will not be confined to the bargain basement. It will stay in the Jenks's garage for as long as it takes.

Dennis is keen to point out the cover still carries £60 worth of vouchers, entitling the bearer to complimentary drinks at the three village pubs, half a dozen eggs at the village store, money off offers for Ward's Nurseries and Clements and ticket offers for The Palace Theatre Watford and Saracens Rugby Club. All offers are valid until December 31, 2002.

The book could prove a good investment as well as a good read.

"A copy of Sarratt and the Draper of Watford, signed by John le Carré, has changed hands on the internet for £100," smiled ever-optimistic Dennis.

Development plans that could ruin unique rural vistas forever are simply the pits

W.O. 14-12-01



JUST A WORD with **Oliver Phillips**

ARCHITECT Sean Aylett saw the irony when, recently, he won the Hertfordshire Association of Architects award for his work on Gyfres Farm, Bucks Hill.

His concept for the £275,000 development was particularly commended for the manner in which it blended and harmonised with the local landscape.

The irony is, while the 1550 farmhouse has been re-roofed and extended sympathetically and looks out over what is, even on a cold December morning, a magnificent vista, the landscape could become irrevocably changed if proposals to develop a gravel pit are given the go-ahead.

Gyfres Farm, which housed the ancestors of former American President Jimmy Carter, could become marooned in the heart of a gravel pit and all the careful and considerate landscaping made redundant.

However, whatever the outcome of this latest piece of proposed rural sacrilege, 57-year-old Sean Aylett, who is based in Sarratt, can justly be proud of his award for designing the substantial extensions to the 16th Century property.

However, it has not always been smooth sailing for Uxbridge-born Sean, who worked for the GLC for ten years, working on expanded towns.

"I then moved to a group in Haringey and then the money dried up completely in the public sector," he told me.

"It became very political and, while I have some sympathies with the left, Bernie Grant was the leader and there was no money left. So I took voluntary redundancy and joined a commercial practice. One project I was involved in with them was the Maple Cross development, where Nissan are in the Japanese-type business park."

His scheme for a sheltered home in 1980 was so well thought of, it appeared in a summer exhibition but, with the 1980's, redundancy loomed again.

"The recession left 50 per cent of my profession out of work. Since then, I have done my own work. I have worked on schools and private houses. I am connected with a practice in Bushey," said Sean, who has called Sarratt his home for the past 25 years.

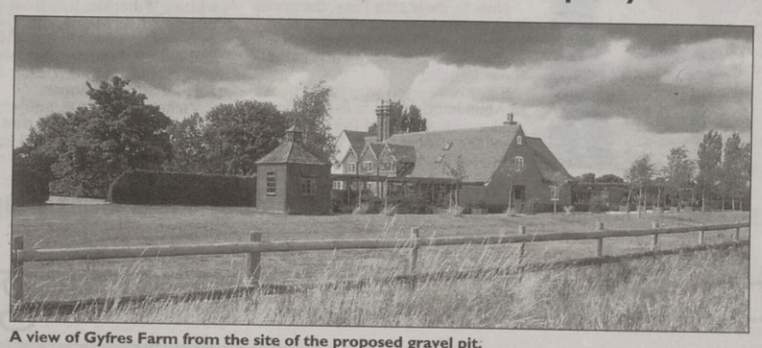
A former graduate from Kingston Art School, he recalls guitarist Eric Clapton was there at the same time: "He was slung out because he would keep playing instead of painting, but the school did teach you how to draw, which is rarer in the profession now."

More recently, Sean designed the village hall in Sarratt but the scheme is incomplete, the organisers having run out of money.

"The whole front, a flying porch and gallery; the upper parts of the remainders are to have galleries and that has yet to happen. It will do, if we can get more money," he said.

"The big worry is they might lose heart and never do it," he added, fearing his architectural vision might be truncated. "It needs the development of the front to make the whole thing look the part."

So, what with redundancies and unfinished projects, it has been a long and undulating road for Sean before the journey was crowned with the Hertfordshire Architects Award.



A view of Gyfres Farm from the site of the proposed gravel pit.

Looking at Gyfres Farm, which is in the parish of Sarratt, yet nearer to the village of Chipperfield, the new bricks seem as if they are already beginning to mellow as they sit alongside those previously laid in 1550.

"We have completely re-roofed the property, replaced all the windows, opened up the first floor," Sean explained, as he shows me round the property.

"I have always tried, wherever possible, to work with a landscape architect so the building has a sense of place and it belongs to the landscape. We created this water garden and a courtyard at the back. It used to be a 16th Century one-hall-type building.

"With the extension, it is like another little house. There is a utility room, a couple of bedrooms, a bathroom, another living room and it has made the accommodation quite generous."

He has determinedly refused to "Disney-fy" the development and is suitably scathing when he says: "The average private house builders are awful. There is no design integrity. Basically, they have decided what sells and they have followed on with little bits of styles from the past, with a few gables and a bit of half-timbering. It is very twee and the human scales are all wrong. The houses look like they have walked out of a Disneyland cartoon.

"Gyfres Farm is not comparable with a volume builder house. It is an individual listed building. But even then I wouldn't go to the extreme of trying to imitate the pointing of the old bricks. It would be like putting flock wallpaper everywhere and imitation beams.

"We chose a mixture of bricks to be sympathetic with the old ones."

Even this project was not all smooth sailing. It took more than a year to obtain the planning permission.

Explained Sean: "The previous owner had bits all over it, which were pretty naff and built without permission. We had to get over that hurdle. Then we went through various design processes. Because it is in Green Belt there is a restriction on volume and area, so we had to go back through the records to show how many buildings were on the site. I wrote at least two reports. It was a struggle just obtaining planning permission."

The building, together with the landscaping, amounted to a £275,000 contract and it constitutes one of those hidden jewels, quite literally off the beaten track between Chandlers Cross and Chipperfield Woods.

With a water garden, an attractive courtyard, barn and dovecote, it is a large but appealing property, comfortably settled in the rural landscape. Woods, a valley and field lay beyond it and it is a refreshingly new local view for me, one of those rare moments when the countryside appears devoid of the blight of modern intrusion and planners.

Having completed the contract and won the award, Sean was more than happy with the architectural legacy to grace the locality.

But in October, the bombshell dropped with news of a proposed gravel pit and, while the parishes of Sarratt and Chipperfield are suitably gobsmacked by the threatened intrusion, inconvenience and desolation, the owner of Gyfres Farm, Richard Tipton, having spent the past 16 years developing his property, is ready to do battle.

A gynaecologist, he learned of the proposal to surround his property with a gravel pit, back in October.

In the interim six weeks, he has produced a remarkable 106-page document, containing 16,000 words and 19 maps "knocked out on my own computer".

As he put it: "I did an MD and this was just as much work."

He admits it has considerably improved his computer skills and he continues to recruit advice and support from various bodies to the cause in an effort to protect the environment.

He has mapped out three projects or stages in his battle against the threat of a gravel pit. Project number one is to get the scheme halted in its caterpillar tracks.

"Project number two is get them to say they will never develop this site because the constraints that are on this site now, will always be there," said Richard. "While there is a threat of gravel extraction in this area, it would make a huge change to property prices anyway.

"The third project is to buy the land and to make Bucks Hill Common. I think we could buy the land for £100,000 at the very most and we could get a lottery grant for half of that and then we could turn it into a copse, flowering meadow, with footpaths and bridleways through it.

"So, in perpetuity, it would belong to Bucks Hill residents. We would not have shares, it would just pass on to the next residents. Many different societies are interested in that scheme."

He has the layman's natural suspicion for the timing of such things as the announcement of the gravel pit proposal. They have until late January to raise objections.

"The review began in 1998 and it has been through three sieves before it came to our notice. We citizens and payers of taxes did not even get a look-in until we were told in October. They give us eight weeks, which includes the distraction of Christmas. Is that by chance?" he asked, adding: "The original letter was written on September 12 . Wasn't it central Government that started writing memos on September 11? It would take county council another day to catch on."

He points out the 1993 Government-established targets to excavate gravel from Hertfordshire are now excessive because of the reduction in the use of concrete as a material.

"The 1988 Minerals Local plan, looked actively for more sites and this was one in the grave-bearing area. Most are extensions of existing pits but this one, in their eyes in an extension of the Great Westwood pit (near Chandlers Cross) but patently it is not.

"The major constraint are they did not consult many land owners, and only one has given permission," he pointed out.

This is particularly pertinent as it is the county policy not to undertake compulsory purchase orders.

"Therefore, the site is less than satisfactory and is unlikely to be viable," said Richard Tipton.

"There is no road so, to put in an infrastructure would be far too expensive and destructive to the environment.

"In their report, they give lip service to listed buildings but there are 14 in Bucks Hill and the stated policy is not to adversely affect listed buildings."

He pointed out a gravel pit would ruin the ecology, affect existing woodlands and, probably, would be detrimental to the water table.

"It would affect the economy adversely, as a lot of the pubs and village shops rely on bridle ways, horseriders and walkers – that would go and they would destroy public rights of way.

"There are tree preservation orders round here. There is a block of preservation orders on one of the woods they would partially take. Their stated policy, anyway, is not to destroy woodlands in this area."

A near-neighbour purchased his property for £1m but will also suffer badly if the scheme goes ahead. "Nothing turned up on his searches when he was buying the property. It has just been sprung on us," said Richard.

Obviously, any individual with a substantial investment of money in his property could be seen as having a vested interest, but Richard and his wife have spent both time and love on the house and grounds.

"There wasn't a garden here. We have done that and we have made a nature conservancy area. We inherited a paddock that was nitrogenised and weed-killed for horses. We have put 3,000 trees up there and are now managing the grasslands so we have flowering meadows. And we have built a pond there as well. It really is very beautiful."

Standing there, looking over the wintry scene of the valley, where excavations could begin if the residents lose their fight, it seems amazing that anyone could consider ruining such a vista.

But, even in the country, we are not immune to the long arm of the planners. For architect Sean Aylett there is a familiar ring to it all. Thirty-five years ago, his in-laws were involved in an unsuccessful fight to prevent the Great Westwood gravel pit three miles down the road.

I turned to Sean and looked back to the house and suggested that had he know a gravel pit was being planned, would he have pebbledashed the extension with gravel chippings?

A frown of artistic discomfort flashed across his brow before he saw the irony.



Gyfres Farm from the dovecote



Local architect Sean Aylett stands before his award-winning development.



A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

10.30am Sunday 11th November 2001

Sarratt
Local History Society



The next meeting of the Society will be on **Wednesday March 14 2001** in Sarratt Village School at 7.30pm for 8pm.

Dr. Charles Le Quesne

will speak on

"Rediscovering an ancient landscape – Archaeology at The Grove"

Coffee/Tea & biscuits will be available

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

Car parking available on School Playground

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A Tale of the Red Lion

Mike Tiernan examines the architectural development of the Red Lion Complex in Sarratt from 16th Century to the present day

Date: 10 May 2001
Time: 7.30 for 8.00pm
Venue: Sarratt School

Non Members £1.50
Tea & Coffee Available

All Welcome

Sarratt
Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday September 18th 2001 in Sarratt Village School at 8pm

Coffee & biscuits will be available from 7.30pm.

Mr. John Hopkins will speak on

"The Victorian Church and Sarratt"

All are very welcome.

2001

Come and see
The Great Sarratt
Scrapbook
in the
Village School

On Saturday October 20th 2001
from 10.30am - 1.00pm
there will be a chance to see also Laurie Reading's historic photographs of the whole village and parish, an archive of Sarratt at the end of the 20th century, as well as other artefacts and maps relating to our community.
ALL ARE VERY WELCOME
Refreshments available

Sarratt Local History Society



Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday November 21 2001 at 7.30. For 8.00pm
in Sarratt Village School.
Our speaker will be Mrs Mary Forsyth on "The History of Watford from its Listed Buildings"
All are very welcome.
Biscuits, tea or coffee available.

Sarratt Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday January 23 2001 in Sarratt Village School at 7.30pm for 8pm.
It will start with the AGM and be followed immediately by a talk from

Steve Morrell

'The History of Commonwood House'

Coffee/Tea & biscuits will be available
ALL ARE VERY WELCOME



SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2001
taken by Philip Buller at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	23rd / 11.4	20th /-5.4	19th /-12.3	26th / 18.9	84.9	
February	11th / 12.0	25th /-2.5	10th /-8.6	12th / 20.9	98.3	
March	31st / 14.0	5th /-5.5	5th /-12.4	16th / 17.7	107.6	Last air frost & last snowfall, 6th & 21st.
April	2nd / 18.8	17th / 0.0	17th /-5.9	8th / 13.1	99.1	
May	12th / 25.4	5th / 3.0	4,5,8/-2.1	15th / 24.9	64.1	heard first cuckoo, 13th. Only 2 days without rain.
June	26th / 28.7	9th / 2.0	9th /-2.3	18th / 17.4	41.2	last ground frost, 11th.
July	29th / 31.1	16th / 7.0	16th / 2.3	9th / 8.2	27.0	Driest July, 1980-2013.
August	15th / 28.7	10th / 7.9	10th / 3.0	9th / 28.2	104.4	
September	2nd / 27.0	22nd / 5.0	2,3rd/ 0.2	28th / 15.9	60.4	
October	13th / 22.0	29th / 4.8	29th / 0.0	21st / 21.4	112.1	
November	2nd / 13.8	29th /-1.7	23,27/-8.5	7th / 10.2	43.5	1st ground frost, 1st snow & 1st air frost, 1st, 9th & 14th.
December	5th / 11.5	23rd /-2.9	23,31/-10.5	4th / 7.6	26.7	

LITTLE BRAGMANS
BRAGMANS LANE
BELSIZE

LITTLE BRAGMANS
is idyllically positioned within one of the most sought after locations in Hertfordshire. The main house retains a wealth of character features and dates from the 17th Century. In the 1970's later additions and extensions were made but in keeping with the original building and mainly constructed from reclaimed materials. The Cottage lies in roughly the centre of its plot of just over half an acre and has formal gardens, a well stocked orchard, double width garage and a 17th Century timber framed barn that may be suitable for a variety of uses. Usefully, there is a secondary access off Bragmans Lane on the eastern side of the plot.

The accommodation is arranged as follows:

Oak front door to:

FRONT PORCH
Window to front, quarry tiled floor, heavy internal oak door to:

DINING ROOM 3.928M x 3.64M max
(12'11" x 11'11" max)
Secondary glazed leaded light windows to side and front aspects, brick inglenook fireplace with wood burning stove and display niches, beamed ceiling.

LIVING ROOM 5.779M x 4.40M (19' x 14'5"
Secondary glazed leaded light windows to front and side aspect, door to garden, inglenook fireplace with open fire, exposed timbers and beamed ceiling, two understairs cupboards, turning staircase rising to first floor.

KITCHEN 3.382M x 3.319M (11'1" x 10'10")
Fitted with a range of wall and base units and part tiled, space for electric cooker, plumbing for automatic washing machine, extractor fan, stable type door to side aspect and storm porch, exposed timbers, door to:

LARDER 3.606M overall x 2.52M max
(11'10" overall x 8'3")
Divided into two distinct areas, quarry tiled floor, door to:

CLOAKROOM/WC
Low level wc, pedestal wash hand basin, shaver light, tiled splashback, window to side.

STUDY 2.523M x 2.323M (8'4" x 7'7")
Exposed timbers and brickwork (rear of inglenook fireplace in living room), storage within alcove recess, leaded light windows to side and rear aspect.

FIRST FLOOR

LANDING
Large landing with window to front, exposed timbers and vaulted ceiling, secondary glazed, leaded light windows to front aspect, access to loft storage.

BATHROOM
Rolltop bath with claw feet and brass mixer unit, fitted pine vanitory unit with inset sink unit, low level wc, fully tiled, airing cupboard housing hot water cylinder, shaver point, loft hatch.

BEDROOM 1 4.313M x 3.437M (14'2" x 11'3")
Secondary glazed leaded light windows to front and side, exposed timbers and beams.

SECONDARY LANDING
Giving access to Bedrooms 2 and 3, loft trap.

BEDROOM 2 3.556m x 3.511M (11'8" x 11'6")
Exposed roof timbers, leaded light windows to side and rear aspect.

BEDROOM 3 3.662M x 2.688M (12' x 8'10")
Fitted wardrobes, stripped floorboards, exposed timber (dating from the 15th Century approx).

OUTSIDE
The grounds of approximately half an acre are arranged as follows:

FORMAL GARDENS
Mainly laid to lawn with mature borders, trees and conifers, ornamental pond with fountain, timber framed sunhouse (Victorian era), shed and greenhouse, outside tap.

GRAVELLED PARKING AREA
Provides parking for several vehicles and access to:

DOUBLE GARAGE 5.79M x 5.76M approx
(19' x 18'10" max)
Two up and over doors, power and light.

ORCHARD
Well stocked with mixture of fruit trees including apple, plum, pear, walnut and medlar. Separate access from Bragmans Lane.

17th CENTURY TIMBER FRAMED BARN
9.2M x 6.2M plus entrance of 3.5M x 2M
(30'2" x 20'4" plus entrance of 11'6" x6'7")





TENURE
The property is freehold

SERVICES
Mains water is piped from Bragmans Farm via a private agreement. There is private drainage, oil fired central heating and mains electricity.

POSSESSION
Vacant possession will be given on completion.

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Three Rivers District Council - Tax band G

VIEWING
Strictly by appointment only through the sole agents

FAULKNERS
49 High Street, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 9HU
Tel: 01923 264264
Fax: 01923 260674
e mail:sales@faulknersurveyors.co.uk
www.faulknersurveyors.co.uk

Ref: 6/3691 **12/F/02**

£795,000

2002

Divided over Green Belt housing plan



Yes in my back yard: Mike O'Donnell opposes Sarrat Parish Council, as he campaigns in favour of plans to build houses on the Ward Nursery site. PW2901

report by Helen Usborne

TENSION is mounting in Sarratt in the run-up to a public inquiry over the development of houses in the Green Belt.

And pamphlets posted though the letter boxes of the village's residents chart the fervour stirred up by the application to build houses on the site of Ward Nursery, Dawes Lane.

Michael O'Donnell is the latest to lay down the gauntlet in favour of the proposals, by Heathview Development.

Two weeks ago he sent leaflets to householders in the village to ask for their support at the hearing of the planning inspectorate on February 19.

Mr O'Donnell, of Dawes Lane, said: "The whole thing has been grotesquely misrepresented by various people who are bubbling with zeal to protect the village.

"This element has been fired by pamplet-rage when in fact an application for only seven houses in two-and-a-half acres is ridiculously generous."

Mr O'Donnell, whose land borders the garden centre, added he was concerned as to what might happen should the application be turned down.

He added: "I don't want the place to be derelict while the various factions debate on its future – it would be an open invitation to travellers and squatters.

"There is pressure for more houses to be built in the area and this is by far the best offer we can hope for."

Six weeks ago Heathview agent David Denham, sent a circular saying residential development would reduce commercial traffic generated by the garden centre.

He also argued the open character of the Green Belt would be enhanced as the new buildings would take up less space.

But Sarratt Parish Council and members of Sarratt Protection Action Group (SPAG) have remained vehemently opposed to the development and last year Three Rivers District Council turned down two applications despite officers recommending approval.

Chairman of SPAG Peter Cummings, said the development would set a precedent in Green Belt land and argued that construction vehicles would destroy the banks and hedges of the ancient lane and were concerned land use might intensify on the north side of the road.

He added: "We have had lots people scare-mongering and the village is very upset about it but it is not the right place for this type of development – it would be like turning a church yard into a fun fair." The building inspectorate will decide on the matter at a public hearing at Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, next month.



A van hit a chicane in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, yesterday sparking concern about the safety of the devices, designed to slow traffic. Two men travelling in the car at the time of the accident were hospitalised. Picture W072210: DAVE HERRING

Van crash reopens debate over the safety of chicanes

TWO men were taken to hospital yesterday (Thursday) after their van hit a chicane in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, and flipped upside down.

The accident has re-opened the debate about chicanes – where the pavement juts out to force motorists to swerve and as a result slow down – in the road.

They were introduced in 2000, but some residents claim they cause more accidents than they prevent.

Mr Joel Woodley, 31, and Mr Neil Wright, of Hemel Hempstead, hit the post on a chicane just after 9am.

The pair travelling in the van were both taken to hospital but it is not thought their injuries are serious.

The road was closed while the van was moved.

Mrs Monika Woodley, of The Green, was driving down Dimmocks Lane just after the accident when she saw the Ford Escort lying on its back.

Her concern turned to horror when she realised one of the men inside was her son, Neil.

She said: "I went to pieces. It was a tremendous shock to drive by and realise it was my son who was in there.

"I have spoken to him and he was in a neck brace, but I think it is just precautionary. Still, you never know about internal injuries. When I spoke to them, they were both in shock."

In the past, residents arguing against the chicanes have said the devices cause the most concern in the morning going towards Croxley Green, because the sun dazzles motorists.

Mrs Woodley added: "They should get rid of the chicanes and everybody is saying the same thing."

Miss Diane Biggerstaff, who works at Biggerstaff Garage, in Dimmocks Lane, saw the accident. She said: "He hit the chicane and with all the debris coming up, I saw it flip over.

"I thought, 'not another one'.

"Nobody in the road wanted the chicanes. I have worked here for 25 years and there was not one serious accident before they put them in."

Since the chicanes were introduced, there have been three serious accidents and it is thought there have been several more shunts.

The issue was discussed at Tuesday's meeting of Sarratt Parish Council, when councillors said the wooden posts should be replaced by plastic markers.

The council had wanted a speed camera on the road, but this idea was rejected by Three Rivers Highway Partnership.

Sarratt parish councillors John Gell and John Ruggles were at the scene shortly after the accident.

Mrs Woodley told councillor Gell: "I hope you do whatever you have to do to get them off the road. They were an accident waiting to happen the day they went in."

Later, Councillor Gell said: "We would like speed cameras but we have not been allowed to put them in. The parish council will have to have another look at it.

"It is becoming a black spot and unless something radical is done, we will have another accident like this very soon."

PC Bob Gabbey, who attended the scene, said: "The two men were quite fortunate they did not have more serious injuries.

"It is too early to lay blame. We need to speak to witnesses and see what they have to say."

Mr Keith Watkins, manager of the Highways Partnership, said: "We will need to find out what the circumstances of the accident are. We need to avoid a knee-jerk reaction and take a measured view of what has happened."

revans@london.newsquest.co.uk

'Chicanes should be scrapped'

THE representative for Sarratt on Three Rivers District Council has added his voice to those demanding the removal of the chicanes in Dimmocks Lane.

Councillor Tony Barton has called for the controversial speed calming measure to be scrapped following an accident in Dimmocks Lane, in which a van ended up on its roof.

Residents in the road argue the chicanes – where the pavement juts out into the road to force cars to slow down – cause more accidents than they prevent.

Councillor Barton said: "We wanted speed cameras but the chicanes cost £30,000 and it has been a waste of public money."

He added: "It is an accident waiting to happen.

"Do we have to wait for a fatality to happen before we address the problem?

"I have had the phone go half a dozen times asking me what I am going to do about it."

However, it is Hertfordshire County Council that is responsible for the chicanes and Councillor Barton intends to put pressure on the county council.

● Chairman of Sarratt Parish Council John Dean said this week the council is urgently seeking a meeting with representatives of Hertfordshire County Council about the chicanes.

Traffic calming

Measures put lives in danger

FURTHER to my previous letters, yet another serious accident has been caused by the traffic calming measures.

If I had put an obstruction in the road which had caused an accident I would have been prosecuted, if I had the left it there to cause two more serious accidents, I would expect to be charged with attempted murder.

If someone put something on a railway line they would have been charged, are the council immune to putting peoples lives at risk?

As mentioned in my previous letter it is a waste of time writing to Three Rivers District Council, Three Rivers Highways or Mouchel TSC as they will not reply. — **Dave Buckler, Wyvern, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt**

Locals' wishes were ignored

THE introduction of traffic calming to Sarratt already constitute a threat to local democracy in that the wishes of the local residents were ignored, when Three Rivers rejected their preference for speed cameras.

Now I read in last week's Watford Observer, Mr Keith Watkins, manager of the Highways Partnership, commenting on the latest accident, stating there is a need to "avoid knee-jerk reaction".

On a stretch of road where there were none before the traffic calmers were introduced, we have had at least five accidents in the last 18 months involving the calmers – the majority of them resulting in the vehicles being overturned.

There is a fatality waiting to happen so it would appear the time for knee-jerk reaction is long past.

In fact the only jerk involved in the sorry saga of these well-intended but stupid calmers, is the jerk who designed them.

Your columnist and local resident did suggest that on a morning when the sun shines down the east-west axis, the designer of these lethal calmers should be chained to one of the calmers during rush-hour, as the drivers peer round the chicanes.

May I suggest that Mr Watkins should join him, and we will then have an opportunity to see how many times his knee jerks.

In the meantime local democracy is prostituted by such as Mr Watkins continuing to put the telescope to his blind eye. — **P Morrin, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt.**

Prison chaplain signed in

A NEW chaplain was officially signed in at HMP The Mount in Bovingdon last week.

Reverend Phil Abrey, who was welcomed to the prison in Bovingdon on Monday, January 28, succeeds Reverend Peter Hart as prison chaplain.

Rev Hart, who has been serving at Holy Cross C of E Church in The Green, Sarratt, since 1996, gave up his duties at the prison after he was appointed the new priest of St Paul's C of E Church in Chipperfield in December 2001.

Residents packed out St Paul's to witness the licensing and installation of Rev Hart as priest-in-charge of the parish on Sunday, December 9.

The licensing was carried out by the Right Rev Christopher Foster, Bishop of Hertford, and the installation was performed by the Venerable Richard Cheetham, Archdeacon of St Albans.

This month, Rev Malcolm Williams was announced as the new assistant priest for Holy Cross and St Paul's.

Rev Williams, who is currently serving at a parish in Margate, will assist Rev Peter Hart in both parishes.

IN SHORT

Post heist

MORE than £300 in cash was stolen from Sarratt Post Office after a break-in last Tuesday morning. CCTV cameras recorded a 5ft 6ins white man, aged between 20 and 40-years, forcing open the security doors.



SARRATT CofE: Rhys Huntingford, Georgina Youell, Dominic Grant, Lily McNamara, Evie Wheeler, Kirsty Gravestock, Coral Casey, Aron Gaisford, Callum Trangmar. PICTURE ORDER No: **MWA 4725**



Mr Terry Tyler's family cress-growing business is under threat. Picture W081917: ALEX HILL

Vandal threat to family business

THE last remaining cress-growing business in Hertfordshire is under threat from vandals and thieves who target its buildings in a remote part of Sarratt.

Mr Terry Tyler, 63, has run the family water-cress growing business in Moor Lane all his life.

He has taken the extreme measure of driving home after work with his tractor tyre to prevent the tractor being taken, after suffering 15 incidents of vandalism and theft in the past two years.

He also leaves tools at his home two miles away in Dimmocks Lane because he cannot get contents insurance for the run-down shacks, held together by string in places.

The business was founded by Mr Tyler's great grandfather in 1886, and last week Mr Tyler saw his attempt secure its future by living on site thwarted by Three Rivers District Council.

An application to replace one of the old sheds with a new building, including a flat was turned-down by the council last Thursday.

It said arguments for the proposal were not strong enough to "justify the building in such an attractive part of the Chilterns area of outstanding natural beauty in the Metropolitan Green Belt".

The police supported the application advising that on-site accommodation would reduce the risk of theft and vandalism. Mr Tyler said he had not decided whether to appeal. But said he was disappointed by the decision, and that the reasoning behind it was incorrect.

ahill@london.newsquest.co.uk

Heated debate at planning inquiry

DEVELOPERS went head-to-head with Three Rivers District Council at a public inquiry on Tuesday over plans to build homes in the Green Belt in Sarratt.

A planning inspector, Ms Sue Turner, heard arguments from QC's on each side throughout the day about the Wards Nursery site in Dawes Lane.

Heathview Developments needs to persuade Ms Turner there are special circumstances for building in the Green Belt because houses would usually be an inappropriate use.

The public inquiry was called after the developers appealed against a decision by councillors to refuse the outline application after council officers had recommended it should be accepted.

Mr Joseph Harper QC argued it is a brown field site that is not easily visible and seven houses would be more visually appealing than what is on the site at the moment.

He added that building houses would be good for the environment because it would mean less cars in the road.

However, Miss Mary MacPherson, representing the council, argued it was a green field site and the advantages of lower traffic levels were not special enough circumstances to build on the Green Belt.

The two sides could not agree on whether the nursery was used for retail or horticultural use and whether the nursery was a green field or brown field site.

Much of the day was taken up with legal and technical argument, but it became heated when Mr Michael Keys, a resident of Dawes Lane, accused the developers of threatening residents with a newsletter.

This centred around a claim by Heathview that if houses were not built on the site, it could be split up into several retail uses, which would be worse for the area.

Mr Keys said: "I think it is rubbish. The whole case has been trying to frighten people. That is what we think is deplorable and you [Mr Harper] are defending it."

Ms Turner said: "We are not going to help your case by becoming aggressive."

Ms Turner visited the site on Wednesday and she is expected to make a final decision before the end of March.

Council debates proposal aimed at keeping bikers on the right track

THERE could soon be white lines at the junction of Dimmocks Lane and Church Lane, Sarratt, if the parish council gets its way.

A meeting of Sarratt Parish Council last week agreed to ask Hertfordshire County Council for the lines, which would stop vehicles overtaking each other at the crossroads and up Dimmocks Lane.

One of the reasons for the lines would be to make the village safer on Wednesday nights in the summer, when bikers gather at The Cricketers public house in The Green.

The parish council and some residents say there are about 800 bikers, who often drive dangerously and cause parking problems, in the village.

At the meeting, councillors were shown a map of an area where it might be possible to allow the bikers park on the green and the car park. However, fears were expressed these measures would not curb the problem.

An idea was put forward last week of painting in double yellow lines to stop so many bikers, Mr John Gell said: "The police would not control that, it would be the people contracted by Three Rivers. Do we really want to have double yellow lines for a couple of hours every Wednesday in the summer?"

A mast that looks like a tower? No thanks

A MOBILE phone company's novel idea to disguise a phone mast in Green Belt land as a 30-metre tall replica of a water tower has failed to win over Three Rivers District councillors.

The idea to conceal a mast and three dishes at Micklefield Farm, Sarratt Lane, Loudwater, amused councillors at Three Rivers District Council's development control meeting on Thursday, March 14.

The application came three months after the council rejected an application for a 75ft tall mast, disguised as a dead tree, in West Hyde.

Ms Jane Ravell, from mobile phone giant Hutchison 3G, said there was a need for the mast in the area to provide coverage on the Loudwater Estate.

She said the company had looked at five other sites, and considered sharing a mast already in place near the M25. But, she said, these options would not provide the necessary coverage.

She said: "In siting masts in the Green Belt, special circumstances can outweigh any harm that may be caused, and we say the need here demonstrates those special circumstances."

Mrs Hazel Nest, of Sarratt Lane, disagreed with Hutchison 3G's argument that the 30-metre water tower replica would blend into the landscape.

She said: "A structure like this would be an appalling blight on the landscape. It would be seen from miles around.

"It would be seen from Sarratt Lane because there is so little vegetation there."

Addressing the council, she said: "Lots of walkers and cyclists come to enjoy the area. Do not let it be spoilt please."

Councillors refused the application on the grounds that it would be an "alien and incongruous feature which would form an inappropriate structure in the Green Belt."

They said no special circumstances existed to outweigh the harm that would be done to the Green Belt.

Councillor Ann Shaw said: "It is an absolute monstrosity. It indicates a total lack of appreciation of what the natural landscape's all about. You have to be careful with these masts. Sometimes they grow faster than trees."

ahill@london.newsquest.co.uk

Accusations of undemocratic behaviour vented

A PARISH councillor from Sarratt has threatened to resign this week, after accusing the parish council of acting undemocratically.

Councillor Mr Richard Haynes issued his warning at Sarratt Parish Council's annual meeting on Monday.

Mr Haynes said, during the past year, items which he believed should have been discussed in the public part of monthly parish meetings – part one – were relegated to part two, closed to all except parish councillors and the clerk.

He also criticised the council for breaking its own standing orders – the rules by which the council is run.

Mr Haynes, chairman of the council's footpath committee, said: "The parish council should be an open and democratic council. In the 12 months I have been on the council, it has not been open and not always democratic.

"We don't comply with standing orders and the minutes are not recorded properly. "I will not be prepared to continue as a Sarratt parish councillor unless things change."

Illustrating his point, Mr Haynes cited discussions about the village's four lime trees, which were held back to part two.

He said: "Making a decision on the lime trees – that's in the public interest and the public should not have been treated as they were and excluded from meetings."

Chairman of the parish council Mr David Rees said it was up to Mr Haynes if he wished to tender his resignation, and said the problems he mentioned were being investigated.

He said: "We have had a misunderstanding and disagreement about standing orders in the past three to four months. We are trying to thrash the problem out to councillor Haynes' requirements.

"It shows people can have their say and disagree with things that go on. This is democracy."

Farmer scores two out of three in Green Belt appeals

A FARMER in Sarratt has won an appeal to allow him to build on the Green Belt.

Mr Tim Norris, of Dawes Lane, won two out of three appeals and can now build a hatchery, egg store pack and chick unit at Harvest Moon Farm and five free range poultry houses at The Mulberry Bush.



Councillor Tony Barton.

Mr Norris was also seeking permission to build a barn and free range chicken house on the site, but this appeal was dismissed.

The decision was made by Mr David Smith, a planning inspector, after Mr Norris and his wife, Gillian, appealed against Three Rivers District Council's decision to refuse planning permission.

Although the site is officially classified an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Mr Smith concluded five permanent buildings would lead to the removal of a number of huts that currently "cause considerable harm to its landscape qualities".

"The primary objective of the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape would be best served by permitting the proposal."

He added residents' fears about traffic in Dawes Lane were, in his opinion, unfounded.

The council had wanted traffic generation to be restricted, but Mr Smith decided this would not be enforceable.

Mr John Dean, the chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, said: "The parish will be disappointed a piece of beautiful countryside and an area of outstanding natural beauty is going to be eroded."

Councillor Tony Barton, who represents the village for the district council, said: "I am delighted the main hen house has not been accepted as it would have been a blot on the landscape.

"The others are on a lower scale so, overall, I am quite pleased."

Mr Norris said: "It's a thumbs up from the Government for organic farming. The council has environmental forums but has not chosen to back an organic farmer.

"I am not disappointed [about one of the appeal's being rejected]. It is a sensible decision because there is a better place the barn could be sited. I agree with the inspector's comments on that."

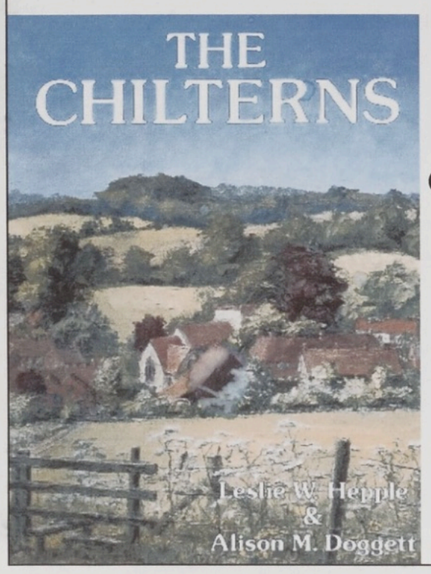
Sarratt Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 21st March 2002 at 7.30pm for 8pm in Sarratt Village Hall when we shall have a talk entitled

"Ancient Countryside in the Chilterns"

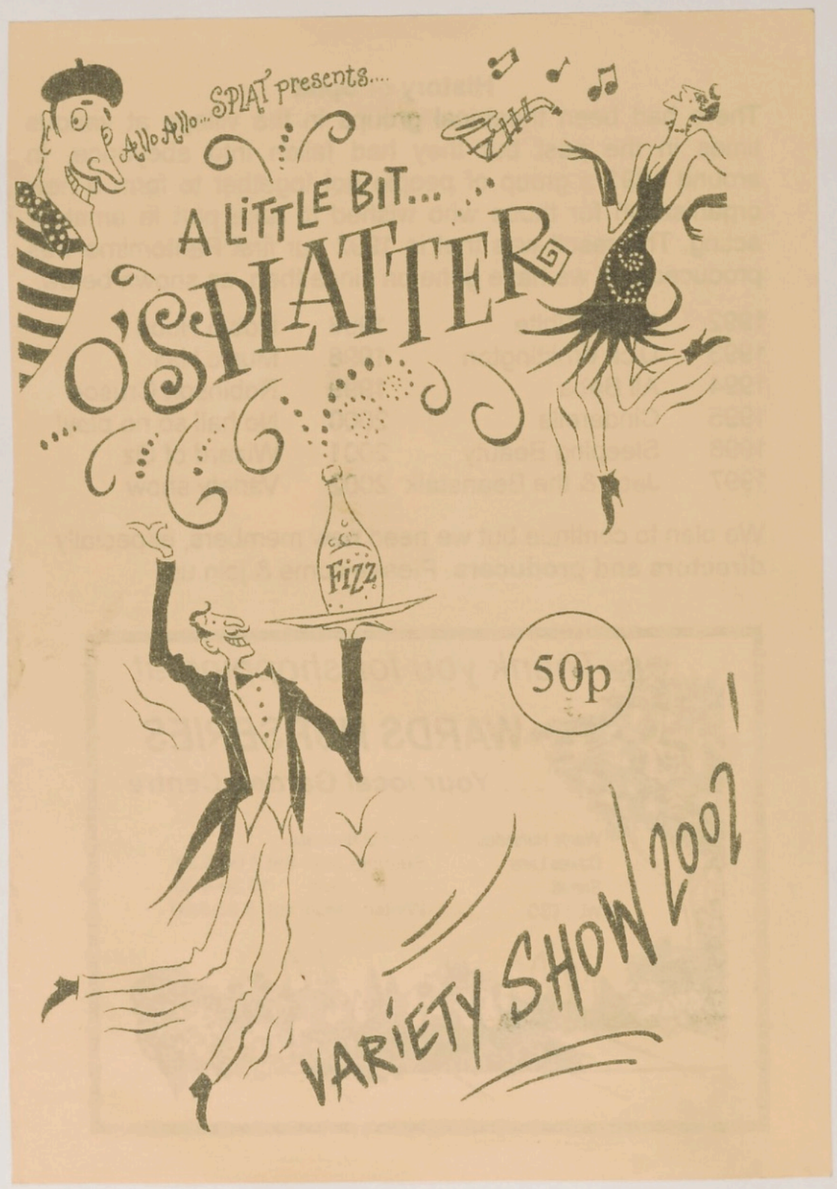
by

Alison Doggett.



PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE

Refreshments, (tea or coffee and biscuits) will be available from 7.30pm. All are very welcome whether members of the Society or not. Bring your friends to what will be an excellent evening of entertainment & information.



2002

Splat!

So many times, we, the members of this company, have been asked what it means. Well tonight we can tell you. It stands for the Sarratt Pantomime and Light Alternative Theatre group.

For the last ten years we have produced a pantomime, there is a list of them on page; this year we are presenting the light alternative theatre instead.

What is it? We're not really sure, a bit of this and a bit of that and occasionally a bit of the other as well. It isn't quite Music Hall, there is no Master of Ceremonies; the purists would say that it is not really a revue as there are too many people taking part for it to be considered in that genre. It's really a sort of Village Farrago, (look it up when you get home), designed to entertain our friends and neighbours.

Whatever it is we hope that you enjoy it and enter in to the fun of the evening. We have worked hard to get the balance right, there are some new acts and a number of old favourites which we know that some of you will have seen before, but we hope that they will come across to you in a fresh and entertaining way.

There won't be the chance to call out he's behind you, but knowing our audience some of you probably will do so. However we hope that you will interact with us. We have given the show a partial French theme, for no special reason, except that it seemed a good idea at the time and it is too late to change it now !

As last year, we have no curtains and, horror of horrors, no prompt. So if we dry up we shall have to continue covered in shame and confusion, which will give you a laugh.

PLEASE support the raffle. The Village Hall is much better equipped than last year but there are still several improvements to be made and if we make a profit we shall give some of it to the Village Hall Committee.

Above all relax & enjoy the show.

The Company & our thanks

The Cast

David Barnes
Lynn Biggerstaff
Audrey Bond
Chloe Brown
Jane Bryson
David Clough
Linda Clough
Nicola Clough
Chris Day
Robin Gain
Alan Grant
Anne Griffiths
Larry Griffiths
Sophie Gross
Katie Hardwicke
Keri Hildick
Lyn Hug
Greg Leveridge
John Lyons
Jan Mardling
Diane Parry
Hannah Parry
Colin Plummer
Ann Rickard
John Rickard
Mike Rogers
Darren Sacre
Clive Saddler
Freya Saddler
Julia Saddler
Wendy Salter
Jodie Simm
Kiely Simm
Sarah Welsh-Welling
Phil Wynes

The Band

David Clough
Chris Day
Larry Griffiths
Sue Jones

The Stage Crew, Front of House, Ticket Sales and Refreshments

Pippa Alexander
Philip Beausire
Richard Bicknell
Sandy Bicknell
Pippa Brown
Jonathan Bryson
Hannah Cheetham
Julia Cheetham
Joanne Crawt
Sue Crawt
Hannah Griffiths
Gordon Harold
Greg Leveridge
Sheila Metson
Colin Plummer
Roger Prior
John Reece
Steve Rickard
Sinclair Watson

Programme

Pippa Alexander
Robin Gain
Laurie Reading

Splat thanks our friends & helpers for their support

Agnes Bonwick
Christine Buck
Ian Dorrett
Roger Dudley
Roy Eteen
Nikki Morrin
Colin Waller
Hilary Waller
Sue Ward

All those villagers who loaned items for the show.
Also the parents for running children to & from rehearsals.

And Finally

You, the Villagers of Sarratt & your friends, who support us each year. We enjoy it, we hope you do too.

We are always needing new talent so if you can help in any way at all let one of us know !!

History of Splat

There had been theatrical groups in the village at various times in the past but they had fallen into abeyance. In around 1991 a group of people got together to form a new organisation for those who wished to take part in amateur acting. The result was that in 1992 our first Pantomime was produced and we have gone on since then, as shown below.

1992	Snow White	1998	Robin Hood
1993	Dick Whittington	1998	Music Hall
1994	Ali Baba	1999	Robinson Crusoe
1995	Cinderella	2000	No hall so no play!
1996	Sleeping Beauty	2001	Wizard of Oz
1997	Jack & the Beanstalk	2002	Variety show

We plan to continue but we need new members, especially **directors and producers**. Please come & join us.

What is on the Menu?
Firstly, Buy Your Raffle Tickets Now !!!

1 Opening Chorus
2 Nostalgia
3 A Nativity Play
4 The Lancers
5 Golden Voice
6 Tip Toe
7 Darren the Magician
8 Marlene
9 Buttercup Yella
10 Jazz Dance
11 'Allo 'Allo
12 Flanders & Swann
13 Stanley Holloway Remembered
14 Joseph
15 Bingo

INTERVAL & RAFFLE DRAW

16 Bugsy
17 Three Witches of Sarratt
18 Napoleonic Wars
19 Barbershop
20 The real "*Sin*derella"
21 The Virgins (by popular request)
22 Baby Mine
23 Stately as a Galleon
24 Giving Notes
25 Annie's Song
26 Wool shop
27 Build up Song
28 Finale

Building of homes refused on Sarratt's Green Belt

by Richard Evans

AN appeal to build homes on Green Belt land in Sarratt has been dismissed bringing to the village "the best news we have had for a long time" according to Three Rivers councillor Tony Barton.

A public inquiry was held in February after Heathview Developments appealed against Three Rivers District Council decision not to allow seven houses at Wards Nursery in Dawes Lane. The decision not to allow the appeal was announced last week.

Some residents feared that, if allowed, the development could have set a precedent that might have changed the rural nature of Sarratt forever. Sarratt Parish Council objected to the development, which was the subject of a public meeting attended by about 100 people.

Even though it is Green Belt land, the applicants believed there were special circumstances for the houses, but planning inspector Ms Sue Turner disagreed.

In her report, she wrote: "I have considered the benefits of the proposed development, as well as the contribution it would make to the supply of new housing in the district, but found nothing that amounts to very special circumstances sufficient to overcome the presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt." She added: "The replacement of the existing simple and functional buildings with dwellings would have a significant urbanising effect and would reduce the openness of the site.

"Any new dwellings on the appeal site would appear harsh and out of keeping with the rural character of the area and would have a harmful, urbanising effect in this sensitive location."

Heathview Developers had warned the nursery was no longer a viable business and if it closed, it could be replaced by more intrusive retail activity.

However, Ms Turner added: "I am not persuaded that there is such a strong likelihood of the appeal site being put to more intensive retail use in the future that it justifies the proposed inappropriate development in the Green Belt."

The developers had argued that building houses would lead to a reduction in traffic, but Ms Turner added she had not seen any evidence that traffic was a problem on the road. The decision not to allow the housing was welcomed by leader of the council Ann Shaw, a member of the development control committee.

She said: "As a person who moved the refusal, I am delighted with the appeal decision. I know many people in Sarratt will share that feeling.

"If it had been passed, it might have encouraged other people to put a similar application in and if a precedent had been set, they might have been difficult to refuse."

Councillor Barton said: "A lot of people have worked very hard to maintain the Green Belt policy. The whole of Sarratt is delighted."

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2002

Sarratt village is set to stay

AN appeal to build seven houses on Green Belt land in Sarratt has been dismissed.

This is good news for the village. Had the appeal been allowed, it would have set a precedent that could have led to a spate of similar applications.

Leader of Three Rivers District Council Ann Shaw believes allowing the houses would have made future housing plans difficult to turn down – and she is on the committee that makes the decisions.

This was not just about seven houses, but the future of the whole village.

It is the only village in Three Rivers that can really be described as rural, and this rural nature might have been threatened if the planning inspector had allowed the appeal.

In hiring a QC for the public inquiry, the council did not scrimp but, with this result, it looks like money well spent.

Let's hope this will send a message to developers that Sarratt's Green Belt is off-limits. We want the village to be preserved for future generations.

Latest upgrade will make walking in valley easier

WALKERS in Sarratt should find their life a bit easier – following the installation of 75 metres of boardwalk.

Work began last Thursday and was expected to be finished on Sunday.

It is being done at Sarratt Bottom Valley Farm, next to the water cress beds. In the past, it has proved difficult walking terrain, and it is hoped laying the boardwalk together with removing a stile will make it easier for people.

The walk was relaunched in 1999 with a new leaflet and boards to give visitors information.

This latest upgrade follows work done last year on a footpath linking Sarratt and Chorleywood.

The work will cost £2,500 and is being funded by Sarratt Parish Council, the Countryside Management Service, Hertfordshire County Council and the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project.

Mr Lee Tyson, projects officer for the Countryside Management Service, said: "It will mean that section is traversable throughout the year. That section has made life difficult for people who are less able on their feet."

HYMNS FOR THE LICENSING OF

THE REVD. DR. MALCOLM WILLIAMS

AS ASSISTANT PRIEST OF SARRATT AND CHIPPERFIELD

BY

THE BISHOP OF HERTFORD

Tuesday 16th April 2002
Holy Cross Church Sarratt

At the end of the service you are all invited to stay for light refreshments, which will served in church.

Please remain in your places for a short while so that the choir can get into the vestry

After the Sermon the choir will sing an anthem.

At the beginning of the Licensing we will sing "Come, Holy Ghost our souls inspire."

(the words are in the service booklet)

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,

1. Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with
thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it,
thy holy flame bestowing.

1 **To Him we come –**
Jesus Christ our Lord,
God's own living Word,
His dear Son:
in Him there is no east and west,
in Him all nations shall be blessed;
to all He offers peace and rest –
loving Lord!

2 **In Him we live –**
Christ our strength and stay,
life and truth and way,
friend divine:
His power can break the chains of sin,
still all life's storms without, within,
help us the daily fight to win –
living Lord!

Beating The Bounds

A walk on Rogation Sunday
May 5th

Members of the Sarratt Local History Society will be walking some of the ancient boundaries of our parish **on the afternoon of Sunday May 5th.**
"Beating the Bounds" is an old custom which pre-dates maps. It made sure that all in the parish, especially the young knew where the boundaries were. Some good-natured "beating" with willow wands on boundary stones and young boys took place and we hope to do the same! A landscape archaeologist and a specialist in plants which indicate old hedgerows will be with us, and there will be details of other walks in the past as we go along. As this custom took on a religious significance, we are pleased that the Rev. Peter Hart will accompany us and ask for a blessing on the growing crops.

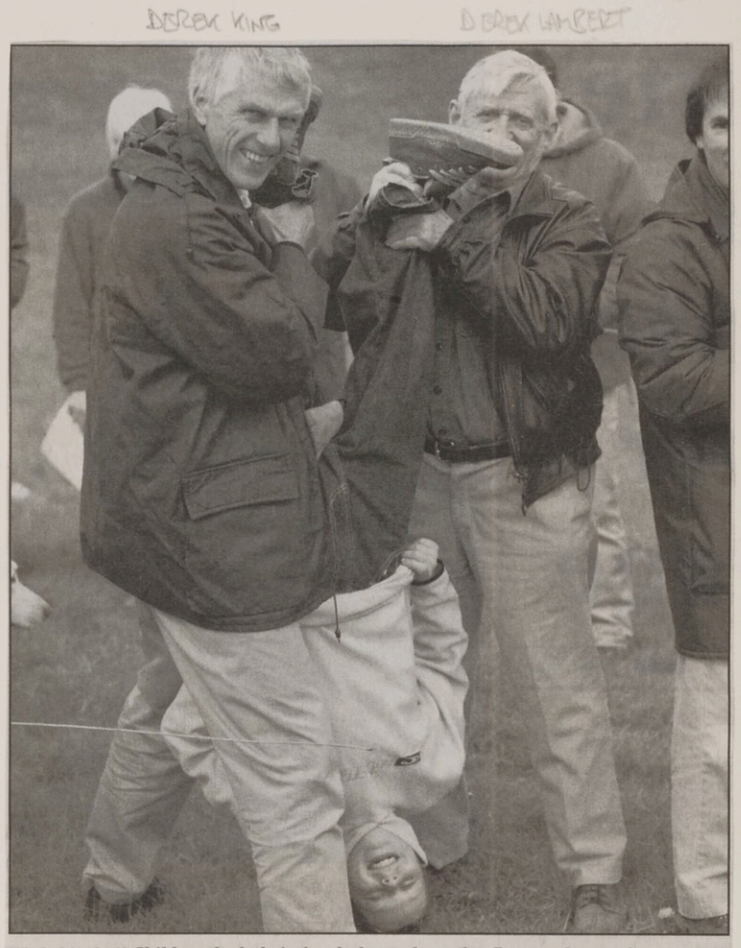
The walk will be about 3 and a half miles long, with some hills up and down and some stiles, but may be joined along the way.

For the whole walk, meet at the Village Hall at 2pm
Join at the far end of Dimmocks Lane at 2.50pm
– 2 and a half miles
Join at Holy Cross Church at 3.30pm
– 1 and a half miles.

Do join us for this fun and informative afternoon of historic re-enactment – everyone welcome, children especially with a parent or guardian.
For more details or to book a place tel. 01923-267071 or 01923-268449



WISE WORDS: **Twenty Brownies in Sarratt could be leaderless this summer. Julia Saddler (Brown Owl) and Julie Welsh (Snowy Owl), pictured above, are moving on to other things in June, after six years between them. And, if no one is found to run the pack, the last bastion of the scouting movement in the village, then it will follow the Scouts, Guides and Cubs into obscurity. Work involves 90 minutes at the meeting per week plus an equal amount of time in preparation. If interested, telephone Julia on 265986.**
Picture WS162208: DAVE HERRING



HEAD BANGING: **Children had their heads banged on the floor and were beaten with willow wands in Sarratt on Sunday as part of a traditional walk known as beating the bounds. In ancient times when few villagers could read and write, children had the parish boundaries "beaten" into them to ensure that they knew them.**
Picture WD185807: DAVE HERRING

Row brewing over bill for green damage

A ROW is set to erupt between a fair and parish council over a £940 bill for damage to the village green.

Sarratt Parish Council has said the annual May Bank Holiday event has been put in jeopardy by Smith's Fair for not paying the bill, and failing to honour a contract over setting up and dismantling times.

The bill dates back to last year when the fair's heavy machinery and vehicles, coupled with the wet weather, churned up The Green in Sarratt.

The parish council's charge was made for turf, topsoil and to pay the parish ranger to carry out the work.

Mrs Topsy Smith lived in the village in Deadmans Ash Lane for 11 years and owns Smith's Fair, which has been in her family for generations.

She said her insurance company is refusing to pay the bill, arguing the council has only produced receipts for £111– a fraction of the cost.

She further claims her husband returned to repair the damage within days, as agreed, but the parish council had already carried it out.

Mrs Smith admits to signing a contract last year restricting the times vehicles can come into the village, leave, and set up and dismantle equipment.

But she said: "We own our equipment but not the others. I have told the other showmen [about the agreement] and they just laugh at me, because I don't own the roads, or their vehicles."

She said her vehicles arrived at the village and left at the times agreed.

She added: "They can't stop us going through Sarratt. We will stop outside [parish councillor] Mr Haynes' house, have a cup of tea and probably have a sleep with the engines running, and see what they can do then.

"We have not refused them the money. If they come up with the receipts, the insurance company will pay them."

As principal organiser, Mrs Smith should be accountable for the behaviour of other ride owners, said parish council chairman Mr John Dean.

BEATING THE BOUNDS

The custom of beating the bounds has existed in Britain for well over 2000 years. Precise origins are unclear although it can be found as part of ritual celebrations across the world. In the days before maps and universal literacy, it was vital that everyone particularly the young, knew where the boundaries were. In simple terms, it involves people in the locality perambulating their boundaries, pausing as they pass certain trees, walls, hedges etc. to explain pray and ritually beat particular landmarks with sticks. These rods or wands would have originally been of birch or willow, with the bark removed, willow having a particular association with water. Reports are of boys being beaten with wands, or being turned upside down, and their heads bumped on stones and markers to give a memorable or unpleasant experience as an aid to memory.
Christianity incorporated 'beating the bounds' into its religious rituals in the 4th or 5th centuries, as part of the celebration of Spring, or Rogantide, when God's blessing was asked for the growing crops. A story is recorded of a priest who was held up side down in a hole, from where he preached a sermon.
Superstitions persist around the boundary markers. It was believed that evil spirits resided there that would wreak havoc on anyone who removed or tampered with them. To guard against this, those present would recite "We declare this is the boundary of Sarratt. Cursed be he who moveth our boundary".
Although modern maps now exist, 'beating the bounds' does enforce the feeling of belonging to a local community.

2002

Sarratt
Local History Society





Our next meeting will be on

Thursday May 16 2002

in **Sarratt Village Hall.**

Our speaker will be that well known local author

Mary Nobbs

who will address us on the subject of

"Chipperfield within living memory"

Doors open at 7.30pm . Tea / coffee and biscuits available.

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME







GOLDEN PLATED:Sarratt school pupil Juliet Aldersley and calligrapher Laurie Young, of Flaunden Lane, Sarratt, were picked to design Golden Jubilee plates, 300 of which will go on sale at the village post office later this month. Juliet's design was picked from 100 entries from the school. The other children's designs, including the best from each year group, will be displayed at the Baptist Church hall on Monday, June 3.

Picture WD201703: JANE PARR

Royal thanks

SARRATT Parish Council has received royal recognition for its efforts in celebrating the Golden Jubilee in the form of a thank you letter from the Queen.The letter was sent to Parish chairman Mr John Dean, from Mr Stuart Shilson – assistant private secretary to the Queen thanking the village for its commemorative plates produced by Sarratt school children and villagers W.O.30/9/02

W.O.20-9-02

Residents shed light on plans for Green Belt site

by Raj Mattu

A BID to build a shed on Green Belt land in Sarratt has been rejected amid claims it would be the first step in bigger property development.

Three Rivers District Council's development control committee rejected the planning application on Thursday, September 12, after residents questioned the motives of the site's owners.

A spokesman for the concerned residents, Mr Richard Bicknell, of Dawes Lane, welcomed the council's decision.

He criticised the London-based company Parkerfields for buying the five-acre site, splitting it into plots, then selling each one off on the internet with promises the land would one day be used for development.

Mr Bicknell said the company had operated craftily and their actions had jeopardised the future of the Green Belt site, which is bordered with hedges at least 800 years old.

He said: "All the people that live near this site objected to the selling of the land because it will destroy something cherished by the people of Sarratt.

"This is just greed, it is a quick way of making money at the expense of the countryside.

"The plots of land have been sold off to people, but if Three Rivers District Council continues to support the Green Belt, people will never get a chance to make their money by building on the green belt."

Leader of Three Rivers Council Ann Shaw said: "This is agricultural land, a field, open countryside, in an area of outstanding beauty.

"It has been bought by someone on the internet as a place where residential permission may eventually be given so the value of the land will increase.

"They [Parkerfields] are suggesting this is land ripe for residential development.

"When I looked at the application I said: 'This is not an innocent little shed, but an excuse to start planning permission for the building of property on the land'."

"We [at Three Rivers Council] are absolutely determined to protect Three Rivers Green Belt.

"I wanted to make it quite clear we recognise the ploy. We will stand very firm on protecting the Green Belt."

At the development control meeting council officers said planning permission should be refused as the site was in Metropolitan Green Belt, and evidence suggested the shed would not be used for agricultural use.

They advised the property owners that lawful planning use for the land was for agricultural purposes.

Mr Robert Salisbury, director of Parkerfields, said: "This land has a history of being bought and sold over the years.

"I have plans of the land that show it has got smaller and smaller everytime it is bought.

"We are not the developers, we bought the land from a farmer and sold the land to people who know it is Green Belt land that cannot be developed."

He said the Sarratt villagers were "over suspicious" and creating a storm in a teacup about the proposed shed.

"This always happens when we deal with land, people always think we will develop on it," he said.

"The only people who can decide whether land can be developed is the council's planning officers."

Better than 'sitting on the M25'

W.O.9-8-02

by Alex Hill

ROMANS rated it as brain food, Hyppocrates recognised it as a healing plant, and Irish Monks ate it with bread for months on end referring to it as "pure food for wise men."

Recently, scientists have shown cress to contain high levels of anti-oxidants which neutralise cancer causing free radicals, and gram for gram more Vitamin C than oranges, more calcium than whole milk, more vitamin B than blackcurrants and more iron than spinach.

This mysterious plant with such impressive qualities has been harvested by a family in Moor Lane, Sarratt, for more than 100 years, which is one of only two farms producing cress commercially in Hertfordshire.

Mr Terry Tyler, his son Jon and daughter Mrs Sue Burr, between them sew, cut, wash and box £170,000 worth of cress a year, mostly brought by caterers in Covent Garden and the Western International Market in Hayes.

Mr Tyler, 63, was evacuated to Croxley Green from London during World War II and has been working in the cress beds formed from water from the River Chess, ever since.

E Tyler and Sons was established in 1886 by Terry's great grandfather, Mr Bill Mathews. In the 1920's, Mr Mathews and his three sons used to take the cress by horse and cart to Chorleywood station to sell at the London markets.

Mr Tyler thinks the business could produce twice as much of their brand, Crestyl Watercress (the name is taken from combining cress with the family name) if the labour was available.

Instead, the back breaking work of sewing, transplanting, and cutting more than 20 beds 100 metres long, to fill 150 boxes a day, is carried out by Mr Tyler and his family.

He said: "People say you must get used to it, but get up every morning and hit your thumb with a hammer and see if you get used to that."

Mr Tyler has been told the spring water filtered by the surrounding chalk hills pumped from 120 underground to wash the cress is clean enough to bottle.

Mr Tyler said: "What is the enjoyment in that? Just watching them go past."

"This is a good living. To be perfectly honest, it is like a hobby. We grow our own seed, dry it out and transplant it. We then see it grow and cut it and take it to market to sell.

"You see it right from start to finish. It is not just one cog in a big machine."

"In January or February, I was planting and it was bitterly cold and a man and woman looked over the hedge and said 'I don't know how you can do that' I said I would rather do this than sit on the M25 each morning."

Mr Jon Tyler, 26, holds the same view. He hopes one day his children will inherit the business and enjoy cutting the cress into bunches from 5.30am when it is easiest because it still has dew on it.

He said: "I have always said I would never sell it. The way I look at it is, the family has worked it and lived off it all their lives. If someone offers me half a million pounds for it – it's a lot of money, but what are you going to do after?"

The pressure of market forces may prove to great to bear when Mr Tyler eventually hangs up his bone handled knife.

The business has failed to attract long term workers since the 1960's when labourers left farms for cushy, better paid jobs working for the local authorities.

Mr Tyler said the trend has yet to be reversed. He said: "One man was on £18 a week here in the 1960's. His name was Bud Freeman and he was a smashing bloke. His first week's wages on the council was £54 and you can't compete with that."



Mr Terry Tyler, and his son, Jon, are pictured on the fields harvesting the cress. Picture W322613: RYO HAYASHIDA

W.O.6-9-02

Plot owners seek compensation

ANGRY Sarratt allotment holders who had their vegetable plots destroyed by workmen employed by Three Rivers District Council, have demanded compensation.

The company, Mouchel, were contracted by Three Rivers Council, to install a soakaway or drainage system, in the allotment plots in Church Lane, Sarratt to alleviate the village's recurring flooding problem.

However, at the beginning of August, contractors came in with a seven ton digger and hit a sewer pipe, which they had no idea existed.

According to Councillor Mick Warner, they started their work in appalling weather and should have waited till the rain was gone.

He said many allotment plots had been damaged, as well as an iron gate.

The contractors had promised to repair the damage but the Parish Council had not seen evidence of that.

Mr Warner said: "We have been told the contractors will compensate the residents, pay for the broken gate and fix the sewer."

Sarratt Parish Council Chairman John Dean, said: "The contractors did not understand, or ignored, their instructions and destroyed the allotment plots."

He said the work had been suspended until Three Rivers Council could give assurance the mistake would not be repeated, and the plot holders were compensated.

Travelling tubas delight children

CHILDREN of all ages enjoyed a very different musical experience on Sunday, as Sarratt Village Hall was filled with sounds of the Travelling by Tuba show.

Wearing huge grins and a mixture of funny costumes and hats, acclaimed musicians Gavin Woods and Stewart Death bounced on to the stage to the delight of the young audience.

A combination of mime, slapstick and music, the performance introduced the audience to an assortment of exotic instruments, from the Ocarinain inspired by an Egyptian orange to the Coru and Schnib of the Roman and Turkish armies.



Plenty of puff needed here. Picture W385710: JANE PARR

There was something for everyone, from Purcell and Mozart to South American Pan Pipes and Bach.

The performers encouraged audience participation as children were brought on stage to play percussion instruments and demonstrations included the Chinese Dragon Headed Trumpets and a 100-year-old 3.6 metre long Swiss Alpine Horn.

W.O.27-9-02

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

S P Q R



OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD

IN

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

ON

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER
XXIV MMII

WHEN OUR SPEAKER WILL BE



TIM YATES

HIS SUBJECT WILL BE

ROMANS IN THE CHESS VALLEY

THE MEETING WILL START AT 8.0PM

PRECEDED FROM 7.30 BY BISCUITS AND COFFEE OR TEA

ALL ARE WELCOME

Village hall lives up to concert hall aspirations

THE last concert in Sarratt Festival of Music 2002, an evening with world famous pianist John Lill on Saturday, September 28, was sold out the day the box office opened.

"Such is the popularity of John Lill, who launched the festival two years ago," festival co-ordinator, Jane Faulkner, said.

Jane can report keen interest in the opening concert, on Friday, September 20, with the Locrian Ensemble.

The group, which includes some of the finest London soloists, gave a memorable performance last year.

"Last year, the audience would hardly let the performers leave the platform. Everyone had such a great time," Jane said.

The group features young percussionists, Owen Gunnell (concerto finalist BBC Young Musician of the Year) and Oliver Cox, along with Jean Kelly on harp.

The programme will include Mozart's Salzburg symphony, Vivaldi's concerto for two violins in an arrangement for two marimbas, Bach's Air on a G String and Handel's Harp Concerto.

Sarratt's small village hall with concert hall aspirations is becoming known among musicians for its fine acoustics and refurbished interior.

On Saturday, September 21, I Fagiolini, a group of the UK's best vocalists will present a theatrical spectacle. The group has won rave reviews for their colourful approach to Renaissance music.

Sublime English and Italian madrigals will be followed by two theatrical works staged for the group by West End producer Peter Wilson. There will also be a musical round-the-world tour including songs from South Africa.

The family concert, at 3pm on Sunday, September 22, is given by Travelling by Tuba.

All evening concerts start at 7.45pm. Tickets are £15 (concessions £12) and include a glass of wine at interval. Travelling by Tuba is £5 for adults and £3 for children. Box office tel: 01923 269083.



I Fagiolini will perform on Saturday, September 21.

W.O. 6-9-02

Future of route looks solid

WALKERS and horse riders can live in harmony thanks to upgrade works carried out on a route used by both groups.

The footpath and bridleway through Penman's Green, Sarratt, had become impassable at times because of deep mud churned up by horses.

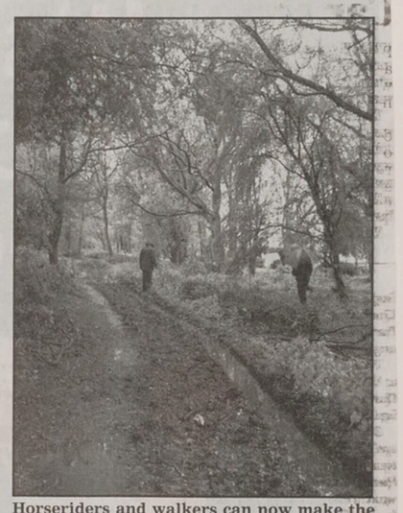
Now, thanks to more than £5,000 from Hertfordshire County Council, The Chess Valley Bridleways Association and Sarratt Parish Council, the route between Belsize and Commonwood, north of the village, allows trouble-free trotting and walking.

The area is known as a permissive bridleway because Sarratt Parish Council – which owns the land – permits horses on the thoroughfare.

It is made up of open grassland and a small woodland.

The scheme to lay recycled demolition material along the route started in May and was administered by the Countryside Management Service.

Although bad weather held up the project, it was finished two weeks ago.



Horseriders and walkers can now make the most of Penman's Green, which was recently upgraded. W.O. 6/9/02

'Devoted organiser' and councillor dies of lung disease

29:11:02

OBITUARY

SARRATT parish councillor, charity fundraiser and Conservative activist Mrs Val Cumming died on Tuesday.

Born in Cheshire, Mrs Cumming moved to Chorleywood in 1963. While there, she became involved in Cancer Research UK, work for which she later received an MBE.

In 1973, she founded the Rickmansworth branch of the charity, becoming its chairman in 1979.

Mrs Jean De Peyrecave, who worked on the committee with Mrs Cumming for 15 years, remembers her as an excellent organiser.

She said: "She was absolutely devoted to it. She had been ill for a number of years but she didn't give up as chairman until really the bitter end."

Mrs Cumming later moved to Sarratt. She was well-known in the village, where she lived with her husband Peter and daughters Jane-Fiona and Debbie for 30 years.

She sat on the parish council and was chairman of it several times. She was also involved in the local branch of the Conservative party.

Chairman of the parish council John Dean knew her for 25 years.

He said: "She has contributed a great deal to the village in the past and has worked tirelessly for its preservation."

Mrs Cumming suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a lung disorder, for several years. The illness eventually left her housebound but, according to her daughter Jane-Fiona, it did not stop her. She was thrilled to be involved with the formation of the village football team, the Sarratt Rebels, and to have a cup named after her.

Miss Cumming said: "When she just couldn't leave the house any more, people would come to her."

She added: "Mummy used to talk to everybody, that's how she got involved in most things. She had enormous energy and was enormous fun, a really unique individual. She was always interested in everybody, young and old."

Mrs Cumming was awarded an MBE in the millennium honours list for her work for Cancer Research UK and her activities in the village.

At the time, she was unconscious in hospital. According to Miss Cumming, it was the expert care of doctors at Watford General and St Thomas's Hospitals that prolonged her life for three more years, enabling her to receive her MBE from the Queen in March 2000.

Three Rivers District Councillor for Sarratt Tony Barton spoke to Mrs Cumming just a few days before she died. He described her as a "feisty lady" and "a big part of community life".

He said: "She was a stalwart of Sarratt, forever looking after Sarratt and every aspect of it."

Miss Cumming said: "What I would like people to remember Mummy for is she couldn't have done what she did if she hadn't been with so many wonderful people. They were the unsung heroes and all she really did was to talk to them."

Mrs Cumming will be cremated at a private ceremony this week. A memorial service will be held in the village on Saturday, January 25, 2003.



Mrs Val Cumming.

W.O. 27-9-02

Row over new church building

PLANS to build a parish room with toilet and creche facilities next to a 900 year old church have raised concern among villagers.

In January 2001, Three Rivers District Council rejected an application by the Church of the Holy Cross, Church Lane, Sarratt.

But the application for the Grade II listed building was granted on appeal by the planning inspector, who said there was an overwhelming need for toilet facilities.

The church has now applied to the St Albans Diocese, as required for any building on church-owned land, for permission to go ahead with the plan.

But residents say they knew nothing about it until notices giving them until Sunday, October 6, to object, were placed at the church.

They say more suitable sites, such as the carpark, are available and the building would detract from the church and adjacent barn.

Mr Paul O' Reilly, who lives in the converted barn, said: "They have gone behind everyone's back the whole way through."

The Rev Peter Hart denied any underhand activity, saying the plans had been well publicised. Alternative locations would be impractical he said.

"We have done exactly what the law said we should do. The church carpark is too far from the church to be used for things like the creche and where would you put the cars?"

Sarratt Preservation Action Group

URGENT SPAG MEETING
MONDAY 22 OCTOBER , 2002.

AN URGENT MEETING will be held on Monday 22 October at 7.30 for 8.00 in the BACK ROOM of the VILLAGE HALL (side entrance).

The subject for discussion is the proposed CHURCH ROOM and TOILET for HOLY CROSS CHURCH. The original planning application was turned down by Three Rivers Council but has now been granted on Appeal.

This means that the PCC can now build in accordance with the original plans that were rejected as unsuitable for such a sensitive site. The original plans and the Inspector's ruling will be on display at the meeting and questions regarding the significant points of Planning Law will be open for discussion.

The plans are now available at the Parish Office, ref. 00/1143 – Appeal no. APP/P1940/01/1067190.

Any "Challenges" have to be submitted by Friday 9 November.

SPAG is a non-political, non-religious forum for the open discussion of conservation issues. It enables interested parties to hear both sides of any argument and to question the niceties of Planning Law.

For further details, contact (01923) 262920

2002

Disabled woman's anguish over four days in darkness

W.O. 1-11-02

A DISABLED woman was confined to her house for four days after her power supply was cut during storms at the weekend.

The loss of power left Mrs Jan Clutterbuck, who suffers from muscular dystrophy in her legs and hands, with no light or heat in her home and without a means of mobility.

The 83-year-old, of Red Lion Lane, Sarratt, uses a trolley and a stair lift to move about the house.

But she had no choice but to shuffle up and down the stairs on her bottom when she lost her electricity cut out on Sunday at about 9.50am.

With her nebulizer affected by the power cut, she has also experienced breathing difficulties.

She has been unable to use her scooter since the power cut, confining her to the house, and relying on her carer to get out and about.

She said: "I can't get out of the house because I have an electric scooter to go around the village and that doesn't work.

"After four days, this house is really getting damp. It's just getting a bit much.

"It's been a very anxious time, just sitting in the dark not being able to move. It's a bit prehistoric to be four days stuck without power. It's not as if we are in the sticks."

It wasn't until 9pm on Wednesday that Mrs Clutterbuck's power was restored.

A spokesman for electricity provider 24/7, which faces an investigation by energy minister Brian Wilson, said that by Tuesday power had been restored to 90 per cent of homes which had lost it after the storm.

by Joanne Davis

He expected the majority of those still without power to have it restored on Wednesday.

The spokesman said: "We are very sorry to hear about Mrs Clutterbuck's difficulties and will aim to restore her electricity supply as matter of urgency.

"Although it has been a very busy week and there is still much work to do, we always give priority to people considered vulnerable as soon as we become aware of their situation.

"It has been a very difficult time for many of our customers and some have been without power for several days.

"We thank them for their patience and we are doing everything possible to restore everyone's electricity supply."

Mrs Clutterbuck was not alone. Dozens of Sarratt villagers were affected by the storms and much of Red Lion Lane was still without power on Wednesday.

Sarratt Post Office on The Green lost £2,000 worth of frozen food when the power failed.

Manager Mrs Patricia Regan has been left with a mountain of paperwork.

As well as having to re-stock the store, she has to provide an itemised list of what was destroyed "down to the last bag of peas", together with invoices as proof of purchase.

The store's power supply was up and running on Monday at 12.45pm.

Although without electricity for 27 hours, Mrs Regan managed to keep the store open, enabling customers to purchase candles and canned food.

The morning newspaper run was carried out by candlelight at 6am.

The Cricketers public house on The Green was also affected by the power cut but opened its doors to customers who were otherwise stranded at home.

Food was provided and beer was served until it went warm. No food was lost as the pub had a stock of ice on hand to throw in the freezers. However, takings were down.

Staff member Ms Marcia Vanhout said: "It was more like a social thing.

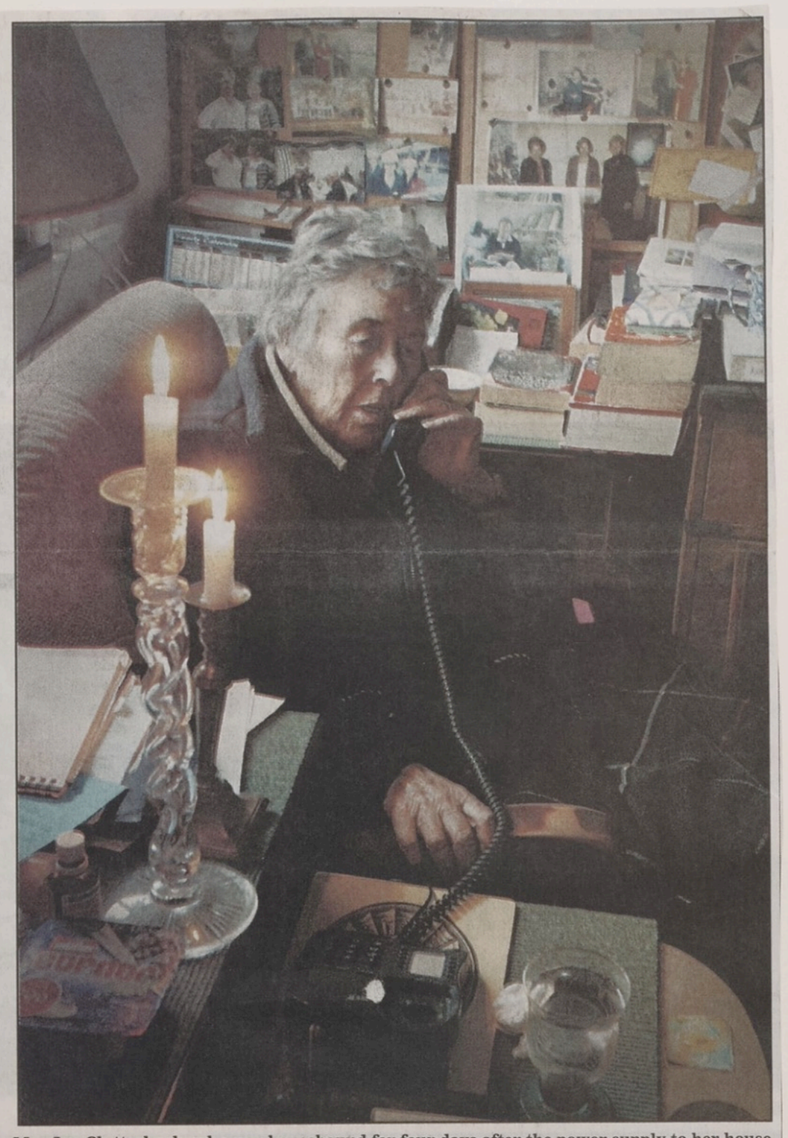
"We were pretty much a place for them to come rather than sitting at home being bored.

"We were more than happy to open up for people to come in and have a chat."

The power and the beer was back on by Monday lunchtime and the pub reopened its doors at 4pm.

● Three Rivers District Councillor, Tony Barton, who represents Sarratt ward, is calling for an investigation into the power supply at Sarratt.

According to Councillor Barton, residents had already raised concerns about the number of blackouts occurring in the village at a meeting of Sarratt Local Area Forum in September.



Mrs Jan Clutterbuck, who was housebound for four days after the power supply to her house was cut off.
Picture W442810: PETE STEVENS

'Devoted organiser' and councillor dies of lung disease

W.O. 29-11-02

OBITUARY

SARRATT parish councillor, charity fundraiser and Conservative activist Mrs Val Cumming died on Tuesday.

Born in Cheshire, Mrs Cumming moved to Chorleywood in 1963. While there, she became involved in Cancer Research UK, work for which she later received an MBE.

In 1973, she founded the Rickmansworth branch of the charity, becoming its chairman in 1979.

Mrs Jean De Peyrecave, who worked on the committee with Mrs Cumming for 15 years, remembers her as an excellent organiser.

She said: "She was absolutely devoted to it. She had been ill for a number of years but she didn't give up as chairman until really the bitter end."

Mrs Cumming later moved to Sarratt. She was well-known in the village, where she lived with her husband Peter and daughters Jane-Fiona and Debbie for 30 years.

She sat on the parish council and was chairman of it several times. She was also involved in the local branch of the Conservative party.

Chairman of the parish council John Dean knew her for 25 years.

He said: "She has contributed a great deal to the village in the past and has worked tirelessly for its preservation."

Mrs Cumming suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a lung disorder, for several years. The illness eventually left her housebound but, according to her daughter Jane-Fiona, it did not stop her. She was thrilled to be involved with the formation of the village football team, the Sarratt Rebels, and to have a cup named after her.

Miss Cumming said: "When she just couldn't leave the house any more, people would come to her."

She added: "Mummy used to talk to everybody, that's how she got involved in most things. She had enormous energy and was enormous fun, a really unique individual. She was always interested in everybody, young and old."

Mrs Cumming was awarded an MBE in the millennium honours list for her work for Cancer Research UK and her activities in the village.

At the time, she was unconscious in hospital. According to Miss Cumming, it was the expert care of doctors at Watford General and St Thomas's Hospitals that prolonged her life for three more years, enabling her to receive her MBE from the Queen in March 2000.

Three Rivers District Councillor for Sarratt Tony Barton spoke to Mrs Cumming just a few days before she died. He described her as a "feisty lady" and "a big part of community life".

He said: "She was a stalwart of Sarratt, forever looking after Sarratt and every aspect of it."

Miss Cumming said: "What I would like people to remember Mummy for is she couldn't have done what she did if she hadn't been with so many wonderful people. They were the unsung heroes and all she really did was to talk to them."

Mrs Cumming will be cremated at a private ceremony this week. A memorial service will be held in the village on Saturday, January 25, 2003.



Mrs Val Cumming.

Sarratt Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on Thursday November 21st 2002 in Sarratt Village Hall at 8pm

Coffee & biscuits will be available from 7.30pm.

Mr. Barney Tyrwitt-Drake

will speak

on

"The Drakes of Shardeloes"



All are very welcome.



CHANDLERS CROSS

An attractive, brick and half-timbered Grade II listed farm built in 1634 , now requiring some improvement & updating.

Situated on a plot of approximately three acres this beautiful beamed property with historic interest comes with a swimming pool and formal and rough gardens. Four receptions, kitchen/breakfast, morning room, utility, cloakrooms, six bedrooms - one en-suite, nursery, two bathrooms.

£1,000,000



CHANDLERS CROSS

A Grade II listed barn set within approximately 3.75 acres of landscaped garden with swimming pool and paddocks.

Converted 12 years ago this barn offers versatile family accommodation with the possibility of a granny annexe. Four receptions, kitchen/breakfast, utility, downstairs bathroom, cloakroom, mezzanine, guest bedroom and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms, Jack 'n Jill bathroom, detached summerhouse with kitchen area, changing rooms, shower and separate wc.

£900,000



SARRATT

Substantially extended 4 bed detached chalet bungalow with 3 receps, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 2 baths, shower room, double length garage, 97ft gardens. Must be viewed.

£550,000



SARRATT £225,000

Surprisingly roomy cottage just off The Village Green with south backing garden. 3 bedrooms, large through living/dining room, fitted kitchen, and refitted bathroom.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244



CHANDLERS CROSS £550,000

Detached 2 bedroom bungalow in **2.46 acres** backing due south. 2 receptions and sun room, kitchen, and bathroom. Detached single garage. 49' x 24' garage block, stable/car port, and various other outbuildings.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

GREAT WHEELERS FARM

The Green, Sarratt, Hertfordshire WD3 6BJ

A unique opportunity to acquire an early 1900's built detached house sitting in the centre of a plot of just under two-thirds of an acre and fronting directly onto The Green at Sarratt.
The property has enormous potential subject to obtaining the necessary consents.



Offers in Excess of £800,000 Freehold

Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Room, Kitchen, Utility Room
Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate WC, Cellar
Double Detached Garage, GCH, Level Gardens of just under two-thirds of an acre

Viewing: By appointment with Christopher Rowland 01923 773171
11 Church Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1DA



Family home in Sarratt

THIS detached family home in Sarratt, close to the Village Green, has come on the market, priced at £615,000.

The house has double glazing throughout and comprises an entrance hall; cloakroom; living room, with patio doors to the back garden; a dining room; kitchen cum breakfast room; utility room; four bedrooms, with fitted wardrobes, and a family bathroom.

The landscaped garden is about 97ft, is mostly laid to lawn and has a patio area. There is also a vegetable garden, and a greenhouse.

For further information, telephone Proffitt & Holt estate agents on 01923 270333.





Sarratt has a local shop catering for day to day requirements, and Watford and Hemel Hempstead, which offer a good range of shopping faciliities are only a few miles away.

SARRATT



An enlarged detached period cottage, with substantial accommodation, standing on mature gardens with paddock extending to 2 acres. Hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room with wine cellar & inglenook, music room, family room, garden room, kit/break.guest bedroom, shower room, four further bedrooms, bathroom, detached one bed annexe, garage block, two loose boxes, original forge & garage.
Guide £1.4m

THE WHITE COTTAGE

The Green, Sarratt
Hertfordshire WD4 9AR

A quite outstanding semi detached property, fronting directly onto The Green with delightful mature gardens, built about 1850 with later extensions and the subject of recent significant improvement and renovation.
The property also has the benefit of a separate brick and flint stable/garage block.



Price: £825,000 Freehold

Porticoed Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Laundry Room
Drawing Room, Dining Room, Large Kitchen/Breakfast Room
Four Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Detached Stable/Garage Block, Mature Gardens, GCH

Viewing: By appointment with Christopher Rowland 01923 773171
11 Church Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1DA

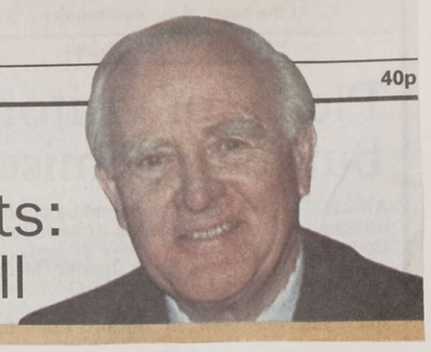
SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2002
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	24th / 13.0	1st /-6.7	2nd /-13.8	26th / 19.6	87.9	
February	12,22/12.9	15th /-1.7	15th /-9.1	25th / 17.1	97.7	last snowfall, 23rd.
March	27th / 17.4	1,27 /-1.0	2nd /-9.1	18th / 11.4	49.5	21 March - 14 April, 25 consecutive rainless days
April	23rd / 23.8	14th /-0.9	14th /-6.3	30th / 17.7	61.0	last air frost & 1st cuckoo, 14th & 19th.
May	16th / 24.2	5,27 / 2.8	5th /-3.3	13th / 12.8	74.9	last ground frost, 27th.
June	1st / 25.8	1,29 / 6.1	29th / 1.2	5th / 17.3	39.8	
July	29th / 29.1	12th / 6.7	22nd / 2.5	2nd / 18.0	75.2	
August	17th / 27.2	2nd / 7.9	2nd / 4.2	7th / 26.0	50.5	
September	13th / 22.6	30th / 4.0	30th /-1.1	9th / 13.6	16.1	1st grd frost,28th. Early am 23rd,**earth tremor**, awoke me & felt by many in Sarratt
October	1st / 20.0	24th /-1.1	19th /-7.3	15th / 23.2	84.7	1st air frost, 19th.
November	2nd / 15.0	18th / 0.0	18th /-5.6	12th / 16.8	172.3	Wettest November, 1980-2013.
December	29th / 11.9	20th /-0.5	20th /-8.0	21st / 21.5	116.7	first snowfall, 10th.

2003

www.watfordobserver.co.uk 23 JAN. 2004 40p

Sarratt spy school and selling carpets at Clements: John le Carré recalls it all



23.1.04

The Draper of Sarratt by David Cornwell

WRITERS seldom know why they do things until they get smart afterwards, and I am no exception. So a big caution notice should be attached to what follows. Why on earth, you ask, did I choose the beautiful village of Sarratt for the setting of my unlovely British spy school?

The reasons, as they appear to me with the convenience of hindsight a quarter of a century later, are twofold:

I should never have said "yes" to the gimlet-eyed lady on the ski slopes of the Bernese Oberland in – I fear – 1949.

I should never have coveted a £30 charcoal grey suit with two vents and narrow trousers, displayed in the window of Messrs. Clements of Watford, Drapers, property of my friend Dick Edmonds.

The gimlet-eyed lady was fearless, formidable, eccentric, upper-class and athletic. She had a ten-acre voice, a rich husband in the City, and a will of iron. Even in the ski costume of 50 years ago, she was dauntingly thin.

I was a flaxen, pink-faced, easily embarrassed 18-year-old, inclined to poetry and puppy fat. I had recently defected from an English public school I loathed, and embarked on a course of study at Bern university. And I had never in my life met anyone as forceful as the gimlet-eyed lady.

"Don't be utterly ridiculous:, she told me, in cadences similar to those later employed by Britain's first woman Prime Minister. "It will do you the world of good, and you'll be serving your country."

In 1949 everyone of my age wanted to serve his country because we felt so uncomfortable about not having fought in the war. So maybe she got me on the war-guilt ticket. But far more likely is, I hadn't the bottle to say no to her.

However it was, moments later I had agreed to become a trainee ski racer under the aegis of something called the Downhill Only Club, which has its soul in the mountain village of Wengen. No decision in my later life – whether in the army, at university, in the secret world or in the pursuit of love – was ever so frivolously or impulsively taken.

None exposed me to such naked humiliation, or entirely justified terror.

Yet without it I would never have met Dick Edmonds and would never have signed on for three weeks' hard labour as a towel and carpet salesman for the Grand Summer Sale at Dick's family firm, Clements of Watford, known also – do they still use the same slogan? – as The Harrods of Hertfordshire.

Dick was already Crown Prince of Clements and Supreme Ruler Designate. The King himself had retired to his estates in Gloucestershire where he stocked the river with trout and swished his tail from time to time but was otherwise quiescent.

And if I hadn't met Dick and heard of Clements, I would not have gone to Watford or coveted the twin-vented, narrow-trousered charcoal suit in the window without which I knew, as soon as I set eyes on it, my life would never be complete.

For Dick too had somehow been talked into becoming a fellow trainee. Even debonair Dick, vastly more worldly than myself and already in possession of an Army commission and brass-buttoned blazer to match, not to mention an Oxford degree, a Triumph Roadster and a well-developed sense of his own value to society, had not mustered the gall to say "no" to the gimlet-eyed lady.

Perhaps the subsidised rates had attracted him. Or the girls. Dick in those days was definitely not impervious to either. Perhaps he even had a genuine desire to excel as a ski-racer, though I severely doubt it. For Dick, if you know your P.G. Wodehouse, was my Uckridge, my surfer over life's inconvenient hummocks – if not quite in the sense that the gimlet-eyed one might have wished.

Or perhaps, since Dick was never so easily read, there did indeed lurk in him some patriotic impulse that obliged him to heed the Great Call. Ours not to reason why.

I recall vividly our first meeting as, pale and apprehensive, we sank our fitness beers and dragged at our fitness cigarettes in the Eiger bar in Wengen. The scene resembles in my memory the meeting of two fugitives to the French Foreign Legion as they crouch shoulder to shoulder in the waiting room of the recruitment office in Marseilles, assuring each other that things weren't going to be as bad as they were cracked up to be.

They were worse.

To appreciate the lunacy of our situation you must see a rabble of unfit, unskilled, Sunday morning soccer players drafted, by a quirk of divine malice, to play a season's worth of American football in the top league. With one exception we were, as I recall, without a spark of skiing talent.

Speaking for myself, I am afflicted with some kind of English pelvic deformity most commonly acquired at public school or inculcated by nannies which now, as then, prevents me from turning to my right without a convulsive jerk of the left elbow.

Dick, when I last saw him ski, resembled an avenging Sydney Bridge in a Spielberg science fiction movie. He was no different 50 years ago, except that there was a predatory glint in his eye, and a certain dihedral to the nose, which implied that the race was already won, and he was just dropping in to collect the prize.

Few of us had more than four or five seasons to our credit. And for season, read two sybaritic weeks in any one year. Never mind. Our love of country, our sportsmanship, our innate superiority as Brits of a certain class – didn't we teach these bloody foreigners how to ski in the first place? – would see us through.

Or would it? Remember, please, that in the early post-war years of skiing, safety-bindings were virtually unknown. The "Club Binding", as it was grandly titled was a 30 centime ski-strap looped round the cable of the standard Kandahar binding and screwed with your penknife to the ski.

If you fell forward and the wind was in the right direction, it might work. But we fell in all the directions of the compass, on whatever part of us hit the slopes first, and the best we could pray for was that the ski broke before we did. It was not long, therefore, before our motivation was on a par with our ability: why go faster when faster means breaking more limbs?

And then there was our splendid English competitive spirit. "But to compete!" ran the great slogan – whose I forget – but it was trumpeted around with Messianic fervour by the gimlet-eyed lady and her kind, as I'm sure it was in the Light Brigade Mess when one or two backsliders suggested it might not be such a great idea to charge the guns at Sebastapol.

How on earth do you preserve your competitive spirit when you know that any ten-year-old native child in the village can out-ski you in his sleep? – let alone the super-trained, mountain-bred international gods dreaming of Olympic gold, whose names, known to numberless fans, featured in alphabetical order alongside your own on the start list? For years I kept those start lists as testimony to my finest hours. For some reason, I never kept the results.

How much of the bleak reality of our predicament Dick and I communicated to one another is now mercifully unknown to me. We were good soldiers but we could still count the numbers of our English dead. A couple of our group wisely quit the field ahead of being cut down, mumbling things about sick relatives or matters of business to attend to.

One brave fellow simply packed and tiptoed out of the hotel at dead of night. I am sure I wished secretly that I had the courage to follow his example, but I hadn't.

And as the team was steadily whittled down, Dick and I and a couple of other pseudo good-sports became by attrition its surviving members, now cursing our misfortune as yet another awful race-day loomed, now feebly aping our Battle of Britain role-models as we staggered onto the scaffold and submitted to the executioner's chant of "Eins, zwei, drei, los" before hurling ourselves down the precipice to the greater glory of nobody, least of all ourselves.



Dick Edmonds (far left) and David Cornwell (fourth from left) with other members of the DHO club.

But we survived – or Dick and I did. Both of us were natural survivors, both of us knew that good men were scarce. Dick, so far as I remember, won nothing, which was a given from the start, but also broke nothing except a heart or two. The Sydney Bridge technique that has since taken him safely over countless glaciers, ice fields and virgin slopes in the High Alps took him down the race courses also, a lesson to all of us that, in skiing as in life, what looks best may not work best, and vice versa.

I too won nothing, except a good friend and, since I had no money and no clothes, an invitation to come and sell towels in Clements' Summer Sale in exchange for a charcoal grey suit with two vents and narrow trousers.

If you have ever crouched unarmed in a shallow trench with a forest full of wolves behind you and ahead of you glistening squadrons of enemy cavalry advancing at full gallop with sabres drawn, then you will have some inkling of how it feels to be standing on the receiving side of the towels and white linen counter as the shop doors open on the first day of a Summer Sale.

It was only as I saw the barbarian hoards advancing on me that I recognised the inescapable link between downhill ski-racing and what Dick in draper mode deprecatingly used to call flogging knickers in Watford High Street. Whether you are behind the counter or on the piste: it is the same daredevil sensation of watching yourself hurtle into catastrophe without the least control over your fate.

And catastrophe on that First Day of Sale came to me in the unlikely form of a very small German lady in a tartan overcoat and battered brown bowler hat. She was 60 if a day, but she slipped out of the scrum like a champion to stand sovereign and motionless before me, or rather below me, a tiny, wrinkled genie with a face like a polished walnut and a gaze every bit as imperious as that of the gimlet-eyed one on the ski slopes in the Bernese Oberland, while all around her an inferno of larger, less agile bodies writhed and moaned and struck in the endless human battle for 50 per cent off retail price to clear.

And when she spoke, her voice would have done credit to a sergeant major of the Kaiser's Imperial Prussian Guard on a good day, for the entire store heard her, and for a second froze as if to her command.

"College boy", she cried. The college boy was me. "Please, darling. I vant a towel for a guest."

The entire store stayed frozen, waiting breathless for my reply. Perhaps they knew her. Perhaps she was a great star – of the opera, the stage, the silver screen. I'll never know and I certainly didn't know then. All I knew, or thought I knew, was that everyone – babes in prams, bridal couples, seasoned sale-goers and shoplifters – all of them were waiting on me to come up with some kind of reciprocity of scale, some awareness of a great occasion.

"Madam," I replied finally, in tones that I hoped were as momentous as her own: "What size is your guest?"

Justice at Clements in those days was swift, and administered with a stern hand. The Chief Linen Buyer was a stately Irishman named Mr Chase, and Mr Chase was a salesman to his bushy eyebrows and bald pate. As a child Mr Chase had lisped in discounts; at school, I have no doubt he had eagerly frequented the great sales psychologists. Only that morning, while the queues were forming round the block, Mr Chase had initiated me into the arts of converting factory-bound bundles of new linen into ragged heaps of apparently rejected treasures as a means of whetting the appetites of our customers.

The German lady had found Mr Chase as swiftly as she had found me. She stood no higher than his waist, yet the two of them bore down on me with the majesty of their combined authority.

"You're fired", Mr Chase informed me in a voice of thunder, while at the same time tipping me the fattest wink this side of the Irish Sea.

"You'd better try carpets", said Dick, as if carpets were the one place where I could be relied upon not to set the shop on fire.

He was mistaken. The very next day I sold the same 12-foot strip of ex-Queen Elizabeth carpet to 20 different customers on the erroneous assumption that it was a sample and there was plenty more of it knocking around the warehouse.

There was none.

The Queen Elizabeth in her hey-day changed her carpets every couple of years, and Clements were proud of offering the best of what was discarded. Mr Seaholm, the Chief Carpet Buyer, was particularly proud and had caused advertisements to this effect to be placed in the local newspaper.

The Queen Elizabeth carpets were a Clements come-on, a perfectly legitimate one, intended to characterise the sale. Who could have imagined that the few bits on offer in the basement were all that remained to use once the vomit stains and cigar burns had been weeded out? Nobody had told me, in as many words, that the piece I had sold so many times was a sample, but my imagination had left me in no doubt. After all, it was a huge ship with endless corridors. It was not the last time that my imagination turned out to be a wrecker's lamp.

Have you ever seen a Chief Carpet Buyer weep? For weeks after the sale, as Dick never tired of telling me, Clements was obliged to devote its considerable legal and diplomatic resources to repairing the mayhem I had left behind. Enraged housewives were mollified with other carpets – at sacrificial prices. The litigious were appeased with gifts and crawling letters of apology. An inexperienced anonymous salesman no longer in the firm's employment was identified as the culprit, and Dick gave me a year to pay off my charcoal grey suit.

And as a last charitable gesture, Dick in his magnanimity commissioned a mural from me, to adorn a large area of wall in the main concourse. Perhaps he had concluded that our relationship was best preserved if he became a patron of my art.

I drew it, I painted it, and for a year or so – but less perhaps, for Dick was always keen to spare my feelings on the matter – it remained there. A pageant, I liked to think, of happy Watford shoppers trooping gaily through Clements' portals and trooping out of them again even happier than when they entered.

Until a day came when Dick's father paid a visit to the store and summarily ordered my mural removed on the grounds that it insulted the customers. I had made them look like a bunch of leering peasants, he complained. Customers were there to be respected, not lampooned, he said.

It was my first but not my last experience of the pains of reconciling an artistic eye with the sensitivities of commerce.

And all this explains my choice of Sarratt? You ask.

Well, yes, as a matter of fact, in a tortuous way I really think it does. Dick is very much a man of the countryside, and he was still without Sarah and Mickle-field Hall to go home to in the evenings. So when the working day ended, neither of us could wait to pile into his Roadster and take to the open Hertfordshire landscape. For him, it was an escape from the town, for me a blessed easing of the day's humiliations.

I had no earthly idea what career I would follow when I was grown up. I didn't even realise there was no such thing as being grown up. Coasting through the still unspoiled country lanes, I looked around me restlessly for a world I could inhabit. It never occurred to me that the only sure way to find such a world was to invent one.

Thus Sarratt, as we passed through it on our way to nowhere in particular impressed itself upon me as some kind of secret haven, a forgotten piece of real England just round the corner from subtopia. And because I am an incurable house-fantasiser, I imagined myself living there in some context still to be defined, at the edge of the real world but safe from it.

And it is no wonder to me at all that when 20 years later I came to select a birthplace for my secret England, I should have lighted upon Sarratt's pretty village green and cosy redbrick cottages and half hidden mansions and Sarratt's exquisitely beautiful Church of the Holy Cross, and imagined them as the keepers of an English mystery of which I was some kind of undefined inheritor.

So I called my training school the Nursery. And I put it in Sarratt where I had once longed to live. In the world of George Smiley and his people, after all, there is no place more dangerous than home.

What became of me after the Summer Sales is predictable. I returned to Oxford, went on to teach, played in secret England for a while, then went to the Devil and became a writer.

What became of Dick is worth recording because, unlike our modern spies, many of his achievements remain unsung. As a fully paid-up closet rebel he became, of course, a magistrate, a High Sheriff and a person of immense if occasionally subversive respectability. He now lords it over a spirited family and a great house, but humanity and self-mockery, deprive him of pomp.

He spends much of his leisure time on the operating table while surgeons strive to correct the Sydney Bridge effect in later age. So far he has to his credit half a dozen hip replacements, three to each side, and a complicated spine operation to keep the central struts relatively upright.

More recently, surgeons had the temerity to tamper with his heart. Dick, who likes to pretend he is a skinflint, probably maintains they couldn't find it. More objective reports suggest that it is as big as ever.

Apart from these minor infringements of his liberty, Dick Edmonds is what he always was: a cussed, crabby, amusing, loyal, witty, idiosyncratic, deeply affectionate friend, too droll, too self-aware, too old and wise from birth, too sad at heart, ever to desert the common lot.

Oh, and I did finally pay off the charcoal suit.

© David Cornwell

Bert was a familiar sight trudging every inch of the village to fundraise for his 'fairy godmother'

WO. 7-3-03

SARRATT lost one of its characters with the passing of Bertie "Bert" Sharland, whose funeral took place on Wednesday. He was 83.

Bert was an individual, well-known as a dogged fundraiser, who paced the village with a milometre strapped to his leg.

Whether working for his "fairy godmother", which was how he referred to the Red Cross having been a prisoner of war and grateful for its food parcels, or for the British Legion Poppy Day, there was no hiding from Bert.

If you failed to answer the first time he would be back, knocking the next, clocking up 70 miles on foot on each project.

Born in Kilburn, he worked "on the cars" as an assistant chef/waiter for the Pullman cars out of Paddington bound for Penzance and South Wales.

During World War Two, he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a cook and was posted to Crete. He was asleep when the island was invaded for, as his family would testify: "Bert could sleep on a clothesline" and awoke to his own arrest by German paratroopers.

He was a POW in Stalag VIIIB, Germany, for three years until repatriated under a swap arrangement involving medical staff. Three months later he was in France just after D-Day.

On one occasion he was asked to cycle to the frontline with a message and, after travelling some distance, arrived by some tanks whose occupants were speaking German. Deducing he had cycled too far and into enemy lines, he turned round and pedalled back without raising a shot.

He met his wife Hilda, an ATS cook, at the British General Hospital in Bruges. They were married after the war and Bert began work for WEMCO in Whippendell Road, Watford, where he continued until he retired in 1981.

In 1948 the couple moved to a "pre-fab" in Sarratt and then to Downer Drive in 1952, their home ever since. They had two children, Jill and Alan, and two grand-children, Gayle and Nicola.

A familiar sight for many years, treading the roads round the village collecting for such causes as Village Day, he was fondly remembered by his friend Mr Dennis Jenks in a funeral address.

Recalling how Bert once placed a £2 bet on an outsider in a top race at Ascot because he liked the jockey's black hat and vest, Mr Jenks said the horse romped home at 66/1 with Bert most likely the only man to have bet on it.



Mr Bert Sharland after his big win at Ascot.

Some Sarratt residents are gaining first-hand experience of the mysterious workings of local government bodies

Not a council of perfection

Just a word WITH OLIVER PHILLIPS



FOR years I have read of protest groups, reported on a few and heard the anger and sampled the frustration as inhabitants have battled against councils and Government.

Such conflicts are meat and drink to a local newspaper but, just lately, I have found myself actually in the game, instead of watching from the touchlines.

It was then that I gained first-hand experience of the fact councils work in mysterious and often unfathomable ways. After a couple of weeks dealing with a relatively simple subject, I can more easily understand how the abominable Green Gilbert was allowed to be built next to the Town Hall and why the Park Gates were pulled down. Yet, with that understanding, comes an even greater distrust of the workings of local councils and a feeling of heartfelt thanks that, for much of my career, I covered sport as opposed to councils.

A letter dropped through my door last month, stating I had until Tuesday, March 4, to complain about a proposal affecting my road in Sarratt.

For some reason unknown to me, (and, it transpired, a number of others), Three Rivers Council had decided it might be nice to cut up the grass verges of a rural residential road and install 11 parking bays.

People do park in the road, my wife included, and there are more often five and occasionally up to nine cars parked along one side of it. There aren't any yellow lines on the other side of the road but, it seems, there is a mutual, unwritten acceptance of common sense that we all park on one side.

As a result, such traffic as there is passes unconcernedly along the short road. In the very occasional event of another car coming in the other direction, one of them pulls into a space by the driveways and they pass with a nod of appreciation. It is a polite and hassle-free experience.

We are not talking Watford bypass here.

My wife and I looked at the plans a neighbour had obtained from the parish council office in the village hall. Far from increasing the number of parking facilities, they had provided roughly the same number, allotted at either side of the road.

Apart from destroying the rural ambience, it would have the effect of enabling traffic to drive through a two-street estate, at considerably more speed, unhindered by the traffic-calming effect of the normally-parked cars.

But what was I to do? Two or three neighbours were concerned that the introduction of parking bays might encourage the overnight parking of lorries or prove attractive to those from over-crowded neighbouring roads, with a result the residents would have fewer parking spaces available.

In short, it constituted an ugly urbanisation of a residential village backwater.

Neighbours had heard various things. "They are trying to make a one-way system of the three roads" or "I phoned the council and they are doing this in Abbots Langley and Oxhey as well."

But what should we do to try to prevent it? I had read of A E Matthews, the actor, tying himself to a lamppost but it is difficult chaining oneself to a kerb.

Or one could entreat the residents of Downer Drive and Alexandra Road to man the barricades by The Green to prevent the council lorries reaching the proposed site.

I jettisoned that idea. From previous experience with the Sarratt Liberation Front, it takes too much organising: Joe can't make Tuesday's because of the bowling; Richard has to knock off at six to pick up the Mrs; Bob has to take a party to Windsor races twice during the week and Allan is too busy trying to find his car and so on.

Then, again, we could try to find our own Swampy and have him or her tunnelling under the greensward.

Alternatively, I decided, I could ask someone more attuned to council affairs and politics. Unfortunately, she was away on her holiday and another possibility was up to her eyes in another project.

I talked to a few neighbours and they all chipped in a point or two, so I roughed out a questionnaire and, when my prospective cohort had completed her project, I enlisted her support.

Different strokes for different folks, they say, for within 24 hours she had knocked my rough notes into protest-speak shape and had ascertained Sarratt Parish Council was as surprised as the residents by Three Rivers' proposal. To this day, neither the residents nor the parish council know where this daft idea originated.

We each took a road and I canvassed 28 residents in my street and was surprised to find such unrestrained antipathy to the scheme. I was even more surprised at the occasional outbreaks of apathy. Three informed me they were totally against the parking bays but I was wasting my time.

"If the council propose to do something, there is no point in arguing. They will do what they want to do," came the disheartening viewpoint, which suggests the council or councils have some way to go in convincing inhabitants they do pay attention to their views.

We gave all the residents a letter containing ten points, encouraging them to cross out any with which they disagreed and then send them to the council.

In the end, we had at least 18 residents out of 28 sign their individual copies of the letter to the council and a minimum of a further four wrote personally to the case officer at Three Rivers in time for the March 4 deadline.

It was a sharp learning curve. Apparently, if the council proposes something, it is insufficient to tell them it is not needed. The occupants of the road could be carless but claiming there is not a need for parking bays would be judged a matter of opinion and dismissed.

So the fact the residents do not want them and feel they are unnecessary and have put pen to paper stating same does not cut much ice, it would appear.

There is further evidence of a twisted form of democracy at work in such situations. Apparently, at this time of year, there is a tendency for councils to look at what remains in the budget and come up with plans to spend it. If Sarratt turned down parking bays they had never requested, the money would not be utilised for any other scheme within the village. It is a question of take it or leave it.

Now most of the villagers would prefer the 30-yard road to the school to be widened or provided with parking bays. As it is, in order to avoid parked cars, visitors to the school have to mount the kerb and the grass of The Green, causing mud and tracks, leaving a permanent eyesore.

The parish council has been attempting to win approval for a gentle piece of popular road-widening by The Green, to no avail. Instead, there is a proposal for parking bays in our road that no one wants. Apparently, a widening of the road by The Green comes out of the Highways budget at Hertford.

It is akin to someone coming into your office and saying: "Congratulations. The management meeting has just approved eight new desks for your department."

After expressing thanks and pointing out, as there are only three in the department, three desks would be sufficient and eight would be overkill, unless the department was set to expand, you would then be informed you either had eight desks or none.

On suggesting instead of five unusable extra desks, a computer would be useful for the department, you would be informed: "Computers? They come out of the equipment budget and there is no money left in that."

When I pointed out this and other council anomalies to someone more attuned to such machinations, I was told: "You seem quite shocked councils behave this way. They always do."

While I was covering Watford's game the other night, my wife attended the parish council meeting, gave a short address and was heartened to note Sarratt Council was dead set against the Three Rivers proposal.

However, and this really gets my goat, Three Rivers, receiving wind of the outcry, had come up with an amendment before the deadline for complaints for the original proposal had passed,

Residents discovered this the following morning when a fresh proposal inviting views on a reduced number of parking bays dropped through their letterboxes.

We have until Thursday, March 20, to voice our objections over this.

So, do we actually have to go through the entire process again and, if we protest loudly enough, then have to repeat the process a third time when they come back with a proposal for just three parking bays?

To me, it is somewhat akin to Three Rivers suggesting a 165ft piece of concrete modern art should be erected on The Green. On hearing it is about to be flooded with angry complaints as the deadline approaches, it then proposes the modern art should be just 50-foot high, ignoring the fact it is not a question of height but concept.

The validity of the argument against 11 parking bays is the same as that against seven. It will urbanise the area, destroy the greensward, enable the traffic to accelerate through two roads, so endangering the numerous old people and children on the estate and, lastly, encourage lorries and people from neighbouring streets to park in our road.

The one thing we cannot say is that we don't need it. That, I am told, is not a valid reason to prevent councils spending money; presumably based on the concept that such is just our opinion and the council knows better.

However, there is one aspect of parking we do need. Over the road, there are two car parks in front of flats. These could be increased in size without undue trouble and without detriment to the ambience of the road. Furthermore they would serve the residents who need them most, notably when they have visitors. On such occasions, the visitors currently park half on the car park and half on the verge by the flats.

All those in the flats and the houses feel this would be the best course of action.

But then what do we know? We only live there.



Three Rivers wanted to cut 11 parking bays in verges whereas the only call for parking is in front of the flats between the existing car park and the pavement.



Sarratt Parish Council would prefer this road to be widened instead to avoid this ugly mud.

Further Just a Word articles by Oliver Phillips can be found at www.watfordobserver.co.uk

PHOENIX
QUALITY ANTIQUES
and
COLLECTORS FAIRS

SARRATT
VILLAGE HALL
The Green - Sarratt - Herts
Second Sunday Every Month
2003
Sunday 12th JANUARY
Sunday 9th FEBRUARY
Sunday 9th MARCH
Sunday 13th APRIL
Sunday 11th MAY
Sunday 8th JUNE
Sunday 13th JULY
Sunday 10th AUGUST
Sunday 14th SEPTEMBER
Sunday 12th OCTOBER
Sunday 9th NOVEMBER
Sunday 14th DECEMBER

10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Enquiries: Tel/Fax 020 8950 3690
Mobile: 07774 402 430

W.O. 14-3-03

Firm promises to bring an end to power cuts

by KATIE SAMUEL

POWER CUTS and problems with electricity look set to be a thing of the past for residents of Sarratt after a productive meeting with 24seven electricity company on Tuesday.

Several senior representatives from the company attended the meeting to hear residents list a catalogue of problems, particularly the difficulties they faced during and after heavy storms last October.

The representatives also outlined their plans for future work.

During 2000 Sarratt had five power failures, in 2001 there were six, last year this increased to 11 and there has been one to date this year.

About 70 per cent of the failures last year were down to components, three were cable failures and eight overhead line failures.

As a result, 24seven is making a considerable investment into the area making it part of a £100 million scheme which will cover most of the south east of England.

The cabling from Kings Langley to Sarratt will be completely replaced and 13 substations will be overhauled.

Mr John Dean, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, said: "They admitted Sarratt had an inadequate service and faults on the service go back many years."

Another problem brought up by residents was the electricity supply to Chandlers Cross.

Chairman of the resident's association Miss Jean Newell said: "Chandlers Cross is on an electricity line from Watford.

"The representatives did not touch on it but our problem has been as great as Sarratt for many years.

"They took notes and will write to me.

"It was very helpful of 24seven to come and represent the company, rather than impersonal telephone calls and we appreciated it and look forward to some improvements."

The company accepted criticismfrom residents that components for transfer are still causing problems and admitted it has made changes, but that some are still not up to scratch.

Residents were critical of the telephone service, as they wanted to speak to a human person and during the problems in October the system failed.

24seven representatives said the issue was being addressed and explained how they have divided Sarratt into four zones so it would be easier to pinpoint an electricity failure in the future.

Another major issue was Church Lane, where properties must be served individually.

Due to the recent road resurfacing, the parish council has stipulated individual boreholes must be made from the allotment side of the road to avoid digging into the new surface.

Mr Dean said: "This could have been prevented if the Highways Authority had worked with 24seven as it was only given two weeks notice to do any work first."

Those who suffered during the power cuts argued for compensation, with Mr Dean's support.

A 24seven representative said those who suffered between Sunday and Thursday at 10pm were entitled to compensation.

But this was no longer valid if not claimed within the subsequent three months.

Mr Dean said: "We are pleased with the outcome but have a long way to go."

Mr Nick Akers, communications manager for 24seven said: "We are pleased to talk directly to customers and show them plans of work to be done in the area.

"We acknowledge we are not satisfied with the service in Sarratt and agreed to come back in six months to monitor any improvements."

ksamuel@london.newsquest.co.uk

Vicar's stunning descent captivates parishioners

THE Vicar of Watford made his flock gasp on Saturday when he went over the top of St Mary's Church tower – and abseiled to the ground.

The Rev John Aldis headed up a group of 23 intrepid charity supporters, who between them raised more than £4,000 for the Dick Edmonds Stroke Appeal.

The vicar was joined by St Mary's curate, Will Hunter Smart, and nearly 69-year-old Ray Smith, a member of the church choir for more than 60 years, who found the experience extremely exhilarating.

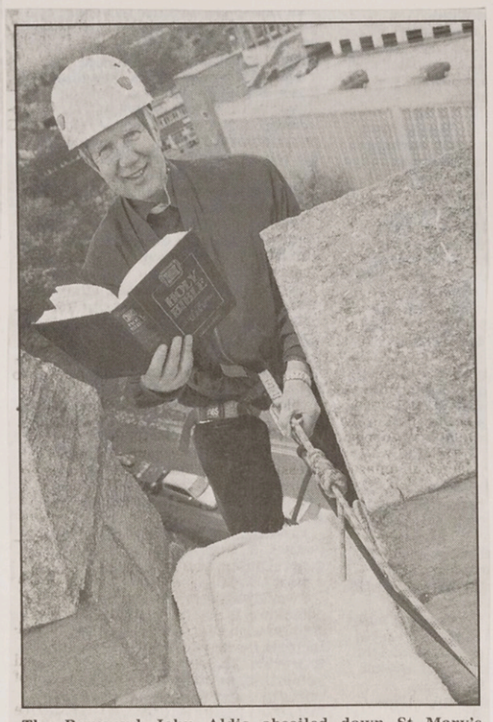
The youngest abseiler was Tom Rankin, 11, one of seven members of the family of the late chairman of Clements, Richard Edmonds, in whose memory the appeal has been set up to raise £100,000 to a equip a stroke unit at Watford General Hospital.

Chairman of Clements, Jamie Rankin and his wife, Anna, joined the spectacular descent as did members of staff from the hospital.

The abseil was part of an open day at St Mary's which, despite the chill, attracted a number of people enjoying a barbecue, stalls outside and music.

Rev Aldis said: "There was a good, encouraging atmosphere and in the future, I will look at the church tower with a new sense of achievement."

WAT.085. 25-1-03



The Reverend John Aldis abseiled down St Mary's Church tower on Saturday. Picture X163808: DAVE HERRING

2003

Artist takes centre stage

by Grelle White



Gentian on Holiday by Camilla Clutterbuck, of Chorleywood.

IT is one thing painting for fun, but quite another to throw in the day job and turn professional.

"There I was, having drawn and painted since I could hold a pencil, and suddenly I had this complete block," recalls Camilla Clutterbuck, who makes her debut as a professional artist at the Notting Hill Fine Art Gallery next week, sharing a show with the actress Sophie Thompson.

Camilla, of Chorleywood, made the decision to pursue a career as an artist at the age of 41, a time, she says, when she and a lot of her friends were questioning what they were doing with their lives.

"You don't want to get to the end of life and regret that you didn't have a go at what you really wanted, for the fear of failure," she said.

Camilla's leap into the relative unknown, commercially and financially, was a brave act – especially as she insists she is shy about showing her work, although she has displayed the odd picture when her mother, watercolour painter Jan Clutterbuck, puts on shows at her home in Sarratt.

Most of her working life, Camilla has been a backstage person. She initially took a diploma in graphic design, but went on to train in stage management at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London and worked in stage management in the West End for ten years.

She took a break to work on animal portrait commissions and print making, before going back to stage management. Her West End finale was The Witches of Eastwick.

"When the show closed after September 11, 2001, I decided not to pursue another job," Camilla said. "I was 41 on the verge of 42."

She found the change in her attitude to painting considerable.

"I used to do things very quickly. If I was not happy with it, I did not pursue, but abandoned the work," she said.

"With time, and having to be serious, I worked at it and sometimes, they are the best."

Among the 11 works due to go on show at Notting Hill next week is Gentian on Holiday, a delightful image of her spaniel breathing in a huge blue sky over a simple summer landscape.

And in a good omen, one painting has been sold before the show even opens. Camilla's next show has already been lined up.

She has been invited to join the Childwickbury Art Group's show at St Albans during the Hertfordshire Open Studios in September. Camilla has being doing life classes at Christiane Kubrick' studio at The Stables at Childwickbury House.

Of her upcoming exhibition, and the prospect of stepping into the limelight, Camilla said: "Of course, I'm excited, but it is strange coupling of feeling of being very confident and very nervous."

● New Paintings and Mixed Media by Camilla Clutterbuck and Sophie Thompson can bee seen at Notting Hill Fine Art Gallery, 28 Powis Terrace/Westbourne Park Road, London W11 1JH from noon to 6.30pm from Tuesday, April 29, to Sunday, May 11.

Rector's Report for APCM 2003

This report is for the year ending December 2002. The year under review has not been an easy year. It hasn't been easy for me nor, I suspect, for members of the congregation. It has been a year when we have often been distracted from the real work of the church of Christ, that of proclaiming the Gospel within our village community.

The future of the church room has taken up much of my time and that of the PCC. Upon applying for a faculty with the diocese, the Registrar was sent 49 letters of objection. this is of course the right of people within the village and especially those who are members of the church. The response from the diocese has taken a long time to arrive. it is likely that very soon and perhaps before the Annual Meeting in April 2003, a meeting will be called by the Registrar inviting the objectors to be present. After taking details from the PCC, which is now being provided, he will ask the objectors how they want to continue their case. The likely outcome will be that a consistory court will be called for. The PCC will then have to decide what should be done next.

The second difficulty has arisen from my being priest in charge of two parishes. This has meant some changes in our Sunday services, as well as a great deal of doubling up of meetings. No longer is it possible to be at Holy Cross Sunday after Sunday. This has meant less personal contact with individuals and a certain lack of continuity. The dual role has also meant a natural increase in funeral and weddings in particular.

We have however been truly blessed in the appointment and arrival of Malcolm Williams as curate and of Brenda, living at Chipperfield Vicarage. Without the support and encouragement we have received from them both, it would have been an even more difficult year.

My thanks to the two churchwardens for their support and help during the year, as well as the support of the PCC at particularly difficult times. I am grateful to many people who have helped the smooth running of the life of the church over the year.

It was good to have the Flower Festival back on course this year, my thanks to the Friends for this and other money raising events. Our special efforts at outreach along with other parishes in the Deanery, were well received in October. I am especially pleased that the two Sarratt churches worked so well together for this special weekend and on other occasions throughout the year. if you see on the newsletter "Minister's lunch", it means not just lunch but a prayer time and a working lunch for six!! (Brian. Malcolm. Peters and spouses). For most of the year under review Alex Twells was the administrator. My thanks to him for taking much of the load of weekly newsletters, orders of service and planning and correspondence off my shoulders. The cost of the new administrator is being shared by Chipperfield and the hours have been reduced. Linda Clough is settling into her new role.

I look back for other signs of growth during the year. Two people in training for the Reader ministry. the growth of Home groups, both numerically and spiritually, as well as a real development in the joint 8.00am Holy Communions twice a month have all been pointers towards growth. Junior church, under new management, has really grown, our thanks to Angela for heading up this important part of the church's life. Kings Club has also been most successful. I feel that our healing prayer group is another important point of growth, as is the ministry of healing at the morning service. Thank you to the faithful members of our congregation who maintain the basis life of Holy Cross.

There have been a number of disappointments. Sadly our corporate prayer life has grown little, although the Quiet Place has been a welcome addition in this area. We have lost a number of regular worshippers through death and moving away. This is reflected in our financial situation, which will need all our attention and prayers this year. As the parish share grows more and more, the burden falls upon the shoulders of the regular congregation. I, along with our treasurer, urge you to consider your giving in the near future.

Many, many thanks are due to many people. PCC Treasurer, PCC secretary, organist, choir, bellringers, cleaners, flower ladies, refreshments after church, readers, intercessors, sanctuary guild, churchyard clear ups and many committee members, plus many others who deserve our thanks and praise.

What does God require of us in the future? What does God want of us as individuals and as a church? We are to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Saviour. We are to worship the Lord our God and to share Him with others. We are duty bound to equip ourselves to do this work and by the power of the Holy Spirit to show forth our faith in word and deed. I look forward to the formation of lay leadership teams, which will include ministers. One team to be responsible for worship leading, the other for pastoral care. Whatever happens in the two villages, I am convinced that this is the way forward. The number of priests continues to decline and the finances of the Diocese are already stretched, so lay leadership in a collaborative way is I believe the future. Please pray for Holy Cross. Please pray that God's Holy Spirit will empower us all and please pray about how we should develop work with the 20's, 30's, and teenagers. Have you ever thought about the average age of our Sunday morning congregations? I wonder who is the youngest person on the PCC? What of the future?

Another sight to make eyes sore

Just a word WITH OLIVER PHILLIPS





Do they serve a purpose? These bollards recently appeared outside York House School.

Picture X170610: SIMON JACOBS

I DROVE down the street where I used to live the other day. In fact, truth be told, I drive down it every day, but this time was unusual for two reasons.

The first reason was that I had been away for a few days and during that period there had been a major development.

I used to live in what was called Sarratt Lane, Redheath, an area a little shy of Croxley Green and perhaps closer to Chandlers Cross and the parish of Sarratt. During my dozen years living there I noted a lot of things, not least the superb display of daffodils at Redheath House.

The main house, which used to be a weekend retreat for the Tory party, had the likes of Edward Heath and Co popping in for a brainwashing session or whatever it is politicians do when they meet up to discuss how they can say a lot without saying anything.

It has long since become the home of York House School and I have happy memories of being told that my dog had crossed into the grounds and, positioning himself at deep fine leg, watched the twice-weekly game of cricket.

Occasionally the coaches delivering pupils would cut into the verges outside, but the school made adjustments and pulled back the fence to enable the coaches to park outside the gates.

It worked well but time runs on and the needs and requirements obviously change. The other day, having freshly returned from France, I drove down Sarratt Lane towards Croxley Green. I had been without newspapers for five days, and the fact came home to me as I approached Redheath.

Obviously an invasion was imminent, or so I assumed, for what other reason had the ambience of this country lane been jolted into urbanisation with what appeared to be an imposing line of concrete anti-tank bollards.

They look as ugly as they are incongruous: an unnecessary intrusion on a rural scene. Are such things necessary, vital or even remotely desirous? What purpose do they serve except to prematurely warn us that we are about to leave the countryside as suburbia is fast-approaching?

Is it to protect people driving into the fence, I wondered? Surely it cannot be that such an ugly addition has been introduced purely to stop people parking outside the gates. I subsequently contacted the school, which is closed for the holidays. I left a message but still await a reply. Perhaps I am being unfair, I mused. Perhaps there is a very good reason for this ugly platoon of concrete obstacles.

Whatever it is, I am sure it could have been achieved without detriment to the ambience of the lane. They could have moved the fence back out to the original line.

For that matter, I do not know what Three Rivers planners make of it and really it does not matter that much, for planners march to their own drumbeat, often out of touch with the mainstream.

I found it distasteful, a blot on the landscape, but as one appears, another is likely to be erased.

At the end of the same week, I heard Elected Mayor Dorothy Thornhill had come to two conclusions. The first is to drop the "sun burst" crest that Watford have adopted as their emblem in recent years. It looks as if it was lifted off a naff letterhead on cheapskate hotel notepaper in Benidorm.

Quite how it represented Watford, I know not, but as Watford Council has spent many years presiding over the ripping of heart and soul out of the town, it is no surprise they were confused in trying to give it an identity.

I suspect the person who came up with that sunburst crest was related to the person who decided to clutter the simplicity of Vince Muspratt's millennium square off Market Place. By changing the levels and sticking concrete balls on the perimeter, they reduced the open space to little more than a barbecue terrace.

Now it transpires Mayor Thornhill has walked blindfold down the High Street – a policy which seems to have been adopted by most of the planners over the last 40 years.

However, her journey was in an attempt to see how awkward the High Street is for the visually impaired. The balls, she pronounced, have got to go. Now I am not fussed about those balls either way, apart from their contribution to reducing the impact of the square. I don't know how much they cost the ratepayers and whether Watford, which has already lost heart and soul, can sell off its balls to someone else.

What did strike me is that Mayor Thornhill could have saved herself a few barked shins. She could have sent one of the planning department down the High Street instead. I am all in favour of the law that insists every employer employs a percentage of disabled people. I welcome that.

Recalling the last 40 years and what they have done to Watford, I wonder whether it is wise to deploy all the visually impaired in the Town Hall design and planning department.

Ranger resigns in protest at council treatment

by KATIE SAMUEL

A FORMER ranger for Sarratt Parish Council has made a formal complaint to the Standards Committee following alleged mistreatment by the council.

Mr David Baker, ranger for 13 years, said in his resignation letter: "I now understand that a number of council members have been persistently trying to blacken my name and reputation, and have been doing so for the past 18 months both in and outside council meetings."

Allegations from several councillors suggested he did not work his full hours, was lazy, did not do as he was asked and an incident in which it was claimed Mr Baker's negligence in felling a tree almost injured a postman was mentioned.

Mr Baker, who has lived in the village all his life, denies the allegations, says he knows nothing of the incident says he is repeatedly approached in the street and asked about these claims.

He wrote to the council to complain against Councillor Richard Haynes and Councillor John Gell, claiming their conduct was "appalling" and asked that an investigation into the situation be carried out.

Sarratt Parish Councillor Mick Warner, Mr Baker's immediate boss, also resigned saying it was "in protest at the continuing unfair treatment of the ranger and of myself".

He made references to comments made within council meetings and added: "The ranger has done everything he has been asked and more".

As ranger, Mr Baker was in charge of organising work for probation groups twice a week. He claims he was blamed for work the youths failed to do.

Mr Denis Rennick, group supervisor for the probation service, has pledged his support for Mr Baker saying: "I have found both Dave Baker and Councillor Mick Warner very friendly and hard-working individuals.

"Both of these people, in my opinion, are very passionate about their village and always want the very best for the parish and its people, which is quite clear by their approach to the public in Sarratt and by their commitment to the work involved.

"I feel there has been an injustice to both Dave Baker and Counillor Warner."

Last month, Mr Baker received a letter from the clerk, informing him the resignation was his own decision and there was no evidence to prove his claims.

He said: "Members of the council and myself regret that this situation arose, feel that you over-reacted to inaccurate comment and as such adversly affected your own circumstances and the position of the parish council"

Not satisfied, Mr Baker complained to the Standards Committee and is awaiting a response.

Upset at the treatment of his son, Mr Baker's father, Mr Ken Baker, has delivered a letter to every house in Sarratt claiming his son's reputation has been ruined and the council should be more accountable to the village by more residents attending meetings.

Mr David Baker claims to have had around 50 favourable responses to the letter.

Former chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, Councillor John Dean, said the council was unable to comment due to the complaint made to the Standards Committee.

ksamuel@london.newsquest.co.uk

Spotlight – Sarratt WI

MEMBERS of Sarratt WI are delighted with the success of a spring sale.

The annual event aims to raise enough money to cover costs for hiring a hall for its meetings.

It also aims to cover administration costs so the group can carry on with its duties for another year without any financial worries.

The sale was held at Sarratt Village Hall and more than 400 visitors snapped up plants, home-made foods, books and crafts

President Dawn Pitts said: "It was a very happy atmosphere."

Member Breda Tiernan had been growing hundreds of plants specifically for the event since autumn.

The Friends of Sarratt WI will hold a coffee morning at Sarratt House, on The Green, from 10.30am-12.30pm on Thursday, June 5 .

Money raised will be donated to the Macmillan Cancer Relief.

■ For more information on the institute call 01923 267071.



Breda Tiernan, who grew the plants for the Sarratt spring sale at the event. Picture by Peter Wilson *B01315/1*

Traveller couple lose fight to keep their shed home

by JOANNE DAVIS

A SARRATT couple lost an 18-year battle to save their home, a converted shed, yesterday (Thursday).

Mr Peter Chapman, 52, and his wife Sally, 49, were fined £1,000 by Harrow Crown Court for breaching an enforcement order to destroy their Green Belt residence.

The couple, who describe themselves as travellers, decided to settle on the land at Firtrees in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, in 1984.

Mrs Chapman bought the site two years later. They used their caravan as a bedroom and the shed contained their toilet, shower, kitchen and lounge. The court heard that over the years, the Chapman's put on a new roof and re-built three quarters of the exterior walls – all without planning permission.

The couple applied for planning permission from Three Rivers District Council twice. They were refused on both occasions and lost on appeal. The council has issued previous enforcement notices on both the shed and the mobile home.

Mrs Chapman, the owner of the land, was charged with failing to demolish the breeze block, timber-clad, chalet-style building by February 24 last year. Both were charged with failing to cease residence in the building following the issue of the order by the council on May 25, 2001.

The couple, who still live in the shed, changed their pleas to guilty and the case was resolved without a jury when Judge David Mole said there was no legal defence to the charges.

Sentencing them, he said: "I take into account the circumstances in which you came by this site – the fact you were looking for a home, there was a shed on the site which was apparently lived in, this was a place you felt you would be able to place your caravan and use the shed.

"You were looking for a home in circumstances where you didn't have one. On the other hand, for many years the local authorities did not think this was an appropriate place for you to have been living and have been trying their best to prevent you from living there.

"It must have been increasingly obvious to you that you were going to face an increasing battle with increasing expenses."

Mrs Chapman was fined £250 for each count and her husband Peter was fined £500. They were ordered to pay costs of £1,000 each.

Speaking after the hearing, Mrs Chapman said: "It's been 18 years going on with this land. At the end of it, it's got nothing to do with the shed, it's prejudice against us."

Plan allowed

THE Government has given the all clear to a development in Sarratt.

A planning inspector overturned Three Rivers' decision to refuse planning permission for the development of Wards Nurseries in Dawes Lane.

The inspector concluded there was no over supply of housing in the district and, therefore, the council's moratorium on housing was not applicabl.. noted the authority had granted plan.....g permission for a similar development in Chandlers Cross, despite its moratorium on the development of sites not allocated for housing in the local plan.

The decision means the proposal for five detached houses on the site can go ahead.

Final reminder!
AN EVENING NOT TO BE MISSED!

The Churches of Sarratt invite you to ...

'AN EVENING WITH J JOHN'

with music by FACE-2-FACE

Village Hall, 7.15pm Sunday 18th May

Come and relax with a glass of wine, light refreshments, and then listen to some good music and an inspiring talk.

J John is a leading communicator of the Christian faith in the UK, and believes that many people's understanding of Christianity is a misunderstanding. In his own inimitable style, he enables his listeners to grasp that Christianity is not only reasonable, but also relevant and vitally important. He has been described as refreshing, humorous, passionate, earthy, accessible and dynamic. This is his first visit to Sarratt.

'It's really hard to communicate if people don't like you. I've heard J John speak. He appealed to everyone. He was funny and he made us think – instant communication.' (Sir Cliff Richard)

We welcome back **Face-2-Face**, a group of talented musicians, who are professional recording artists. They play a very wide range of music: classical, jazz, popular and sacred.

FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS

Saturday

31st May 2003

COFFEE MORNING

at

Sarratt House

on the Green

10.00am

Raffle.

cake stall.

plants.

bric a brac

Admission £1 including refreshments
to raise money for flowers for
FLOWER FESTIVAL

2003

The Friends of Holy Cross Church
Sarratt

Flower Festival

Based on the theme of

PEACE

Saturday 28 June to Monday 30 June
2003

1 **Peace**
When will you ever, Peace, wild wooddove, shy wings shut,
Your round me roaming end, and under be my boughs?
Gerard Manley Hopkins
(1844-1889)

2 God. Whether I am in the streets or at a desk,
Help me to be more peaceful.
Whether outside playing or inside praying,
Help me to be more peaceful.
Whether I'm walking on a track or sleeping in a bed,
Help me to be more peaceful.
Help me to be more peaceful.
Sarratt (Church of England) School,
Class 5/6

3 **Kiss of Peace**
The Kiss of Peace
A Christian sign
An outward symbol — Remind your neighbour
Of love Divine — In a world in strife
The kiss of peace
Kiss the leper — Is a kiss of life
The one with aids
Kiss the outcast — **The Venerable Arthur Hawes**
Where hope fades — **The Archdeacon of Lincoln**

4 **Prince of Peace** :
'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his
name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God,
The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.'
Isaiah 9:6

5 'Like water which can clearly mirror the
sky and the trees only so long as its surface
is undisturbed, the mind can only reflect
the true image of the Self when it is tranquil
and wholly relaxed.'
Indra Devi

6 'King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee.' **George Herbert** (1593-1632)
Hymns Old & New – No 288

7 **The Lake Isle of Innisfree**
I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live along in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to here the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a-glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core. **W B Yeats**
(1865 – 1939)

8 'Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.'

9 'Forgiveness gives inner peace.'

10 'There grows the flower of Peace,
The rose that cannot wither.' **Henry Vaughn**
(1621-1695)

11 'A Bridge over Troubled Water'. **Simon & Garfunkel**

12/13 O surely, reaving Peace, my Lord should leave in lieu
Some good! And so he does leave Patience exquisite
That plumes to Peace thereafter. And when Peace here does
house
He comes with work to do, he does not come to coo,
He comes to brood and sit
Gerard Manley Hopkins
(1844-1889)

14 An English home - grey twilight poured
On dewey pasture, dewey trees,
Softer then sleep - all things in order stored,
A haunt of ancient peace."
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892)
"The Palace of Art" (1832 st22)

15 'Give me my scallop-shell of quiet' **Sir Walter Ralegh**
(1552? – 1618)

16 'Peace is when time doesn't matter as it passes by.'
Maria Schell

17 'Peace is like a flowing river' **Hymns Old & New No 412**

18 Deep peace of the running
wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing
air to you
Deep peace of the quiet
earth to you
Deep peace of the shining
stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of Peace
to you. **Gaelic Blessing**

19 **THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE ALWAYS WITH YOU**

20 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.'
St Francis of Assissi

21 'Five Minutes Peace' **A story by Jill Murphy**

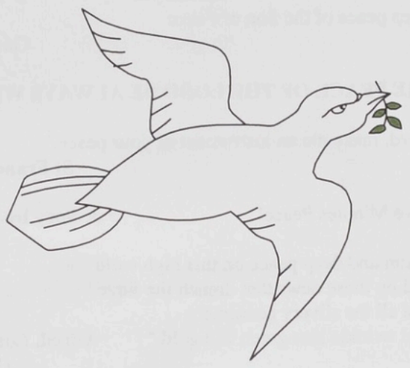
22 "Calm and deep peace on this high wold
And on these dews that drench the furze
And all the silvery gossamers
That twinkle into green and gold." **Alfred, LordTennyson**
(1809 – 1892)

23 'Oh that I had wings like a dove!' **Psalm 55:6**

24 How calm, how beautiful comes on
The stilly hour, when storms are gone!
When warring winds have died away,
And clouds, beneath the glancing ray,
Melt off, and leave the land and sea
Sleeping in bright tranquillity. **Thomas Moore**
from Lalla Rookh – Fire Worshippers (st52)

25 The love that wells within me, screaming for release
Drives my thoughts and actions, in search of world peace.
The dreams that come and find me, in the middle of the night
Were surely meant to warn me, it's time to see the light.
The days of peace are coming, they're not that far away
The time for peace eternal, the time when peace will stay.
Anon

26 'Sleep in heavenly peace' **from the carol 'Silent Night'**
Hymns Old & New No 444



Residents donate stone for war memorial

SARRATT'S fallen heroes are to be commemorated in a War Memorial.

Funds of £3,500 are required for the monument, which will be placed on The Green, near the flagpole.

Residents have donated a York stone, on which the names of the fallen will be engraved. The stone is currently at the masons for polishing and engraving.

Cheques are made payable to the Sarratt War Memorial Fund should be sent to Roy Eteen at Oakwood, Dunny Lane, Chipperfield WD4 9DQ.

China, pottery, ornaments and other items are also needed to sell at the village's Sunday Market.

Residents are also invited to organise coffee mornings, raffles, bring and buy sales, and social events in aid of the fund.

Donations can be sent to Ms Carol Chorley at 22 Alexandra Road, Sarratt; Len Dudley at Byways, The Green, Sarratt; or Mick Warner at 45 Church Lane, Sarratt.

PLANS

W.O. 13-6-03

W.O. 20-6-03

First blood to residents in fight for Green Belt land rights

by JOANNE DAVIS

THE people of Sarratt have won their first battle against entrepreneurs who sell Green Belt plots for development.

Two years ago, residents were alerted to the practice at a field in Sarratt Bottom. The land, which was bought from a farmer, was sub-divided with wire fencing and plots were advertised for sale on the Internet.

The land is in the Green Belt and is classified as an "area of outstanding natural beauty". As such, there is no reasonable prospect of gaining planning permission for housing development, yet the plots have been snatched up.

This misleading practice has hit Hertfordshire hard according to the honorary director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Hertfordshire, Mr Kevin Fitzgerald. The CPRE has discovered seven sites in the county being marketed for development, including the one in Sarratt.

Mr Fitzgerald said: "Of all of them, I think this [Sarratt] is the one where people have no chance, ever, ever. This is the last place on earth we would ever be able to build housing."

He added: "The land is not being used for anything now. All the siutes are just going to waste."

Residents appalled at the fencing off of land and its consequent neglect have been working with officers at Three Rivers District Council to put a stop to the practise.

On Monday, the executive committee agreed to restrict the permitted development rights on this land and other sites in the parish using an article four direction.

This means that landowners will have to apply for planning permission to erect fencing to divide the land.

Landowners will also need permission to construct an access route to a highway.

This week, local councillors, residents and the CPRE welcomed the decision.

Sarratt resident Richard Bicknell said: "The council are taking a proactive stance to defend the countryside as it stands around Sarratt."

Executive member for the physical environment Martin Trevett explained the direction is not retrospective and will not allow the removal of existing fencing and surfaces.

He said: "If people are out there trying to make money from this sort of thing, we have just got to be extra vigilant."

Mr Fitzgerald said: "At the moment, this has been in response to a clear threat where people know the land's being sold and something dire could happen to it.

"Most of them [the entrepreneurs] are moving as quick as they can but it's not retrospective so, where fencing has been put up already, they [the council] can't force them to take it down."

He added: "What we hope for is that people will put their ears to the ground."

To rectify this problem, MPs in Hertfordshire and the South East have drawn up a series of amendments to existing planning laws. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill is currently going through Parliament and, if passed, would enable councils to demand the removal of posts and fencing, and compulsorily purchase land that was not maintained.

In the meantime, Mr Fitzgerald is urging councils to speed up directions by delegating the imposition of article fours to officers.

Mr Bicknell hopes to work with the council on retrospective actions such as enforcement notices.



FLOWER POWER: The Friends of Holy Cross held a flower festival at the church in Sarratt at the weekend. The theme of this year's festival was peace, with each arrangement based on a quotation from a poem, song or Bible passage. Picture X264119: RYO HAYASHIDA



POSITION VACANT: **A new musical director is needed to lead the worship at St Paul's Chuch in Chipperfield. The paid post carries a special perk – the chance to play the church's 19th Century organ which has just been refurbished. The Reverend Peter Hart (pictured above) said the ideal candidate would be someone who could play a mixture of traditional and modern music. For more information about the post, telephone Rev Hart on 01923 264377.** Picture X253103: RYO HAYASHIDA

Anger as forum is abandoned due to council staff 'snub'

by KATIE SAMUEL

SIXTY residents were furious when a Sarratt local area forum they attended had to be abandoned after officers from Three Rivers District Council and Hertfordshire County Council failed to turn up.

Chair of the meeting, which took place on Monday, June 23, was Sarratt Parish Councillor Tony Barton.

He said: "At a recent meeting in Rickmansworth there were 35 people, 11 of whom were councillors, yet more people were concerned in a small place like Sarratt, and no one wants to hear about it.

"We were waiting for a highways officer from the county council and officers from development control and the environment department for Three Rivers, but we heard nothing from any of them."

He said: "In the end we had to abandon the meeting because there was no one there to answer questions and we won't reconvene until September.

"We are stuck out at the back of Three Rivers and I think Sarratt being neglected is diabolical."

Councillor Barton residents were concerned about environmental issues in Sarratt Bottom and the introduction of wheelie bins.

Chair of the residents' association, Miss Jean Newell, attended and spoke at the meeting. She said: "Nobody came, except for our councillor, and we can see him when we like.

"The whole point of local forums was lost – it was forced upon us by the district council and there should at least be someone there to offer explanations."

Miss Newell said residents wanted information about highways issues, "particularly as the state of our roads is collossally bad".

She said: "We love our area and people will turn out to show support for those who represent them – to drag people out and not have the courtesy to attend is fantastically bad.

"There is a total vote of no confidence for Three Rivers in this area at the moment."

A spokesman for Hertfordshire County Council said: "Our officers have only missed one meeting they have been invited to and this was not in their list.

"If highways officers are invited to a meeting they will attend or questions can be issued early and they can provide a written response in lieu of attendance.

"But they should only be invited if it is justifiable to have their expertise otherwise it is a waste of time and money."

A spokesman from Three Rivers District Council said: "While we were pleased at the high turn-out, we were concerned residents felt the meeting was not what they were expecting.

"Local Area Forums are a chance for the residents to meet their councillors – in the Council Constitution it says officer attendance will be kept to a minimum to keep the emphasis on direct interaction between public and councillors.

"Councillor Barton made a special request in advance of the Sarratt Local Area Forum for an officer from Development Control to be present to provide support and expert knowledge.

"It was not possible for a planning officer to attend, but a briefing was read out at the meeting however, a senior planning officer will attend the Sarratt Local Area Forum in September."

ksamuel@london.newsquest.co.uk

Strong line-up for music festival

RICH pickings are on offer for music lovers at this year's Sarratt Festival of Music.

Bookings for the festival, which will be held in the village hall on The Green throughout September, open this month.

This year's programme features a choral workshop with Mr Jeffrey Skidmore, founder and conductor of Ex Cathedra, which will be held on Friday, September 19, at 7.45pm.

The workshop will be an opportunity for singers of all abilities to explore new material and develop their skills.

Tickets for the event cost £5, which includes tea and coffee.

On Saturday, September 20, at 7.45pm, there will be a performance by Ex Cathedra, a chamber choir of ten singers accompanied by guitar and lute.

The group will sing songs spanning the 17th Century to the 20th Century. Tickets cost £15, £12 concessions.

Mr Jack Gibbons will recreate the music of Gershwin played in 1920's and 1930's New York and Paris. Mr Gibbons will be playing such numbers as I've Got Rhythm and Rhapsody in Blue.

Tickets for the event cost £15, concessions £12.

On Saturday, September 27, at 7.45pm, there will be a performance of Stirring the Spirit, a drama specially commissioned by the Sarratt Festival.

The drama, which details the life of Edward Elgar, features Thin Blue Line actors David Graham and Serena Evans, as well as Elgar's music performed by the English Piano Trio and Friends. Tickets cost £15, concessions £12.

Percussionist and entertainer Alasdair Malloy will perform an afternoon concert on Sunday, September 28, at 3pm.

Mr Malloy will also teach the audience to play the spoons. Visitors are asked to bring two soup spoons. Tickets are £5, concessions £3.

Booking opens on Monday, August 11. For more information, telephone the box office on 01923 269083.

W.O. 1-8-03

Residents sad and concerned at Wards sale

by KATIE SAMUEL

AFTER years of speculation and numerous planning appeals, Wards Nurseries, one of the longest running businesses in Sarratt, has finally closed its doors to the public.

The site on Dawes Lane has been sold to Heathview Developments to build five detached houses in place of the nursery, a decision that has upset many of the residents in the village.

Three Rivers District Council opposed the development but in May this year an appeal was accepted by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

This week, the final sale at the nursery was completed.

The inspector, Mr Nigel Payne, took into consideration three main issues – the effect of the proposals on the Green Belt, the impact on the character and appearance of the locality and "whether the proposals would conflict with policies for the planned release of housing land".

Mr Payne recorded the site as being of mixed use – retail, storage, offices and residential – which are considered "inappropriate in the Green Belt". However, the rules for changing the use of existing buildings are different.

He said: "The effect of these proposals would be to replace one largely inappropriate use with another, without material harm to strategic and local Green Belt policies."

The impact on the character of the village was seen as minimal.

He concluded that the replacement of the nursery buildings with houses would have less effect on the character of the area than some of the other houses already in existance.

Councillor John Dean, chairman of Sarratt Parish Council, said: "Some people are sorry to see this happen, as it is an intrusion into the Green Belt, but other people accept the fact that the site will be developed because the alternatives were not acceptable.

"The parish council does not uphold any development in the Green Belt."

Councillor Ann Shaw, Leader of Three Rivers District Council said: "I am really sorry Wards has closed as a nursery as it offered an excellent service to Sarratt and the community for many years.

"But I am evern more sad that permission has been given to build houses there on the Green Belt.

"It is a very damaging precedent and we worked with residents to stop this but were over-ruled by central government."

Miss Alison Friend, a resident of Sarratt, said: "I had no idea it was finally closing and most residents are also shocked.

"It is historical here, my parents were using the nursery 40 years ago and if you enjoy gardening and live near Sarratt, you visit Wards."

W.O. 8-8-03.

Planning appeal is opposed by angry residents

by DINA BEHRMAN

A GROUP of angry residents from Sarratt attended an informal hearing last week to voice their opposition to a planning appeal.

The appeal by Mr Tim Norris refers to his proposed development of land at The Mulberry Bush, in Dawes Lane, Sarratt.

Chairing the meeting, inspector Mr Clive Wilkinson said: "We have had a number of letters mainly in opposition to the development."

The hearing, on Thursday, July 30, was for an appeal by Mr Norris about an enforcement notice served by Three Rivers Council.

Caravans on the site, which have since been removed, instigated the enforcement.

"There have been an alleged three items of engineering operations," said Mr Wilkinson.

"These are laying a driveway with access points, major drainage works and the installation of a cesspool."

Mr Michael Thorp, chief development control officer for Three Rivers, said Mr Norris had been issued a notice to return the land to its original condition.

"Works were happening very quickly without consent and waste was being disposed to create the driveway. We wanted him to remove the driveway, cesspool and drainage works and turn it back to a grass field."

He added: "Works were going on and we were not too sure what the end result was going to be. The local authority assumed something untoward was happening without permission."

But Mr Norris said: "No one ever asked what was going on. No one ever approached me while I was doing this work."

Mrs Michelle Petrie, who lives opposite Mr Norris, notified the enforcement officer that something was going on the weekend before Christmas 2002.

"By the time someone was in contact there was a septic tank about ten feet high and things round that had been buried.

"It would be very difficult for the officer to establish where anything was.

"Within a couple of days all works had finished. It would be very hard for the council to establish without being told where things had been put."

According to Miss Kimberley Stevens of Three Rivers Council, there had been "previous concerns" about the land and correspondence went back and forth between the council and Mr Norris.

Mr Norris claimed 75 per cent of the use of the road way and cesspool was intended for agricultural use, although he did have an intention for camping and caravanning as well.

Mr Thorp, however, alleged there was no agricultural need and added: "This was to facilitate the caravanning. There are eight electric power points clearly designed for caravans on the site."

Mr David Rees, chairman of Sarratt parish council, said: "The planning history is very relevant to this case.

"This parish council has spent God knows how many hours on this one field. I think that is very relevant. I think we must know the background thoroughly. The gentleman is not a farmer."

But Mr Norris said: "I'm an organic farmer. I am proposing to go into compost making.

"This is something that I have spent two years getting the organic awarding body to agree to.

"I have done some preparation to a small area of land that would enable me to do that."

He added that he required access to the building for a number of reasons:

"I've got chicks coming in on a regular basis and stock going out on a weekly basis.

"Feed needs to go into the house by the tractor and manure needs to be taken away on a regular basis."

He said he had been in talks with the caravanning club and had had discussions with Miss Stevens about wanting to extend his camping activities for youth clubs who use his land.

"People want to use it more, I would like them to use it more.

"Young people out in the countryside seems a good idea to me."

He added: "Even if there's no camping the cesspool is absolutely necessary for agricultural activity and is needed right now."

Mr Thorp told the inspector: "The council's argument is this development is primarily for a caravan site. It is our claim you are having the wool pulled over your eyes.

"Our argument is that this is an intention for a caravan site and the agriculture is a ruse."

A decision from the inspector is expected in eight weeks.

BE/AE

Bucks Examiner

Thursday August 14, 2003

Hedges hold key to unlocking history of village



Breda Tiernan, Dawn Pitts, Philip Buller, and Ann Powell dating hedgerows at Dawes Common, in Sarratt. Picture by John Blandford. *B01853-2*

SARRATT residents have been helping to track down the most ancient parts of their village.

On Saturday, 10 volunteers gathered to date hedgerows in Dawes Common and Moor Lane.

Dawn Pitts, 60, of Dimmocks Lane, who organised the event for Sarratt Local History Society, said: "We found different species on both sides of the roads. Most of our hedges are really quite ancient."

Moor Lane's hedges were dated at 800 years old, while those at Dawes Common are believed to be about 700 years old.

The group used a method approved by the Council for the Protection of Rural England for the dating. A 30m stretch of hedgerow is checked for the number of species it contains, and one species is estimated to equal 100 years.

Species found included hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, dogwood, and spindle, and trees such as oak, ash, and silver birch. Hornbeam, a species peculiar to hedgerows in Hertfordshire, was also identified.

Previous dating carried out in Dawes Lane, Red Lion Lane, and Flower Lane, found the oldest hedge so far is 900 years old.

And as there was no Enclosure Award made on Sarratt during the 18th century, many of its hedges date from Tudor times.

The hedge dating is part of a project to build up a picture of life in Sarratt over the centuries. Other activities include studying census returns and the maps.

2003

Use of organic logo on egg boxes was 'in error'

W.O, 5-9-03

by JOANNE DAVIS

A SARRATT farmer has been found selling Soil Association-stamped organic eggs, even though he is not licensed by the body.

Mr Tim Norris, of Harvest Moon Organic Farm, turned to organic farming more than two years ago and is certified by Organic Farmers and Growers. His eggs are sold at stores including Sarratt Post Office on The Green.

Following a tip-off, The Watford Observer contacted the Soil Association to find out if Mr Norris was entitled to use the Soil Association logo on his egg boxes.

A spokesman for the society said Mr Norris had been reported to the body before and had been warned about using its logo. She added the Soil Association would be informing his suppliers about his misleading packaging.

She said: "He is not licensed with the Soil Association. He has told us he will stop using egg boxes with our mark on it.

"We are aware that there are problems and we will contact the stockists concerned."

The spokesman explained there are 14 bodies that licence the sale of organic food. The Soil Association is one of the largest of these organisations, with 80 per cent of the market.

The spokesman said it was "incredibly rare" for unlicensed farmers to use the logo without the proper certification and, if discovered, they would be reported to Trading Standards.

Mr Norris denied he had deliberately misled his customers. He said: "It certainly was in error and ignorance."

He explained that, although registered with Organic Farmers and Growers, he asked to be inspected to Soil Association standards, as he was considering transferring his licence to that body.

He said: "They did an inspection to their standards and agreed I was producing to Soil Association standards. Having got that, I had assumed, wrongly, that I would be eligible to use the Soil Association logo and I had my egg boxes printed up with the Soil Association logo on them."

Following a complaint, Mr Norris was investigated by Trading Standards. According to Mr Norris, Trading Standards officers agreed that, because he was producing to Soil Association standards, he could continue using the boxes until the end of the print run.

Mr Norris said: "They agreed it was wrongdoing but gave me an exemption because they viewed it as a technicality rather than an offence."

He added: "They agreed to let me run through that batch of boxes, which I'm just getting to the end of now.

"The next box run will be printed with the Organic Farmers and Growers logo."

The Soil Association spokesman said: "He isn't licensed with us and therefore he shouldn't sell his products as being Soil Association products."

She added: "If you haven't had a Soil Association inspection and been given a certificate, you are not Soil Association.

"If somebody wanted to transfer from one certification body to another, we would get the past paperwork from the body but we would have to make our own checks to see that we were satisfied."

A spokesman for Trading Standards said it was still investigating the matter.

Mr Norris said the use of the Soil Association logo was "a technical oversight".

He said he will not pack any more eggs in boxes with the Soil Association logos.

Meeting set to attract many

W.O 12-9-03

AT least 60 people are expected to attend a rescheduled Local Area Forum meeting for Sarratt village.

A further meeting of Sarratt's Local Area Forum has been scheduled for 7.30pm on Monday, September 22 in the King George V Pavilion.

Hot topics under discussion at the question and answer session will include policing, development affecting the Green Belt and the introduction of wheelie bins.

Up to four guest speakers are expected. Among them will be Sergeant Laurie Rush to answer police-related questions and Mr Michael Thorp, chief development control officer at Three Rivers District Council to talk about the Green Belt. Councillor Phil Brading who is responsible for refuse and recycling, will discuss wheelie bins.

SARRATT AND THE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC... 2003

Just two more dates remain in this year's Festival of Music in Sarratt. On Saturday September 27th there will be a world premiere of Stirring the Spirit, a drama to the music of Edward Elgar, especially commissioned by Sarratt Festival... with extracts from the Piano Quintet, the Cello Concerto and the Pomp & Circumstance March, to name but a few, the script allows Elgar to tell his own story, revealing a complex and fascinating character. Tickets are £15 (concessions £12).

By contrast, Sunday September 28th sees a 3pm kick-off for a family concert entitled Rustle up a Rhythm with Classic FM's Alasdair Malloy. Malloy, both percussionist and entertainer, will bring along a veritable kitchen sink of things to bang and scrape, and audience members are instructed to come armed with two soup spoons for a lesson in spoon-playing! Tickets are £5 (concessions £3).

For more details call the Box Office on 01923 269083 - OPTIMA.

SEPTEMBER, SEPT 2003

TEN new Readers will be admitted and licensed at St Mary's, Goldington, Beds, on Saturday September 20th.

They are: **Robin Boyce**, All Saints, Leighton Buzzard; **Roger Burridge**, St James, High Wych; **Paul Cobb**, St Peter's Benington; **Michael Furlong**, St Mary's Goldington; **Cheryl Hunter**, King Charles the Martyr, Potters Bar; **Peter Robinson**, St Mary's, Reed; **David Slack**, St Paul's Luton; **Alexander Twells**, Holy Cross, Sarratt; **Michael Tyers**, St Lawrence, Ardeley; **Brenda Williams**; St Paul's, Chipperfield.

Part success for appeal against council

by DINA BEHRMAN

AN appeal by a Sarratt farmer against a controversial enforcement notice served by the council has succeeded in part.

The appeal hearing was held in July after Three Rivers District Council served an enforcement notice on land at The Mulberry Bush in Dawes Lane, Sarratt.

Mr Tim Norris has now been ordered to stop building a driveway and has been told to remove all waste and other materials and restore the land to its original condition.

At the hearing in July several residents from the village voiced their opposition to the planning appeal.

There were an alleged three items of engineering operations against which the enforcement notice was served.

These were laying a driveway with access points, major drainage works and the installation of a cesspool.

In his report, the planning inspector said he had taken into account "the substantial objections made by a number of local residents and Sarratt Parish Council".

Mr Norris has now been permitted to keep drainage works installed on the land, however the road was deemed an "inappropriate development in the green belt and a source of some visual harm".

As the primary purpose of the road was non-agricultural the planning inspector said he did not think it would be justified.

At the hearing Mr Norris had argued the work he had carried out had been essential for his farming.

However, residents and members of the council had argued Mr Norris wanted the work done in order to facilitate a caravanning business.

In his report the planning inspector said: "I recognise the support given by central government to agricultural diversification but I am not aware of any advice that supports inappropriate and harmful development within green belts.

"Nor do policies which contemplate the approval of agricultural development necessarily extend to development aimed primarily at serving the provision of residential or holiday caravans."

He concluded that the appeal should succeed in part only. Unconditional planning permission was granted for the drainage works but otherwise the notice was upheld and planning permission refused. Mr Norris declined to comment on the decision.

W.O 1-10-03

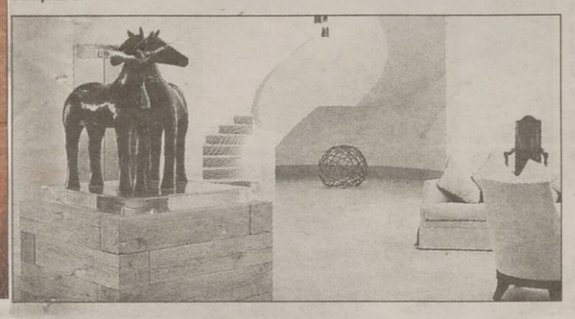
Country living in the city

Watford may not have quite the same ring to it as the Cotswolds but a new hotel is attempting to give city dwellers the country house experience without having to stray beyond the M25, as **Joanne O'Connor** discovered





…, offers an escape to …ithout leaving the …s of the M25, boasting …ptuous bedrooms and public …ooms featuring contemporary sculptures.



No offence to Watford, but there's not much within 10 miles worth getting out of bed for

From the rolling hills of Somerset to the valleys of deepest Gloucestershire, the soft squelch of green wellies has been replaced by the sound of Manolo Blahniks clattering across cobbled courtyards, as stately old piles reinvent themselves as cool country retreats for jaded urbanites. Hotels such as Babington House and Cowley Manor have blazed a trail by creating a slice of city chic in the countryside. And lovely they are too, though getting there from London often involves a three-hour crawl along the motorway on a Friday evening – not the best start to your weekend escape.

Now a new hotel is attempting to bring the countryside to the city, or at least within the confines of the M25. Admittedly, Watford doesn't have quite the same ring to it as the Cotswolds or the New Forest but less time spent on the motorway means more time for soaking in the Jacuzzi. Less than five minutes after leaving the M25 at junction 20 (and only 45 minutes after leaving my home in east London) my sister and I are driving through the gates of The Grove.

The former home of the Earls of Clarendon, this eighteenth-century red-brick building set in 300 acres of Hertfordshire parkland has been given a complete makeover. The agenda is set from the moment you walk through the huge revolving doors. The reception area is all generous sweeping lines, pale Portland stone floor and glass walls giving views onto the formal gardens beyond. The modern feel is softened with eyecatching sculptures: a piece of tumbleweed here, two bronze ponies there. This theme – the outdoors brought inside – is continued throughout the hotel. An elegant series of drawing rooms houses an eclectic mix of leather armchairs, putty-coloured silk wall hangings and coffee tables made from untreated oak, salvaged from the estate. A huge chandelier in one of the rooms looks like the roots of a tree decorated with fairy lights. It all hangs together quite beautifully and it's a testament to the skills of designer Martin Hulbert, who spent four years transforming the hotel from its previous incarnation as a British Rail management training centre, that the line between eccentricity and bad taste is never crossed.

At every corner there is something to catch the eye, whether it's a Perspex table filled with fluffy yellow ducklings (not real of course), a giant black and white photo of a giraffe standing in a ballroom or, my favourite, a slide projection onto one of the corridor walls of a naked gardener beckoning you to follow him into the greenhouse to a soundtrack of chirping birdsong. My sister had to drag me away.

The drama is continued as you walk along lowlit corridors with midnight blue velvet c… the guest rooms. Our r… aged to be quite co… white wall… wardrobes, Perspex consol… huge plasma screen TV – while incorporating slightly burlesque touches such as a four-poster bed topped off with jaunty black ostrich feathers and a huge swirling painting of flowers in deepest purple.

If you haven't already realised that you are a quite groovy person for having chosen to stay here, the point is hammered home with a self-consciously hip minibar selection: choose from a Kinky Khemist condom kit, a selection of herbal tonics with names such as Liquid …ga and Buddha in a Bottle, a bot… of Absinthe and, if you … in the green liquid, …he 'Bender Mender' …e kit the next day. It's …. But would it be horri… … of me to point out that there was no loo roll in my room and it took two calls to housekeeping to rectify this? Probably.

No offence to Watford, but there's not much within a 10-mile radius of The Grove that's worth getting out of bed for. So the hotel needs to be a destination in its own right. It does this admirably with three restaurants, a golf course (more of that later), fantastic ozone-treated swimming pool and spa. Next year will also see the opening of an open-air swimming pool, walled garden, tennis courts, croquet lawn and children's activity centre. We managed to pass two days very happily without once succumbing to the urge to visit nearby Rickmansworth.

This was thanks largely to the charms of the Sequoia spa and health club where we wallowed happily in the beautiful black mosaic-tiled pool, Jacuzzi and steam room before being whisked past the Zen garden and into one of the candlelit treatment rooms for a hot stone massage. Heaven.

We ate in all of the restaurants and the food was superb. You can choose between pizzas cooked in a wood-burning oven in the informal Stables restaurant, a lavish buffet in the impressive Glasshouse restaurant which also has its own wok station allowing you to mix and match ingredients for a stirfry (there's also a special kids' buffet at weekends) or really push the boat out in Colette's, the hotel's a la carte restaurant. If you do opt for this be sure not to miss the passionfruit souffle.

The Grove is, quite rightly, very proud of its conference facilities and its championship golf course, both of which were busy on the days we visited. I have to say that state of the art audio-visual facilities and a well-stocked golf shop don't rate that highly on my list of ingredients for the perfect weekend escape, but a hotel's got to make a living. Anyway, apart from the odd besuited business-type who'd strayed into the formal gardens during a 'break-out' session, this place was big enough that we could all co-exist happily. Though things did take a slightly sinister turn when we accidentally strayed onto the golf course and ended up spending half an hour dodging golf buggies, balls and bunkers as we attempted to escape the never-ending green.

After two days at The Grove, I felt refreshed, rested and ready to launch myself back into the rat race. Though the distant rumble of the M25 was a constant and gentle reminder of our location, London had started to feel a long way away.

Factfile

The Grove, Chandler's Cross, Hertfordshire (01923 807807; www.thegrove.co.uk). Standard double rooms start from £240 a night, de luxe rooms from £320 a night, excluding breakfast.



Glass Act

Sarratt festival ends on high note

CLASSICAL: An exciting finale to the fourth Sarratt Music Festival made the village vibrate with joyful sound

Cymbals and dessert spoons so nearly raised the roof

by Grelle White

THE fourth Sarratt Festival of Music went out with a resounding bang. It was a festive firework of rhythm and sound, with percussionist extraordinaire, Alasdair Malloy, playing and strutting his stuff and involving the entire audience in a bash of rhythm and music-making which must have made the entire village vibrate.

At one point our genial host turned the packed hall into a vocal percussion section. At all times, he kept a predominantly young audience enthralled, introducing sounds and harmonies from a stage full of percussion instruments and gadgets, involving starry-eyed youngsters in the most amazing feast of sound effects to be heard in any concert hall.

Sunday's family concert at Sarratt village hall was off to a noisy start with a request for members of the audience to bring along a pair of dessert spoons.

Deposited under the seats for most of the duration, the spoons eventually came to the fore at a point when all were itching to take part in the festive fun of rhythm making with a quick lesson in how to play the spoons.

Malloy's expert handling of both instruments and audience had rendered the air totally electric.

With ever-smiling sidekick, Marcus Tilt, at the piano, Malloy, dressed in a loud tartan suit, was a jester, a jovial educator and a catalyst for musical expression, leaving moments to treasure such as one little boy, Tom, who performed the clashing cymbals in an extract from Tschaikowsky's 1812 Overture.

The principal percussionist of the BBC Concert Orchestra managed to fit in a magic moment as a solo performer himself as well, playing the glass harmonica.

The sounds emanating from Malloy rubbing his fingers round the rims of a tray full of water-filled tumblers momentarily brought a hush of admiration to the hall.

The fun element came to a boil later when the super-percussionist brought the entire stage-load of instruments into short, sharp play in a way that raised the temperature and quite possibly the roof of the village hall.

As the final event in the fourth Sarratt Festival of Music, the sell-out family concert compounded the feeling of a major musical event now firmly established in the locality.

The range and quality of music and performers is no longer a surprise. It is expected and as a result the entire event, from Jack Gibbons playing Gershwin to a world premiere of Elgar – Stirring the Spirit, was a near sell-out success – and the fifth festival already being planned.



Alasdair Malloy rustles up a rhythm and encourages young performers to make music with unusual instruments such as these sanding blocks. Picture X3996103: RYO HAYASHIDA

D003

19

SARRATT HARVEST SUPPER

AT THE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY October 11th
AT 7.0pm

Tickets £5 adults and £2.50children

There will be an auction of Harvest Gifts and some entertainment.
Proceeds to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and Tear Fund.

An invitation to

Face.2.Face

with

Fiona Castle

Christian Speaker and Author

an evening of music, insight and inspiration

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 30th November
7.15 for 7.30pm

light refreshments

free admission

Organised by the churches in Sarratt for everyone in Sarratt and the surrounding area
For information telephone 01923 269864 / 264377

Churches in Sarratt

17th. November 2003

With this letter comes an invitation to you to join us in the Village Hall, the evening of Sunday November 30th.

Face-2-Face will be returning for the third time with their very varied programme of music and song. They are all professional musicians who come together to share their Christian faith through music.

Fiona Castle will be making a return visit to Sarratt and, for her, many things have changed in her life since she last was here, notably the recent loss of her husband Roy.
She will sharing from her many experiences and I am sure that it will be worthwhile making the effort to get to hear what she has to say.

I look forward to seeing you on November 30th.

God bless you and yours

On behalf of the Churches in Sarratt

Brian W Hill
T; 01923 269864;

Peter Hart
264377

WD 21-11-03

Mother and daughter live the artistic dream

SENSIBLE parents used to make sensible daughters go to secretarial college.

By all means, do something else as well, but do have something to "fall back on", was the wisdom of parents of the day.

The thought did cross Jan Clutterbuck's mind at the time when her daughter, Camilla, had to make choices about her future. But she kept quiet.

"Well, I might have mentioned secretarial college, but not seriously, " she said.

"All I wanted to do when I was young was to go to art school, but I didn't get the opportunity. My father said, I had to make some money. So I became a secretary in New York and it was so boring."

But Jan's brush with the secretarial world wasn't all bad.

She said: "Of course, it was a good thing I learnt to type or I would not be here."

Here, at the moment, is a cosy country kitchen in Sarratt which reflects that Jan ultimately defied parental rule and did her own thing.

The walls are covered in paintings, mostly her own.

There is a striking new watercolour on the wall, in direct view from Jan's favourite chair, a picture of her, painted by her daughter Camilla.

As well as being a striking likeness, achieved with sparing use of paint and brushstrokes, it marks a significant milestone in the relationship between mother and daughter.

Forty-odd years down the line, they are professional painters.

Like Jan, Camilla took her time before breaking with the security of a profession which offers a regular income, in her case stage management working on large musicals in the West End.



Mother's pride: Jan Clutterbuck with watercolour by her daughter, Camilla. Picture X463705: DAVE HERRING

For Jan the realisation came when she arrived in rural Hertfordshire after the hustle and bustle of New York. She initially came to Europe with the Red Cross during the war (using her secretarial skills in a more exciting way).

"I was stationed in Northern Ireland and this handsome young man, Jeremy Clutterbuck, from Sarratt, was our driver," she recalled.

After the war Jeremy went to New York to propose. Jan accepted, moved to a hunting, fishing, shooting lifestyle which initially baffled her and pushed her towards pursuing her dream of becoming an artist.

She took up art and started to teach. At the age of 83 she still teaches – but not her daughter.

"As artists we have different shoe sizes," explains Camilla, who has popped by from her home in Chorleywood.

Camilla was allowed to live the dream from the start.

Jan said: "As a child all she wanted to do was draw. Instead of going outside to do sport, she would be upstairs drawing."

Camilla studied art at school and went on to study graphic art at Amersham College.

Then, one day, she declared she wanted to work in theatre. The statement was delivered as she jumped out of the car, giving her mother no chance to argue the point which took her to London School of Speech and Drama, a good career which ultimately made her mother feel very proud.

"It seems whatever Camilla decides to do, she does very well," said Jan in her distinct, American matter-of-fact fashion.

But the budding artist inside Camilla refused to go away. She kept drawing and wondering if she was doing the right thing with her life.

Three years ago, aged 40, she decided to avoid waking up to regret later in life. A year later, she quit her job as stage manager to become a full-time painter.

Her first exhibition, in April this year, was a shared show with the actress Sophie Thompson at the Notting Hill Fine Arts Gallery.

Camilla sold ten of the 12 paintings, she had put on show.

She is now preparing work for an exhibition in Highgate in the spring. But, at her mother's invitation, she will be showing in Sarratt first.

Camilla will be one of the artists taking part in Jan Clutterbuck's annual show at her house, Pentlands, on The Green in aid of the Peace Hospice on Saturday, December 13, and Sunday, December 14.

No chance of confusing the Clutterbuck "labels".

"Camilla is very accurate and precise," Jan said.

"My mother does lovely landscapes. I can't do landscapes. Too much information," Camilla said.

Trying to set up in business, Camilla realised one thing: "I wish I had learnt to type. Maybe I should have gone to secretarial college."

A sentiment which makes them both laugh.

Grelle White

Rugby club hails its world champion

Examiner exclusive by Jon Fisher

WORLD Cup hero Josh Lewsey has thanked Examiner readers for their support after he helped lift the Rugby World Cup on Saturday.

Speaking exclusively to the Examiner, the former Amersham and Chiltern Rugby Union Football Club player described the backing from Chiltern residents as "overwhelming".

His parents, David and Mair, of Sarratt, have also spoken this week of their "immense pride" at his achievement. More than 300 people turned out at the club, in Weedon Lane, to watch televised coverage of England running out 20-17 victors over Australia.

Josh is fondly remembered at the club while across the Chilterns and South Bucks pubs opened early for fans to watch the game.

■ See page three for the full story.

World cup hero showed his class in early years

by Jon Fisher

ENGLAND rugby world cup hero Josh Lewsey has described the crowd which gathered to watch his moment of glory at his old Amersham and Chiltern club as "fantastic."

Wasps full back and winger Josh, 26, told the Examiner: "The support has been amazing but it wasn't until we arrived back at Heathrow that we really appreciated the scale of it.

"It's overwhelming to know I received so much encouragement back home and at my old club – it's a great feeling."

Josh joined Amersham and Chiltern Rugby Club at the age of seven and played for the side's youth teams until 16, along with brothers Tom and Ed.

He cites his former coach at the club, Richard Rivett, of Great Missenden, as a major influence in his life.

His parents David and Mair Lewsey, of Sarratt, travelled to Australia to watch their son play.

Speaking about the tense final, Mr Lewsey told the Examiner: "It was the most emotionally draining experience of our lives without any doubt.

"Josh has got some of his composure back – he was as shattered as any of us.

"It was a huge, momentous occasion."

Mr Lewsey, who has lived in Sarratt for around 20 years, said "Josh has always shown a lot of promise. He had tremendous speed and is a good all-round athlete.

"People like Richard, his fellow coach Dick Davis, at Amersham and Chiltern, and his brothers have helped shape the man he is now and we are all immensely proud."

Mr Rivett travels to watch his protege play as often as possible.

"I spent a lot of time with him – every Sunday for eight months of the year since he was about eight," said Mr Rivett, 55.

"I know him as well as my own children – in fact my son James was in the same team as him.

"Josh has always been a super talent – the game plan was always give the ball to Josh and see what happens.

"His main asset is his determination to achieve his potential.

"At the final whistle on Saturday I was very relieved."

Mr Lewsey's parents gave a trophy, The Lewsey Cup, to his fomer school, Sarratt CofE School, when their son left.

It is presented each year to a pupil who has made an outstanding contribution to the school.

Headteacher Christine Buck said: "The trophy is very indicative of Josh and the one the pupils vie for each year.

"To have a connection with part of the England rugby team is wonderful."



JOSH Lewsey is seen here second from the left in the front row.

The picture of the Under 9s team was taken at the Amersham and Chiltern Rugby Club annual tournament in 1986. Josh's former coach Richard Rivett said: "This was a winning age group, they rarely lost a match. Powerful forwards got the ball and then gave it to the hard running backs. Josh played fly-half and was the play-maker. But as a team game, each played their part very well."

■ ARE you in the picture with Josh or do you know someone who is?

Call the Examiner on 01753 888333 or e-mail bucksnews@trinitysouth.co.uk.

Peter Kyte, Amersham and Chiltern RUFC chairman described the atmosphere at the club on Saturday as "electric."

"The tension and the excitement made it almost indescribable," said Mr Kyte. "When Jonny Wilkinson's kick went over in extra time the roof nearly came off."

Mr Kyte hopes the interest generated by the Rugby World Cup will increase the number of youth players at the club.

Anyone wishing to learn more about rugby is welcome to turn up at the club on Sunday mornings from 10am, Mr Kyte added.

■ See sport page 46.

BUCKS EXAMINER NOV. 17 2003





CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: Children of Ducklings pre-school marked the end of year by performing a traditional nativity play for proud parents at Sarratt School in The Green, Sarratt, on Wednesday. Picture X512301: RYO HAYASHIDA

WARCO 19.12.03

Company's £1,500 for NSPCC

A SARRATT company has raised £1,500 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) as a result of donating ten per cent of the profit from all orders received from its 2002 gift catalogue.

Lifestyle International Marketing Ltd was formed four-and-a-half years ago as a distributor of promotional merchandise and branded incentives for other companies that wish to promote their services or reward clients or staff.

Lifestyle International Marketing Ltd is run by Andy Knibbs and Ann Hamlin who said in a joint statement: "We chose the NSPCC because we have five children between us and we wanted to give to those that most need it."

Funds raised by Lifestyle will help the NSPCC to run local projects such as Treetops Project – Hertfordshire NSPCC Specialist Assessment and Therapeutic Centre, which last year provided help to 40 children who had suffered cruelty and abuse.

To make a donation to the NSPCC this Christmas telephone Sally Phipps at the NSPCC East Appeals Office on 01908 233668 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2003
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	26th / 12.0	12th /-6.2	12th /-13.4	1st / 19.8	95.1	
February	27th / 13.0	18th /-4.7	18th /-12.4	8th / 6.1	25.8	
March	23rd / 17.8	17th /-2.5	17th /-8.6	5th / 10.1	21.0	
April	16th / 25.0	8th /-3.7	8,9th/-9.0	27th / 8.7	38.3	last snow, 10th. Last air frost, 14th.
May	31st / 26.7	11th / 2.3	11th /-2.6	23rd / 10.2	54.0	first cuckoo, 5th. Last grd. frost, 15th.
June	16,22/25.2	21st / 6.4	21st / 0.5	22nd / 19.0	42.3	
July	15th / 31.3	28th / 8.0	12th / 2.1	25th / 11.1	28.3	15th, at 10.00am,temp =26.0C., at 10.00pm, temp = 22.0C.
August	10th / 35.1	31st / 5.5	31st / 0.4	28th / 3.4	4.9	10th, temp was still 21.5C at midnight!
September	17th / 26.9	24,25/1.0	29th /-3.4	22nd / 7.7	13.6	first ground frost, 24th. August, 26 consecutive no rain days.
October	8th / 19.1	28th /-2.5	28th /-4.8	30th / 15.5	37.3	first air frost, 24th.
November	6th / 16.8	28th /-2.9	28th /-4.0	25th / 36.9	150.5	25th, wettest November day 1980-2013.
December	13th / 12.8	16th /-4.0	16th /-6.3	3rd / 11.0	77.3	

MARCH 2003



SARRATT GREEN £319,950

* Brick and flint cottage
* Ent of terrace
* Two bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Exposed beams
* Open fire
* Gardens to front and rear
* Facing the Village green



SARRATT £595,000

* Detached family house
* 4 bedrooms
* Master bed with en suite
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen/breakfast room
* Utility room
* Garage & parking
* Village location

MARCH



BUCKS HILL £560,000

A beautifully presented period brick and flint detached cottage with stunning views over open farmland and situated in this sought after hamlet. 3 Receptions, Superb Kitchen/Breakfast Room, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite Shower, Pretty Gardens.

MAY



BUCKS HILL OIEO £1,000,000

A former farmhouse dating to the late 18th Century, in grounds extending to c13 acres. The house has 4 bedrooms and 2 shower/baths (one en-suite), 2 receptions, study, kitchen and conservatory. Numerous outhouses including large barn c1750 and 3 stables.

Tel Chorleywood Office 01923 282244



COMMONWOOD £355,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a stunning character apartment in a delightful rural setting. Drawing Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Master Bedroom with En Suite Shower Room, 2nd Double Bedroom, Bathroom, wealth of characterful features throughout.

OCTOBER

£649,500 Sarratt

Just a short walk from The Green, this beautifully presented detached house has mature landscaped gardens.
2 receptions, 25' conservatory, large kit/break, utility, 4 beds, 2 baths, large garage, private courtyard drive. ***01923 773171***



SEPTEMBER

£825,000 Sarratt

Beautiful & sensitively refurbished character home set in mature grounds fronting The Green with spacious accommodation & a separate detached brick & flint stable/garage block.
2 receps, kit/break, laundry, 4 beds, 2 baths. ***01923 773171***



OCTOBER



SARRATT £295,000

A beautifully presented bright and airy cottage which has been the subject of extensive renovation, offering 2 bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, open plan kitchen/dining area, loft room, gardens, off-street parking.

Tel Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

NOVEMBER



SARRATT £294,950

A pretty brick and flint end of terrace period cottage overlooking The Green at Sarratt. The property benefits from character features, separate reception rooms, two bedrooms, and an attractive 60' rear garden.

Tel Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

NOVEMBER



SARRATT £875 PCM/SALE £289,000

* Character semi-detached flint cottage
* 2 beds * Through reception * Fitted kitchen
* Bath * Garage/workshop * Courtyard garden

DECEMBER



SARRATT £299,000

Charming semi detached cottage overlooking the Green. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, cellar. Gas C.H. Southerly aspect rear garden, off street parking. No upper chain.

Tel Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

DECEMBER



SARRATT £670,000

A delightful brick & flint home fronting directly onto The Green with a detached barn in the grounds.
Lounge, dining room, kit/break room, cellar, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden approx. 68' deep, garage, detached barn (lounge, dining room, kitchen, bath, 2 beds, shower).
01923 285123

SARRATT
EVENING

Women's Institute

WOMEN'S
INSTITUTE

COME & JOIN US TO HEAR ABOUT

Chelsea Physic Garden



Mike Watts

Thursday 23rd January 2003

AT 8.00PM

IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ALL WELCOME

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT MRS G KAVANAGH ON 01923 497795

A Modern Voice for Women

2004

Village upkeep

Efforts are not appreciated

I RECENTLY noticed the old water pump on the green at Sarratt was being repainted. It was renovated only five months ago (by me) at no cost to the council. Why is it being done again at taxpayers expense?

The flagpole which was replaced last November is plastic, when I offered to pay for the new pole I did not know until it was too late that it was going to be plastic, and I feel it should have been a traditional wooden one and I want it known that it wasn't my choice and I feel plastic is an insult to the purpose for which it is used.

I have offered to buy a wooden one and they can put the plastic thing somewhere else, its nothing to do with maintenance as I used to paint the old one anyway.

I was going to offer to renovate the phone box (which belongs to SPC) as it needs more than just a coat of paint, some glass replacing and lettering around the top.

The posting information plate on the Victorian letter box needs urgent repair before it rusts away forever.

I sent a letter to SPC outlining the above and got an immediate response from the clerk saying he would pass copies of my letter on to the councillors. I have heard nothing since except a chance meeting with one of the councillors who was unpleasant and abrupt (I have since heard from a number of people, that's how he is) who said he didn't know the pump had already been repainted.

I won't be doing anything else for Sarratt.

One more thing, a few weeks ago I found a bottle of hydrochloric acid, only 50 yards from the school gates, anyone want to own up to dumping that? Imagine the injuries that could have caused to a child. — **Dave Buckler, Wyvern, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt**

W.O. 26-3-04

IN SHORT

Sarratt flowers

THE Sarratt Horticultural Society will hold its flower show tomorrow (Saturday) at Sarratt Village Hall. There will be cream teas, a raffle and an auction of flowers. The event starts at 2.30pm. For further information telephone 01923 285 657.

WATFORD OBSERVER 26/3/04

Plans for homes on two sites lodged by developers

by KATIE SAMUEL

DEVELOPERS revealed their plans for two controversial sites in Three Rivers this week by lodging plans with the council.

The two separate development applications – for Darvells Yard in Chorleywood and Wards Nursery in Sarratt – relate to sites which have been the subject of numerous planning proposals and appeals over the past few years.

The first application concerns the redevelopment of the Darvells Yard site, which was seriously damaged by fire two years ago.

Previous plans for Darvells Yard, in Common Road, were submitted in September last year by Banc Properties, proposing the construction of 17 new homes.

However, these were rejected by Three Rivers District Council and an appeal against this was withdrawn with no further action taken.

Chorleywood Parish Council was not happy with this application and wanted to see fewer houses and more parking spaces.

The new plans have been submitted by Banner Homes Ltd and are for the demolition of industrial units, change of use of the stableblock to residential, an extension to the farmhouse and the construction of 11 new homes.

Three Rivers District Council approved of the idea of having a small housing unit but thought 17 houses on the site would be dangerous so the new plans could be seen as more favourable.

Prominent Chorleywood family, the Darvells, originally owned the yard but the excuters sold it more than three years ago, when Ms Connie Darvell died.

The yard caught fire in February 2002, taking 17 fire engines and 50 firefighters almost three hours to extinguish the flames.

The second application to build five houses on the site of Wards Nurseries in Sarratt, which closed in August last year.

More than a year ago, an application to build on the site – situated on Green Belt land – was turned down by Three Rivers District Council's development control committee, however Heathview Developments appealed.

The appeal was heard at a Public Inquiry and in May last year it was accepted by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

The inspector, Mr Neil Payne, recorded the site as being of mixed use – retail, storage, office and residential and said this was already "inappropriate in the Green Belt".

He said: "The effect of these proposals would be to replace one largely inappropriate use with another, without material harm to strategic and local Green Belt policies."

He considered the impact on the character of the village as minimal and having less effect on the character of the area than some other houses already in existence.

When the plan was first submitted, about 100 people attended a public meeting in Sarratt and the Parish Council objected to the proposal.

The new plans for Darvells Yard and Wards Nurseries are expected to be discussed by Three Rivers District Council on Thursday, April 15.

W.O. 2-4-04

Post office thief sent to prison

A MAN who broke into the post office in Sarratt and stole thousands of pounds of cigarettes was jailed for 25 months on Thursday, March 25.

Kevin Bodman, 23, used a sledgehammer to break into the shop on December 23, last year.

Prosecutor Charles Judge told St Albans Crown Court cigarettes, cigars and tobacco worth £4,083 were taken by Bodman, who escaped with another man in a silver Honda stolen from outside the Odeon Cinema in Gerrards Cross.

The car was abandoned in the village with packets of cigarettes inside.

Just after midnight on Christmas Eve, Bodman was found trapped in a red BMW that had been involved in a crash in the Thames Valley police area. He was taken to Wexham Park Hospital in Slough. Cigarettes were found in the boot.

Bodman, of Wavell Garden, Britwell Estate, Slough, told officers he had used a sledgehammer on the shop's doors and collected the cigarettes in a black bag.

He appeared in court to be sentenced having pleaded guilty to burglary, being carried in a car taken without consent and failing to surrender. The court was told he had 17 previous convictions for 42 offences.

Defence barrister Tim Riley said Bodman had a heroin habit but had remained clean while on remand in custody.

Mr Justice Beatson told Bodman: "I urge you to take all help you can get in prison to get off drugs."

WO 16-4-04

Villagers to bid farewell to vicar

by DINA BEHRMAN

THE villagers of Sarratt and Chipperfield will bid farewell to their vicar this week when he retires after eight years at the heart of the community.

Peter Hart, and his wife Anne, will now settle in Lincolnshire after final Sunday services at Holy Cross and St Paul's churches.

Villager Colin Plummer said: "Everyone is going to be very sad. There will be a farewell lunch tomorrow (Saturday) which I'm sure will be very well attended. A lot of people have contacted me to attend.

"He was very popular. He has been an excellent rector in the village as well as the church.

"He has given a lot of support. His wife, Anne, has also been very supportive."

Tomorrow (Saturday) will see villagers joining Rev Hart and his wife for a bring and share buffet at Sarratt Village Hall, starting at 12.30pm.

The following day there will be a farewell service at St Paul's Church in Chipperfield at 6.30pm to give villagers a chance to say goodbye.

"We will both miss people from the village," said Rev Hart.

Although retiring, the reverend will still be helping out in the local churches in Lincolnshire and will use his five years experience of being a chaplain at Bovingdon's Mount prison to do chaplaincy work at other prisons.

He added: "We'll be hoping to see more of the family. We'd like to have time to travel and things like that."

The reverend arrived in Sarratt after working as a vicar in Bridgewater in Somerset.

He has worked in Sarratt for eight years, with the last three years seeing him taking on responsibility for the village of Chipperfield as well.

"It has been very busy," he said.

"The last two years have been quite stressful with the two parishes but we have enjoyed our time.

"The high point was probably when I was on top of a cherry picker blessing the roof of the church.

"I also enjoyed the annual flower festivals.

"And I've enjoyed the weddings and sharing people's joyful times, as well as their sadness – it's part of what we do."

He added: "Anne has enjoyed her time too, we're a double act really."



Vicar Peter Hart to retire.

Peter and Anne's Retirement Party
17th April 2004

If you intend to come and be involved in giving them a Good send off to enjoy a Happy Retirement please fill in the reverse of this Card

Please return this card by the **3rd April**



HARTY FAREWELL: Sarratt and Chipperfield parishioners bid farewell to retiring Reverend Peter Hart and his wife, Anne, on Saturday after eight years. The villagers joined the couple at a goodbye party at Sarratt Village Hall. Picture Y154206: RYO HAYASHIDA



Ivy and Bill Brownsell will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary later this month. Picture Y150604: RYO HAYASHIDA

WO 16-4-04

Celebrating six decades together

GIVE and take are the key ingredients of a long and happy marriage, according to a couple from Sarratt who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary later this month.

"Couples nowadays don't try hard enough," said Ivy Brownsell who looks forward to putting on a spread for her three children – Linda, Billy, Terry – seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, at the end of this month, to mark her 60th year married to Bill, who she describes as her long-standing companion and best friend.

The couple, who were both born and brought up in Sarratt and now live in Church Lane, were married at Watford register office on April 29, 1944.

Bill recalls popping the question when Ivy, a year his junior, was just 18 years old, having met her at a village dance.

He said: "I saw Ivy across the room and asked her to dance."

"It was love at first sight. I just knew Bill was the one," said Ivy.

The couple were married among a small group of close friends and family after Mr Brownsell obtained a 48-hour pass from his post in Scotland, where he had been placed with the First Battalion.

Mr Brownsell carried out numerous jobs before being conscripted in 1943 and posted in Derby and also Bury St Edmunds before serving in the D-Day landing.

Mrs Brownsell worked at Croxley Mill papermill from the age of 16 to 19, before leaving to become a full-time mum at the couple's first marital home in Deadman's Ash Lane, Sarratt.

She said: "It's been a long time, but it's flown by.

"It's not until you look at your children that you realise just how long it has been.

"I feel sorry for couples who marry today, life is so different.

"In our day you took your marriage vows very seriously.

"You got married and you stuck by the person you'd made that commitment to.

"People want everything now and just aren't prepared to wait.

Mr Brownsell: "We've had our ups and downs, I don't believe any couple that says they haven't, but we've worked through them as you do and have stuck together.

"It's all about give and take."

WAT. OBSERV. 16.4.04

CRIME

● Theft from motor vehicle – Dawes Common, Sarratt, Rickmansworth, between 6pm and 7.15pm on Sunday, April 11. Offenders gained entry to a blue Skoda Felicia and removed property worth around £600 from the vehicle.

WAT. OBSERV 16.4.04

Spring sale

PLANTS, hand-made crafts and home-made produce are just some of the highlights of a spring sale held at the village hall in Sarratt on Saturday, May 15. The sale organised by Sarratt' Women's Institute will open at 2.15pm and also include a traditional tombola and cream teas.

WO 16-4-04

IN SHORT

Historical visit

MEMBERS of Sarratt WI look forward to a day out at Winchester, the capital city of King Alfred the Great, later this month. The group will depart by coach from the village hall for the one day excursion on Wednesday, April 28. The trip will include a tour of the world-famous cathedral and the National Trust's working watermill, it will also include a visit to the site of King Arthur's Round Table.

WO 16-4-04

IN SHORT

Cool hotel

A LOCAL hotel is one of only six in Britain to feature in a list of the 50 coolest hotels in the world. The Grove in Chandlers Cross, a favourite haunt of celebrities seeking to recharge their batteries in the Hertfordshire countryside, made the list compiled by magazine Condé Nast Traveller.

Don't miss out: Try the guest ales

WO 23-4-04

The Cock Inn, Sarratt.

THERE'S nothing like going to a cosy, country pub that sells real ales and offers a warm welcome.

If it's the latter you are looking for, don't bother going to the Cock, otherwise, you're in the right place.

As a confirmed lager drinker, real ales are as much of a mystery to me as the female psyche.

But the selection on offer at the Cock was enough to convince the most ardent of Stella fans that I was missing out on something.

The story goes like this: The Stella, if truth be known, was not the best I've ever had. In the absence of the other common brands of lager (Carlsberg etc) I plumped for a pint of Hofbrau Export.

It wasn't a bad pint at all, but by now my friend (also a Stella aficionado) had been tempted onto the guest ale, Fursty Ferrett, and convinced me that I should let my curiosity get the better of me and try one of the bitters.

So I did. Tangle Foot 5.1 per cent. And that's another story.

But all credit to the landlord for keeping a cellar rich in quantity and quality.

As for the pub itself, you can't argue with reason. It's an absolute delight of a pub, somewhere you can take the missus for a quiet drink, take the family and get rid of the kids (maybe in the river), or just go for a quiet pint on your own.

I can honestly say it's been a long time since I walked into a pub and been so taken in by its obvious ambience and homeliness. And that conclusion was reached before the Tangle Foot.

Space prohibits me writing about the good points I've not already mentioned: The food looked absolutely delicious when it went past; there's ample seating if you don't want to prop up the bar and there's a big beer garden.

But every silver lining has a cloud, and on this occasion it was, unfortunately, the barmaid.

Full of cheer she was not, and the service was somewhat on the slow side too, what with her spending most of her time in the kitchen.

In fact, it felt like it was a bit of an inconvenience that we were there at all, a theory that was confirmed when I ordered a bag of nuts.

The considered response went along the lines of: "It's a good job you're sat at the bar and not at a table, because you'd spend most of your time at the bar anyway".

Sorry to put you out, love.

In fairness, she did try the "Same again?" routine once, but was always going to fail miserably with us chopping and changing our drinks.

But don't let that put you off going to the Cock.

It's a rare retreat in an age when traditional, well looked after country pubs are becoming increasingly difficult to stumble across.

HJ



A cosy, country pub that sells real ales.

HOW IT RATES

Cleanliness:	4
Efficiency:	2
Variety:	4
Prices:	3
Craic:	5
OVERALL:	4

STOP TAP

THE COMPETITION

Bluebeckers:
This used to be the Cricketers, an idyllic country pub set on a village green and teaming warmth, charm and character. But that is all history now. If you want pretentious, soulless and hugely expensive, stop here and you will hit the jackpot.

The Boot:
I'm told the governor has problems keeping his ale in tip top condition because of the long stretch of pipework from his cellar to the bar. It was fine on my visit. Nice country boozer, though rather geriatric on my visit. It serves gargantuan meals so be sure to have a hearty appetite.

YOU DON'T SAY:
The Cock once served as Sarratt's village mortuary and is handily placed to do so, being as it is almost opposite ancient Holy Cross church. The pub has a wide front door to cater for gentlemen carrying coffins. In 1665 victims of the Black Death were brought here and buried in a nearby field. The place has been sympathetically redeveloped (and thoroughly cleaned!) since then.

Sarratt WI

W.O. 24-4-04

JOIN the next meeting of the Sarratt Evening WI, which will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday, April 22 at 8pm. Speaker Anne Godfrey will talk on "Plants with a long season of interest" and there will be lots of plants on sale. Everyone is welcome.

Watercress on the menu

THE wonders of watercress will be the focus of an event in Sarratt next week.

Members of Sarratt Local History Society will welcome Mr Stevie Fletcher, who is currently researching the development of cress across the local area, to the village hall on The Common on Friday, May 7, for a talk.

There are only two remaining businesses of this type in Hertfordshire, one of which is Mr Terry Tyler's cress beds at Sarratt Bottom.

Mr Fletcher will discuss the history of Ms Carole Maddison, a long-standing Watford resident, whose family ran cress beds in Cassiobury Park, using artefacts including 19th Century photos.

Mr Tyler will also share his tales on the development of his business.

There will be home-made watercress soup served with a range of traditional English cheeses and fresh watercress.

Admission for the evening starting at 7.30pm is £2.

To reserve a place telephone Pam Turner on 01923 267000.

W-O, 30-4-04





Pampered perfection

Win a luxury spa break for two at The Grove



If you want to escape from the stresses and strains of city life without missing out on the sophisticated chic of urban living, you'll love The Grove. Set in 300 acres of beautiful parkland only 40 minutes from central London, with sumptuous bedrooms, superb restaurants and a world-class spa, it's the perfect country retreat. Style is offering five lucky readers the chance to experience the elegance and hospitality of this stunning hotel, with a two-night luxury spa break.

Our five winners and their guests will enjoy two nights in a glorious suite in The Grove's magnificent mansion. On the first evening they will be treated to dinner in Colette's, the hotel's signature restaurant, and the next night to a meal in the spectacular Glasshouse. They will also experience the peace and tranquillity of Sequoia, the luxurious spa. Their pampering will begin with a Welcome Foot Ritual and consultation followed by a balancing ayurvedic body treatment and a deep soak in a king-size bath, surrounded by candle light.
Five runners-up will receive a goodie bag including ESPA essential cleansing gel (250g) and a soothing bar (125g).

For your chance to win, call the number below with the answer to this question:
Which part of the body is treated during a manicure?

09015 604 021 (UK, 60p/minute)
1550 718 771 (RoI, 73c/minute)
Calls should last no longer than two minutes
Lines close at midnight on April 23

For further information visit www.thegrove.co.uk

THE GROVE
LONDON'S COUNTRY ESTATE

Terms and conditions 1. No purchase necessary. You may enter by post to: The Grove Competition, 7 Wollaston Crescent, Basildon, Essex SS13 1QD. 2. Competition open to UK and RoI residents … employees of News International or The Grove, their families, agents or any other person connected with the competition. 3. Closing date: midnight, April 23, 2004. The correct entrants drawn at random after that time. 4. There are five prizes, each consisting of two night's accommodation for two in an executive suite at The Grove, Chandler's … for two in The Glasshouse restaurant, dinner for two in Colette's restaurant and a Sequoia Suite Ritual for two. The prize does not include additional meals or beverages, …uty treatments. 5. Prizes are subject to availability and must be booked at least four weeks in advance. Prizes must be taken before September 30, 2004. Prizes are non-… and non-refundable. No cash alternative. 6. Promoter reserves the right to substitute prizes of equal value in the event that circumstances beyond its control make this …cision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7. By entering this competition, competitors agree to be bound by these terms and conditions. 8. For name and county … Sunday Times Competition Dept, 1 Pennington Street, London E98 1RL. 9. Winners will be notified by April 27, 2004. 10. The promoter reserves the right to refuse any entry …pirit of the promotion.

STYLE - SUNDAY TIMES 18-4-04

Whatever the history of England's patron saint, the growing recognition of his day is a positive thing

W.O. 30-4-04

Day worthy of celebration

Just a word WITH OLIVER PHILLIPS



IT was a superb morning, lacking only a bluebird on my shoulder to render it a completely zip-a-dee-doo-dah day, as I set off, heading for the village green on Friday.

The trees were in blossom, nature's green had that vivid, English hue to it, and, while there was still a certain crispness to the air, the sky was so blue it almost seduced you into believing summer is here and rain and clouds are things of the past.

I was proud of Sarratt. The village had opted to recognise St George's Day and mark it. This was neither council-led nor council-opposed but just a groundswell of local feeling, ironically inspired, in part, by Ken Livingstone. The Mayor of London, it may be remembered, made funds available for the Irish to celebrate St Patrick's Day in the capital but was more than a touch parsimonious, if not downright reluctant, when it came to providing monies for the celebration of St George's Day.

I view such a stance as indefensible, one of a long list of snubs to the English and British by the supposed powers that be, here in our own lands.

However, there are signs the English are at long last standing up to be counted. There were more flags and outward signs on Friday to suggest the day was being noted, than I can remember in many years.

Some contended this constituted a left-over from the rugby World Cup triumph and this may be so, but at least it was a step in the right direction.

Truth to be told, there was one blot on the horizon on my morning. Jaffer Bhimji, a reasonable individual who does some good work in Watford, had taken exception to my article the previous week.

While going on to endorse most of my argument, Jaffer, in a letter to the newspaper, said he found the tone of my article offensive, claiming I blamed the "non-English" for the lack of celebration of St George's Day.

Clearly my attempts at irony misfired for I do not blame the "non-English" but those who feel we must pussy-foot around, change our habits, language and our approach to various facets of every-day life, in case it offends the non-English.

Let me make my position quite clear: I don't care one groat if the non-confrontational celebration of St George's Day in England offends, because it is our right to mark it and celebrate it, just as it is the right of any person to celebrate their heritage.

I also feel those who attempt to curb such manifestations as our annual, nodding acknowledgement of our Englishness, will actually fan the growth of the tendency they seek to restrict. I certainly hope so.

On Friday, there were more articles talking about the fact St George probably never visited England, might not be ours exclusively etc, as if such things mattered hundreds of years down the line. Lets face it, St Patrick wasn't even Irish, but that fact does not inhibit the good folk from Ireland celebrating the life of the Dunbarton-born man and good luck to them,

There was a reasonably large cluster of villagers on The Green on Friday morning and it did feel very English, even if I did note one Welshman and an Irishman in our midst, entering into the spirit of the occasion.

"We thought it was about time we celebrated our own saint's day. London made such a thing about St Patrick's Day, and wouldn't do a lot for St George's Day," said organiser Jean Newell.

"We think we have a lovely English village and we decided to celebrate St George's Day."

These celebrations included an evening meal at the village hall of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, followed by apple pie and some home grown entertainment.

But the morning involved a simple ceremony: the last stanza from Henry V's Agincourt address, the raising of the flag of St George, a verse or two from Land of Hope and Glory and an actual visit from the man himself.

A busload from Chipperfield, heading for Watford, must have wandered what had come over their neighbours when St George, replete with armour, lance, pennant and shield, made slow progress on a shire horse from the bottom of The Green.

It was a good effort by George (aka Gerald Pulman) who, with his wife, had begged and borrowed the appropriate accoutrements including his steed, which had been loaned by the local Rosehall Riding Stables.

What lifted the occasion for me was the sight of a couple of classes of Sarratt schoolchildren wending their way to The Green to witness the ceremony. There, to their delight, they were asked by St George if there "be a dragon in these parts".

Some of the more adult members of the gathering, female in the main, took it upon themselves to answer in the affirmative to his next question as to whether "there be a damsel in distress".

Allen Grant, former licensee of The Boot, Sarratt, used to blow a bugle and raise the flag at 7am every St George's Day before serving a full English breakfast and Bucks fizz to those who had the stomach for it. But that tradition has died along with his departure from the pub.

So it was good to see Allen raising the flag, reading some Shakespeare and leading the singing.

With that, it was all over, but it was nice to taste a bit of old England and there was another obvious plus, because there is a chance the dying embers of celebration on St George's Day, fanned by such mornings, will flare and be passed on like a torch.



A CROWD of people gathered at Sarratt on Friday to see the legendary St George – otherwise known as local resident Gerald Pulman – ride on to the Green on his trusty steed. The event, organised by Jean Newell, included a flag-raising ceremony conducted by Allen Grant, who also read excerpts from Shakespeare.

WAT. OBSERV. 7.5.04

Garden outing

MEMBERS of Sarratt Horticultural Society look forward to embarking on their annual outing this summer to the renowned Barnsdale Gardens, in Oakham. Places are still available for the one-day excursion by coach which will depart from the village hall at 9.15am on Thursday, June 17. To book a place contact Ms Margaret Stratford on 01923 260475.

Computer course

THOSE wishing to develop their computers can now do so locally with the introduction of a one-day IT course in Sarratt. The course will cost £25 and include Word, digital photography, website design and Excel for accounting. The date of the course is yet be confirmed according to interest. Those interested in taking part are asked to contact Ms Brenda Lines on 01923 262294.

IN SHORT

WAT. OBS. 7.5.04

Parish meeting

RESIDENTS are invited to attend the annual meeting of Sarratt Parish Council which will be held in the village hall on The Green, Sarratt on Tuesday, May 18. For further details about the meeting contact the clerk to the parish council, Mr Graham Leaver direct on 01923 262025.

Tennis ball

MEMBERS of Sarratt Tennis club will swap their tennis-whites for glitzy ball-gowns in July when the club hosts its annual summer ball. Tickets are now available, cost £25 and include a Champagne reception and four-course meal. The event takes place on Saturday, July 3. To book tickets, telephone 01923 269574. WAT. OBS. 7.5.04

HERTS WI MAG MAY 2004



SARRATT AFTERNOON *learnt many interesting facts from David Laycock from the Chesham branch of Waitrose. Bags for life are recycled to make park benches. Buffalo milk is good for skin complaints. They use farmers within a 30 mile range of the shops, and supply more organic produce which is growing in popularity. They finished with various tasters. Margaret Stratford was presented with a silver plate (left) by the President for the cookery section of the Horticultural Society, Mrs DawnPitts.*

W.O. 21-5-04

Traditional village pub goes up for sale

MOST people enjoy spending time in their local boozer, but for anyone visiting Sarratt there is now a chance to live, work and sleep in the local pub – by buying it.

Traditional village pub The Boot has just come on the market after its owner decided to sell it when the tenants retired.

Now would-be Peggy Mitchells and Alfie Moons have the chance to buy up the 18th Century village freehouse.

Mr Stewart Harkness, from pub agents Christie and Co, said: "The Boot, which dates from the 18th Century, is the quintessential village pub overlooking the green in the heart of this pleasant village, which is set in the midst of an area of outstanding natural beauty."

Anyone who fancies snapping up the watering hole will be able to enjoy a detached property with a character beamed interior and inglenook fireplace.

The pub comprises a front bar, lounge bar, dining area and patio for al fresco dining.

The owner's accommodation includes a lounge, two double bedrooms and bathroom. Outside there is a forecourt seating area, a large beer garden with children's play area and space for a marquee, a car park and an area of disused land which could have possible development potential.

At the moment The Boot operates as a traditional village pub serving a variety of cask and keg ales, plus a high quality food menu.

Mr Harkness said: "Over the last year trade at The Boot has increased since the other pub on the green has been taken over by the Blubeckers restaurant chain. Now that it is no longer a drinking pub, some of the clientele have transferred to The Boot.

"Demand for public houses increased by 25 per cent last year and is increasing with more than 50 per cent of sales going to first-time buyers."

The agents have set an informal tender bid date of Friday, June 11.

Offers are invited for the freehold interest. For more information telephone Stewart Harkness at Christie and Co on 01908 300950.



The Boot in Sarratt is up for sale.

New Road Surgery

To all Patients of our Practice



Change of Surgery Hours

We are changing our surgery hours following a close look at the demand for appointments by our patients in Sarratt.

With this in mind we will be concentrating our attention on the morning surgeries by increasing the appointments available in the morning and opening the surgery for longer hours whilst closing the evening surgery.

The new opening hours detailed below will take effect from

Tuesday 31st August 2004.

Week day	Opening Hours	1st Doctors appointment
Monday	8am – 12 midday	8.30am
Tuesday	8am – 12 midday	8.30am
Wednesday	8am – 12 midday	8.30am
Thursday	8am – 12 midday	8.30am
Friday	8am – 12 midday	8.30am

PLEASE NOTE :
THE LAST SARRATT EVENING SURGERY WILL BE **27th August 2004**

Telephone enquires outside of these hours will be automatically redirected to the surgery at Croxley Green where emergency appointments will be seen.

Please ask the receptionist for the leaflet containing full information.

We hope that this change will serve the community more effectively.

Drs Corp; Larkworthy; Chesworth; Barrett.

2004



Holy Cross Church
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 26 June to Monday 28 June

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
10.00am – 5.00pm	11.00am – 5.00pm	11.00am – 3.00pm

Cakes, Plants, Books, Gifts, Bric-a-Brac
Lunches and Teas at the Weekend
Light Refreshments on the Monday
Launch of the **Village Fayre** Recipe Book
Raffle of the **Autumn Leaves Quilt**
Music for a Summer Evening 7.30pm Saturday
Songs of Praise 6.30pm Sunday

Entrance and Car Parking Free

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt Registered Charity No 1018991

June 04

Speculative land sales over the Internet

Plots of Green Belt land in the District are being sold over the internet. This was of great concern at the last Sarratt Local Area Forum attended by 100 villagers.

While the web page states that the plots are without planning permission, by saying they are freehold with stunning views of the Chess Valley and close to transport links, it implies planning permission is a possibility.

The plots of 0.40 acres, for sale at £12,500 each, are more expensive than agricultural land but nowhere near the hundreds of thousands of pounds you might expect for a plot with planning permission for a dwelling.



Green Belt land in Sarratt threatened

Michael Thorp, Chief Development Control Officer, advised that he could see no circumstances in which planning permission would be granted for dwellings on these plots in a Green Belt situation. He said: "Purchasers should be aware that the permitted planning use of these plots is likely to remain for agriculture only.

"If plots should become an eyesore due to lack of attention, the Council has powers to ensure they are maintained. Therefore purchasers may be acquiring a long term liability."

There have been similar internet land sales affecting the villages adjacent to Hemel Hempstead and Chesham.

BOOKS: Villagers have just released a recipe book to raise badly-needed funds for the Holy Cross Church

Sarratt's favourite recipes

by Grelle White

TO the outside world and Who's Who, the Rt Hon Sir Christopher Staughton is known and respected as retired Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal and member of the Privvy Council. At home in Sarratt, the "Sir" is dropped and Christopher Staughton's fame is firmly linked his regularly winning the prize for jam in the local horticultural show. So one of the major scoops for Village Fayre – a collection of favourite recipes from Sarratt which is due to be launched at the annual flower festival at Holy Cross Church tomorrow (Saturday), is Christopher Staughton's recipe for plum jam.

The way it has been compiled, this cookbook is not just about food, it is also a delicious reflection of village life and the people, who make it tick.

Take Christopher Staughton's recipe for plum jam, which reads: "Open Cookery in Colour by Marguerite Patten (1960).

"Pick ten pounds of plums and buy ten pounds of preserving sugar. Count the plums (so that you know how many stones to remove). Put the plums and a pint of water into a large saucepan, and bring to the boil.

"Remove stones that you can see detached at the top, counting them as you go. When the fruit is soft, add the sugar (which you have warmed in the oven). Stir vigorously. Take out the remaining stones and bring the jam to 'a full rolling boil.'"

"Test the jam by dropping a small amount slowly from a wooden spoon held above the saucepan. When a drop or two stay attached to the spoon, turn off the heat.

"Decant into jars and look forward to winning the prize for jam at the local Horty Show."

Jenny Peiser, chairman of the Friends of Holy Cross Church who compiled the cookbook is still smiling at the instruction to count the plums "so that you know how many stones to remove".

"Who else would have thought of that," she says smiling, flicking through a proof copy of the book at the kitchen table in Peartree Cottage on The Green.

Behind the rose-covered facade, the Peiser home has turned publishing house for a hectic four months since the idea for the cookbook was first hatched by a friend – in the middle of the night.

Jenny had just taken over as chairman of the Friends of Holy Cross Church and desperately needed funds to cope with the cost of a new central heating system (approx. £50,000) and a new coat of lime wash for the ancient church walls. "As the 'new boy' in charge, I felt I had to come up with something different and put an appeal for ideas in the church magazine," Jenny recalled. "One morning I had this call from Ann Featherstone, who said an idea had come to her in the middle of the night: why not compile a village cookbook with the kind of recipes that have been handed down in families or are known in the village, like the WI marmalade?"

The WI marmalade is there, so is a recipe from the champion cake baker of the village, June Rees.

"June always makes the most amazing cakes for village events. She made one with 48 eggs for the vicar's leaving party. It was delicious," said Jenny, who enrolled her husband Graham's support in the project. She made it a family effort with one daughter designing the cover and the other producing the book – the only cost is the actual print.



Jenny and Graham Peiser celebrate their new recipe book with Friends of Holy Cross cup cakes.
Picture Y244102: JANE PARR

"Graham and I chose 150 of the 180 recipes submitted and tried as many as time and waistbands would allow," said Jenny, who invited anecdotal comments and has added her own observations to some of the offerings.

Ann and John Featherstone, who lived in Bombay for some years, e-mailed a friend for an authentic Indian curry recipe. Muglai Chicken Biryani appears with a footnote from Jenny suggesting "green chillies are sufficient unless you like it hot".

Graham, who insists this, his first retirement project, has been harder than "real" work, delights in the contribution from someone, whose hobby is home-made wine.

"Suddenly we had a chapter on wine making," he said.

They also have a recipe for "Slug Tart" – the family's nickname for Pony Club stalwart, Pam Dickins's Spiced Raisin Flan.

In the spirit of the project, secretary of the Friends of Holy Cross, Pat Parsons, has contributed the spoof, Sarratt Bachelors' Oeufs – a "special for the boys' when the women are away on a 'jolly'," including large quantities of red wine and brandy.

No Sarratt charity effort would be complete without a touch of celebrity. Jenny approached well-known cookery personality, Mary Berry, to write the foreword to the village cookbook.

There are 206 pages of Sarratt specials, with a spotty pink cover and picture of a Friends of Holy Cross cup cake.

The price is £9.50 and the book is due to be ready for the opening of the three-day Flower Festival at the 13th Century village church tomorrow (Saturday).

Flower festival organiser Julia Lawrence has chosen the theme Genesis – In the Beginning. . .

All the festival fringe activities will be contained within the churchyard where a huge marquee provides cover for lunches and teas.

Stalls offer cakes, plants, books, bric-a-brac and tickets for a raffle for Sarratt Quilters' Autumn Leaves Quilt. While she was at it, Jenny came up with another new idea for raising funds, a mug with an image of Holy Cross Church.

You would be very wrong if you mistook Sarratt for a sleepy village while driving through.

● The Flower Festival at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt is open from 10am to 5pm tomorrow (Saturday), 11am to 5pm on Sunday and from 11am to 3pm on Monday.

Music for a Summer Evening at 7.30pm tomorrow and Songs of Praise at 6.30pm on Sunday. Entrance and car parking is free.

W.O. 2-7-04

Horse riding saddles stolen from farm

MORE than £20,000 of horse-riding equipment was stolen from a Sarratt farm last week.

Thieves made off with 20 saddles, worth more than £1,000 each, following the break in at Valley Farm, in Moor Lane, Sarratt, on Thursday, June 24.

The news left riders stunned and angry, with no way of riding their horses.

Christina Coltrini-Magowan was among those who suffered loss from the theft, after two of her saddles were taken.

Speaking about the break-in, she said: "If I ever caught who did this I would put my hands round their neck.

"We work very hard to buy stuff for our horses – we are ordinary working people.

"But whoever stole these are scum as far as I am concerned.

"Why should somebody take something that belongs to someone else?"

One of Mrs Magowan's saddles is described as "unusual" because it is a Frank Baines Balance Saddle, which are designed to be 'horse shaped' using extensive feedback from riders.

Mrs Magowan said: "Somebody obviously did a recky of this place to check it out. Nobody saw or heard a thing.

"They must have parked halfway down the lane and walked across the fields to get here.

"They dropped some equipment as they were going back across the field, but they got all the saddles.

"I now have to go out and spend £1,300 on a new saddle, but it takes time because you have to have the saddle fitted to the horse. We want people to be aware of anybody offering to sell saddles for a cheap price."

Anyone with information can telephone Mrs Magowan on 01923 252150.

WAT. OBS. 1-7-04



Visitors toured Jan Clutterbuck's garden to raise money for the Peace Hospice.
Picture Y267309: JANE PARR

Artist shows off garden

SARRATT artist Jan Clutterbuck opened her home and her garden to visitors on Sunday to raise money for the Peace Hospice.

Ms Clutterbuck exhibited some of her artworks, along with her leafy garden, to raise money for the charity in Watford.

She was joined by four other neighbours in Red Lion Lane, who also opened their carefully tended gardens to visitors.

The gardens ranged from typical cottage gardens to the more formal.

The idea for this neighbourly initiative was sown when Ms Clutterbuck staged an art show for the hospice at her house at Christmas.

● See Go, Page 10

TASTY TREATS COOK UP FUNDS FOR CHURCH CASH POT

CANNY cooks from Sarratt are cashing in on their culinary expertise to raise money for their local church.

The Friends of Holy Cross Church are hoping to raise much-needed funds towards the upkeep of the historic building.

Everyone from the village and surrounding area is being invited to submit their favourite recipe, plus an anecdote if they choose, to be considered for publication.

The group is hoping the book, containing around 200 recipes, will be on sale in time for the village's flower festival at the end of June.

The book is the brainchild of Friends member Anne Featherstone, who is pictured with Jenny Peiser, chair of the Friends, and they will welcome any recipes whether they are starters, main courses, drinks, soups, puddings, preserves, sauces, biscuits or nibbles. Jenny said: "This is an exciting and ambitious venture."

Send recipes to Jenny at Pear Tree Cottage, The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6BL or call her on 01923 269136.



Watf obs. 9-7-04

Jan Clutterbuck, who now tours Sarratt on a scooter, once witnessed the surrender of an entire German army

Behind enemy lines

Just a word WITH OLIVER PHILLIPS



AMONG the many watching the D-Day celebrations last month was Jan Clutterbuck, now 84, an essentially American lady with a mind as sharp as the barbed wire on the Normandy beaches on which she landed as part of the American Red Cross after D-Day.

Jan, who lives in Sarratt, was 22 yet did not serve as a nurse but rather as part of an unusual support group known as "clubmobile".

"We came over as 'The girls back home'. We dispensed coffee and doughnuts to the troops near the front. Another wing included singers and entertainers such as Marlene Dietrich," Jan told me, as we poured through an amazing photo album.

"That's Diana Dors singing," she said, pointing to a young brunette.

Jan, who married into the Stanmore/Sarratt family of Clutterbucks, was then Janette Diefendorf, whose German ancestors went to America as mercenaries helping the American Revolution against the British and were given tracts of land in gratitude.

Seeing Jan Clutterbuck tour the village of Sarratt in her three-wheeled scooter, with her Pekenese in the basket by the handlebars, she looks a marvellous old eccentric: a lady with a story or several to tell. Indeed she has.

Accepted by the Royal Academy, once a lady of the manor, she has had many different roles. From one who was incredibly homesick counting the days to her annual holiday back in the United States, she was to find herself flying back one year and looking down on England with glee and pride, thinking: "And I live there. I am so lucky."

But that was later. Back in 1944, she made a different trip from England.

"I remember sitting on a landing craft off Omaha beach for three days before we were allowed to land on D-Day Plus 40. Just 14 girls and the rest GIs," she recalled, her memories from those days fired by the recent anniversary, along with a determination to get in touch with her old friends.

"Trouble is, too many of them have died," she remarked in an almost disapproving tone at their lamentable lack of staying power.

"What did we do? We sat in that landing craft and played poker with invasion money. We had this special currency. I've still got loads of it tucked away somewhere."

Jan has a lot of memorabilia "tucked away somewhere" and frankly I could listen to her for hours, not least for the way she says my name, giving "Oliver" a fresh dimension. But, at her age, she can be excused in that she tires long before I do as she talks frankly of her life, experiences and philosophy in a distinctly American accent softened by years in the English countryside.

And she has certainly had some experiences, but more of those next week.

As for "her" war and her life back in 1943-45, Jan summed it up movingly and superbly and with an instinctive approach that makes you feel you were there with her when she sent the following letter home to her family in the States in May 1945, when she was just 22.

If I were to write the greatest story of my life, I could do it now. For what I have seen in these past few days is the biggest and most colossal adventure in anyone's life.

But I'm not ready, just yet, to evaluate the results of the surrender. It will take a lot of thought and concentration to comprehend that this is the end. This is the end of a year and a half of war for me; of night fighters over London; of shaky, naive, unbattle-wised days in Normandy.

Of drastic, death-knowing hours inside the Siegfried Line; or winter's worst in the Ardennes; of river crossings, and the Rhine valley in the springtime. Of concentration camps and their stinking contents; of a million freed Europeans straggling along the highways of Germany.

Now freedom. And victory. And the end of six years of hopeless struggle. All things too big for me to realise just yet. You can't live and breathe and work for 18 months in Europe, war, and have it over like this, without having a periodic feeling of great disturbance.

And although it has come as an anti-climax, you still cannot believe, just yet, that driving eastward isn't still towards the front lines.

You cannot leave your shades up at night without a feeling of uncertainty. You cannot believe when you hear the hum of planes at night that it isn't still the Luftwaffe. You cannot believe that the things you saw in the clearing stations you will see no more. And the boys you knew and loved who fell along the long road from St Lo to Leipzig will be an event of the past, not to be continued.

No, I cannot believe just yet that this is the end.

In London they celebrated. Mobs gathered in Piccadilly and Trafalgar Square. People drank more than they usually do. In New York they celebrated, in San Francisco, and in Paris and Rome.

But they didn't celebrate very much here. For myself it wasn't the time for festivities. I didn't want to be at the usual party with more than the usual amount of liquor. If necessary just to get away from it, I'd take the car, go somewhere.

But I didn't have to, for early in the evening the day before VE Day, a full colonel friend of mine, whom I had met in Cannes, came to visit me from First Army HQ.

Colonel Johnny Johnson and I had dinner in a large hotel in town the corps now occupies. After several quiet drinks at home we decided suddenly we should take off for Czechoslovakia, to Prague, to see the celebration there.

With us went Jack Beldon (famous Time and Life correspondent) and Col. Robert Low (pre-war foreign correspondent, very charming and handsome).

Prague, they thought would be gay, and like the liberation of Paris, more than usually colourful on VE-Day.

I packed my camera and Johnny and I started off in the dead of night for Czechoslovakia in my car, following Bob Low and Jack in their Mercedes. The road south to C. is by the famous Reich Autobahn, a four lane highway which covers the greater part of Germany.

We reached the border in two hours. Bob knew a fancy little hotel in Hof, where the Military Government have their cp. They were wide awake even at 3am and scrambled us some eggs.

VE morning was beautiful in that small border town. Even at seven in the streets below I could hear a hundred voices singing and the shuffle of feet along the cobble stones. And bells were tolling.

The sun was hot and we had the top down. We followed Bob at a fast clip trying to reach Prague by noon (150 miles). About half of that distance we ran into a division cp and went inside to look at the situation map. As we know now, and didn't then, Prague was not a free city until two days later. Not being discouraged a bit we headed eastward again for Karlsbad, a lovely, fashionable watering place. We thought we'd have lunch there, then head homewards.

Our plans, however, changed soon enough when passing through the centre of a small town a crowd of GIs gathered cameras in hand around the biggest hotel in town. Knowing something big was up, Bob and Jack raced in while I stood guard over the front entrance with my camera, not wanting to miss an all-time record shot.

I didn't have to wait five minutes before Johnny gave me the signal at the door and out strutted a very handsome German Lt. General, young and pompous. His staff, who were waiting outside in camouflaged cars were at rigid attention. He had just finished signing a surrender.

Low and Beldon at this time were excited and told me breathlessly they were going to follow the general back through the lines to his cp. They added it wouldn't be wise for a woman to go.

Understanding of course that going through the lines, even on VE Day, isn't wise, Johnny and I thought we'd follow the general perhaps a mile, then turn around.

It was a wild ride through the mountains, a bit mysterious following a German general with only us behind and no escort. Eventually we came to a crest in the road overlooking a deep valley. Noticed casually in front of us several hundred vehicles approaching in the road.

Catching our breath, we looked again. We recognised this time the familiar outline of our enemy.

We were witnessing the mass surrender of a German army.

We were two American vehicles. That is all. The rest were Germans. Driving westward they were bumper to bumper streaming in an endless line. In tanks, in trucks, on foot, on motorcycles, in ambulances they came. Thousands of them.

Still with their Panzerfausts and P-38s, their rifles and ammunition. The sick, the wounded, the dying. The women, the nurses, the snipers, the officers and generals. It was complete. The degradation of an army. A sight that is both painful and sickening. You feel no glory here.

With one hand I snapped pictures on top of the car while we were jammed in the convoy of Germans, completely surrounded by them. We couldn't move backwards or forwards for by this time we were in the midst of them. I was the only allied woman there, and one of four of the only Americans.

Bob and Jack wanted to follow the General further eastward. But we'd had enough. We headed towards a side road back through the woods. At one of the cross roads, set back in a clearing off the road, was a German personnel carrier completely in tact, loaded with soldiers, guns mounted.

It was a startling moment. There were no Americans here. We told ourselves this was VE Day. That was all we could tell ourselves. And we hoped they knew it. We picked up speed and passed them by kicking up dust behind.

It took a long time to get back to our lines through the German column. I don't think Johnny and I spoke for a half hour. We drove through the warm spring Czechoslovakian sun quietly. We had witnessed the greatest sight any person could see.

With our own eyes we had seen the collapse of six years of war. It didn't make you feel victorious, or smug, or proud. But we both knew we had lived one of the great moments of our lives."



American Jan Clutterbuck was one of 14 women who were allowed at Omaha Beach on D-Day Plus 40.

New York journalist and painter Jan Clutterbuck on the ups and downs of her life in the English countryside

At 52 she realised she had fallen in love with England

Just a word WITH OLIVER PHILLIPS



JAN CLUTTERBUCK still sounds very American, despite having settled in this country 52 years ago.

"Apparently so," she says. "And since my husband, Jeremy, died in 1992, I have become more American. I have become more me. I had tried to be a nice, attractive English wife because that is what he wanted of me.

"I am not sure I was the perfect wife but, when thinking about marriages, I'm not sure what that is," she added with the candour that typifies any conversation with her.

It is not hard to imagine what she means. A young girl who once roved across a Europe devastated by war, she ended up in a quiet rural retreat experiencing an entirely different lifestyle. She had returned to New York after the war, only to receive a proposal seven years later from an old English boyfriend.

"I was between boyfriends. We were in a glamourous French restaurant and Jeremy was there for three days. I said 'yes but I may change my mind in the morning'," she recalled.

As it happened, she did not go back on her acceptance. So, at the age of 32, the girl from Connecticut came to Sarratt's Holy Cross church and was married, moving into Micklefield Hall with her in-laws.

"I knew his mother, Blanche, who I loved. I had been to Micklefield during the war. When Jeremy had been wounded with the Lovett Scouts, his mother got him a job as a driver with the American Red Cross.

"He was our driver. A good-looking Englishman, so elegant, as our driver. I ask you? He read poetry. I thought he was a Rupert Brooke. I had never met an English gentleman before."

She admits the house and the security on offer meant so much to her. Jan's mother had died giving birth. Her father, disappointed she was not a boy, remarried and Jan did not like her step-mother.

"I was brought up by grandparents. I was not loved as a child and I don't think I ever pleased my father until I came over here as part of the war effort in 1943.

"I suppose I was conditioned by then. I never expected anyone to love me. If someone loves me too much, I don't know how to handle it," she said, steadily filling in the classic psychological profile.

"Jeremy was not the favourite son and I felt I could give him something: lift him up. We had both been neglected so we had something in common.

"It was not a warm marriage but it worked. He was a gentleman, friendly and thoughtful. To live with someone for 40 years is not the easiest thing in the world, Hell, I know that but Jeremy did not want me hanging round him all the time. That is probably why the marriage was a success because he did not mind if I was painting all day long.

"I have two lovely children and I have always seemed to be financially OK. I've been quite lucky but it is not everyone's life."

From working in New York for Time magazine to finding herself buried in 1950's Sarratt, married to a hunting-fishing husband, must have been quite a contrast.

"I missed the New York lifestyle and I did not know the English too well. During the war, we girls were always with Americans. We ate so well and had so much money compared to the English. We felt sorry for the poor things because they did not have much and they lived in this cold, damp, foggy land. And then there were the doodlebugs.

"Then, when I was married, I was protected by the Clutterbucks. I only knew people like that. I have only got to know real people since we lived in Sarratt."

She wrote articles for her hometown newspaper back in the States on life married to an English gentleman in the countryside.

"I've got them somewhere. They were mostly about chilblains. I had never had them before I came to England," her dry humour coming through at every instant. "And the fact I could not believe that they had fireplaces in every room. I am very lucky to have lived both lives: American and English.

"I came home the other night on my scooter," she added, almost as an afterthought. "There was this magnificent rainbow. It dazzled me. I thought I had been saved. I felt fine and knew I would be OK."

"Do you think about mortality?" I asked.

"A lot more lately," she smiled. "I like to grab hold of the thought stated by a Christian Science Lady. God made you, you are perfect. I find that hard sometimes. I'm not a Christian Scientist but I have messed around with it. We were Unitarian in Boston, then Congregationalist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian. We moved a lot and joined different churches as a child. I have been in the Church of England and I have embraced the feeling of joint religion as in Buddhism.

"If you go to church, you hear the parson's thoughts every week. I prefer when you each express your own. It is a kind of therapy," she said as we continued to steer into deeper waters with her usual candour, before punctuating it with humour.

"Mind you Oliver, I don't want the Pope to know this."

I reassured her, he had not kept up his subscription to The Watford Observer.

She contends that as she is less emotional and ambitious now, this is because she is being programmed and prepared for the next world.



Jan Clutterbuck used to travel Europe for Time magazine, but now she spends her days scooting around Sarratt. Picture Y282907: RYO HAYASHIDA

"I am more conscious how unnecessary a lot of things are in this world: the confrontations. In my day, we had a real purpose to rid the world of the evil of Hitler. We believed we were saving the world. They don't have that now at 22-23."

Jan leafed her way through files: copious type-written notes of her every-day diary of the war; photographs of the action, gifted to her by members of the press.

"I wrote my autobiography when I was 18. It's here somewhere. I wanted to be famous. I was very ambitious and did not take very kindly to people getting ahead of me. I was not a good loser.

"The thing that gave me most pleasure was when I was accepted into the Royal Academy for my landscapes. I was there for two years and than that was it. I thought I was on the way to being famous but I wasn't famous forever. But I'm not disappointed, now."

Jan admits she was "terribly homesick" when she first married. "I was lonely. Jeremy gave me a Pekinese to keep me company. I still have one to this day.

"I did think of taking the kids and going back to the States. Mind you, I was very secure here. I could not imagine how I could have managed going back with children.

"One day I got in the car and said: 'I'm going'. It was an old-fashioned MG I had bought through teaching. Jeremy came out to the drive and said: "Take my car. It's warmer'.

"I felt there was no point in going if he felt like that.

"I went back to America every summer but I stopped last year because they are all dying. There is no one to see or stay with,' she said with an element of resigned disapproval.

"My life has been painting. Art and painting were a liberating antidote to all that was expected from a lady with a country pile. Painting is the thing that makes me happy. It is the real me. The marriage improved me: made me do something that was me. It all worked out well.

"You know, Oliver, the one advantage of being an American over here is that I don't have to be reserved. I can express myself and the way I feel."

Jan was 50 when she finally realised she had fallen in love: not with painting or someone else, but with England.

"I saw the countryside from the plane coming home. I thought isn't that just fantastic. I live there and I love it.

"The thing I wish about England is that there was more patriotism here. I was quite surprised that, unlike America, they do not hang a flag out for every event. I don't like them running England down. I am for patriotism and I'm not for the EU.

"When I married an Englishman, my family in New England thought it was an upward move. English was better.

"I would like to feel this country has the power and energy and feeling of community and pride in living here. I often thought when I went back to the States I wished people were more like they are here."

Micklefield Hall was sold to the Edmonds in 1970 and, after a spell at the White House in Chandlers Cross, with the children having flown the coop, the Clutterbucks moved to Pentlands in Sarratt.

"I taught in adult education then I took to having classes in the village hall. Now I have them here twice a week."

Her daughter Camilla was in the theatre and is also a painter, exhibiting with Christiana Kubrikc, wife of the late film director, Stanley.

Jan also taught and encouraged the highly successful Gillian Burrows and others.

"I could have been playing golf and going to bridge parties and the things smart, upper-class Americans do but I preferred to have a purpose here. I am glad I made my choice and took the opportunity to teach and paint.

"I am terribly lucky to have had that security in my life after all that turmoil plus two lovely children who are terribly, terribly loving."

She takes one through the tracks in the forest of her life with little prompting, sometimes coming out with the incongruous as she looks through her archives such as when she flopped out a Swastika armband on the table before me, without comment.

Does she have pet hates?

"Elevators. I had to go up 30 flights in New York when I was working. I told them I had appendicitis. It was a lie. I had claustrophobia but they released me and I taught sailing instead," she said revealing yet another talent.

"Mind you, when I came to England, I never did get to sailing again.

"I am 84 and I still smoke. Only seven a day. I have to use an inhaler too. I've tried giving up, doing the patches and things, but they don't seem to work. Muscle wastage in my legs means I can't walk but the scooter is a godsend.

"It has saved my life. I have fresh air and visit country paths I have never been to in a car. I am meeting new people. People talk to scooter people; people don't talk to you in cars.

"I have met so many people and learnt so many things. I have really met the English after all these years. I love it. I have made a lot of friends.

"I have been very, very lucky. My daughter is a very successful painter, my son is doing well in the property business and I have a good life. Yes, I am lucky.

"And I was saved by the rainbow."

CM

In days gone by, Watercress beds stretched from Rickmansworth and Croxley Hall to Cassiobury

Only one left standing



Just a word WITH OLIVER PHILLIPS

THERE was a time when Hertfordshire, particularly this corner of the county, was all but recognised as the home of the watercress industry. Watercress beds stretched from Rickmansworth and Croxley Hall to Cassiobury and along to Hemel Hempstead, Boxmoor and Bourne End profiting from the quality of the rivers and the chalk streams.

That was back in the 1920's when the likes of Sansom, Partridge, Penny, Payne, Sharp, Dorrofield (Scotsbridge) and Tiler were recognised as the doyens of the industry.

But that was yesteryear and now, Terry Tiler, working out at the beds in Sarratt Bottom, is the only watercress producer in the locality.

The Tiler's virtually stumbled into the business for Terry's great-grandfather, William Matthews, who was foreman at Sharp's large operation at Bourne End. Sent with a colleague to pick up the annual barrel of beer for the workers in the spring of 1926, they travelled by horse and cart to Langleybury, loaded on the barrel and made their way to Felden Common, tucked away between Bovingdon and Apsley.

There they remained for three days on a bender, drinking the entire contents.

On returning to work, Mr Matthews was sacked, not for being absent from work, nor for succumbing to temptation with the ale, but for keeping the horse and cart for three days.

"He heard there was some creased ditches (watercress beds) down in Sarratt. They had earthen banks and were run by Mr Dollomore, who was about 80 so he took over his tenancy with the Duke of Bedford.

At one stage the business employed seven with 15-year-old Terry, cycling from Croxley Green at five every morning to join his uncles Frank, who ran the beds and Jack, who kept the accounts and his father Fred, who was in charge of sales and distribution.

But times have long since changed and the watercress industry, as with the print and brewing, are no longer the cornerstones of south-west Herts employment.

"The industry went downhill in the 1950's," relates 65-year-old Terry. "Uncle Frank bought part of the field in 1947 and then later, the field below here and turned it into beds but we couldn't get the labour and it all went to pot."

A member of one of the other watercress families may have taken the slump too personally for he was found "hanging in one of the bunching sheds".

"Sansom's for instance, had a lot of staff but what with the Croxley Mill and Sun Engraving, workers found they could earn more away from the watercress beds," said Terry.

Workers were recruited from Dorset and Wiltshire, attracted to the higher wages they could earn on local watercress beds but they too, after frequenting the pubs, found that relatively speaking Whippendell Road was paved with gold and they moved to the Mill or the Sun.

Terry said: "As with all agriculture, we got left behind, there was a time when I first started, well, when we were paid £5 for a box of watercress and any amount of people would work for for 2s6d or 5s an hour. Now they want £10 an hour and the last time I went to Covent Garden in 2003, they were offering me £5.50 a box."

The industry moved down to Hampshire and Dorset, where it is warmer and workers can help on the farms during the summer and on the cress beds in winter.

Terry continued: "Nearly all the big firms originated from Hemel Hempstead years ago. We never started until March and finished in November, whereas they started in November and finished in March."

Big investors moved in and the smaller growers were marginalised. The introduction of the Code of Practice in the industry put paid to many local growers who could not afford to concrete their banks.

"We had already concreted our banks. I am the only one left, the only one silly enough to keep going. I did it by taking out the middle man and I take the cress to market myself."

He would set out for Covent Garden at 1am, be back in bed some time between 4 and 5am. Then he would be down on the beds by 8am.

"I'd go home at four and get a couple of hours of sleep and then catch up with the family before turning in at ten. I am lucky in that I can cat-nap.

"But I have stopped going to Covent Garden. There is no customer loyalty any more. Some of these limited companies go out of business on a Friday and start again on Monday under a new name. They have knocked you for a few quid which you can't get back. It's happening in all trades," he said.

Terry's firm used to deliver to Watford and Covent Garden while other growers serviced various local markets, but now Terry provides cress for Watford, Hemel Hempstead, St Albans, Chesham and Amersham markets and a few shops on the circuit.

Whereas a supermarket will sell up to a three-ounce bunch of watercress for £1 to £1-10, a four-ounce bunch of locally grown watercress will cost you 60p at the market.

"I'm not into kilograms but we have more weight and more volume for almost half the price and I get 30p a bunch," said Terry.

It is claimed that the demand for watercress is the same as it used to be, but Terry doubts this, citing the times when their lorry used to leave Sarratt with 800 chips of watercress on it every day. A chip used to be 36 bunches whereas that too has been devalued to 20 bunches nowadays.

"We had a two-ton lorry and three little pick-up trucks. We would come back and cut again after delivery and other local growers would bring us their cress for transporting.



Terry Tiler is the only watercress producer in the locality. Picture Y350509: SIMON DE TREY-WHITE

"We would trip round Watford, Bushey and Oxhey with 40 chips of watercress and sell out. Now we are working all hours God sends and realistically we haven't a profit.

"It's OK for me because it is not work to me. I love it. It's a hobby. But we had to diversify for the sake of my son Johnathon and daughter Sue, because they are not earning enough money.

"We bought a mini-digger last year and it has just taken off."

Which is just as well for in February the mild weather encouraged the watercress to grow only for the crop to be wiped out when the cold came in March and April.

"When it came back it had flowers on it. We cut it back again but we have not sent any out for six weeks. We have just started back," said Terry.

Watercress has been known to be ready for harvesting ten days after the previous cut but normally it takes three weeks and you get five to six crops per year from the plant.

Terry said: "The Chess is a Grade 2 river. It used to be Grade 3. I think you get three grades and then the canal. It is one of the few rivers left in England where trout breed naturally.

"The quality of water is good. I still drink it. If I'm thirsty, I drink where I am working. It ain't killed me yet," he said.

His cress is naturally grown.

"We don't use all these fertilisers and everything else. I'm not organic; I was going for that because you get more money for it. But for that you use organic fertilisers. I don't use fertilisers or chemicals.

"So I carry on as great grandfather and uncle Frank did."

His daughter Sue often brings a pot of watercress soup – watercress, potatoes, onion and chicken stock put through a blender.

"It's not as hot as watercress," said Terry tearing off a couple of leaves and munching. "I eat it every day.

"We have got Harris hawks, buzzards, kingfishers – a pair to every mile of the Chess they say – a vole, a badger or two and a weasel and you don't see many of those about.

"Foxes? There are more in in London than there are here. If you go down Rickmansworth High Street at three in morning, you often see a couple of foxes looking in dustbins. Had more grass snakes in recent years. We never had them before."

It looked and sounded a rural idyll, working in the peace with just the call of the birds and the gurgling sound of running water coursing through the beds.

But it is not quite so perfect. Terry's sheds have been broken into many times. The river borders his land and divides Herts from Bucks and often the gate over the ford is smashed down, a clear sign that a burglary or two is planned as the offenders commute from where they have committed the crime to the next county: one police jurisdiction to the next.

Terry said: "Up in the wood up there you could find coats, handbags, cases and a burnt out car.

"My son and I have taken it in turns to sleep overnight in here. They came one night and I fired a shotgun in the air. They left pretty promptly.

"They wait on the bridge until we go home, but then we double back. The fact is, when the police come down, they can see the car coming and go over the water and into Mount Wood. Even police dogs struggle then.

"I have applied four or five times for planning permission to convert the top of the building into a flat but have been knocked back every time, even though the police supported the application."

Once, a councillor at a planning meeting made a stupid remark by expressing surprise. "I can't see what difference it will make to theft and vandalism by you living there."

One wonders if he noticed everyone in the public gallery laughing at his inanity.

The "visitors" will trash Terry's work place if they find nothing worth stealing.

"Sometimes we have come down and you would not believe the state of the place after they have been," he said.

It seems incongruous to think such excess can visit this domain of tranquillity.

Terry looks in good health. He has had a new knee the need for which people tend to blame on his standing in water for much of the week, but in fact it is a legacy from his love of sport.

"I played football until I was 42. I couldn't take the field without half a mile of bandages but I miss it even now.

"I will carry on working here. I won't retire," said Terry who has five children, two step-children and now three foster children.

His wife Daphne he describes as "a baby nut", who works part-time in the special-care baby unit.

"We also have a couple of Polish students staying in our caravan. They phoned me out of the blue last year and came down to work on the beds. They must have enjoyed it because they came back. They wanted to pitch a tent down here but their belongings would be at risk.

"They have cut the hedge, years ago they would harvest hedges and get your pea and bean sticks and the rest made up into faggots to go under hay-ricks. When the ricks were finished, the faggots would be taken to Sarratt School for use in the fire."

Hedge harvesting, like a thriving south west Herts watercress industry, is sadly a thing of the past.



Sarratt's show attracted record entries. Picture Y363109: JANE PARR

Show's a winner

A RECORD number of exhibits ensured Sarratt Horticulture Society's show on Saturday was a success.

There were 398 exhibits in the show, ranging from delicate blooms to tasty treats and succulent vegetables.

Merle Liddy, vice chairman, said of the show: "We usually average about 330 to 340 entries, but we have a couple of new members this year, which was wonderful. I was anxious because of the recent wet weather. I worried it would be a poor turnout, so it all worked out well and the standard of entries was very high."

The winner of best bloom in show was Toby Biggerstaff, with a gladioli almost three-foot tall.

Ms Liddy said she hoped the show could continue to grow in size, but was keen to emphasise that it would always be a community event. She said: "It is a real village show, everyone is welcome to enter."

For a full list of results turn to Page 103.

Results of the Sarratt Horticulture Society's show

Arthur Prichard Trophy (for roses): 1. Sir Christopher Staunton, 2. Judy Jenks, Sonia McGregor and John Richard.
The Frederick Barber Trophy (all other flowers): 1. Patricia Watson, 2. Margaret Stratford, 3. Linda Fermont.
The David Osborne Trophy (for fruit and vegetables): 1. Morton Neal, 2. Joan Horwood, 3. Linda Fermont.
The Loader Trophy (for flower arranging): 1. Christine Head, 2. Joan North, 3. Mike Rogers.
The Elsie Collins Trophy (for cookery): 1. Mike Rogers, 2. Noreen Singleton, 3. David Hicks, Jennifer Peiser, Linda Fermont and Joan North.
The Flight Cracknell Trophy (for arts and crafts): 1. Phillip Beausire, 2. MC Clapinson, Linda Hicks and Brian Luckhouse.
The A.E. Cox Trophy (for children's classes): 1. Kieron Beausire, 2. Joanne Horwood, 3. Jason North.
The Three Rivers District Council Trophy (family with the highest points): 1. The Horwood family, 2. The North and Beausire families.
The Clutterbuck Trophy (champion of all sections): 1. Morton Neal, 2. Joan Horwood, 3. Pat Watson.
Certificate for best blooms in show: Toby Biggerstaff.

NEWS this week that The Grove has won the AA Hotel of the Year award no doubt delighted staff at the luxury venue, once the home of the Earl of Clarendon.

However any story about The Grove provokes much head-scratching in the Watford Observer newsroom as debate rages over where it actually is.

One longstanding hack argues that The Grove is in Watford, and therefore any story about it should feature on the Watford pages.

However, Grove management types have, at various stages, described it as being in Chandlers Cross – hence suitable for inclusion in the Three Rivers pages – and even Rickmansworth.

Could it be that geographically-challenged celebrities feel comfortable about spending a weekend in the leafy surrounds of Ricky or Chandlers Cross but would turn their noses up at the idea of a weekend in Watford?

Villagers despise vandals

THERE is a small group of boys and girls in Sarratt that seem intent on destroying everything they can. From what I have heard, they were smashing windows in the pavilion as fast as they could be replaced.

It is believed damage to the football pitch was caused by one of them riding an "off road motorbike". As soon as damage to a bus shelter is repaired, they cause more damage, sometimes within a few hours. What are they carrying to do this damage? Knives?.

They damage equipment in the kids' play area, breaking down the fence which is there to protect small kids from walking into the swings and getting hurt.

The parents must know what their kids are up to. Don't they care that they are breaking the law and causing criminal damage.

A large number of the villagers despise this group of youths for what they are doing, and some feel intimidated by them.

I heard two of them were throwing stones at a gentleman walking his dog and he was hit. We don't want them in trouble with the law, we just want the vandalism to stop, and maybe for them to use their energy doing something for the village instead of against it, and gain some respect, instead of hate. — **Name and address supplied**

Area forum

A meeting of the Sarratt area forum will take place on October 19. The gathering will be held in Sarratt village hall at 7.30pm. The agenda for the meeting is yet to be confirmed. For more information, telephone Linda Lavender on 01923 727250 or alternatively e-mail linda.lavender@threerivers.gov.uk

YOUTH FOOTBALL RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Results

Sunday, September 26

Watford Friendly League

Under-8

Group A: Croxley Gld Tigers 1 Berk Tn 6; Hadley Rgrs 2 Chipperfield 2. **Group B:** Hemel Ath 2 Evergreen Yth 4; Oxhey Utd 0 Echoes Yth 5. **Group C:** Whetstone Wands 1 London Col 0; Wood Rgrs 1 Bushey Rgrs Eagles 5. **Group D:** Berk Rdrs Blue 0 Abbots Yth 9; Strides 1 Harv Nth 3. **Group E:** Hadley Wood Herons 0 Omonia 7; Enfield Rgrs 3 Alex Pk 7. **Group F:** Nascot Wood Hawks 1 Northwood 1; Gadeside Rgrs 4 Bushey Rgrs Hawks 2. **Group G:** Pinnacle 10 Nascot Wood Eagles 0; Evergreen Jun 0 Croxley Gld Pan 7. **Non-Group Match:** London Macabi Lions 6 Everett Rvrs Grn 1; Hadley Wood West 1 Harvesters East 0.

Under-9

Group A: Evergreen Jun 0 Abbots Yth 6; Harv East 0 Sarratt Rebels 8; Pinnacle 13 London Rd 0. **Group B:** St Albans Rgrs 0 Echoes 8; B'wood Hearts 2 Gadeside Hornets 3; Evergreen Yth 3 Nascot Wood Rooks 1. **Group C:** Hemel Ath 1 Gadeside Gunners 3; Strides 2 B'wood Diamonds 5; Everett Amber 3 Nascot Wood Red 2. **Group D:** Oakhill Tigers Green 0 Whet Pan 6; Alex Pk Sth 2 Omonia White 0; Belmont 2 HMH 0. **Group E:** London Col 0 Hadley Wood Herons 7; Berk Rdrs 1 Harv Sth 0; Edson St Marys 4 Bushey Hawks 0. **Group F:** Everett Black 0 Hadley Rgrs 3; Whet Lions 1 Harv Nth 2; Enfield Rgrs 12 Echoes Jun 3. **Group G:** Whet Pumas 2 Edmonton Rgrs 1; London Maccabi Lions 0 Omonia Grn 3. **Group H:** Belmond Ajax 1 Northwood 2; Bushey Eagles 1 Oakhill Tigers White 2; Chipperfield 0 Oxhey Jets 0.

Rgrs 7 Everett Amber 0. **Friendly:** Chorleywood 11 Harp Admirals 1.

Under-12

Hertfordshire County Challenge Cup Round One: B'wood 2000 11 Riverside Hib 0; Chorleywood Aces 7 Buntingford Cougars 5; Sarratt Rebels 3 Nascot Wood Rgrs 4; Hemel Tn 0 Harp Falcons 5; Wood Rgrs 1 Oxhey Utd 3; Benington Yth 4 Hemel Ace 3; Harv Nth 3 Comet Rgrs 2; Royston Eagles 2 Cassio Lions 3; Bury Rgrs 4 London Rd 1; St Albans City Sth 1 Abbots Yth 13; Cheshunt 3 Leverstock Gn 0; Wheat Wands 3 Bushey Rgrs 0; Ware Yth 1 Everett Blue 2; Wodson Park 12 Chipp Cor 0; London Col 8 Hitchin Tn 0; Berk Rdrs 1 Hadley Wood 6; Bedmond Ajax Red 6 St Albans Rgrs 0; Stortford Jets 0 Sun Postal Blue 7; Horemead Hares 1 St Albans City East 5. **Challenge Cup Round One:** Everett Black 9 Alex Pk East 1; Hadley Rgrs 2 Bedmond Ajax Gn 3; Enfield Black 7 Everett Red 0; Berk Allstars 4 Chorleywood Blue 0; Alex Pk Yth 5 Evergreen Yth 0; Croxley Gld Eagles 3 Harv Sth 4; Croxley Gld Falcons 6 Oakhill Tigers Sharks 4; Riverside AFC 11 St Albans City West 2. **Group B:** Enfield Gn 5 Harp Hawks 0. **Group F:** Croxley Eagles 1 Leve stock Gn 4. **Group G:** Edson St Mary's 0 Whetstone Sabres 3. **Group I:** Evergreen Jun 0 Alex Pk Nth 11. **GroupJ:** Alex Pk Tigers 2 B'wood Yth 3; Whetstone Pan 6 Oakhill Predators 1. **Group K:** Sun Postal Yellow 0 Northwood 6.

Under-13

Red Division: Echoes Amber 4 Comets 2; Northwood 10 Alex Pk East 0; Sun Postal 1 St Albans City Nth 1; London Col Colts 3 Whet Jags 2; B'wood 2000 8 Edmonton Pan 1. **White Division:** Cassio Leopards 10 Alex Pk West 2; Croxley Eagles 1 Oakhill Tigers Amber 3; Nascot Wood Rgrs 8 Harv Nth 1; Harp Jags 2 London Maccabi Lions 4. **Blue Division:** Herons 5 Chorleywood 1; Pinnacle 9 Bushey Eagles 3; Everett Rvrs 1 Whet Leopards 13; Echoes Orange 1 Chipp Cor 1; Garston Boys 6 Harp Hawks 3. **Green Division:** Harv Sth 1 Riverside Hibs White 4; Edmonton Hawks 1 Whet Vipers 1; St Albans City Sth 8 Ald Leopards 1; Abbots Yth 4 London Rd 1; Bovingdon Yellow 6 Oakhill Tigers Cubs 2. **Yellow Division:** Nascot Wood Black 6 Sarratt Rebels 0; Riverside AFC 7 St Albans City West 1; Enfield Rgrs 3 Hadley Wood 1; Harp Hurricanes 2 Cassio Pumas 8; Croxley Falcons 6 Gadeside 2. **Purple Division:** Leverstock Grn 7 Alex Pk Nth 4; St Albans Rgrs 1 Woodhall Wands 0; Bushey Hawks 5 Hertsmere 4; Tring Tigers 1 Evergreen 11; Riverside Hib Blue 6 Bovingdon Grn 1.



The orchestra donned period costumes for their weekend performance in Sarratt. Picture Y385105: JANE PARR

MUSIC

Musicians put on a show during Sarratt Proms

CONGRATULATIONS and celebrations abounded when Sarratt Festival of Music reached its festive finale and climax, Last Night of the Sarratt Proms, at the village hall on Saturday.

Small became not only beautiful but felt essential, as the audience joined the Locrian Ensemble in Pomp and Circumstance, singing, waving flags, setting off party poppers and laughing out loud at some of the antics indulged in by the brilliant musicians. In the first half, the players performed the rarely heard piano quintet by Walter Leigh as well as works by Elgar and Bellini in period costume in such a way, it set the mood for concluding the entire event on a note of celebration.

Many members of the audience had secured the full range of music on offer by getting season tickets and attending all the festival concerts. They were not disappointed.

The annual village hall event once again surpassed expectations. All five concerts were sold out and organisers are to be congratulated on the standard and choice, from jazz and chamber music, to tango, popular classics and a fun family concert with percussionist extraordinaire, Alasdair Malloy. The only worry left hanging in the air is how to match or, better, surpass an event which seems to go from peak to peak in quality and popularity.

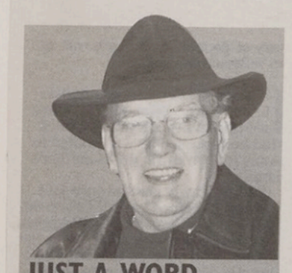
With just 180 seats, even sell-out performances cannot cover the entire cost of providing world-class music in Sarratt village hall.

"We need more funding or sponsorship to be able to keep up the quality without increasing the ticket prices," said festival chairman Jane Faulkner. The tickets may sell at prices above the current £15 (£6 for the family concert), but Jane and her committee want to keep the concerts accessible and will be meeting shortly to make an early start on securing support for next year's festival, as well as fixing the dates.

"Any form of sponsorship would help, from footing the bill for piano hire to paying for the interval drinks.

This year we had a bit of funding left over, but we are starting from scratch for next year," said Jane. She can be contacted on 01923 265066. **Grelle White**

Farewell to the joys of village life



JUST A WORD
OLIVER PHILLIPS

AFTER 25 years in the village of Sarratt, we bade it farewell. We have been rattling round in the house which was too large for our needs since the children left. So a move somewhere had always been on the cards.

I have enjoyed a semi-rural existence for much of my life: forty-four years in Chipperfield/ Redheath/ Chandlers Cross/Sarratt.

I had drunk in the village since 1960 but that is entirely different from moving in. A village is a microcosm of society: you know the busybody; the person who seeks to become a mover and shaker within the confines of the boundaries; the youths most likely to steal your car radio and the one likely to pick a fight with anyone for any or no reason. You become almost on nodding terms with the local burglar as you pass and collect your paper from the shop.

Did I say shop? Well people years before me will remember when Sarratt was chock full of shops and pubs. Back in 1979, there were five shops on The Green. Now there is just one. The demographics of villages are changing and such are the house prices in rural areas, sons and daughters of villagers have been priced out of the chance of buying property in their home village. So there is understandable resentment at the newcomers who come in, purchase a house, a Range Rover-type vehicle and green wellies and immediately think of themselves as villagers steeped in rural life.

I tried to avoid that trap. Some nine months after arriving in the village I was asked to undertake a sponsored swim in the school pool to raise money for its maintenance. I went round The Cock and the Watford Observer and gained a hefty sponsorship deal based on the number of lengths I would swim one Sunday morning at the beginning of March in an open-air pool.

We arrived and found I was the last scheduled to swim. Some people did two lengths, another did three in the freezing water to loud applause from the assembled.

I do not know why it worked out that way but the final trio to take the water, were somewhat hardier souls. It was cold but by swimming steadily, we became acclimatised to it. Two of us were left, a young lad and myself and we ploughed on until we were told that after 35 lengths we would have to call a halt.

It was pleasing to have made a contribution to the children's school and after a couple of pints down The Cock, my temperature and spirits were revived.

Within an hour of my returning home, I had a call inviting me to join the PTA. I was unsure how fortitude in the face of cold or long distance swimming would be discerned as an asset for the association but I declined. My reason was simple. Having been in the village less than a year, I did not think it was proper for a newcomer, and by definition "an outsider", to be seen pushing my way onto various bodies.

Some four years later, I did accept the purely nominal title of chairman of Sarratt Cricket Club, and attempted to make a contribution off the field, for cricket was not my strong suit.

But the amazing thing about moving to a village is that they know you. The first Saturday morning, our four girls were heading for the sweet shop when my wife asked them to pick up a leg of lamb at the butchers. She gave them a 10s note. Now that shows us as to how long ago we are referring. The concept of buying a leg of lamb for 50p is as dated as the memory of a butcher's shop in Sarratt.

Half an hour later, the children returned, sans leg of lamb or the 10s note. It had been lost.

I set off with them, retracing their steps to the butcher's. It was nearly closing time. I checked in the butcher's shop but they had not seen the 10s note.

"But don't worry Oli," the butcher said. "Have the leg of lamb and pay me on Monday."

I was touched by this gesture but even more surprised that he knew my name.

Then I realised: being the stranger, the newcomer, they all did.

It seems so long ago but I look back on those days with great fondness, not just because we had young children and planned another, but because certain people went out of their way to make us feel welcome.

The first Sunday morning, the children awoke to find Karen outside on a horse, happy to take the children round the block. A few days later, struggling to start my car, I looked baffled when Kevin, a member of that vast empire that is the Biggerstaffs, walked past. I had never met him before, but he stopped, moved a few things around and started the car before continuing on his way with "A pleasure, Oli."

There were others such as Pat Rees, Terry Tyler, Martin Singleton, Janet, Bonzo, Bert and Hilda, Noreen, Paul and Bernice who went out of their way to ease our settling into the village fraternity, with Richard being particularly helpful pointing out what to know and whose corns were most sensitive to being trod on. Then there was Gayle on neighbourhood watch, and Aerial Colin, fixing the TV.

The near-neighbours were friendly but seemed a lot older than us but, such is the way of life, now, 25 years on, we seem to have aged more than they have. When we first moved in, Bob, in what she thought was acceptable beligerance, called out to my wife about our dog with a "Hey! You! Miss World!". For some reason she's always had a soft spot for old Bob.

I could go on like an Oscar-winners acceptance speach for there is always someone overlooked.

Yet, perhaps the biggest help came from an unexpected source, a person I hardly knew. We had nodded at each other occasionally in the pub but one day he came up and said in rounded rural tones: "I hear you want to extend your house. I'll do it,"

I pointed out I could not afford his rates, but he offered to work at weekends. "I will match the lowest quote you have," he said.

I checked with Richard: yes, he was a good builder if a touch sensitive so it was probably not a perfect partnership, given my tendency to call a spade a spade at what my wife deems to be inopportune moments. But contrary to most projections, we did not fall out and Colin built rooms front and back, while I laboured digging trenches and carting bricks and cement. He became a firm friend.

He used to pull my leg about my failure to add a 30-inch piece of beading over a doorway and would mention it every time we were in the lounge. It bugged him and it became a running joke.

A couple of years later, returning from holiday, I phoned him one evening and invited him out for a drink. I understood he had been a little down but he declined the offer, saying: "I will have a drink with you one day, Oli."

The next night he disappeared and his body was found down by the Chess three days later.

It was our worst time in Sarratt and I have always regretted not being more aware and not taking 'no' for an answer when asking him out for a pint. His family moved away and, for a spell, we seriously considered doing likewise.

The years have rolled by, annual Christmas parties have hopefully been enjoyed but it is the longest we have stayed in any house, so clearly Sarratt must have suited us. I will miss the walks with the dogs down Dawes Common, my sleepy attempts at conversation at the paper shop at 6.30am every morning and the general ambience.

However, possibly because we have sent two consignments of our effects down to France over the previous seven months, it was no longer the house we knew.

Walking around the empty shell the other morning of our departure, I was reminded with a pang, those days when the children were young have gone forever. The stairs they jumped down, and which Easter eggs were propelled annually, no longer echo to their voices and had ceased to years ago.

It was touching they too came back to have a last look, one even travelling back from Barcelona.

I remember being in tears at the age of 37 when I vacated my first house in Redheath but, this time round, despite longer association, there was just an appreciation it was time to move on.

Even so, I have loved those years in Sarratt. Regrets? Yes, I have a few as Paul Anka once wrote for Frank Sinatra. Despite being in the village for 25 years, I never did get one of those special road licences, that don't seem to be handed out to established country people.

The real countrymen and women know that when driving down the lanes, their passenger-side wing-mirror is often forced into intense relationships with the hedges. But apparently there are special licenses available for newcomers.

This gives them exclusive rights to drive down every lane dead in the centre, preferably in a Range Rover-type or new car, forcing everyone else to take evasive action.

You live and pass on through and I don't know that I contributed much apart from the publicity. Even the swimming pool in which I shivered that March morning, has long been filled in and forgotten.

But Sarratt will always remain special to me – a long association from short-trousered days when I sat outside one of the two pubs, drinking Vimto, to actually living there. Twenty-five years is a long time but walking round the house for a final farewell, there were no regrets and despite time at my disposal, none for sadness.

Mind you, I did take a quick breath in the lounge when I spotted the piece where the beading was supposed to go.

"We still sold it, even without that beading, Colin," I said out loud.

Village teenagers claim boredom is causing vandalism

by **DINA BEHRMAN**

TEENAGERS in Sarratt are carrying out acts of vandalism in the village because there is nothing for them to do.

That was the message from youngsters who turned up at a community meeting this week to demand something is done to keep them occupied.

Six teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17 years old showed up at Sarratt Local Area Forum on Tuesday, where crime in the village was top of the agenda.

Speaking at the meeting, Inspector George Holland said mindless damage to fences and phone boxes were the main nuisance acts being reported. Residents also reported vandalism in the bus stop, with broken bottles and graffiti being found.

But one teenager said: "The reason why we do stuff in the bus stop is there is nothing else to do. The kids don't get a voice in the village, that's why we have come here tonight. If we had something else to do instead of just sitting in the bus shelter there wouldn't be such anti-social behaviour."

Inspector Holland told them: "It's mindless to smash bottles on the ground. Why go round spraying things with cans? Some of the things you have got to think abut for yourself, think constructively."

Parish councillor Dave Rees said there had been a considerable amount of vandalism at the playing fields. He said: "We have replaced all the safety glass on three doors and the day after the windows were smashed and tiles were taken off the roof."

According to the police, criminal damage is one of the major crimes in Sarratt. Inspector Holland said if police have evidence they will take the necessary action. He added: "But we've got to see what measures can be put in place to prevent damage taking place in the first place."

Sarratt resident and parish councillor John Dean said it was obvious the youngsters wanted a focal point.

He said: "Other parishes have put in youth shelters,

"I wonder if our parish council is brave enough to do that? There would be a trade off though, it would be the end of vandalism."

According to the teens the vandalism didn't start until the village's youth club stopped. One said: "If we had something to do you wouldn't have vandalism."

Sarratt's weekly youth club was stopped after the youth leaders left, saying they were unable to carry on working there. Now the police and parish council are hoping people will step forward to help set up a new youth club.

Inspector Holland told the youngsters it was important to find out what they wanted, as they formed an important part of the community. He said: "It's not going to happen over night, they have got to do something constructively and not just shout and scream."

This week Three Rivers District Councillor Tony Barton said councillors would be taking the youngsters' views on board.

He said: "I'm very concerned there are inadequate venues for young people. We are seriously looking at it."

~Philip Buller ~

We hope you will be able to join us at the

Spotlight Tea Party

3.30pm on **Friday 15 October**
at
Micklefield Green House,
Sarratt Road

R.S.V.P. Jeannie Poulton 260295
Julia Lawrence 260504

* Please let us know if you need transport. *

Rector: **The Rev. Peter Hart**

THE PARISH
OF SARRATT

The Rectory,
The Green,
Sarratt
WD3 6BP

Tel: (01923) 264377

REV JAMES STEVENS

We are delighted to announce that Rev James (Jim) Stevens has accepted the position of Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Sarratt & Chipperfield. This is subject to 'legal formalities'.

Jim is presently the minister of St Philip's Dorridge with St James' Bentley Heath in the Diocese of Birmingham. There are two church centres in his parish; one based at St Philip's & the other meeting on school premises where they have their own separate building. The joint electoral roll is about 300 & the second centre is primarily looked after by a curate. Jim has been the vicar there for the last 15 years & is Area Dean of Shirley.

Dorridge is an affluent, busy residential parish. The church has 15 home groups.

Jim is 57 & is married to Judy who is a teacher; they have 3 grown up children, two daughters and one son. The husband of one his daughters was recently installed as curate at Holy Trinity, Cambridge.

Jim became a Christian while he was at Oxford studying Theoretical Physics. He worked for Courtaulds as a research scientist, and subsequently did his theological training at Trinity College, Bristol. He was a curate in Hereford & then became a team vicar in Lowestoft. He moved to Dorridge in 1989.

In 2000 he visited Rwanda and, as is so often the case with those who see poorer countries, was affected by what he saw. He went back in 2002 having raised £12,500 to pay for the repair of a medical centre which had been burnt down.

He has a dog which he walks twice a day.

There will be a gap before Jim takes up the position here. He needs to give three months notice before leaving & then the Diocese insist that ministers have a month's gap between jobs. This allows them to move, settle in and have a break. No date is fixed for his installation yet. March has been mentioned.

David Clough

Derek Woolcock — Churchwardens

17 October 2004

2004



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

SARRATT LOCAL AREA FORUM
NOTICE AND AGENDA
For a meeting to be held on

Tuesday 19 October 2004 at 7.30pm in
Sarratt Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt
(parking on the green is not permitted) (map overleaf)

1. **INTRODUCTION**

2. **INTRODUCTION OF GREEN WASTE REFUSE COLLECTIONS**
   Councillor Phil Brading the Portfolio holder for Public Services and Health will attend to discuss and answer questions on green waste refuse collections

3. **POLICE IMPACT IN SARRATT**
   Inspector George Holland will be attending to answer questions on any Policing issues in Sarratt and to talk about the new Police Community Support Officers PCSO's.

4. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**
   Gareth Davidson will provide an update on the current situation and answer any queries

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
   A presentation by Peter Kerr on Preserving the Environment in Sarratt (Village life, the Chilterns AONB, the green belt, the M25 and the preparation of the new local development framework.)

6. **LAF BUDGET - £500**
   Your ideas are sought on how to spend this sum

7. **RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS TEAM**
   Brief presentation on the work carried out by the Residential Standards Team in Environmental Health (pest control, animal control, private sector housing and pollution control)

8. **LOCAL COUNCILLORS – What do you know about them?**

9. **LOCAL ISSUES**
   Points and questions from the floor.

10. **IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

11. **DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MEET YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor:- Tony Barton.
Your District Councillors and Parish Councillors have also been invited to attend.

If you would like more information contact: **Ami Beeton, Committee Manager on 01923 727252 or e-mail ami.beeton@threerivers.gov.uk**

Sarratt Local History Society

AFTER THE ROMANS.

Come and hear

Brian Adams

Archæologist at Verulamium.

at 8pm on Tuesday March 9 2004
in Sarratt Village Hall.

Coffee/tea & biscuits
available from 7.30pm.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2004
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	8,19th/11.0	30th /-3.1	30th /-6.1	30th / 13.1	90.6	first snow of winter, 14th.
February	4th / 14.0	26th /-3.1	26th /-6.7	1st / 6.4	23.2	
March	31st / 18.7	2nd /-5.9	2nd /-7.3	19th / 8.7	44.6	last snowfall, 12th. Max snow depth, 12th, 5cms.
April	24th / 22.2	20th /-0.9	20th /-2.0	27th / 12.8	79.2	last air frost, ground frost & 1st cuckoo, 20th, 22nd & 26th.
May	17th / 23.6	23rd / 1.5	23rd / 1.2	3rd / 13.8	53.3	
June	8th / 29.5	21,22/4.2	20th / 2.7	22nd / 14.3	24.9	
July	29th / 28.2	6th / 5.0	10th / 3.2	8th / 14.2	38.6	
August	8th / 30.3	28th / 8.0	28th / 6.5	3rd / 19.3	93.4	1st - 24th August, 24 consecutive days with max. air temp over 20C
September	5th / 28.0	16th / 1.8	25th / 0.1	12th / 8.3	19.3	
October	2nd / 17.6	19th / 0.0	19,26/-1.6	13th / 29.6	138.8	first ground frost, 19th.
November	12th / 15.3	20th /-2.1	20th /-4.9	18th / 16.4	48.0	first air frost, 14th.
December	30th / 13.7	20th /-4.3	20th /-7.2	16th / 13.8	47.8	first snowfall, 20th.



SARRATT £870,000

A detached 5 bedroom family home set in the corner of a quiet close just off the Village Green. This beautiful home has been the subject of extensive re-decoration and modernising programmes to both the house and gardens.

Tel Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

March 2004



SARRATT £2,500 PCM

A pretty Grade II listed 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom detached cottage with country cottage garden and views overlooking the Green in Sarratt. 1312







SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £675,000

A detached chalet bungalow with carriage driveway constructed in the late 1930's situated near to The Common in Sarratt offering three/four bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, two reception rooms, bespoke full width and side conservatory, and generous rear plot.

01923 284125







SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £765,000

Located within the picturesque village of Sarratt on one of the quieter roads, this detached six bedroom property with versatile family accommodation, most of which has been refurbished to a very high standard with plenty of parking and an attractive level rear garden.

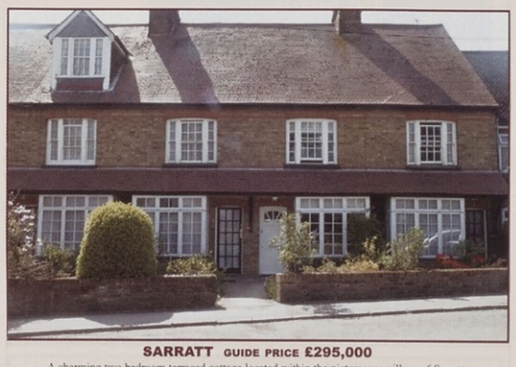
01923 284125



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £545,000

A charming well presented three/four bedroom detached property with views across open countryside in the picturesque village of Sarratt.

01923 284125



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £295,000

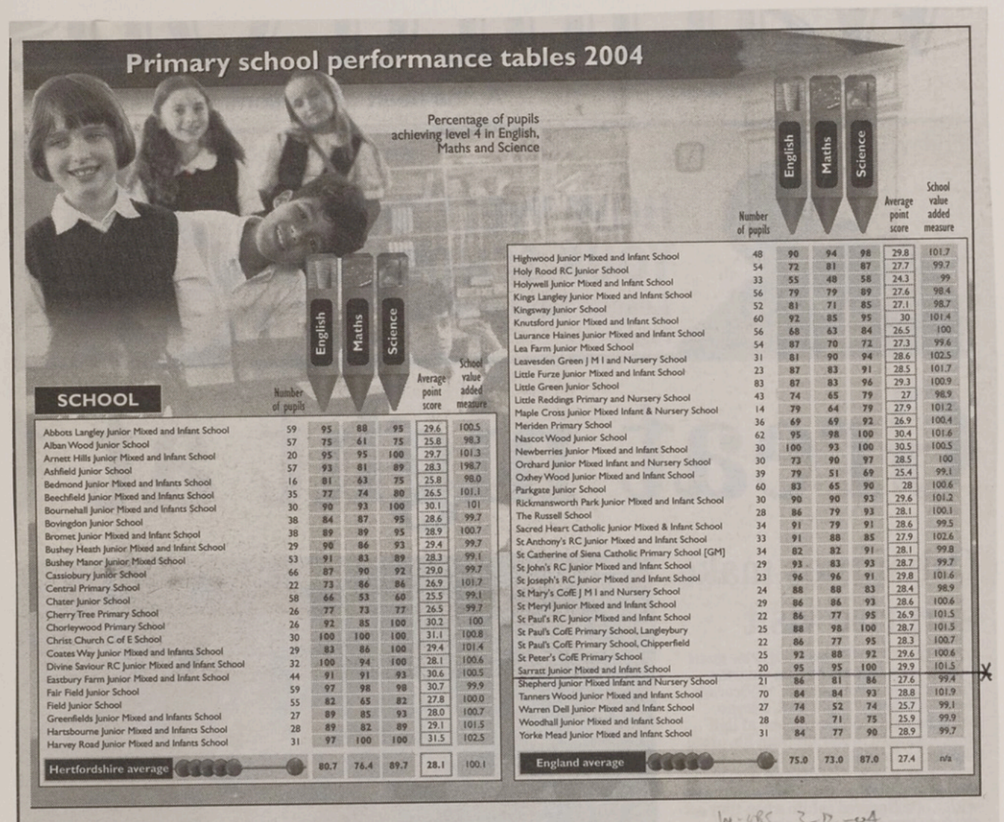
A charming two bedroom terraced cottage located within the picturesque village of Sarratt.



SARRATT £299,000

Charming semi detached cottage overlooking the Green. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, cellar. Gas C.H. Southerly aspect rear garden, off street parking. No upper chain.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244



SCHOOL	Number of pupils	English	Maths	Science	Average point score	School value added measure
Abbots Langley Junior Mixed and Infant School	59	95	88	95	29.6	100.5
Alban Wood Junior School	57	75	61	75	25.8	98.3
Arnett Hills Junior Mixed and Infant School	20	95	95	100	29.7	101.3
Ashfield Junior School	57	93	81	89	28.3	198.7
Bedmond Junior Mixed and Infants School	16	81	63	75	25.8	98.0
Beechfield Junior Mixed and Infants School	35	77	74	80	26.5	101.1
Bournehall Junior Mixed and Infants School	30	90	93	100	30.1	101
Bovingdon Junior School	38	84	87	95	28.6	99.7
Bromet Junior Mixed and Infant School	38	89	89	95	28.9	100.7
Bushey Heath Junior Mixed and Infant School	29	90	86	93	29.4	99.7
Bushey Manor Junior Mixed School	53	91	83	89	28.3	99.1
Cassiobury Junior School	66	87	90	92	29.0	99.7
Central Primary School	22	73	86	86	26.9	101.7
Chater Junior School	58	66	53	60	25.5	99.1
Cherry Tree Primary School	26	77	73	77	26.5	99.7
Chorleywood Primary School	26	92	85	100	30.2	100
Christ Church C of E School	30	100	100	100	31.1	100.8
Coates Way Junior Mixed and Infants School	29	83	86	100	29.4	101.4
Divine Saviour RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	32	100	94	100	28.1	100.6
Eastbury Farm Junior Mixed and Infant School	44	91	91	93	30.6	100.5
Fair Field Junior School	59	97	98	98	30.7	99.9
Field Junior School	55	82	65	82	27.8	100.0
Greenfields Junior Mixed and Infants School	27	89	85	93	28.0	100.7
Hartsbourne Junior Mixed and Infants School	28	89	82	89	29.1	101.5
Harvey Road Junior Mixed and Infants School	31	97	100	100	31.5	102.5
Hertfordshire average		80.7	76.4	89.7	28.1	100.1
Highwood Junior Mixed and Infant School	48	90	94	98	29.8	101.7
Holy Rood RC Junior School	54	72	81	87	27.7	99.7
Holywell Junior Mixed and Infant School	33	55	48	58	24.3	99
Kings Langley Junior Mixed and Infant School	56	79	79	89	27.6	98.4
Kingsway Junior School	52	81	71	85	27.1	98.7
Knutsford Junior Mixed and Infant School	60	92	85	95	30	101.4
Laurance Haines Junior Mixed and Infant School	56	68	63	84	26.5	100
Lea Farm Junior Mixed School	54	87	70	72	27.3	99.6
Leavesden Green J M I and Nursery School	31	81	90	94	28.6	102.5
Little Furze Junior Mixed and Infant School	23	87	83	91	28.5	101.7
Little Green Junior School	83	87	83	96	29.3	100.9
Little Reddings Primary and Nursery School	43	74	65	79	27	98.9
Maple Cross Junior Mixed Infant & Nursery School	14	79	64	79	27.9	101.2
Meriden Primary School	36	69	69	92	26.9	100.4
Nascot Wood Junior School	62	95	98	100	30.4	101.6
Newberries Junior Mixed and Infant School	30	100	93	100	30.5	100.5
Orchard Junior Mixed Infant and Nursery School	30	73	90	97	28.5	100
Oxhey Wood Junior Mixed and Infant School	39	79	51	69	25.4	99.1
Parkgate Junior School	60	83	65	90	28	100.6
Rickmansworth Park Junior Mixed and Infant School	30	90	90	93	29.6	101.2
The Russell School	28	86	79	93	28.1	100.1
Sacred Heart Catholic Junior Mixed & Infant School	34	91	79	91	28.6	99.5
St Anthony's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	33	91	88	85	27.9	102.6
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School [GM]	34	82	82	91	28.1	99.8
St John's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	29	93	83	93	28.7	99.7
St Joseph's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	23	96	96	91	29.8	101.6
St Mary's CofE J M I and Nursery School	24	88	88	83	28.4	98.9
St Meryl Junior Mixed and Infant School	29	86	86	93	28.6	100.6
St Paul's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	22	86	77	95	26.9	101.5
St Paul's CofE Primary School, Langleybury	25	88	98	100	28.7	101.5
St Paul's CofE Primary School, Chipperfield	22	86	77	95	28.3	100.7
St Peter's CofE Primary School	25	92	88	92	29.6	100.6
Sarratt Junior Mixed and Infant School	20	95	95	100	29.9	101.5
Shepherd Junior Mixed Infant and Nursery School	21	86	81	86	27.6	99.4
Tanners Wood Junior Mixed and Infant School	70	84	84	93	28.8	101.9
Warren Dell Junior Mixed and Infant School	27	74	52	74	25.7	99.1
Woodhall Junior Mixed and Infant School	28	68	71	75	25.9	99.9
Yorke Mead Junior Mixed and Infant School	31	84	77	90	28.9	99.7
England average		75.0	73.0	87.0	27.4	n/a

W-ORS. 3-12-04

Schools among best in country

by **MATT HEMLEY**

SCHOOLS in Watford and the surrounding areas are among the best in the country, according to figures released this week.

Statistics released by the Department for Education and Skills shows that some schools are well above the national average for Key Stage Two standard in English, maths and science.

Nationally, 78 per cent of primary school children taking their exams in English are National Curriculum level four or above.

But in Hertfordshire alone, 83 per cent of students reached the required standard, and in Watford, there were some even more impressive results.

St Joseph's Primary School in South Oxhey got a 96 per cent average in English, while Sacred Heart School in Bushey got an average score of 91 per cent.

The national average for maths was 74 per cent, but Rickmansworth Park School in Rickmansworth got 90 per cent average, three per cent higher than last year, while St Anthony's in the Holywell estate, Watford, got an 88 per cent average, 12 per cent up on last year's results.

In science, the national average of children achieving level four or above, was 86 per cent, but in Sarratt Church of England Primary School, 100 per cent of pupils were above the standard.

Even schools earmarked for closure this year were shown to be improving.

Little Furze School in South Oxhey, which is due to close at the end of the year, had more than a 30 per cent improvement in English and maths, with 87 per cent of pupils above the average in English.

But despite high achievements, some staff expressed their disapproval of the league tables.

Christine Buck, headteacher of the Sarratt school, said: "I have reservations about the whole issue of league tables.

"I'm pleased with our children this year, but I'm always pleased with their efforts and what our staff do.

"No matter where we stand in league tables, I think one should encourage and motivate children to do their best.

"League tables don't paint a true picture of the heart of the school."

County councillor Robert Gordon, portfolio holder for education, was delighted with the results however, and said: "This is very good news for education in Hertfordshire."

W.O 3-12-04



SARRATT £299,950

A 2 bedroom terrace cottage in good decorative order, with through lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom plus en-suite shower room, with rear off street parking & gardens to front & back. Enjoying views directly over village green in this sought after Herts community.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244



BUCKS HILL PRICE GUIDE £700,000

An attractive period cottage (believed to be a former farmhouse), having grounds & paddocks of approx. 3.5 acres (further 5.5 acres available by separate negotiation). 4 bedrooms, 2 shower/baths (1 en-suite), 2 receptions, study, kitchen & conservatory. Outhouses.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Holy Cross Church, Sarratt
St Paul's Church, Chipperfield

Institution and Induction
of
The Reverend Jim Stevens
as
Rector of the Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield
by
The Right Reverend Christopher Foster
Bishop of Hertford
and
The Venerable Helen Cunliffe
Archdeacon of St Albans

Saturday 12th March 2005

Holy Cross Church at 4.00pm
St Paul's Church at 5.00pm

2005

James (Jim) Stevens, Vicar, St Philip's Church Centre, Dorridge with St James, Bentley Heath, Birmingham diocese, to be Priest-in-Charge, Sarratt and Chipperfield.

Plan rejected

AN application to allow a Sarratt stables to be used as an equine rescue centre and ancillary sales was rejected last week. Three Rivers' development control committee decided that the reasons given by the applicant did not justify removing a current planning permission condition and that the application appeared to be more for development of a commercial business and not horse rescue. Local councillors and residents objected to the application, which was unanimously rejected.

The Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Institution Service for

The Reverend Jim Stevens

To be held on Saturday 12th March 2005

4.00pm Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

followed by refreshments in Chipperfield Village Hall

(Please bring this ticket with you)

The Grove

Location is Chandlers Cross

A NUMBER of correspondents have, over the last months, made claims as to where The Grove is actually sited. It is certainly not in Watford.

A look at the Ordnance Survey map for the area shows that the boundary between Watford and Three Rivers runs from the Hunton Bridge roundabout along the line of the canal to Grove Mill Lane.

Thus the main entrance off Hempstead Road and part of the grounds do lie in Watford, but all the buildings are within the civil parish of Sarratt, which itself is within Three Rivers.

This is why the original planning applications were dealt with by Sarratt Parish Council and Three Rivers District Council.

The Grove advertises itself as being in Chandler's Cross which is one of several hamlets that help make up Sarratt civil parish. The boundaries are rather convoluted in that area and it came as a surprise to me to see that most of Whippendell Woods also lie within Sarratt.

A recent photo in the Nostalgia section showed a pub called The Boot which, it was thought, was the Sarratt pub of that name.

I can definitely say that it was not Sarratt Boot, nor do I think that it was The Boot at Tower Hill, Chipperfield. Perhaps someone else will be able to throw some light on it. — **Philip Buller, Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt, Rickmansworth**

HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE

Division One

Sarratt 3
London Road 0

A CLINICAL hat-trick from Chris Honour fired Sarratt to their first win in four matches and avenged a depressing defeat they suffered at the hands of the same opposition a fortnight ago.

"The result went a long way to making up for our result against them two weeks ago where we put in our worst performance of the season," said player/manager Danny Kindell.

Honour's hat-trick adorned a solid team performance in which Ben Lumley, the centre-half returning after six months on the sidelines stood out, and Kindell is looking for his side to replicate this type of display when they host champions-elect Buntingford Town tomorrow (Saturday).

"This match will give me an indication of just how far we have come from the beginning of the season where we were soundly beaten by Buntingford and with the squad I now have I feel we could get a result of some kind," declared a confident Kindell.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Tt
Buntingford Town	22	19	1	2	76	23	58
Little Munden	25	16	4	5	58	35	52
Hertford Heath	25	14	5	6	65	41	47
Standon & Puck	22	12	5	5	57	33	41
Knebworth	24	12	3	9	63	47	39
Lemsford	24	10	6	8	58	47	36
Allenbury Sports	22	11	2	9	57	54	35
Sarratt	21	9	5	7	40	45	32
North Mymms	25	7	8	10	60	61	29
Buckhurst Hill	24	8	4	12	45	55	28
Loughton	24	8	3	13	30	48	27
London Road	24	4	4	16	38	74	16
Croxley Guild	26	3	5	18	34	74	14
Cuffley	24	3	5	16	33	77	14

St George's Day

A SERIES of events to mark St George's Day will be held in Sarratt on Saturday, April 23. A full English breakfast will be on offer at The Boot public house from 8.30am. At 10am St George, will arrive on horseback at The Green, and a patriotic ceremony will be held around the flagpole. A roast beef dinner will be held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. For details about the breakfast, telephone Allan Grant on 01923 262 226 or the dinner, telephone Carol Chorley on 01923 265 096.

Spring Show

SARRATT Village Hall will host the Sarratt Horticultural Society's sprin show on Saturday. The event will start at 2.30pm and will include an auction of many of the show entries, along with raffles and afternoon tea.

Shakespeare outing

SARRATT WI has organised a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon to visit the home of Mary Arden (Shakespeare's mother) on Wednesday, April 20. The trip will also include optional visits to Holy Trinity Church and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The cost is £15. For more information, telephone 01923 350 938.

Flower Festival
Coffee Morning

You are invited to a
"Bring and Buy" Coffee Morning
at Micklefield Green House on Wednesday 18 May
10.30 - 12 noon
to raise funds for the flowers at the Flower Festival.

Please come and bring your friends
to enjoy a cup of coffee in beautiful surroundings.

Entrance 50p, which includes a cup of coffee.
There will be stalls for plants, cakes, Bring and Buy, and a raffle.

SARRATT



This four bedroom detached farmhouse is set in the sought after village of Sarratt, Hertfordshire, and is offered unfurnished on a long let. The property has been refurbished to a high standard to offer three bathrooms, an extremely well fitted kitchen, two large reception rooms and a useful basement.

£2,800 PCM



HOLY CROSS CHURCH
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 25 June to Monday 27 June

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
10.00am – 5.00pm	11.00am – 5.00pm	11.00am – 3.00pm

This year's theme – **Our Village**
Light Refreshments, Lunches and Teas on Saturday and Sunday
Light Refreshments and Lunches on Monday
Cakes Plants Books Gifts Bric-a-Brac Face Painting
Concert - **Music for a Summer Evening** - 7.30pm Saturday

Entrance and Car Parking Free

SERVICES:
Regular Services 8.00am and 10.00am Sunday
Songs of Praise 6.30pm Sunday
Thanksgiving Service 2.00pm Monday

Proceeds to Holy Cross Church and The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt
Registered Charity No 1018991

MICKLEFIELD HALL, SARRATT
CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

IN AID OF HOLY CROSS SARRATT & ST PAUL'S CHIPPERFIELD YOUTH FUND

Bank Holiday Monday May 2nd
10.00 - 4.30

OPEN SHOOT £12.00 PER PERSON
£100.00 FIRST PRIZE
£50.00 SECOND PRIZE
£40.00 THIRD PRIZE
TEAM SHOOT - TEAMS OF 4 (£40.00 PER TEAM)
Have A Go Stand
Children's Air Rifle Range
Beer & Pimms Tent
Teas, Bar B Q
Bouncy Castles and Face Painting

For more info contact:
(Shooting) James Bush 07932 152291
(Other) Phil Waine 07771 712636





Quiet Place in Sarratt

A ministry of hospitality and prayer

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"

[Mark 6: 31]

An opportunity for stillness &

reflection and meditation on

passages from Scripture

at

Minstead, Red Lion Lane

Tuesday mornings
10am to 12md as
shown opposite

Hot and cold drinks will be available at any time you are here.

In 2005

on

Tuesday July 19
Tuesday August 16
Tuesday September 20
Tuesday October 18
Tuesday November 15
Tuesday December 13

For more information
contact Edna Gain on
01923268762

There is parking space for about 6 cars. A map overleaf will show you how to find Minstead.

Bridge event

W.O 12-8-05

A BRIDGE drive will be held in Sarratt on Friday, September 30. The event, in the village hall, will include a salmon supper, raffle and licensed bar. Cost is £8. For more information telephone Peggy Rawlings on 01923 267666.

Hole remains

A SINK hole located on a pub terrace reported in the Watford Observer last month has still not been repaired. The 18-foot hole outside the Clarendon Arms in Chandlers Cross, has remained open, with only boards covering it, for ten months, and regulars are calling for the council or the owners to repair it.

Coffee corner

A CARE coffee corner will be held in Sarratt Village Hall on Wednesday, August 31, from 10.30am to noon. All are welcome to attend.

Sarratt 2 Croxley Guild 1

DANNY KINDELL was "quietly satisfied" after Tuesday night's win saw Sarratt to their first victory of the season. But Guild boss Jeff Adams admitted: "I'll give the boys a few more games to show what they can do then we'll just have to think about changing things."

Tim Maynard and Nathan Turnbull had given Sarratt a 2-0 lead at the break and, although Guild piled forward in the second-half, they only had a Craig Osborne goal to show for their efforts as Adrian Skinley marshalled the Sarratt back-line superbly.

"The boys responded well in the second-half," said Adams. "But we've got lots of new faces and it'll take a while to mould this team into the way I want." Guild had gone down 3-0 to North Myyms in the opening game of the season – a display Green labelled as "diabolical".

Sarratt had kicked off their campaign with a 2-1 home defeat to Hertford Heath.

Senior Division One

Buckhurst Hill og	1-1	**Loughton** Wellington
Sarratt Maynard, Turnbull	2-1	**Croxley Guild** Osborne

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertford Heath	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Lemsford	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Cuffley	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Standon & Puck	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Allenburys Sports	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Knebworth	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
North Mymms	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Old Parmiterians	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Sarratt	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Loughton	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
St Peters	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Buckhurst Hill	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Bovingdon	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
Croxley Guild	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Reserve Division Two

Bovingdon Bishop, Bradshaw, Marks	3-1	**Chipperfield Cors** og

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bovingdon	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Allenburys Sports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bushey Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croxley Guild	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cuffley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knebworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lemsford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Mymms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandridge Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sarratt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitewebbs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wormley Rovers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chipperfield Cors	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING COURSE

ON MONDAYS AT
PENTLAND HOUSE, RED LION LANE, SARRATT

STARTS MON 10 OCTOBER 2005
ENDING MON 12 DECEMBER

includes demonstrations & individual tuition

* Beginners welcome *

10.30am - 12.30pm • Coffee & biscuits provided

Fee: £10 per lesson or £80 per 10 week course

Tutor: Jan Clutterbuck - Tel: 01923 262642

HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE



Chris Honour, centre, will spearhead Sarratt's promotion push this season. Picture Z105603: JANE PARR

Sarratt 19-8-05

Manager: Danny Kindell
Last season: Eighth
In: Dan Strickland (Kings Sports), Stuart Leader
Out: None
Verdict: AFTER a season of consolidation, promotion is the target for Sarratt this time round.

"This is our second year together now so that with that in mind and having not lost any players I am very confident going into the new season of our chances," said Kindell.

"That is a realistic ambition with the squad I have. Apart from the two teams that have come down from the Premier who I expect to be strong this year, I do not fear anyone and feel we will give any team in the division a game."

Judging by Sarratt's encouraging pre-season – the high point of which was a win over Premier Division champions Hadley – Kindell's optimism is not mis-placed, but the player-manager's involvement on the pitch in the opening weeks is likely to be hampered after he damaged ankle ligaments in a friendly.
Key man: Chris Honour – Kindell was delighted to be able to retain the services of a player he feels is capable of playing a much higher level and who is expected to spearhead Sarratt's promotion charge.

MUSIC

This year's Sarratt Festival of Music offers something for everyone and has just announced its new patron, pianist John Lill. ***Grelle White*** *reports*

Festival glamour

World famous pianist, John Lill has added a touch of international approval and glamour to the small, but significant Sarratt Festival of Music, by agreeing to become its patron.

The acclaimed pianist also tops the bill at this year's festival by performing the opening concert at Sarratt Village Hall on Friday, September 16, a recital of Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven.

This is the sixth festival centred on the local village hall and once again, organisers have managed to attract a world class mixture of performers to delight most music fans, from the soprano Catherine Bott, to jazz musician Digby Fairweather and oboist Nicholas Daniel (one of the first BBC Young Musician of the Year winners).

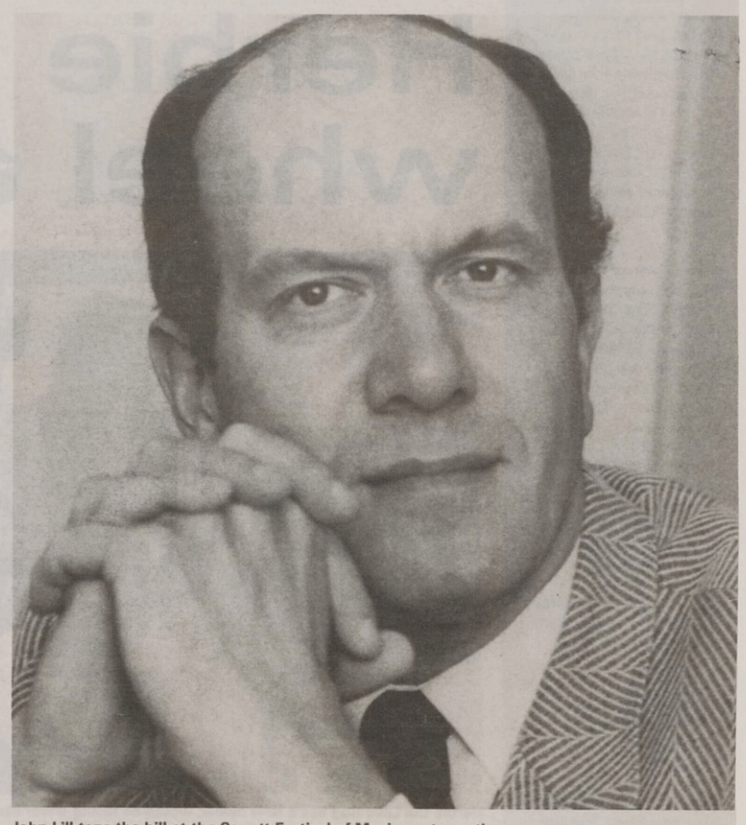
John Lill's opening concert is followed, on Saturday, September 17, by Catherine Bott performing London Pride, a musical trip round her home town, with Jonathan Cohen at the piano in a warm and witty celebration of London, in songs ranging from Joyce Grenfell to Noel Coward.

"For those of us who have always wondered whether the nightingales really do sing in Berkeley Square and what Handel was doing in the Strand, this evening is not to be missed," said Jane Faulkner, chairman of the organising committee.

The village hall turns jazz club for a night on Friday, September 23, with The Best of British Jazz performed by a group of musicians, who truly fit their billing: Digby Fairweather on trumpet and vocals, Don Lusher on trombone and Radlett-based Roy Willox on saxophone.

Saturday, September 24 sees the return of the popular afternoon concert for children and families, this year given by The Haffner Ensemble, featuring the oboist Nicholas Daniel along with flute, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. In the evening the musicians return with an evening concert with a programme of music ranging from the time of Mozart to the present day.

Tickets for all evening concerts are £15 (concession £13, expect for the John Lill concert) and include a glass of wine, except The Best of British Jazz which has a pay bar. Tickets for the family concert are £6, concessions £3. The box office opens on Monday, on 01923 269083.



John Lill tops the bill at the Sarratt Festival of Music next month.

It's curtains for proposal to illuminate tennis court

by **EMILY HASSALL**

A CLOSE vote saw an application to install lighting for a tennis court in Sarratt narrowly rejected, last week.

The application to erect six, eight-metre floodlighting columns at King George IV playing fields, in King George Way, was judged to be inappropriate in the Green Belt.

Three Rivers District Council leader and development control committee member Ann Shaw, said: "Sarratt is special, one of our very few remaining, really rural villages.

" It needs special protection.

"We have quite properly rejected past applications for lighting in Sarratt for equestrian activities, new street lighting and so on.

"This would set a most unfortunate precedent.

"In the past, people were less aware of the damage done by light pollution.

There would inevitably be pressure to build more courts and have more lights, as has happened elsewhere."

Fellow committee member Richard Struck, said the lights would have "an unacceptable urbanising impact".

Ward councillor for Sarratt, Tony Barton, spoke in favour of the lights, and said that he felt it would reduce anti-social behaviour and a lot of people wanted to play tennis there.

However, he also said there were a number of other lit sites where tennis facilities were already available locally.

After much discussion, a vote was taken and a small majority of members voted to refuse the application.

W.O, 23-9-05

Welcome to the Parish Church of Holy Cross
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2005

Saturday 25 to Monday 27 June



OUR VILLAGE

2005

Welcome



to St Paul's Church Chipperfield

28 August 2005

14th Sunday after Trinity

Collect: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living w
your presence: give us pure hearts an
steadfast wills to worship you in spir
truth; through Jesus Christ your Son
who is alive and reigns with you, in t
of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
Amen.

Post Communion: Lord God, the s
truth and love, keep us faithful to the
apostles' teaching and fellowship,
and one in joy and simplicity of hear
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'NEW' PEW SHEET FOR BOTH CHURCHES IN THE BENEFICE.

'OLD' PEW SHEETS

SUNDAY 28 August 2005

The Benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield

Welcome to the Parish Church of Holy Cross, Sarratt

"Proclaiming Jesus"

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Joint Holy Communion	St Paul's, Chipperfield
10.00am	Parish Communion Revd. Stephen Blood	Holy Cross
10.00am	All Age Worship Revd. Jim Stevens	St Paul's, Chipperfield

Readings: Exodus 3.1-15 Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Collect: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Post Communion: Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Welcome



to the Benefice of
Holy Cross Church Sarratt and St Paul's Church Chipperfield

4 September 2005 15th Sunday after Trinity

7.45am	Holy Communion *Revd Jim Stevens*	St Paul's
10.00am	Benefice Communion *Revd Jim Stevens*	Holy Cross

Today's Readings: Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:1-20

Collect: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Post Communion: Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Special Welcome to Newcomers

We hope you will feel welcome in our church. If they haven't already met you, please introduce yourself to the Rector, Jim Stevens, Churchwardens or our Welcome Team.

Next Sunday 11 September

7.45am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
9.15am	Worship for All Ages for Holy Cross Day *Revd Jim Stevens*	Holy Cross
10.30am	Worship for All Ages *Revd Jim Stevens*	St Paul's

Sarratt forum

9-9

SARRATT residents are being offered the opportunity to have their say on local matters at an area forum on Wednesday, September 21, at 7.30pm in the village hall. Items on the agenda include recycling, policing issues, and the new Housing Act. A police surgery will be held prior to the meeting, from 7pm to 7.30pm, allowing residents to speak to local police officers about any concerns regarding local crime. For more information telephone the council on 01923 776611.

W.o.R 9.9.05





MR MATTHEW DONE and MISS MICHELE GAISFORD

Mr Matthew Done married Miss Michele Gaisford at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, on Friday, August 12. The couple who will make their home in Watford, enjoyed a reception afterwards with family and friends at the Grimsdyke Hotel, Old Redding.

MR P FELTON and MISS H WARMAN

MISS Helen Warman and Mr Pete Felton were married at Micklefield Hall, Sarratt, on Saturday, August 6. Helen is a teacher at St Clement Danes School, Chorleywood. The couple spent their honeymoon in the Grenadines.

WATFORD OBSERVER – FRI. DEC 2ND, 2005.

Primary school performance tables 2005



Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 in English, Maths and Science

SCHOOL	Number of pupils	English	Maths	Science	Average point score	School value added measure
Abbots Langley Junior Mixed and Infant School	57	91	88	96	29.52	101
Alban Wood Junior School*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arnett Hills Junior Mixed and Infant School	27	89	100	100	29.52	101.7
Ashfield Junior School	56	93	84	95	30.1	100.3
Bedmond Junior Mixed and Infants School	19	84	84	89	27	100
Beechfield Junior Mixed and Infants School	35	63	51	71	25.1	99.7
Bournehall Junior Mixed and Infants School	32	88	84	94	29.1	101
Berrygrove Primary and Nursery School*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bromet Junior Mixed and Infant School	41	90	95	95	29.6	100.4
Bushey Heath Junior Mixed and Infant School	25	92	88	92	29.4	100.2
Bushey Manor Junior Mixed School	41	76	68	78	27.5	99.4
Cassiobury Junior School	61	98	93	97	30.1	100.5
Central Primary School	17	82	71	100	27.9	102
Chater Junior School	55	65	65	76	26.3	99.7
Cherry Tree Primary School	30	80	70	90	27.7	101.6
Chorleywood Primary School	30	97	97	100	31.2	101.1
Christ Church C of E School	31	97	94	97	30.2	100.6
Coates Way Junior Mixed and Infants School	30	83	83	90	28.5	101.4
Divine Saviour RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	26	88	88	100	29.8	101
Eastbury Farm Junior Mixed and Infant School	46	91	89	98	30	100.8
Fair Field Junior School	59	100	86	100	30.4	100.8
Field Junior School	54	83	85	87	27.9	100.2
Greenfields Junior Mixed and Infants School	31	87	84	97	28.8	100
Hartsbourne Junior Mixed and Infants School	26	96	96	96	31.1	101.6
Harvey Road Junior Mixed and Infants School	29	97	97	100	31.1	100.6
Hertfordshire average		84	80	90	28.3	100.5

	Number of pupils	English	Maths	Science	Average point score	School value added measure
Highwood Junior Mixed and Infant School	60	90	92	98	29.2	100.9
Holy Rood RC Junior School	55	75	80	87	27.9	98.9
Holywell Junior Mixed and Infant School	24	63	79	83	26.8	100.5
Kings Langley Junior Mixed and Infant School	58	88	76	93	28.1	99.3
Kingsway Junior School	60	70	58	82	25.9	97.2
Knutsford Junior Mixed and Infant School	59	83	81	93	28.8	101.1
Laurance Haines Junior Mixed and Infant School	57	74	53	88	25.9	100
Leavesden Green J M I and Nursery School	30	70	70	83	27.3	100
Little Green Junior School	87	93	93	99	29.6	101.1
Little Reddings Primary and Nursery School	46	89	87	96	29.0	100.6
Maple Cross Junior Mixed Infant & Nursery School	16	75	56	81	26.9	97.7
Nascot Wood Junior School	60	93	92	97	29.6	100
Newberries Junior Mixed and Infant School	31	97	97	100	30.8	101
Orchard Junior Mixed Infant and Nursery School	30	87	70	97	27.9	100.8
Oxhey Wood Junior Mixed and Infant School	52	40	29	54	22.4	98.5
Parkgate Junior School	60	78	70	88	28.1	100.8
Rickmansworth Park Junior Mixed and Infant School	29	86	86	93	29.0	100.6
The Russell School	30	97	97	100	30.7	101.3
Sacred Heart Catholic Junior Mixed & Infant School	40	88	90	95	29.7	100.3
St Anthony's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	29	97	79	93	28.9	101.5
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School [GM]	34	85	74	85	27.7	98.4
St John's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	31	87	87	90	29.0	100.8
St Joseph's RC Junior Mixed and Infant School	22	82	55	82	26.3	99
St Mary's CofE J M I and Nursery School	27	96	89	93	30.6	101.6
St Meryl Junior Mixed and Infant School	30	90	97	100	30.9	103
St Paul's CofE Primary School, Langleybury	22	95	91	95	29.6	100.7
St Paul's CofE Primary School, Chipperfield	25	92	88	100	29.3	101.2
St Peter's CofE Primary School	27	93	78	93	29.6	101.4
Sarratt Junior Mixed and Infant School	13	92	100	100	30.5	102.3
Shepherd Junior Mixed Infant and Nursery School	31	87	74	94	27.8	99
Tanners Wood Junior Mixed and Infant School	40	98	93	100	29.9	101.8
Warren Dell Junior Mixed and Infant School	30	73	70	80	26.9	103.4
Woodhall Junior Mixed and Infant School	30	47	47	50	22.9	96.9
Yorke Mead Junior Mixed and Infant School	26	88	73	96	28.4	100.3
England average		79	75	86	27.6	100.2

* School did not open until September this year

A SOUTH OXHEY primary school has been ranked in the top 100 schools nationally based on the value added measure.

Warren Dell Primary School in Gosforth Lane has a value added measure of 103.4, compared to the national average of 100.2 and the Hertfordshire average of 100.5. Value added measures the progress of pupils from the ages of seven (Key Stage 1) to 11 (Key Stage 2).

The next best school in the Watford area in terms of value added was Sarratt Church of England Primary School, with a value added measure of 102.3.

The school also achieved a pass rate of 100 per cent in both maths and science.

Christine Buck, headteacher at Sarratt, said: "I'm pleased with our children this year, but I'm always pleased with their efforts and what our staff do. No matter where we stand in the league tables, I think one should encourage and motivate children to do their best. League tables don't paint a true picture of the heart of the school."

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE
IN AID OF BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES

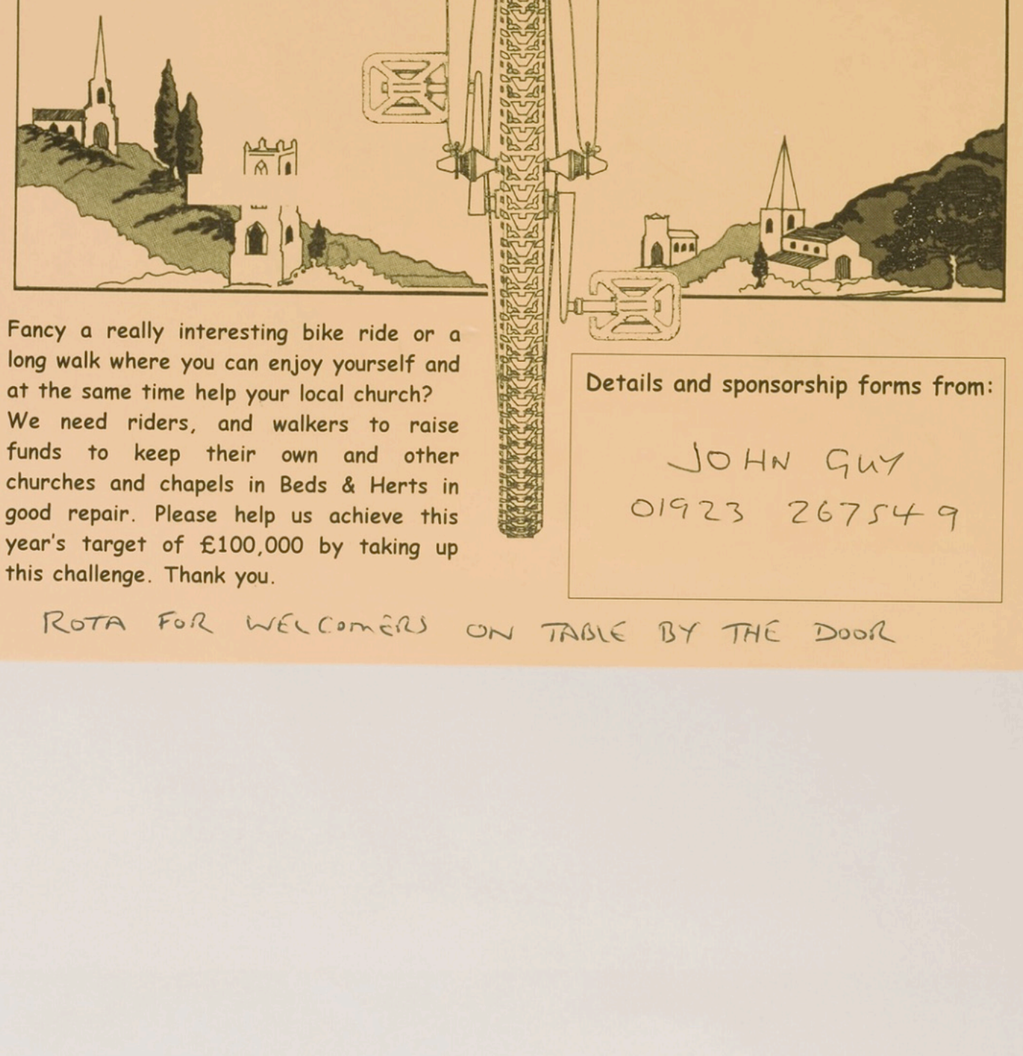
BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

AND THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS

Fancy a bike ride for Charity?

or walk

Saturday 10 September
10am to 6pm



Fancy a really interesting bike ride or a long walk where you can enjoy yourself and at the same time help your local church? We need riders, and walkers to raise funds to keep their own and other churches and chapels in Beds & Herts in good repair. Please help us achieve this year's target of £100,000 by taking up this challenge. Thank you.

Details and sponsorship forms from:

JOHN GUY
01923 267549

ROTA FOR WELCOMERS ON TABLE BY THE DOOR

We warmly invite you

To a

Service of Thanksgiving

For Harvest

6.30 pm

Sunday, 25th September 2005

Holy Cross, Sarratt

HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE

Senior Division One

Cuffley 1-3 **Buckhurst Hill**
Pearce — Cullen, David, Somers

Loughton 1-0 **Knebworth**
Lee-Legon

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertford Heath	7	7	0	0	25	9	21
Lemsford	7	5	1	1	21	11	16
Standon & Puck	7	5	1	1	24	15	16
Knebworth	8	4	1	3	16	10	13
Bovingdon	7	4	0	3	20	18	12
Old Parmiterians	7	3	0	4	11	15	9
Allenburys Sports	7	3	0	4	15	20	9
Cuffley	8	2	2	4	16	18	8
Buckhurst Hill	7	2	2	3	14	16	8
Sarratt	7	2	2	3	13	15	8
North Mymms	7	2	1	4	9	13	7
St Peters	7	1	3	3	11	20	6
Loughton	7	1	2	4	8	17	5
Croxley Guild	7	1	1	5	8	14	4

Watford Observer, Friday, October 7, 2005 49

MY FIRST DAY



SARRATT: Alexander Campbell, Hannah Connolly, Bryn Done, Grace Gibson, Yul Harris, John Hazel, Rose Hernandez, Izabel Ivanova, Louise Keepence, Daniel Lawson, Ashley Marchant, Luka Milicevic, Abigail Telfer, Ben Thompson. Picture number: **MZB 4701**

Sarratt Local History Society

On Tuesday September 27 2005

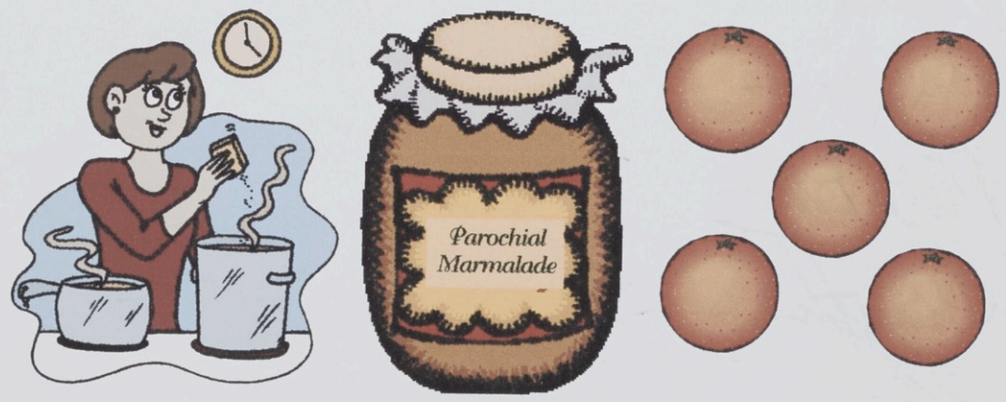
at 7.30 for 8pm in

Sarratt Village Hall

Audrey Ashby

returning especially from Norfolk
to speak on the subject

"An unusual cottage industry - The story of Parochial Marmalade"



Has the technique changed? Come and find out.

All are welcome.
Light refreshments available.

SUNDAY MORNING MARKET CRAFT FAIR AND TABLE TOP SALE

~ at ~

Sarratt Village Hall

~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Sunday 20th November 2005 10-12

ENTRANCE FREE

~~~~~~~~~~~

♣ Crafts, Books, Produce, Refreshments, Bric-a-brac and much more! ♣

~~~~~~~~~~~

TEAs & COFFEEs available!

In aid of Sarratt Village Hall funds !

Enquiries: 01923 265386
Sunday markets are on the 3rd Sunday each month.

WAT. OBS. 2-11-05

Herts Intermediate Cup
Round Two

Met Police Bushey Reserves 3
Sarratt 4

CHRIS HONOUR and Scott Ladley, two players who should be playing at a higher level, traded hat-tricks on Saturday but it was Honour who ended up on the winning side.

Steve Brownsell opened the scoring on Saturday but from then on Honour and Ladley stole the show.

Ladley's clever running and neat footwork caused Sarratt to have what their manager, Danny Kindell, described as "their worst defensive performance of the season", but, fortunately for the visitors, the robust Honour bailed them out at the other end with a treble.

Sarratt will now meet Standon & Puckeridge in the next round.

Kindell said: "If we are to go further in the competition we will need to tighten up defensively. But we will always manage to score goals and will certainly give anyone a game."

WAT. OBS. 4-11-05

WATFORD FRIENDLY LEAGUE
ROISIN MURPHY

Under-8

ROSS LUDLOW was in great form to help **Croxley Lions** triumph 5-0 against **Oxhey United**, with Toby Elsam scoring twice. Sam Senior found the net twice, the second a spectacular long-range effort, while Owen Stevenson was also on the mark in a fine all-round performance.

Star-man Sam Lynch found the net as **Northwood** got past **Everett** 1-0, to reach 11 goals for the season.

James Hicks scored twice as **Sarratt Rebels** beat **Nascotwood Hawks** 2-1, with Ryan Vadera saving a penalty for the winners.

Under-14

Red Division: Comets 5 Nascot Wood Rgrs 21; London Col Colts 3 B'wood 2000 3; Northwood 5 Sun Postal 2; St Albans City Nth 0 Whet Jags 0. **White Division:** Omonia 3 Cassio Leop 1; Pinnacle 5 Alex Pk East 0; Croxley Eagles 3 London Mac Lions 2; Whet Leop 8 Harv Nth 1; Oakhill Tigers Amber 7 Watford Yth Sport 0. **Blue Division:** St Albans City Sth 5 Abbots Yth 1; Bushey Eagles 9 Harp Jags 1; Bovingdon Yellow 1 Everett Rvrs 4; London Rd 5 Echoes Orange 1; Chipp Cor 5 Hadley Wood 3. **Green Division:** Whet Vipers 2 Oxhey Utd 7; Alex Pk West 5 Oakhill Tigers Cubs 2; HMH 2 Hemel Aces 6; Nascot Wood Blk 2 Evergreen 3. **Yellow Division:** Harv Sth 2 St Albans Rgrs 6; Garston Boys 2 Woodhall Wands 2; Chorleywood 4 Leverstock Grn 0; Riverside AFC 3 Ald Leop 1; Select Soccer 1 Sarratt Rebels 8. **Purple Division:** Harp Hurricanes 1 Croxley Falcons 6; Bovingdon Grn 4 Bushey Hawks 6; Cassio Pumas 2 Gadeside 12; Tring Tigers 3 Hertsmere 2.

Pachipamwe

Jane stillwell Working with African craftspeople
www.pachipamwe.com

SALE OF EXCITING HANDICRAFTS AND GIFTS
Monday 14th November 11 a.m to 4.00 p.m
at the home of Julia Lawrence
at Micklefield Green House, Sarratt, Hertfordshire
Phone Julia on 01923 260504 or Jane on 01608 737517
Please bring friends!

Supporting educational ,community and womens co-operative projects in Zimbabwe
~~~~~~~~~~~

Sleepy Sarratt awakes

Tara Dundon explains why September is a month of awakening in the sleepy village of Sarratt

Photography: Daniel Martin



FORMERLY nicknamed 'Backward Sarratt', the Hertfordshire village of Sarratt is located near Watford, just off junction 18 on the M25. Comprising of rural and well-cultivated farmland, the village is cratered by former ponds, with the village green dipping and rising for a third of a mile.

Sarratt parish was originally known as Syret in the 10th century and is now the largest within the Three Rivers district, with its greatest feature being the scenic surroundings and inspiring architecture. However, the village was not always so attractive – a plague once left the village abandoned until a new village was built on the green where we find it today.

Although the saddlery, forges, wheelwrights, shops and bake houses are no longer a part of Sarratt, it is still possible to see the dell, the old pump and beautiful pond. The old pump is often referred to as the 'Sarratt Treacle Mine'. The pump was once the village water supply and was surrounded by thick, black mud, resembling treacle. The Sarratt pump remains quite a feature in the village because of its rarity and wonderful condition.

Other local attractions include the ancient yet attractive Church of the Holy Cross. Dating back to the 12th century, it has been a place of worship for more than 800 years boasting a 16th century tower with saddleback roof, making it especially rare. Another attraction is the popular village green, which has often been used by film crews as period settings, along with the nearby mansion Goldingtons, which was used in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Sarratt is not short of public houses, two include The Boot and The Cricketers which looks over the green in the heart of the village, the pub is full of old charm with a contemporary and stylish interior, complete with beautiful views overlooking the green.





Opposite: *Cricketers public house*
Above: *Old School House*
Right: *Holy Cross church*

The quaint village features twelve circular walks including the Hertfordshire walk from Sarratt to Chenies, taking you down and up both sides of the Chess Valley, where you can enjoy the hill and river views, as well as, interesting architecture and wildlife. Sarratt also has a picturesque duck pond to add to the outstanding natural beauty. The ideal for families with small children.

In 1862 the thriving small village saw the opening of Sarratt Church of England School, complete with traditional values of a village school, but with the curriculum of 21st century education.

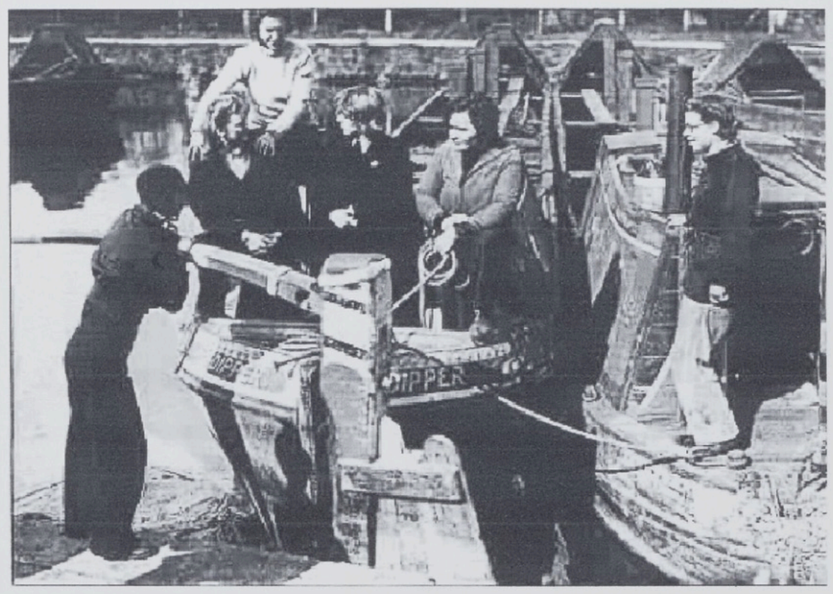
2005

Sarratt Local History Society

On Tuesday November 22 2005

at 7.30pm in

Sarratt School



Runnals Davis

will speak on the subject

"Idle women – canal workers In the Second World War"

All are welcome.

HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE

Senior Division One

Allenburys Sports Jones	**1-3**	**Sarratt** Dunn (2), Spackman
Bovingdon Marks, Wheeler-Smith	**2-1**	**Old Parmiterians** Tyas
Croxley Guild Pryor, Toon, Woods	**3-3**	**Hertford Heath** Davies (2), Lundy
Loughton	**0-1**	**Lemsford** Draper
North Mymms Collett, Puleston	**2-4**	**Knebworth** Griffiths, Triggs (2), Turner
St Peters Shepherd	**1-3**	**Cuffley** Green, Pettican, Smith
Standon & Puck Collins (2), Robinson (2)	**4-1**	**Buckhurst Hill** Millard

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standon & Puck	12	10	1	1	43	18	31
Hertford Heath	12	10	2	0	40	16	29
Lemsford	13	9	2	2	42	26	29
Knebworth	14	8	2	4	33	19	26
Bovingdon	13	8	0	5	42	32	24
Sarratt	12	5	2	5	21	24	17
Allenburys Sports	12	5	1	6	26	35	16
Buckhurst Hill	12	4	2	6	28	31	14

Reserve Division Two

Bushey Rangers	**0-2**	**Croxley Guild** Cronin (2)
Cuffley Kitcher, Page	**2-1**	**Chipperfield Cors** Johnson
Knebworth Booth, Bowgett (2)	**3-2**	**Allenburys Sports** Lees, Robinson
Lemsford Fettus, D Harrison (3), M Harrison, Jones	**7-0**	**Whitewebbs**
Sarratt Gardozo, Hannard, Larner	**3-5**	**Sandridge Rovers** Airey, Burton (3), Evans
Wormley Rovers Stevenson	**1-5**	**Bovingdon** Di-Pascale, Malik Marks (3)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bovingdon	10	8	1	1	28	15	25
Croxley Guild	10	7	1	2	26	15	22
Knebworth	9	6	2	1	33	13	20
Lemsford	8	5	1	2	22	14	16
Bushey Rangers	10	5	3	2	29	15	15
Allenburys Sports	11	4	1	6	21	28	13
Whitewebbs	8	3	3	2	16	17	12
Cuffley	10	2	4	4	18	24	10
Sandridge Rovers	9	3	1	5	17	24	10
Sarratt	11	2	3	6	24	32	9
Wormley Rovers	10	2	2	6	20	28	8
Chipperfield Cors	11	2	2	7	9	24	8
North Mymms	9	2	0	7	13	37	6

Seniors lunch

SARRATT Care will hold a special Christmas lunch for senior people in the village on Tuesday, December 6, in the village hall. For more information or to book a place telephone Eileen Adams on 01923 291067, Noreen Tatham on 01923 263176 or Carol Chorley on 01923 265096.

Christmas bazaar

CAKES, produce, books, toys and refreshments will be on offer at a Christmas bazaar being held at Sarratt Village Hall on Saturday, December 3, between 2.15pm and 4pm. Father Christmas will arrive in his steam car at the village shop at 2pm and make his way to the grotto. All are welcome to attend.

WATFORD OBSERVER 18 NOV. 2005

Top award for horse-loving former cop

by **EMILY HASSALL**

A FORMER policeman from Sarratt who has spent 15 years teaching horseriders about equestrian safety was presented with a prestigious award last week.

Peter Hern, who recently retired from the force, was among 15 individuals or groups to receive an award from the British Horse Society (BHS), at a ceremony at Saddlers Hall, London.

He was given the award for services to the cause of equestrian safety, having worked for years training youngsters for riding and road safety tests, and making the courses informative and fun.

He said: "I am honoured to receive this award.

"Road safety when riding a horse is just as important as when driving or cycling, and I hope that more people are encouraged to take the test to ensure they are riding safely.

"However, the award is as much my wife, June's, as mine.

"She does all the administrative work and organising the training – I am just the frontman."

Peter teaches at the Old Berkeley Hunt (North) Pony Club, which is run between Sarratt and Chipperfield, and is also an examiner across Hertfordshire.

When he was an active police officer, Peter sacrificed many of his off-duty periods in pursuit of higher standards of safety for others.

Peter's award was presented by the BHS's chairman, Patrick Print.

Mr Print, a Fellow of the British Horse Society, said: "The BHS would fail tomorrow if we lost the support of our volunteers. But even this select group cannot get by without help from others.

"Time and again we come across local authorities, private companies, educational establishments and all manner of other people and organisations who give our work a real boost."

Members of the public can support The British Horse Society, which is run as a charity, by buying black Hunter wellies at www.giving-welly.com.

For more information log onto www.bhs.org.uk.



Peter Hern received an award from the British Horse Society.
Picture Z461609: JANE PARR



DENSE SMOKE OVER SARATT FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION AT THE BUNCEFIELD OIL TERMINAL SUNDAY 11 DEC. 2005

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2.15PM in SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

FATHER CHRISTMAS

will arrive in his **STEAM CAR** at the **VILLAGE SHOP** at **2PM** and then make way to his **GROTTO**

LOTS OF STALLS
Something for everyone:

Cakes and Produce ✿ Toys ✿ Books
Gifts ✿ Refreshments ✿ Bric-a-Brac
Raffle ✿ Tombola ✿ Crafts

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Janet Mitchell (263734) or Julia Lawrence (260304). Please brings items for the stalls to the Village Hall at 9am on Saturday or phone Julia or Janet to arrange collection.

ALL PROCEEDS TO HOLY CROSS CHURCH



Sarratt £289,000

Fronting directly onto The Green, this attractive terraced cottage offers well-presented accommodation close to the River Chess. Covered entrance porch, living room, kitchen, utility lobby, downstairs bathroom. 1st Floor: 2 bedrooms, bathroom. GFCH, part double glazed, gardens, garage. **01923 773171**



SARRATT GUIDE £650,000

This charming Grade 11 listed house overlooks Sarratt Green and is within walking distance of the village. Dining room, sitting room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garage and walled garden. No upper chain.

Tel: Moor Park Office 01923 820622



Fir Tree Hill, Chandlers Cross
£479,950 Freehold

A 3 double bedroom bungalow in a 1/2 acre plot. Lounge, kitchen, utility room, dining room, 2 bathrooms (1 en-suite). Small paddock to the rear accesses through garage with stable.







Sarratt

A beautifully presented 19th Century Grade II Listed barn conversion with landscaped garden, located within the conservation area of this sought after village overlooking the Chess Valley.

Covered Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, Ground Floor Bathroom/Cloakroom, Drawing Room, Dining Hall, Family Room, Study, Snug/Television Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Galleried Landing, Principal Bedroom With Dressing Area And En-suite Bathroom, 4 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Barn And Granary Store, Detached 4 Car Port, Landscaped Gardens.

Guide Price £1,750,000 *Rickmansworth Office 01923 773171*



Sarratt £595,000

Listed village house overlooking The Green

Entrance hall, 2 reception rooms, kitchen. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Wonderful walled gardens with various outbuildings and separate garage. In approximately 0.3 acres.



SARRATT £299,950

A two bedroom terrace cottage in good decorative order, with through lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom plus en-suite shower room, with rear off street parking & gardens to front & back. Enjoying views directly over village green in this sought after Herts community.

Tel: Chorleywood Office 01923 282244



SARRATT Guide Price £799,950

A rare opportunity to acquire this three bedorom detached home together with stables in approximately 1/2 acre, set in the picturesque village of Sarratt. The property offers further potential for development subject to the usual planning permission. Offers invited to rent or purchase a paddock of approximately three acres. NO UPPER CHAIN.



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £695,000

Located within the picturesque village of Sarratt on one of the quieter roads, this detached five bedroom property with versatile family accommodation, most of which has been refurbished to a very high standard with plenty of parking and an attractive level rear garden.

01923 284125







SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £899,950

An attractive five bedroom detached property standing within approximately half an acre plot in a quiet cul-de-sac close to the Village Green and local amenities. No upper chain.

01923 284125



SARRATT Guide Price £610,000

Located in the picturesque village of Sarratt, a charming four bedroom detached chalet bungalow with three reception rooms, plenty of off-street parking and an attractive rear garden of approximately 200'.

SARRATT





An attractive detached character style bungalow now in need of some updating and standing on a good size plot of about 1/3 acre, porch, hall, living room, dining room/bedroom 3, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, shower room, 2 further bedrooms, garage and gardens.

£495,000

JULY 2005



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £535,000

An attractive character semi detached three bedroom brick and flint cottage offering spacious accommodation with superb views across farmland.

01923 284125

JULY 2005



SARRATT

£725,000 Freehold

A cottage originating in parts from the 17th century in an idyllic location with stabling and paddock. Ref: 485120

Rickmansworth Office 01923 776291

JULY 05



AUG. SARRATT £2,650 pcm 2005

Attractive four bedroom detached chalet house, four receptions, kitchen/breakfast, bathroom, shower room, double garage, gardens, set in an enviable secluded location just off The Green.



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £725,000

A fantastic opportunity to purchase this detached character four bedroom property in need of modernisation, facing The Green in the picturesque village of Sarratt. The property benefits from off street parking, garaging and attractive, well stocked gardens. Early viewing is highly recommended. NO UPPER CHAIN.

01923 284125

JULY 2005

CAROL SINGING



SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2005 taken at Little Bragmans, Sarratt by Philip Buller						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	7th / 13.6	22nd /-3.3	22nd /-5.2	17th / 7.1	26.8	
February	12th / 12.3	28th /-5.5	28th /-7.5	10th / 7.6	27.7	
March	18th / 20.0	4th /-5.5	4th /-6.9	29th / 22.0	46.9	
April	30th / 19.9	9th /-2.4	9th /-6.1	26th / 7.6	44.4	last snow, 8th. Cuckoo not heard once this year.
May	27th / 29.0	11th /-1.1	11th / -2.6	21st / 17.1	33.0	last air & ground frost, 11th & 15th.
June	19th / 30.9	11th / 2.1	7,13 / 0.9	28th / 33.8	62.2	
July	14th / 29.5	5th / 7.8	5th / 6.8	24th / 14.0	45.2	
August	31st / 30.8	8th / 7.0	9th / 5.1	22nd / 10.2	43.7	
September	4th / 28.1	17th / 4.5	24th / 1.6	4th / 15.4	52.0	
October	11th / 22.0	9th / 2.8	9th / 1.0	23rd / 19.9	77.1	
November	2nd / 17.2	20th /-5.0	20th /-6.5	2nd / 17.0	51.2	first ground & air frosts, 5th & 14th.
December	24th / 11.1	18th /-6.0	18th /-7.2	1st / 19.0	55.7	first snowfall of winter, 27th.

2005

OPTIMA 27-8-05





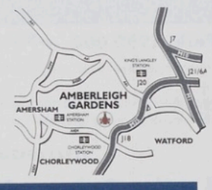
UNABASHED OPULENCE.

Situated in Hertfordshire, Sarratt is a charming village which enjoys the best of both worlds as it is surrounded by picturesque greenbelt countryside yet located close to London with excellent commuter links. Trains run from Chorleywood to Marylebone in under 35 minutes*, and from Kings Langley to Euston in under 30 minutes*.

AMBERLEIGH GARDENS Dawes Lane, Sarratt

- An exclusive development of just five luxury homes
- Designed in an 'Arts and Crafts' style
- Most homes are set within large gardens with beautiful views

Only one home remains, The Ashcroft,
four bedroom home at £1,050,000
Marketing suite open Thursday to Monday 10am to 5pm
Telephone 01923 270769 or contact our agents on 01442 873901



ATCHISONS

VIEWHOME NOW OPEN THURSDAY TO MONDAY 10AM TO 5PM

ONLY ONE REMAINS

Charles Church

10 YEARS

THE NAME ON THE FINEST HOMES

www.charleschurch.com

0845 12 12 211

15CCNL Photographs show a typical Charles Church exterior and Showhome interior at Amberleigh Gardens. Prices and details correct at time of going to press.

STEP UP TO A NEW HOME IN SARRATT

hot property

The Charles Church development in Sarratt, Amberleigh Gardens, opened its viewhome last month. There are five substantial properties on the site, the first to be built in this pretty village for a generation, and each is situated in a mature wooded plot. The houses have been designed in an Arts and Crafts style to complement the traditional village architecture.

The recently opened viewhome is known as Brookfield House. Archers' listeners may prick up their ears at this, but Sarratt's Brookfield House is far superior to anything in Ambridge – even Susan Carter would have to admit that the house that Neil built doesn't come anywhere near Brookfield House in style or quality…

The splendid staircase in the hall (see picture, right) sets the scene. There is a substantial drawing room with an imposing feature fireplace, plus a formal dining room with a walk-in bay window that provides double door access to the garden. Our fictional Ambridge friends would be green with envy at the contemporary open-plan kitchen with its stainless steel Smeg appliances – six ring hob, range cooker, and American-style fridge freezer, for example. There's also a utility room, plus a fabulous family room for informal relaxing.



The first floor has not only a superb master bedroom suite with its own private hallway, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom, but also finds room for a guest suite, slightly detached from the other rooms, with an en-suite shower and a charming air of privacy… would one's guests ever want to leave?!

For more information, call the sales centre on 01923 270769, or visit www.charleschurch.com

OPTIMA 6-8-05



The listed former pub is set in an idyllic spot, just yards from the River Chess.

It's now five years since John and Julia March swapped the high life of Harley Street in London's Marylebone for their three-bedroom home in Sarratt Bottom, but they have never regretted the move.

"We were both born not a million miles away from here, and were starting to miss the countryside," says John.

The couple still work in London. John has his own surveying business, RMJ, on Bond Street and Julia works for a bank in the City.

But, after a demanding week in the big smoke, they can retreat to the tiny Chilterns hamlet, which hunkers down at the bottom of a hidden valley below Sarratt proper.

And what a life they lead there with their two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Lizzie. Three-bedroom Old Cart and Horse Cottage is a short – but comfortable – distance from the River Chess on the Chess Valley Walk. They wake to the sounds of the rare birdlife that lives in this sheltered corner – buzzards and rare red kites hover on the thermals overhead and the Marches watch as squadrons of swans land on the river, 500 yards away, across the sunken water meadows.

John is also able to indulge his passion for fly fishing on the river.

"I'm really lucky," he says. "The Chess is one of only two rivers in the whole country that supports rainbow trout.

"This area used to be part of a major sporting estate, so the fishing's pretty good. I caught a four pound brown trout down there, last year.

"I tend to put the fish I catch back in afterwards. It's just nice, really, to be down by the river.

And after a day on the river, he can go for a pint at one of the five pubs within walking distance of the house.

It's an area of huge natural and historic interest that has seen every big civilisation pass through over the centuries.

Just to the east of the house, on the slopes of the valley, are the Lynchets, terracing for growing vines cut into the valley's sides by the Romans, who settled here.

Just to the west of the house, and further down the valley in Latimer, are the remains of two Roman villas and, in the other direction is a Roman bridge.

John tells me the area's other architectural highlights include Sarratt's 12th Century church and nearby Goldingtons, a large whitewashed Georgian house, that was used as the setting for one of the weddings in Four Weddings and a Funeral.

The Old Cart and Horses Cottage is steeped in history itself. The original brick and flint building was built next to a drove road, now Mount Lane, in the 17th Century. It was originally used as a farm building and, as the name suggests a pub, until 1924, when it was converted into a house by the Tyler family, who still own the watercress farm opposite.

The atmospheric interior is awash with exposed woodwork and smart, contemporary features, including a beautiful cottage kitchen.

The Marches recently converted an oak-framed barn/stable, which faces their grade II-listed home. The new, decent-sized living space is used as a home-office and music room by the couple and boasts a magnificent oak floor.

John says: "I think they used it to slaughter animals in," he deadpans. "No, I'm serious, the hooks are still in there."

In a lean-too at the end of the block, the Marches garage a little red Isetta bubble car.

"Julia won it in a raffle several years ago," John explains. "When we lived in Marylebone, we used to have great fun driving it around Regents Park!

"It's a very neat little car. I think a few celebrities have one. Jimmy Saville is one and I think Jonathan Ross has one too.

"Julia and I are both six-footers, so we have a bit of trouble getting in it. Jonathan Ross is supposed to be pretty tall too, so God knows how he fits into his," he wonders.

The Marches have put their Sarratt Bottom home on the market. Completely by chance, they have found an almost identical but slightly larger property in the Somerset hamlet of Parrett.



John has a fixed idea of the sort of person who will buy the house.

"I think it would suit someone with artistic leanings. Maybe a writer like the lady next door.

"There are no roads roundabout and the views are stunning. We look out over Mount Wood, which is full of ancient beech trees.

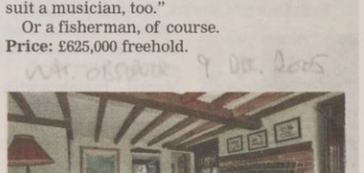
"It's a home for all seasons. The colours in autumn are stunning and, in the winter, the steep valley slopes are great for sledging,

"With the music room, I suppose it would suit a musician, too."

Or a fisherman, of course.

Price: £625,000 freehold.





For more information, contact Robsons:
Wyatt House, Rickmansworth Road,
Rickmansworth WD3 5SE
Tel: 01923 282244
www.robsonsweb.com

SWORDS, SCABBARDS *and* SABOTAGE

King Arthur is a new pantomime with a quirky and unusual subject matter. Written by Tony Bond and directed by Pam Hildick, it takes place in Sarratt Village Hall each evening from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 February with an additional matinee performance on the Saturday.

It is the day before Arthur and Guinevere are to be married and the wicked Morgan le Fey and her brutish son Mordred, kidnap Guinevere. Arthur and Lancelot set off on a quest to rescue her with the help of Merlin and Arthur's two Ugly sisters, Chardonnay and Chablis, plus the many knights of the Round Table. Will they succeed – or will the evil Morgan keep Guinevere locked up forever?

For tickets e-mail parrytoadhall@btinternet.com



Sarratt

05/0799/PDNA: Permitted development notice agriculture, construction of barn at land adjacent to Olleberrie Farm, Flaunden Lane, Flaunden for Mr R Higgs.

05/0808/FUL: Amendment to previously approved permission 04/1458/FUL. Construction of detached dwelling to include a basement at land adjoining with White Oaks, The Common, Chipperfield for Mr and Mrs Nurton.

05/0813/FUL: Excavation of land to create parking area with construction of underground garaging plant room at The Old Rectory, Church Lane for Mr and Mrs W Hobhouse.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS



Calling all golfers



Win a top golfing package at The Grove, one of Hertfordshire's most picturesque courses

IF the idea of spending a crisp winter's morning practising your swing on one of Hertfordshire's most picturesque golf courses sounds appealing, this will certainly be the competition for you. Limited Edition has teamed up with The Grove to offer one lucky reader and a friend the chance to win a Winter Warmer Golf Package at the Hertfordshire hotel's magnificent Kyle Phillips course.

The prize, which is to be taken on either February 27 or 28, includes breakfast plus a two-course lunch, and the winner will get the chance to test the course in advance of the prestigious 2006 American Express Championships which are being hosted by The Grove from September 28 to October 1.

To win, simply send your name, address and telephone number by February 15 to The Grove Golf Competition, Limited Edition magazine, Observer House, Caxton Court, Caxton Way, Watford Business Park WD18 8RJ.

And if you are not lucky enough to win the prize, you can book up for the Winter Warmer Golf Package for just £99, by calling 01923 294266. The package runs from Mondays to Thursdays until February 28. The Grove, voted AA Hotel of the Year 2005, is located at Chandler's Cross in Hertfordshire.

For more information, visit www.thegrove.co.uk.

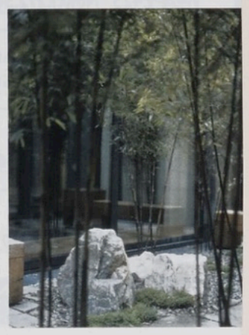


Treat your loved one this Valentine's with The Grove's ultimate luxury Valentine's packages.

Guests can opt for some serious opulence by booking into the Mansion's Presidential Suite, or indulge a passion for music with a stay in the Piano Suite — complete with its very own professional pianist to serenade the lucky couple on request. For those twosomes looking for something slightly more low-key but equally as romantic, The Grove offers the perfect one-night Valentine's packages.

To book or enquire about any of the Valentine's Day packages, call The Grove on 01923 807807, email reservations@thegrove.co.uk or visit www.thegrove.co.uk.





MICKLEFIELD HALL

Company events at Micklefield Hall

We have facilities available for many different kinds of event, large or small. With formal gardens, sweeping lawns, ornamental ponds and panoramic views this stunning location is just 1 1/2 miles from J18 of the M25.

Team Building
Corporate Fun days
Board Meetings
Company Lunches / Parties
Private Meetings



Micklefield Hall, Sarratt Road, Sarratt
Nr. Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
WD3 6AQ

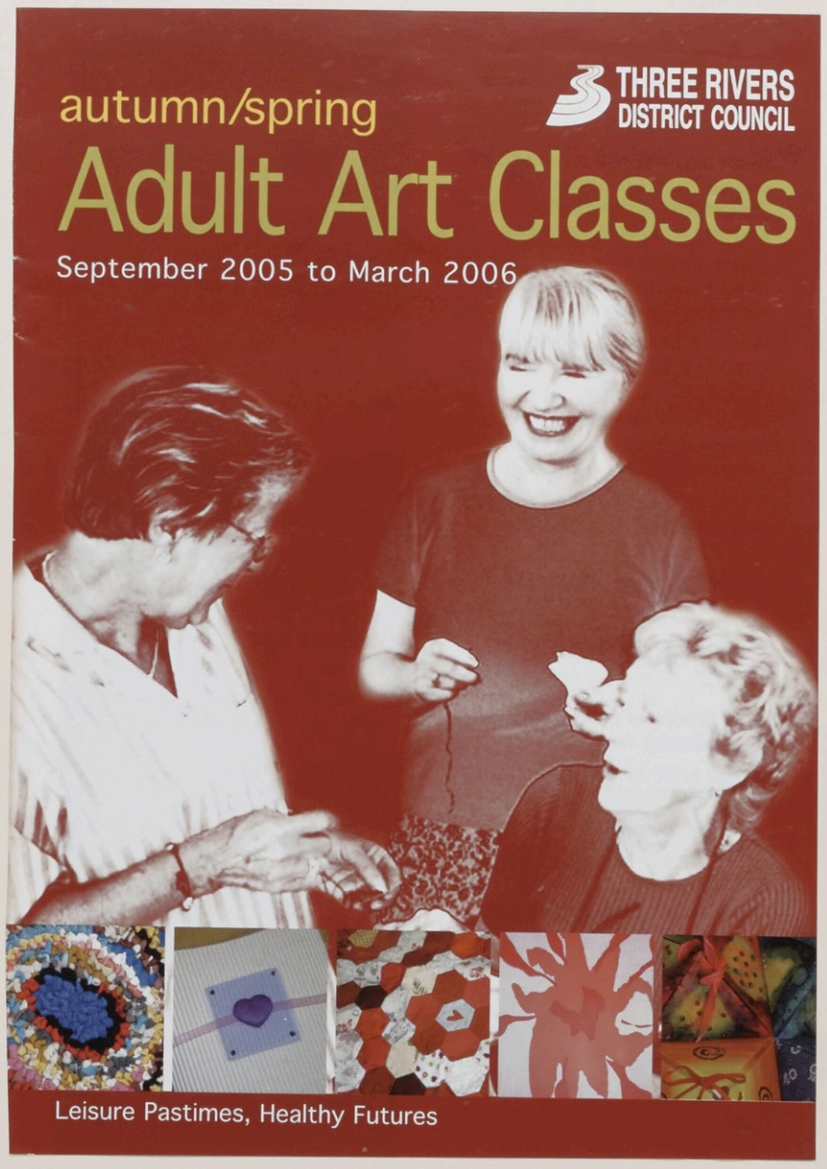
Tel: 01923 778898
Fax: 01923 711799

Email:
anna@micklefieldhall.com
jamie@micklefieldhall.com
www.micklefieldhall.com

SET in 350 acres of idyllic parkland and within easy access of central London, Micklefield Hall is the ideal venue for businesses looking for picturesque yet private surroundings to hold their corporate events.

This elegant grade II listed Georgian house, located just outside Sarratt near Rickmansworth, offers first class facilities for every type and size of event, from seminars and business meetings to full scale promotions, launch parties, team building and activity days.

Micklefield Hall prides itself on its personal service. Clients can choose from the formal surroundings of the dining hall or the more relaxed environment of the drawing room, all the time achieving a private, professional venue in a cosy and intimate setting. Everything from a basic sandwich to a full gourmet meal is available, and every effort is made to meet each individual's requirements.



SARRATT VILLAGE HALL, THE GREEN

september to december 2005

HAND KNITTING & CROCHET
with Barbara Lambert

Sarratt Village Hall, The Green

Choose from knitting chunky hats and scarves to ponchos and bags.

Please bring your own knitting needles if you have them, as well as any wool you specifically want to work with.

Monday 26 September-Monday 24 October

10.00am-12.00pm weekly

£15 for 5 week course

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS & GIFTS
with Lizzie Reakes

Sarratt Village Hall, The Green

Each week you can choose from:

Christmas stockings to decorate, decorative festive frames,

seasonal table runners, tree decorations & personalised snowflakes.

Monday 31 October-Monday 28 November

10.00am-12.00pm weekly

£15 for 5 week course

january to march 2006

PATCHWORK & RAG-RUG
with Lizzie Reakes

Sarratt Village Hall, The Green

Explore one or both techniques to create individual textiles: Patchwork a cushion cover or make a quilt, appliqué a fleece & felt winter throw, hook a mat, rug, wall hanging or chairpad.

Monday 16 January-Monday 13 February

10.00am-12.00pm weekly

£15 for 5 week course

AROMATHERAPY
with Sheena Anderson

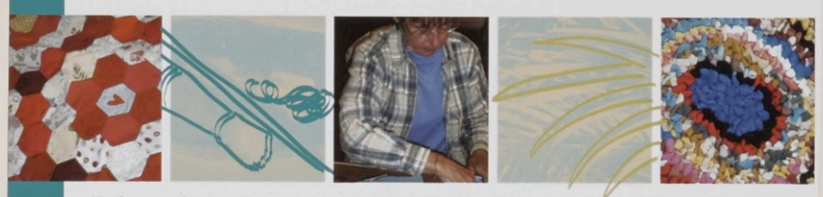
Sarratt Village Hall, The Green

Learn how to use essential oils safely and with confidence around the home, as well as on yourself for hand and feet massages.

Monday 20 February-Monday 20 March

10.00am-12.00pm weekly

£15 for 5 week course



TO BOOK: TELEPHONE 01923 779392

2006

Committee

***Speakers** ..... **Dawn Pitts**
John Hopkins*

Visits** ..... **Julia Luckhaus

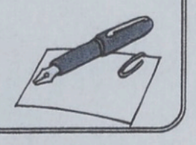
Scrapbook Co-ordinator** ..... **Philip Buller

Press** ..... **Derek Lambert

Oral History Project** .... **Julia Luckhaus

The complete Great Sarratt Scrapbook is available to borrow on microfiche together with a fiche reading machine. Please contact the Chairman if you would like to use this in your home for a few weeks.

For your own notes .....



Sarratt
Local History Society

Programme 2006

President** ..... **Dawn Pitts
Crossriggs, Dimmocks Lane
Sarratt WD3 6AR
Telephone: 01923 267071

Chairman** ..... **Pam Turner
Sarratt House, The Green,
Sarratt WD3 6BL
Telephone: 01923 267000

Secretary** ..... **Wendy Beard
The Old Manse, Church Lane,
Sarratt WD3 6HL
Telephone: 01923 264222

Treasurer** ..... **Philip Buller
Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane,
Belsize, Sarratt WD3 4NY
Telephone: 01442 832517

Meetings held in Sarratt Village Hall OR Sarratt School

PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY

7.30 for 8 pm

Membership - £7 per annum
Visitors welcome - £2 per meeting

Tuesday, 28 March

SARRATT SCHOOL

Robin Gain

Sarratt in the Seventeenth Century

Our local expert on this period gives us an insight into what our village would have been like at this time

---

Tuesday, 16 May

VILLAGE HALL



Janet Dineen

Old May Day

Ancient customs and festivities explained - and some snippets about our own May Fair

Tuesday, 6 June



VILLAGE HALL

A special 10th Anniversary Celebration Evening with Cheese and Wine

Richard Whitmore

Hertfordshire Thrones

The celebrity ex-news reader and Hertfordshire resident gives his views on Royalty and the Rest!

Tuesday, 19 September

VILLAGE HALL



Martin Hicks

Orchards in Hertfordshire

An expert from the Herts Biological Records Centre tells us of their project to record all the historic orchards in the County, which includes some details of the famous cherry orchards in Sarratt

Tuesday, 28 November

SARRATT SCHOOL

John Hopkins and Dawn Pitts

Old Village Trades of Sarratt

Two of our Committee Members tell of their researches

Tuesday, 23 January 2007

VILLAGE HALL

AGM and Talk

Local Disasters in the 1940s

From Trains to Planes!

LOOK OUT ... for

The Great Sarratt Scrapbook at various Village events



Holy Cross Church
Sarratt



STEWARDSHIP

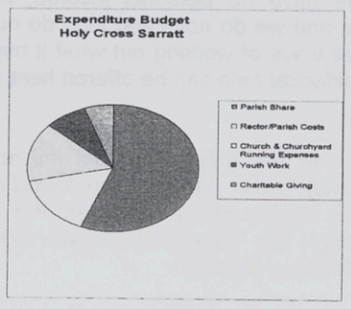
Why Do We Need To?

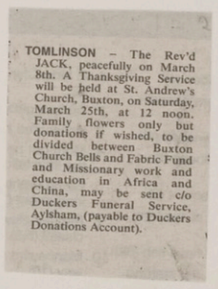
February 2006

Finances
Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Financial Matters:
Thank you for your financial support in the past, this is enormously appreciated. However, the accounts for 2005 show that we have had to use some of our reserves to meet the costs of running the church over this last year. Obviously, this is not a situation we can allow to continue. We believe it is important that everyone has a good idea of what it costs to run the parish over the year, hence the following simplified budget for 2006.

	Budget
	£
Income	
Congregational Giving	34,400
Other Income	14,500
	48,900
Payments	
Parish Share	33,500
Rector/Parish Costs	9,200
Church & Churchyard Running	9,000
Youth & Children's Work	4,800
Charitable Giving	3,300
	59,800
Deficit	-10,900





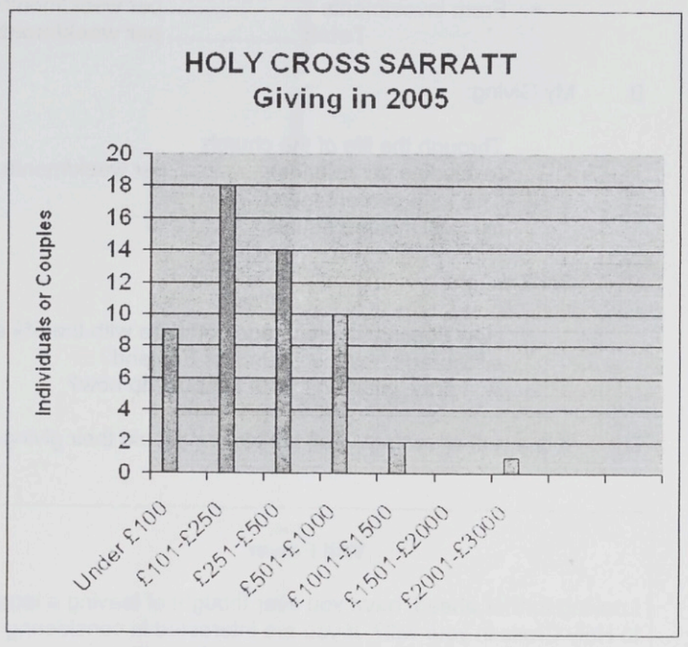
TOMLINSON – The Rev'd JACK, peacefully on March 8th. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St. Andrew's Church, Buxton, on Saturday, March 25th, at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if wished, to be divided between Buxton Church Bells and Fabric Fund and Missionary work and education in Africa and China, may be sent c/o Duckers Funeral Service, Aylsham, (payable to Duckers Donations Account).

EASTERN DAILY PRESS, NORWICH, NORFOLK.

FORMER SARRATT RECTOR 1962 – 1985

HOLY CROSS SARRATT
Giving in 2005

Under £100	9
£101-£250	18
£251-£500	14
£501-£1000	10
£1001-£1500	2
£1501-£2000	0
£2001-£3000	1



~ Philip Buller ~

We hope you will be able to join us at the

Spotlight Tea Party

3.30pm on **Wednesday 5 April**
at
Micklefield Green House,
Sarratt Road

R.S.V.P. Jeannie Poulton 260295
Julia Lawrence 260504

* Please let us know if you need transport. *



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

5th June, 2006

Dear Mrs. Tatham,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your letter of 20th March, and I apologise for the delay in replying. Due to the high volume of mail received in recent weeks, correspondence has been dealt with in strict date order.

Her Majesty was grateful for your kind invitation to attend the celebration lunch which was held by *Sarratt Care* on 10th April in honour of The Queen's eightieth birthday. Your thoughtfulness in writing is appreciated, but I am afraid that it would not have been possible for Her Majesty to take up your suggestion.

Nevertheless, I hope that this special occasion, being the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of *Sarratt Care*, was a successful and enjoyable one for all those who took part.

May I also take this opportunity to send you and your fellow volunteers my best wishes for the continued success of your organisation's work in the local community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Sonia Bonici
Senior Correspondence Officer

Mrs. Noreen Tatham.



The Church of the Holy Cross could be under threat after the council's planning refusal. Picture T152808: JANE PARR

Fears for the future of 'pretty' church

WATFORD OBSERVER 25 APR 2006

by **JOHN HARRISON**

ANGRY parishioners say the future of a historic church could be under threat after plans to improve facilities at the ancient site were rejected.

Officials at The Church of the Holy Cross, Church Lane, Sarratt, hoped to construct a building next to the 12th Century church, to meet the needs of choir members and the congregation.

However, plans to build the single-storey building, which would include a kitchen, toilets, a rector's vestry and a storage area, were turned down by Three Rivers District Council's development control committee last Thursday.

The facilities would have also been able to house church meetings and Sunday school classes, which currently have to be held in a room at The Cock public house, opposite the church.

The tiny church, founded in 1190, has little available room and the choir currently has to get changed in a cupboard behind the organ, while tea and coffee is served to the congregation inside the church itself.

Julia Lawrence, a churchwarden at Holy Cross and member of the Parochial Church Council, said without the facilities she was concerned the church could lose some of its functions.

She said: "There is the possibility that in the future we could be without a priest and that we would simply become that rather pretty church where you have the occasional pretty wedding.

"If we are deemed to be the church that doesn't have the facilities, we would have to question how strong our case to maintain services is in the future."

The plan was to build between the church and an adjacent residential barn conversion, both of which are listed buildings.

The application was initially refused by the council in January 2001 because the committee felt the size and situation of the building would detract from the setting of the church.

Julia said: "We feel very much that we have that responsibility to preserve what we have and to preserve a listed church, but to do that we have to have an active congregation.

"To have an active congregation we have to have toilets and we have to have a room where we can accommodate children for Sunday school.

"And without making it sound like too much of a cliché, children are the future of the church."

Leader of Three Rivers District Council Ann Shaw said the committee was sympathetic to the needs of the church and were committed to finding a solution to the problem without compromising the historic setting.

She said: "I certainly support the churches ambitions. But I believe it is possible to get a small building without prejudicing the architectural or historical integrity of the beautiful church or the listed farm next door to it."

2006



You are invited to a
BRING AND SHARE BBQ
SUNDAY 20 AUGUST
12 noon onwards
at MICKLEFIELD GREEN HOUSE, SARRATT ROAD, SARRATT

Bangers and burgers supplied – salads and puds welcome (plus anything else you may wish to barbecue!).

RSVP: Julia (260504). Do come with all the family and enjoy a relaxing fun and friendship time in the garden. For the more energetic - tennis and croquet on the lawn!

Holy Cross Church
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2006

Saturday 24 to Monday 26 June



THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

OUR England is a garden that is full of stately views,
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by;
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall,
You'll find the tool- and potting-sheds which are the heart of all
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dung-pits and the tanks,
The rollers, carts, and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks.

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise ;
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds,
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words.

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose,
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows ;
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam,
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come.

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing:- "Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick,
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done,
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders,
If it's only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders;
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden,
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!

And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass way!

Rudyard Kipling

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
10th Anniversary Celebration
With
Richard Whitmore

Tuesday 6th June – 7.30 for 8pm
Sarratt Village Hall
£2.00 Members/£5.00 Non Members
Wine & Cheese

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
10th Anniversary Celebration
With
Richard Whitmore

Tuesday 6th June – 7.30 for 8pm
Sarratt Village Hall
£2.00 Members/£5.00 Non Members
Wine & Cheese

2006

OBITUARIES

editor@ringingworld.co.uk

Joe Goodman 1917-2006



Joe was born in 1917 and died on August 18th this year, just short of his 89th birthday. I first met him in the mid 1960s. He and Sally and their sons, Ian and Gary, lived at Common Wood and Joe was a member of the Kings Langley band. He also rang regularly at Sarratt and Chenies and taught many youngsters to ring, including Ian and Gary, and in later years, two of his grandsons, Jason and Justin.

He was a loyal District member, one of the 'old school' to whom the second Saturday of the month was sacrosanct, District meeting day. He arrived punctually for ringing at three o'clock, often, in the early days when there were few cars around, having walked from home.

Joe was well known throughout the District, and beyond, not so much for his ringing prowess but for his straight speaking! Many of the young ladies in the area would have been referred to as wenches and the 'Casanovas' of the County visibly crossed their fingers and held their breath when he was in their company! But it was all honest fun and there was always a twinkle in his eye.

A large number of people will remember Joe and Sally for their famous 'Feast of St. Stephen' celebrations. These were held on Boxing Day, naturally, at their small cottage in Common Wood when 30 or more people would be invited to gather from 12 noon to sample Joe's sloe gin, and various other beverages, and Sally's delicious savouries. The first gathering took place following a failed peal attempt at Kings Langley, and turned out to be so much more popular than peal ringing on Boxing Day that it became a tradition.

Sadly the tradition came to an end when Joe and Sally finally moved to Buxton, in Norfolk to be nearer Gary and his wife Penny, (the local mid-wife and daughter of Jack Tomlinson, a former Rector of Sarratt, who had also retired to Buxton). Needless to say, Joe was soon involved in local ringing and again teaching recruits. He and Sally always came to join us for part of our May Day weekend and it was at Thurne, that we presented Joe with his well deserved Life Membership certificate following his election as a Life Member of the Herts. County Association at the county AGM the previous week. He was very proud, and almost speechless!

This year in May, when Gary and Penny brought Joe and Sally to see us at Barton Turf, it was obvious to all that he was a sick man and subsequent conversation with Penny confirmed this. Only a few weeks later Joe was admitted to hospital where his condition gradually worsened and he went back home to be nursed there. Unfortunately, this became too much and he was readmitted to hospital where he died.

His funeral was at St. Andrew's Buxton on August 29th where Joe's three main loves – his family, his gardening and his bellringing – played a part in the service. Son Gary took the service, Amy, one of Gary's daughter's in law read a very moving poem she had written, entitled 'The Gardener' and other members of the family gave the readings. Unfortunately, there was no tower bell ringing as the bells are at the foundry, but the large congregation, including seven past or present Hertfordshire ringers, was welcomed by ringing from the local handbell team. Following the service, which at Joe's request included the carol 'Hark the herald Angels Sing', he was buried, in glorious sunshine, in the churchyard.

The congregation then strolled down to The Crown for refreshments and to share happy memories of a very special character.

VAL MILLS

September 2006

THE RINGING WORLD 20th. 2006

Erpingham, Norfolk. 3 Sep, 1320 St Clement's B Minor: Theo Crowder 1, Maureen Gardiner 2, Keith Shaw 3, Lawrence Smith 4, Danny Phillips 5, David Hoard (C) 6. Rung in memory of Joe Goodman, Tower Captain at St Andrew's, Buxton, who died on 18 August. 50th Q on the bells: 4. £3

5alive

A special service for all ages to celebrate:
"Living with Faith in the real world"

Sunday 29th October @ 10am
Sarratt Village Hall

This is a service for all ages and will include video clips of young people who will be involved in community projects in Sarratt & Chipperfield on Saturday 28th October, along with a **brass ensemble** and **Odd Sock Productions**.

Come and see how faith is alive in our community; and join us for coffee, tea, donuts and muffins after the service!

We look forward to welcoming you!

Cllr Peter Chipperfield, Chairman Sarratt Parish Council requests the pleasure of the company of

Mr Philip Butler & partner or guest

at a Chairman's Reception to be held on

Saturday 21st October at 7.30pm
at Sarratt Village Hall

a buffet supper will be provided

RSVP to
Sarratt Parish Council

Capturing Sarratt in watercolours



The artist 'at home': after a hugely successful period of painting images from India, Angela Colman is focussing on the beauty spots surrounding her home at Sarratt Mill
PICTURE 27A0510: RYO HAYASHIDA

THE CLOSE connection between the Bedford family and Chenies is celebrated in the current exhibition at the Pavilion Gallery, *Pictures from a Pleasure Garden*, a series of watercolours by Angela Colman based around the artist's home at Sarratt Mill.

The mill was once a favourite hide-away for the Flying Duchess (of Bedford). Lady Colman, who has already had a collection of exquisite watercolours from India published in book form, plans to use the series as foundations for a book about the history of Sarratt Mill.

Both Sarratt Mill and Chenies Manor were owned by the Russell family of Woburn Abbey and sold off to meet massive death duties in the late 1950's.

As well as atmospheric seasonal views of the River Chess and aspects of the gardens, the artist has displayed notes and pictures relating to the history of Sarratt Mill and the link with Chenies, through both mills and manor.

● **Pictures from a Pleasure Garden continues until the end of July**

WAT.OBS. 14-7-06

Sarratt

Local History Society

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the
Village School
on Tuesday November 28th 2006
at 7.30pm for 8pm.
The speakers will be
JOHN HOPKINS
& DAWN PITTS
who will delight us with a talk about their researches into
OLD VILLAGE TRADES OF SARRATT
Refreshments available.
All are welcome.



FLOWER FESTIVAL 2006 THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN

27 June 2006

Dear Philip and helpers on the Friends Stall

THANK YOU!.....

..... for all that you contributed to making the weekend's flower festival such a success. It is wonderful that when everybody works together and is ready to give of their own personal gifts and talents, we can stage such an event – an event which gives joy to so many.

We had an amazing 1,088 people through the door and a magnificent £5,000 has been raised to date. Final figures and full details of the monies raised will appear in the Welcome Sheet, available at the Sunday Services, and in the August Spotlight. As you are aware, these funds will go to the preservation and maintenance of our beautiful church.

The Flower Festival weekend always requires a great deal of time and effort from a good many people. I do hope that amidst all the frenetic activity, you found time to enjoy the Festival - not only the flowers and the various stalls, but the fellowship too!

Again, on behalf of all the Flower Festival organisers, I would like to thank you for all your help and support.

With thanks and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Julia

Julia Lawrence
Flower Festival Committee

P.S. There will be a group meeting outside the Sarratt Post Office Stores at 10.30am on Saturday 15 July with the intention of walking to Chipperfield to support St Paul's Flower Festival (theme: 'From Creation to Revelation'). Do join us if you can!

Micklefield Green House, Sarratt WD3 6AH email: julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com
Tel: 01923 260504

Golden celebrations as Institute hits 50

Popular women's group marks milestone year with party



HAPPY DAYS: Left (06-1786-440) Members of the Sarratt Women's Institute celebrate at their golden anniversary party to mark 50 years of the group's existence. In the image, members pose by a Christmas tree as well as their own tree of life, which saw each member embroider a felt leaf to signify the Institute's continued progress. Below, looking back to the Institute's 30th anniversary in 1986, which saw them present a bench to Sarratt Parish Council. In the image, President of the organisation at the time Patricia Downing sits on the bench with Tony Bond from the Council, while other members of the Institute watch on. Main image taken by Malcolm Armstrong.



MARKING HISTORY: The tree of life (06-1786-443) that members of the Sarratt WI designed to mark their anniversary, while below, Godfrey Talbot, a popular BBC war correspondent, was one of many people to speak at WI meetings.





by Pete Bennett
pete.bennett@ccnltd.com

SARRATT Women's Institute is enjoying a special festive period this year as it looks back on its first 50 years.

Almost exactly 50 years to the day after its first meeting in 1956 the club celebrated its golden anniversary last week with a party.

Dawn Pitts, a member of the Sarratt WI for more than half of its history, said the group had chosen to use their embroidery skills to mark the occasion.

She said: "We're still going strong and to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary we decided that every member would embroider a felt leaf in any way she should choose and we put them on a tree of life.

"It signifies that we are still alive and lively."

The tree of life was one of the centrepieces of the institute's party which included guests from surrounding WIs, the chairman of Hertfordshire WI and past presidents of the group.

Mrs Pitts said: "The Sarratt WI began in 1956 with a small group but it rapidly grew to 120 members.

"At that time it was the thing to be a member of the WI and in fact it grew so rapidly it out-grew the village hall and they had to have a waiting list and couldn't accept new members!"

Sarratt was not the first WI in Hertfordshire, with the county federation being set up in 1919, but it proved hugely popular in the village.

The group was founded by Beryl Walchli who eventually left the group to move away.

Rumour has it she passed on her passion for the WI to the new occupants of her house.

Mrs Pitts said: "The story goes that when she moved on she told the lady who had bought her house that one of the conditions of the sale was that she joined the WI.

"The lady who bought it, Pat Downing, did join eventually and went on to do a lot of work with us."

The Institute now has around 40 members, whose ages range from 50 to 96, who meet every other week for one afternoon.

Mrs Pitt added: "We still do the same sort of things, working in the community and being involved in the village. This year for one of our projects we have knitted a lot of small quilts and bottoms for the Watford Special Care Baby Unit.

"And we also held a pink party in August with pink food and clothing that raised money for breast cancer. It was not quite calendar girls but it was good fun!"

Mrs Pitt said as women's roles have change in the last half a century, so has the WI and being part of the community has always been central to that. She said: "I love it, it's a good way of making friends and you feel you're making a difference to the community, and of course having a good time!"

The Sarratt WI meets every second Wednesday at 2.15pm. To find out more call Secretary Breda Tiernan on 01923 267914.



COMMEMORATING THE PAST: Above, an image of one of the very first events at the Sarratt WI, a Jumble Fair that the group's first president Beryl Walchli was a part of. Below, founder members of the group, Vera Webb and Noreen Singleton cut the 50th anniversary birthday cake.





Action from one of the early events held at the Sarratt Women's Institute, which was first founded in 1956 and has since gone from strength to strength.

2006

Sarratt
in a delightful Porcelain Collection



Unique and Exclusive Porcelain Collection



Dimensions: Oval Plate: 23 cm high x 31 cm wide.

Limited Edition

This new Sarratt Porcelain Collection is issued in a limited Edition. Each series is numbered separately.
The Collection is available until 19 December 2006.

After this date it will be too late. You can only receive this Collection by ordering it. Make sure to react in time. Do it today.



Order form
Sarratt porcelain collection

Yes, I wish to order ….. sets of this unique collection of porcelain Sarratt plates, produced in a strictly limited edition. Orders are processed on a first come first served basis.
The order period ends on 19 December 2006. The price is £ 14.95 per round plate and £ 24.95 for the oval plate. I will pay £ 84.75 for the full collection.
Packaging and handlings costs are £ 4.95 per parcel. All prices include VAT.

I choose a hanging fastener or a stand for each plate at £ 0.60/each.
I choose: ❑ Hanging fastener ❑ Stand

Please complete in capital letters.

Mr ❑ Mrs ❑ Ms ❑ Other ❑.....
Surname: ..... First name: .....
House No: ..... Street Name: .....
Town: ..... Postcode: ..... Tel. nr.: .....
I will return my order form in a sealed envelope before 19 December 2006 to:

Decor Art Creations Ltd., 127, Blean Common, Blean, Canterbury, Kent CT2 9JH
Tel.: 01227 785151 Fax: 01227 785153

059140/922120/066/G74

Ancient & MODERN

Sarratt is one of Hertfordshire's favourite villages… **Alan Jamieson** went to visit as part of our occasional 'where to go' series, and reports back so that the next time *you* visit, you'll know what to look for. Tell us what you think and where we might go for our next outing.

Suppose you were asked, "what do you look for in an ideal village?" What would you include? – A green, a duck pond, woods, an ancient church, a meandering river, pretty cottages and, of course, comfortable places for refreshment?

Well, Sarratt has all of these. As you enter the village along one of the roads from Chorleywood or Chipperfield, a wide and long Green with bumps and hollows and willow-fringed duck pond dominates the first view. The ponds were probably watering holes for cattle at a stopping point on the drove road to London's markets. *The Boot*, *The Cricketers* and *The Cock* were used then to slake a drover's thirst; nowadays they are equally popular, but enjoy a different clientele.

The farmworkers, brewers and blacksmiths who once lived in the cottages on the Green would be astonished by their homes' new owners. Instead of carts there are BMWs and Mercedes parked at the door. Small cottages once rented for a few pounds a week are now on sale for £280,000. Multiply that by four for a barn conversion.

As you cross the Green, look out for the village pump. It now has an iron protector in the shape of a wheel but for centuries the 100-feet deep well provided the village with its water. A sharp eye will spot the indentations in the stone slabs, worn by countless people's feet as they dragged on the wheel. One story is that when tap water was installed, villagers complained that the old well's water had "more body". Excavations revealed why: at the bottom of the well were the remains of cats and dogs. A case of "more bodies", rather than "more body".

Goldingtons, probably Sarratt's finest mansion, was once lived in by local landowners. You can see it from the church, a lovely white house with views across meadows to the river. In the 19th century the house was bought by the Clutterbucks, a brewing family, who lived in it for over 100 years until 1976. Goldingtons had its moment of national fame when it was used as a location for the first wedding in the popular 1994 film, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Honeymooners and guests waved as carriages rolled down the gravelled drive, and new liaisons were made on the lawns and fields which stretch invitingly down to the river Chess.

Really you ought to *walk* around Sarratt… How else can you appreciate its beauty? A stroll across the Green to one of the pubs is probably the shortest walk, but a better challenge would be to locate the River Chess, which can be approached from several directions. One suggestion is to go past Holy Cross church, skirt Sarratt Mill, cross a New Road, skip through a kissing gate and enter the woodlands that lead to the Chess Valley Walk. Keep going along Solesbridge Lane (the roar of the M25 might temporarily disturb your tranquillity) and by a circular route you will return to the village and the haven of





one of Sarratt's welcoming hostelries. On 1 and 2 May you'll find them all packed when Sarratt Fair takes up residence on the Green.

As you walk through the village, look at the buildings. Some are flint-covered, others are brick, some are colour-washed plaster. A few of the houses haven't changed much in 200 years. Others (well, most of them, in fact) have been 'improved'. You can amuse yourself by identifying the ones that you envy (they will be in the majority) and others that need some tender loving care.

Holy Cross Church should be on your list of 'places to see'. To reach it you pass a row of cottages of what once was a 16th century almshouse. Look for a Victorian post box built into a wall, and a plaque that marks the rebuilding work done in 1821. There's a lychgate by *The Cock* pub – go through it and Holy Cross looms ahead. Originally built in the 12th century, it's in the form of a cross with walls of flint, stone and red brick (stolen, it is said, from a nearby Roman villa). This lovely, ancient church was restored in 1864-6, retaining the 15th century bell tower and the finely carved pulpit. Search for the 14th century wall paintings of the life of Christ, including Gabriel appearing before Mary. Look, too, for the plaque commemorating Sydney Valentine, an Edwardian character actor who once lived nearby. There's also a small safe set into a wall, along with brasses and the Kingsley Memorial – an alabaster record of Sir William (died 1611) and his wife.



Your stroll through Sarratt is likely to include a stop. Perhaps more than one stop. *The Cock*, near Holy Cross church, is an old pub. Stories abound that 400 years ago it was a mortuary for victims of the plague, and that the doorway at the rear of the building was widened so that coffins could be taken through it. Nowadays the gardens at the rear echo to the laughter of children as their parents sup ale, drowning out the memory of the plague ghosts. Along the road is *The Cricketers* where you can sit outside in the sunshine, sip your beer and watch the world go by. This is also a very old pub, now modernised and under the management of Blubeckers. The third of Sarratt's pubs is *The Boot*, different again, with small wood-beamed rooms for a cosy pint. If these aren't enough, two miles down the road to Chipperfield is the hamlet of Belsize with another attractive pub, *The Plough*.

Every village acquires its vitality from its people. Stop at Sarratt post office – the only shop – for a purchase (*New Walks on Old Paths: 12 walks around the village*, published by the WI, perhaps) and a gossip. Or call at Biggerstaff's garage where one family has run the business for over 100 years. Greenend Farm, a house on the edge of the Green, has a more macabre story, apparently haunted by a little old lady in a lavender gown who sits by the fireside. Another story is that a girl's dress caught fire as she warmed herself: she jumped in the duckpond to put out the flames and was drowned.

Although the Clutterbucks were probably the most prominent local family (giving land for the village hall, for example), the Days were also major benefactors. Ralph Day of Sarratt Hall paid for the 1821 almshouses to be converted into cottages. The place is full of the past… Out of sight, however, as Dawn Pitts, the local historian, will tell you, is Sarratt's treasured *Scrapbook*, started by the rector Edward Ryley in 1859 and extended by his son Gilbert Ryley, also rector, in 1912. This is a unique record, now in the care of the local history society.

And what of the latest generation – what do they think? The children at Sarratt School were clear about their preferences. Ten-year old Zena liked the walks, the countryside, and the friendly people of the village. Fellow pupil Keri-Ann said there was so much going on… activities in the village hall, clubs, games on the Green and cheering on the football team, the Sarratt Rebels. The school's headteacher, Christine Buck, pointed out that it isn't easy to get into the school, however – parents (and children, clearly) like a village school and so come from far and wide to try for a place there.

Enjoy your walk? Of course you will. How can such a lovely village fail to enchant you?



BELSIZE £5500 pcm

A five bedroom gated farm house surrounded by open fields. Ref: 1656



Charming two double bedroom cottage in rural location overlooking The Green. Pretty secluded garden and off street parking. Unfurnished







Sarratt GUIDE PRICE £1,750,000

A beautifully presented 19th Century Grade II Listed barn conversion with landscaped garden, located within the conservation area of this sought after village overlooking the Chess Valley.

Covered entrance porch, reception hall, ground floor bathroom/cloakroom, drawing room, dining hall, family room, study, snug/television room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, galleried landing, principal bedroom with dressing area and en-suite bathroom, 4 further bedrooms, family bathroom, detached barn and granary store, detached 4-car port, landscaped gardens.

01923 ??????



SARRATT BOTTOM

£615,000

DELIGHTFUL GRADE II LISTED PERIOD COTTAGE WITH VIEWS ALONG THE CHESS VALLEY.

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 reception rooms
- Large "rustic" kitchen
- Studio/home office
- Refitted upstairs bathroom
- Cottage gardens
- Joint sole agents





SARRATT Guide price £700,000 Freehold

A beautifully presented detached house offering good accommodation located on this splendid level plot with distant views. During recent years the property has been extended and completely refurbished. Early viewing is highly recommended. Ref: harw493615



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £325,000

A DELIGHTFUL TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE WITH PERIOD FEATURES, SITUATED CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE GREEN
Sitting Room, Recently refitted Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom.
Attractive Garden with Store Room to rear.



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £545,000 FREEHOLD

Located in the sought after village of Sarratt is this attractive detached Victorian property which has been updated by the present owners, retaining many of the original features.
01923 284125



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £285,000 FREEHOLD

A charming attractive two bedroom terraced cottage located in the picturesque village of Sarratt. The property has been updated by the present owners to a good standard.
01923 284125



SARRATT TO LET

An attractive farmhouse with landscaped gardens enjoying a rural position on the Great Sarratt Hall Estate. Outside the property offers ample off road parking, delightful gardens, mainly laid to lawn with flower and shrub beds and borders and double garage with store sheds. The property is situated on a farm, so livery facilities would be available if required.

£2,800 PCM



SARRATT Guide price £450,000 Freehold

A three bedroom semi-detached property located in this pretty rural location with views over open countryside.To the front of the property if off road parking for 3-4 cars and to the rear is a garden of approximately 60Ft. Ref: rik060016



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £850,000 FREEHOLD

Located in the picturesque village of Sarratt, this character three bedroom semi-detached cottage, parts of which date back to the 16th century . The property sits in a plot approaching two acres, together with outhouses, stables and garaging.
01923 284125



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £795,000 FREEHOLD

Built in early 1800's and used as the village school for many years , is this character four bedroom property retaining some of its original features and located in the picturesque village of Sarratt .
Early viewing is highly recommended.
01923 284125



SARRATT

£775,000

JUST OFF THE GREEN WELL PRESENTED CHALET HOUSE IN 0.4 ACRES

- 4 Bedrooms
- Downstairs Shower/Cloakroom
- 3 Receps & Sun Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Family Bathroom
- Dble Garage
- No Upper Chain





SARRATT Guide price £539,950 Freehold

A delightful brick and flint cottage offering deceptively roomy accommodation with well-proportioned rooms. Outside there is a detached studio and detached double garage, both with power and light. Ref: rik060134



SARRATT £650,000

An attractive, well presented, detached four bedroom family home with a southerly aspect garden in this sought after Hertfordshire Village.
4 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 en-suite). Sitting room, dining room/study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, large conservatory. Garage, southerly aspect 100' rear garden. Double glazed throughout. Gas central heating.



SARRATT

£265,000

A WELL PRESENTED COTTAGE JUST OFF THE VILLAGE GREEN IN THIS POPULAR HAMLET

- Entrance Lobby
- Sitting Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bedroom, Large Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- 70' Rear Garden, Own parking



SARRATT

A bright and spacious four bedroom family home offering versatile accommodation in this sought-after location just off the village green. Reception hall, cloakroom, living room, dining room, study, family/sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, 4 beds, bathroom, driveway parking, good sized rear gardens of approx 70ft, single garage in block.

£450,000

Kings Langley 01923 270333



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £1,500,000

A fine detached family home fronting The Green in this sought after hamlet. Originally a farmhouse with parts dating back to the 18th Century, situated on plot of just over one half of an acre. 5 beds, 3 baths, 2 en-suites, 4 receps, kitchen/breakfast room and utility. Annexe providing bedroom, en-suite and own front door. Double garage, outbuildings, large south westerly facing garden.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2006
taken at Little Bragmans, Belsize by philip Buller

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	18th / 11.9	24th /-5.0	24th /-6.5	16th / 8.0	26.2	
February	15th / 12.3	11th /-4.6	11,24,25,28/-5.8	14th / 14.5	43.6	
March	30th / 16.9	23rd /-3.7	23rd /-6.0	7th / 13.0	56.9	last snowfall of winter, 16th.
April	22nd / 17.4	6th /-2,4	5th /-4.7	30th / 14.3	41.8	last airfrost of winter, 11th.
May	4th / 25.9	2nd / 0.0	2nd /-1.7	19th / 9.8	83.3	1st cuckoo & last ground frost, 1st & 2nd.
June	12th / 30.2	1st / 4.0	1st / 0.6	13,23/ 2.3	10.4	12th, already 22.0C at 10.00am, BST.
July	**19th / 35.2**	8,17 / 9.0	8th / 7.6	5th / 10.5	42.1	19th, 25C at 10.00am, 24C at 10.00pm, hottest day I've ever recorded.
August	6th / 26.6	25th / 6.8	25th / 5.7	23rd / 15.6	83.0	thunder storms on 6 days
September	11th / 28.7	8th / 6.4	8th / 4.5	13th / 18.5	53.6	
October	9th / 21.0	27th / 2.5	27th / 0.4	9th / 15.0	90.6	
November	13th / 16.0	19tyh /-2.9	19th /-4.5	17th / 22.6	108.9	1st ground & air frosts, 1st & 4th.
December	4th / 13.9	20th /-5.9	20th /-7.6	29th / 17.2	86.6	

2007

Sarratt Local History Society

Our AGM will be held on
Tuesday January 23 at 8pm.
A talk will follow by

Ray Potter

who will speak on

Local disasters in the 1940s.

"From trains to planes"

All are welcome.
Refeshments from 7.30pm.

IN THE VILLAGE HALL



JUDY JENKS PHILIP BULLER-ARTIST DENNIS JENKS

Presented to Dennis Jenks

By

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt
&
The Sarratt Village Hall Committee

on

28th January 2007

with grateful thanks and in recognition of generous donations received from the proceeds of many Book Fairs



'JENKS' BARN'

Sarratt's secrets

Liz Ashford goes undercover to discover Sarratt's secret existence as a centre of espionage excellence



Above Sarratt Post Office Store **Opposite** Inside Holy Cross church

IF YOU have ever read one of John le Carre's novels you might be forgiven for thinking that Sarratt is a village full of spies and espionage. In fact, the peaceful village of Sarratt couldn't be further removed from a world of murder, deception and double-crossing.

Located between Rickmansworth and Watford, Sarratt offers a small slice of countryside life beside these larger urban communities where a friendly community enjoy the thrills of living in a thriving village rather than the danger of a Bond film plot.

And yet for spy novelist le Carre, author of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, The Constant Gardener* and *The Tailor of Panama*, Sarratt has been a key location which he himself described as, 'some kind of secret haven, a forgotten piece of real England just around the corner from subtopia'.

Le Carre chose Sarratt as the home of a training school for the British intelligence service in his on-running series of stories, seeing the village as, 'at the edge of the real world, but safe from it'.

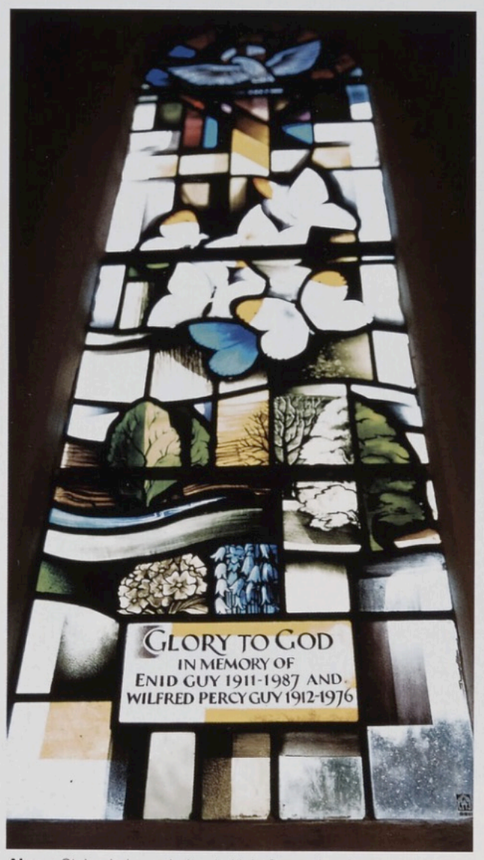
John le Carre is the pseudonym of David John Moore Cornwell, who was born in 1931 in Poole, Dorset, and attended both the University of Berne and the University of Oxford. He moved on from teaching at Eton to work for the British Foreign Service. It was not until 1961 that he began to write, but since then le Carre has penned 19 spy titles, including *The Constant Gardener*, which was recently made into a film starring Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz.

In 1999, le Carre published *Sarratt and the Draper of Watford*. The book brings together the writings of le Carre and the former KGB Colonel Mikhail Lyubimov and includes four further short stories revolving around village life in Sarratt and a fascinating transcript of an interview with Colonel Lyubimov.

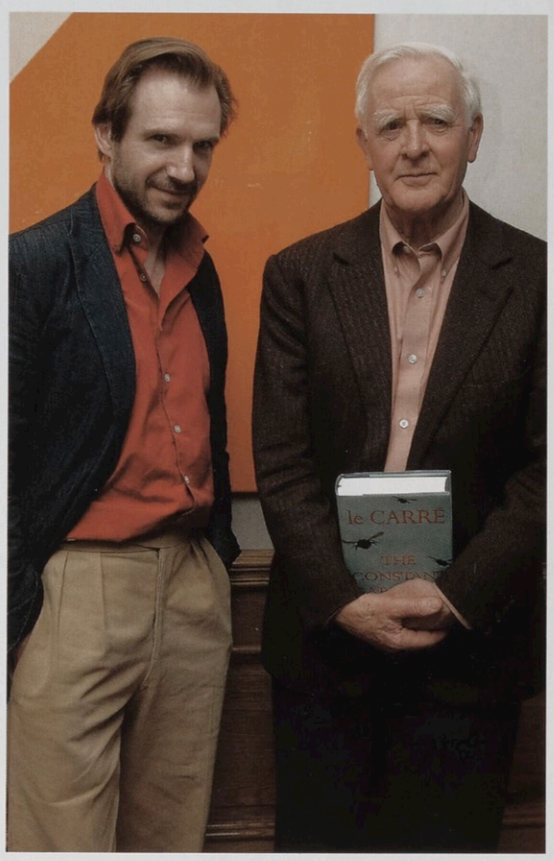
Money raised from the sale of the book has been used to preserve the village heritage for future generations and shared between two registered charities - *The Friends of Holy Cross Church* and The Sarratt Village Hall Trust. Le Carre also explains his love for Sarratt in the book and how he discovered it on his way to 'nowhere in particular'.

Sarratt's charm has meant it has been no stranger to fame, often being used as a filming location for television programmes as well as the highly-successful 1994 film, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Of course, Sarratt's history stretches back far beyond le Carre's stories and Hollywood films. Sarratt dates back to 700AD when the original dwellers were in fact Swedish, explaining where its name derived from. Originally



Above Stained glass window in Holy Cross church



Above Author John Le Carre (right) with actor Ralph Fiennes

known by the Scandinavian word 'Swyra', this evolved into 'Syre' and then, in 796AD, to 'Syreth'.

As the village of Sarratt, it began as a cluster of houses surrounding the 12th century church. Holy Cross Church is said to stand on the site of a Roman burial ground and the building itself began as a cruciform shape and there was no seating. This remained until the 15th century when a bell tower was added, a steeple, seating and the roof of the chancel was renewed. The church's development reflected the prosperity of village life which was enriched by the church.

However, work on the church ceased during the 18th century, a reflection of the decline of faith during this time. It was the introduction of Reverend Edward Ryley which improved the church's fortunes. His dedication prevented its collapse as he set about planning major restoration and refurbishment work. *The Watford Observer* described in Ryley's obituary that he was, 'in every sense the father of the village'.

Sarratt's sense of community spirit is emphasised by *The Friends of the Holy Cross* who organise several events for the village including a flower festival, which is the main annual fundraising event, always held on the last weekend in June. This is a popular event with more than 100 people visiting last year's festival and raising £5,000 for the church.

Other events include a sponsored bicycle ride around the lanes of Sarratt, an annual quiz night, a Christmas bazaar and a bridge day. In fact Sarratt's social calendar is packed with activities for all ages throughout the year, with the May Day funfair and bonfire night celebrations also held on The Green annually.

Sarratt is also known for its great variety of walks with more than 68 paths covering 26 miles, but it is mainly the natural beauty of Sarratt that draws in visitors.

As Colonel Lyubimov states in his short story, *The Adventures of Colonel Karla in Sarratt*, 'What a place this would be to settle in old age, tend roses, go fishing, recalling from time-to-time a glorious past of espionage'.

Get the book

Sarratt and the Draper of Watford by John le Carre
Sarratt Village
Priced £9.75
ISBN-10: 0953775003



Find out more about John le Carre's writing at www.johnlecarre.com

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Financial statement for the year ending 30th November 2006

Balance at 1st December 2005	**£2115.38**	
Receipts		
Subscriptions: annual –99 @ £7	£ 693.00	
non-members – 30 @ £2	£ 60.00	
		£753.00
Refreshments	£ 23.33	
10th anniversary meeting: ticket sales	£ 252.00	
sale of excess wine, etc	£ 33.00	
		£285.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 1061.33	
Expenditure		
Business expences: stamps, labels, staples, etc	£ 31.41	
photocopying & printing	£ 16.75	
2006 programme print	£ 32.95	
		£81.11
Meeting expences: hire of village hall and school	£ 93.00	
speakers' expences	£ 148.40	
refreshments	£ 30.00	
		£271.40
10th anniversary meeting: refreshments	£ 333.36	
hire of village hall	£ 91.00	
speaker's fee	£ 250.00	
		£674.36
Subscription to Herts. Assoc. for Local History	£ 14.00	
Donation to village hall for quiz evening	£ 50.00	
Auditor	£ 25.00	
Purchase of overhead projector	£ 15.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 1130.87	
RECEIPTS less EXPENDITURE	- £ 69.54 (loss)	
BALANCE AT 30th NOVEMBER 2006	**£2045.84**	

Philip Buller (Hon. Treasurer), 1st December 2006

Certified correct according to the books and records of Sarratt Local History Society

13 January 2007

DAVID CLOUGH FCA.

FILM NIGHT

FRIDAY 27 APRIL

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL



NANNY McPHEE

Starring Emma Thompson and Colin Firth (Cert U)

Doors open **4.30pm**

Feel-good family entertainment - highly recommended for all ages!

THE QUEEN

Starring Helen Mirren (Cert 12)

Doors open **7.30pm**

for this award-winning film

* Hot dogs * Ice creams * Bar * Entrance by donation (no advance tickets)

Fun and friendship event - all proceeds to youth work in Sarratt and Chipperfield

---

'007 – YEAR OF ACTION!

5 alive!

10-11am
Sunday 29 April
Sarratt Village Hall

Guest Speaker:
Jamie from Watford New Hope Trust

'From Homelessness to Man of Action'



plus

A few words from local 'Action Man' - Colin Plummer

Coffee, tea, donuts and muffins afterwards.

Everyone welcome!

---

primelocation.com

So you've found your house on Primelocation.com?

Prime Links | Estate Agents

Sold prices in England & Wales
House Price Index
Council Tax Advice
Mortgages and Finance
Insurance
Credit & Loan Centre
Legal & Surveying
Removals and Storage
Moving House
Home and Garden
Property Investment
Flatshare
Property Search Agent Directory
Serviced Apartments
Local Area Guides
About Us
Jobs at Primelocation
Sitemap
Links

UK and overseas property investment education from Inside Track Seminars.
Book your free 2 hour workshop
Date / Location
Course Time
Seats Required
Go

> > Search results

House for sale - Sarratt, Hertfordshire Find

Back to results

Price: Asking price of £500,000
Agent: Rumball Sedgwick

Property Details



4 bedrooms - Asking price of £500,000

Located in the centre of this sought after Hertfordshire village, has planning consent for conversion and extension to create a

For Sale By Informal Tender
Closing Date for receipt of Tenders: Friday 4th May 2007 at nc

Offers in excess of £500,000 Freehold

Situation

Sarratt Baptist Church is situated in the centre of Sarratt, front bounded on both sides by residential properties. To the rear th farmland. Sarratt provides limited facilities including primary sc houses. The village is on a bus route. Watford with its multiple seven miles away. Rickmansworth town centre is within appro miles. Chorleywood station, with both London Underground M services running into Baker Street and Marylebone respectivel

The property is well placed for road communications with M1 a within easy reach. London Luton, Heathrow and Gatwick airpo

Central London is within 25 miles.

Description

The premises comprise a Victorian Church with brick elevatior roof. To the rear there is an attached hall, offices, kitchen and addition also has brick elevations under a pitched and slated r

The property has a frontage to The Green of some 23m (77') a approximately 31m (101') giving a site area of 0.08ha (0.2 acr large gravelled parking area to the side of the building.

Accommodation

The accommodation is arranged on one floor and briefly comp

Porch
Church 14.75m x 8.30m (48'2" x 27'2")
Hall 10.45m x 5.30m (34'3" x 17'4")
Parish Office 5.35m x 2.40m (17'4" x 7'8")
Kitchen 3.40m x 2.70m (11'2" x 8'8")

Outside: 2 WCs, stores

Planning

On 20th September 2006 under Town Planning reference 06/1 Three Rivers District Council granted Planning Permission sut Conservation Area Consent subject to conditions for Conversi including demolition of existing church hall to rear, two storey s installation of a first floor, roof alterations and alterations to fer Velux windows.

Copies of the Planning Permission and Conservation Area Co

The approved scheme is shown on Drawing numbers 5089/02 5089/03A, 5089/04A, 5089/06A, 5089/08A, 5089/09A reduced attached (NOT TO SCALE). A full set of scaled drawings is av agents at a cost of £30.00 including VAT. Cheques should be Sedgwick.

The accommodation of the proposed dwelling comprises (all d approximate):

Ground Floor

Church: Entrance Porch, Hall, Study 3.5m x 3.2m (11'4" x 10'5 11.1m x 8.3m (36'4" x 27'2")

Rear Extension: Bedroom 3: 5.3m x 3.05m (17'4" x 16'6"), Bedroom 4: 4m x 3.2m (13'1" x 10'5"), Bathroom, Inner Hall, U x 5'9"), Kitchen 6.4m x 4m (21' x 13'1")

First Floor

Church: Gallery 1: 5.8m x 3.5m (19' x 11'5"), Gallery 2: 6.2m x 3.6m (20'3" x 11'8")

Rear Extension: Landing, Master Bedroom 5.3m (max) x 4.6m Bedroom 2: 4.6m x 4.1m (15' x 13'4"), En suite

Fixtures and Fittings

The purchaser shall be required to remove carefully the exterr vendors. The vendors shall remove three wooden communion piano. All other items of fixtures, fittings, furnishings, books or included in the sale. The gas space heaters are not useable. I for the carpets the vendors will take part of these.

Tenure

The site as edged red shown overleaf will be sold freehold witl completion. There is a vehicular right of way across The Greer plan, serving the property.

Services

Mains water, electricity and gas are understood to be available property. No enquiries have been made of the supply authoriti

have been tested. Drainage is to a septic tank. A neighbouring connect into the septic tank.

Method of Sale

The property is offered for sale by way of informal tender subje

The successful tenderor will be required to exchange contracts acceptance of his/her tender, with completion no later than 28 contracts

Tenders must include the attached Tender Form, duly comple a sealed envelope clearly marked 'SARRATT BAPTIST CHUF the front of the envelope. All tenders must state a specific sum should not be calculable by reference to another tender.

The closing date for receipt of Tenders is Friday 4th May 2007 sent to Rumball Sedgwick, 58 St Peter's Street, St Albans, He

All Tenders received by the Tender deadline will be opened by of Croxley Green and Sarratt Baptist Church. The vendor, at it not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender submitted.

Note:

Whilst we endeavour to make our sales particulars accurate a points which are of importance to you, please contact this offic check the information. Do so especially if contemplating travel the property.

Money Laundering Regulations 2003

Intending purchasers will be asked to produce identification dc and we would ask for your co-operation in order that there will be no delay in agreeing the

Viewing: Strictly by appointment with the Vendor's sole agent I 854516

Property reference: RUMS999000692

2007

Sarratt Festival of Music
Invitation to a very special event

An Evening with John Lill
April 28th 7.45pm
Sarratt Village Hall

John Lill CBE has long been at the forefront of the international music scene. He won the coveted Tchaikovsky Piano Prize in 1970 and since then he has played in every major music capital of the world and made numerous recordings.

We are delighted and privileged to have him as Patron of our Music Festival. Every occasion he has performed here has been a truly memorable evening.

This event in April is a unique opportunity to hear John talk about his life and career. He will not be playing but will provide musical illustrations through extracts from his recordings.

After the talk we invite you to stay and join the SFM committee and John for cheese and wine. We will also be announcing details of the programme for our 2007 Festival.

Tickets are £15 (to include cheese and wine) and will be on sale from March 5th.

No returns unless tickets can be re-sold.

Send this form to:
Sarratt Festival of Music - Box Office,
Peel Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, Herts , WD3 6AR
Telephone: 01923 269083

.....

I require_____ tickets for this event and I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to Sarratt Festival of Music and an SAE.

Name _____
Address_____
_____
Telephone No:_____



FLOWER FESTIVAL COFFEE MORNING

10.30 am to 12.30

TUESDAY 15th May 2007
at
SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

In aid of funds for the flowers at the flower festival.

Please come and bring friends to enjoy a coffee with us

*** Raffle * Cake Stall * Plant Stall * Bring & Buy ***

2007

ngs gardens open for charity

Garden Open

Great Sarratt Hall

Sarratt, Rickmansworth

Sun 27 May

2 - 6pm

Adm: £4
Children: (free under 12)

The National Gardens Scheme: Registered Charity No. 1112664 www.ngs.org.uk

1-06-07

For news, sport and information online visit www.watfordobserver.co.uk

'Children are the future', say super foster parents

by **NEIL SKINNER**



Daphne and Terry Tyler have fostered 133 children over the years. Picture 21B2403: PIPPA DOUGLAS

FROM troublesome toddlers to tear-away teens, the challenges of parenthood are well known.

For most people two or three children are quite enough, but for a popular couple from Sarratt the number is rather more.

After more than 20 years as registered foster parents, Daphne and Terry Tyler are currently caring for their 133rd child – an astonishing statistic recognised earlier in the month with a special award from Hertfordshire County Council.

Daphne, 61, said: "Some of our friends used to say we were mad. But what better way can there be to spend your time?

"I used to work in a children's home in Watford and that's no place for a child. I vowed then that when I had my own family I'd do something to help children like that."

Remarkably the couple have seven grown up children of their own, so why devote so much to caring for other people's often troubled offspring? Their answer is refreshingly altruistic.

"It sounds a bit corny, I know, but children are the future," Daphne said. "It's vital that they are taken care of.

"Yes, it can be tough but that's the challenge of it. It's not supposed to be easy. You just have to remember that none of these problems are the children's fault."

Indeed, fostering can be a challenging and emotional process for all concerned.

Of the 60,000 plus children in the UK system at the moment, many have experienced considerable emotional trauma; some have lost parents, been abused or even been in trouble with the police.

But for a couple approaching retirement age, no challenge is considered too great.

"Every now and then we do get a difficult case and we think 'is it wise to keep going?'.

"But it can be so rewarding," Daphne said.

"Often when a child comes they have a lot of problems and very low self-esteem.

"But so many of them just blossom into completely different people. You really can't recognise some of them when they leave – and that's why we do it.

"We're not planning to give up any time soon.

"While we can offer the children what they need, we'll keep on doing what we are doing."

And whatever the couple are doing seems to work.

As soon as I arrive, a smiling child comes to greet me at the door, bounding merrily into the garden to play shortly after.

This type of success, they assure me, is based on a simple, no-nonsense approach to parenting: of firm boundaries and traditional family values.

Tea is taken together at the table and conversation is encouraged as much as possible.

The idea is that given a stable home life for a while a child's behaviour will adjust itself.

"Often they come here and they're effing and blinding all the time because that's what they know from where they've come from, " said Terry, 68.

"We don't tell them off for it because after a while it will just stop because they're not in that kind of environment any more."

Many of those who have passed through the couple's doors have gone on to successful careers and even families of their own.

Christmas, explained Daphne, can be a busy time for the local postman as cards and letters arrive from young adults who owe much to the couple's kindness and support.

Anyone interested in learning more about fostering is asked to contact the county council's fostering team on 0800 917 0925 or visit the website: www.hertsdirect.org/fostering.

4 **Watford Observer, Friday, June 8, 2007**

NEWS

Trial over dog attack

A SARRATT woman will face trial next month after being charged with owning a pair of "dangerously out of control dogs". It is alleged one of two Staffordshire bull terriers belonging to Amanda Morrell, of Downer Drive, savaged a local dog in Downer Drive on Saturday, May 19. Ms Morrell, who has pleaded not guilty to both charges, will face trial at Watford Magistrates Court on Friday, September 21. She will also answer an additional charge of making off from a Watford restaurant without paying her £37 bill on Friday, September 14.

12 **Watford Observer, Friday, July 6, 2007** *For news, sport*

THREE RIVERS

Pensioner's 1,000 mile cycling trip

A RETIRED hotelier plans to cycle from Sarratt to Spain in an epic 1,000 mile ride.

Tom Eden may be 66 but that hasn't stopped him committing to the challange to pedal his way to Santa Coloma, near Barcelona in Spain, this September.

Previously a vice president of Marketing at Hilton International in Watford HQ, Tom is busy training in the lanes around south west Hertfordshire for his huge challenge.

Although he is used to cycling locally, and once undertook a 250-mile round trip from Monte Carlo to Genoa in Italy, Tom is not underestimating the toughness of the trip which will take him through France and then Spain.

Tom will set off from Sarratt on September 7, before embarking on the Portsmouth ferry for Le Havre and the long ride south through France.

Tom is hoping this effort will reap dividends for the Peace Hospice in Watford, in the form of £10,000 raised to sponsor a room in the inpatient unit for 12 months.

Each room is equipped with a special bed to relieve sores, an ensuite shower room for privacy, has oxygen piped as needed as well as a fridge and TV.

These private rooms at The Peace Hospice allow patients access to the beautiful patio garden.

Tom, who has lived in Sarratt for 15 years, said: "We can all empathise with those who have terminal illnesses. The Peace Hospice aims to provide comfort and care for each individual with as much dignity as possible, through its kind and dedicated team of nurses and doctors. The Peace Hospice needs all the help and support local people can give.

"My family, friends and hotel industry colleagues are being very generous and I am hoping that local people in the catchment area served by the Peace Hospice in south west herts will be equally generous."

Tom reckons the trip will take around 25 days hard riding, including a few rest days. He will have a support driver in Sarratt villager, Ann Dorrett, who also plays a role in the village old people's charity, Sarratt Care.

To sponsor Tom visit his online fundraising page which can be found at www.justgiving.com/tomeden .

Tom Eden will cycle from Sarratt to Spain.

Holy Cross Church
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2007

Saturday 30 June to Monday 2 July



POETRY IN FLOWER

SERVICES OVER THE WEEKEND

Sunday 1 July	10am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Songs of Praise
Monday 2 July	3pm	Thanksgiving Service

WORDS & MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

Saturday 30 June 7.30pm Concert

CHURCH OPEN TO VIEW FLOWERS

Saturday 30 June	10am-5pm
Sunday 1 July	11.30am-5pm
Monday 2 July	11am-3pm

GRATEFUL THANKS TO ...

all those who have so willingly given of their time to make this, our 36th Flower Festival, possible: Marilyn Butler and her team of flower arrangers, the PCC, the Friends of Holy Cross, Revd. Jim Stevens, the bell ringers, all those working on the various stalls, Reg (for keeping our Church clean and tidy), all those involved in Saturday's concert, Adams Nurseries, Andrew Fleming (Chorleywood), and so many others too numerous to mention ...

David Clough and Julia Lawrence
Church Wardens

All proceeds to Holy Cross Church
for its preservation and maintenance

CULAR WITH 10 AM – 5 PM

ROBINS, THE GREEN

KEBBELL Homes

PRICES

OF TIME 22-4-07



SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £1,100,000 FREEHOLD

Beautifully appointed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMED DETACHED, stock brick residence occupying an enviable position. Sympathetically updated and improved with most attractive front elevation. Features includes: SOLID WOOD FLOORING, LEADED LIGHT WINDOWS, KIT/DIN ROOM, UTILITY, STUDY, DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKS, EN-SUITE BATHROOM, GARAGE VIA PRIVATE DRIVEWAY, GENEROUS LANDSCAPED GROUNDS, FAMILY BATHROOM.



616 • Lettings: 01923 713680 •

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

SARRATT LOCAL AREA FORUM
NOTICE AND AGENDA

For a meeting to be held on

Tuesday 11 September 2007 at 7.30pm in the Sarratt Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt
(parking on the green is not permitted) (map overleaf)

1. **INTRODUCTION**

2. **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN SARRATT**

   To discuss local crime issues with the local Police.

3. **POST OFFICE IN SARRATT (USE IT OR LOSE IT!)**

   To receive a presentation from the Post Office and Post Watch.

4. **ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ROLE IN THREE RIVERS**

   To receive a presentation on the role of the Enforcement Officer in Three Rivers

5. **CLARENDON ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE**

   To discuss the redevelopment of the Clarendon Arms Public House.

6. **IMPACT ON TRAFFIC FROM THE CLOSURE OF THE LEFT TURN FROM SOLESBRIDGE LANE INTO CHESS WAY**

   To discuss the impact on the traffic from the closure of the left turn from Solesbridge Lane into Chess Way.

7. **LOCAL ISSUES**

   a) Youth Club in Sarratt
   b) Sarratt Tennis Club
   c) The Village Hall
   d) Other points and questions from the floor

8. **LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGET**

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MEET YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor:- Tony Barton
Your MP, David Gauke, Leader of the Council, Ann Shaw OBE, County Councillor Leonard Spencer and Parish Councillors have also been invited to attend.

If you would like more information contact: **Sarah Haythorpe, Committee Manager on 01923 727251 or E-mail** sarah.haythorpe@threerivers.gov.uk

THE GAZETTE. WED. 11 JULY 2007

Heavenly scent of church display

by Daphne Hughes
daphne.hughes@ccnltd.com

FAVOURITE poems were linked with flower arrangements, adding a new dimension to the 2007 flower festival at Sarratt.

Organised by the Friends of Holy Cross Church, Poetry in Flower was the 36th festival. It is a special event for the village community and around one hundred local people had some involvement from bell ringing to running stalls or cleaning up.

The floral decoration of the ancient church was the work of a team of flower arrangers who chose their favourite poems as themes.

It attracted many visitors throughout the weekend and was described as "fantastic".

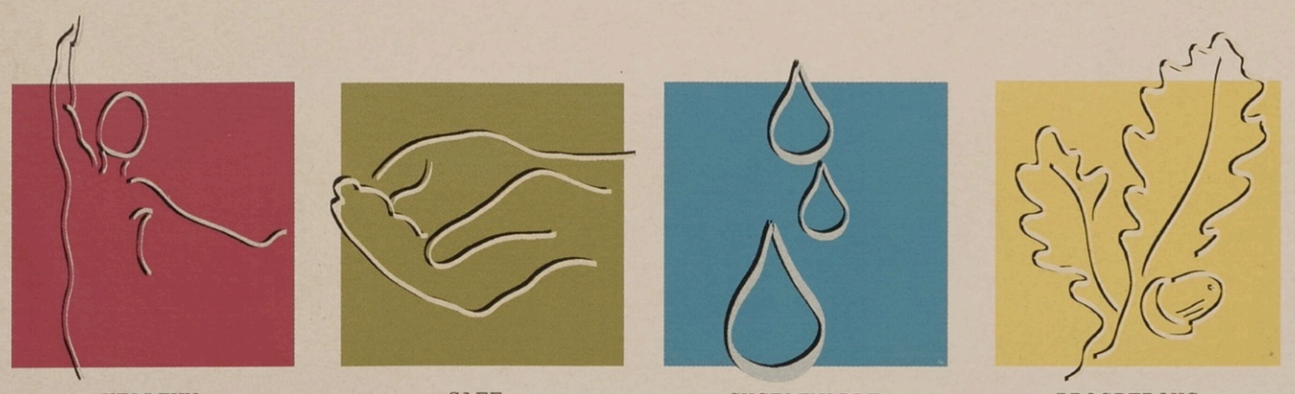
Poetry readings were also part of the concert, Words and Music for a Summer Evening, on Saturday.

It is expected that the amount raised by the weekend activities will be about £4.500, all to be spent on work to preserve and maintain Holy Cross Church, which dates back to 1190.



Two of the organisers, Edith Twells and Julie Lawrence, enjoying the fruits of their labours at Sarratt Church Flower Festival, 07-653-54. Picture: David Satchel.

2007



Sarratt Local Area Forum

PUBLIC MEETING

Come and meet your Councillor

Tuesday 11 September

7.30pm

Sarratt Village Hall,
The Green, Sarratt

Hot topics:

Post Office in Sarratt (Use it or Lose it!)

An opportunity to meet your local Councillor
to discuss local issues and to ask questions.

For more information telephone Sarah Haythorpe at Three Rivers District Council on **01923 727251** or e-mail **sarah.haythorpe@threerivers.gov.uk**

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

WATFORD OBSERVER FRIDAY 14 SEPT. 2007

THREE RIVERS

What's our post office's future?

by **NEIL SKINNER**

VILLAGERS were left frustrated on Tuesday evening after a senior Post Office manager refused to give assurances on the future of their branch.

Residents in Sarratt had hoped Gary Herbert – the man charged with closing more than 2,500 branches in the south east England area – would give them a better idea of how to safeguard the future of their branch when he addressed the annual Sarratt area forum.

Instead, the concerned residents who packed the village hall were simply told what they already knew: that a compulsory closure could be forced through in May and that they had little hope of fighting it.

Jane Watson, daughter of popular sub post mistress Pat Regan, said: "He told us nothing we didn't already know. We know exactly the same as we did before.

"It was very frustrating.

"We were again told of a six-week consultation period after the decision is made but then told any closure would be compulsory, so it's hardly a consultation at all.

"They've got a plan to close 2,500 branches and that's the bottom line. If they decide to close us then they will close us.

"We would love to stay in the shop even if the post office closes, but until we know we aren't sure if that will be viable or not."

Mr Herbert explained his employers were currently losing more than £2 million every week and closures were needed if the company was to survive.

The complex computer model used to determine which branches are to close takes into account a number of factors that could work in Sarratt's favour; such as the proximity of alternative offices, the viability of local bus routes, and the dependence on people on any attached shop for vital goods such as milk and bread.

Mr Herbert, however, refused to discuss details particular to Sarratt and instead insisted residents could have their say at consultation – which would take place after a decision about the future of the post office was made.

South West Herts MP David Gauke and Three Rivers District Council leader Ann Shaw both expressed frustration at the Post Office's stance and expressed concern at the legitimacy of the consultation process.

They did, however, stress the viability of the branch would be judged on its performance and again urged residents to use or lose the branch's post office services.

The results of the ongoing restructuring process will be known at the start of March but only released to the public in May and to Mrs Regan a few days before.

After this time a six-week period of consultation will be launched to gauge reaction to the decision.

Final, non-negotiable dates for closures will then be set.



Residents in Sarratt are concerned their post office may close. Picture 37B29-07: JANE PARR

Services offered by Post Office

- Free banking services
- Bureau de change (commission free)
- Car, house and travel insurance
- Stamps and postal orders
- Road tax
- Stamps

Do you know of any other post offices under threat? Let us know about it, visit our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



The Clarendon



i) Planning Permission



The Clarendon Arms received planning 16/8/07
1) Major part of extension is under the landscaping
2) Two-storey extension to SW facade
3) 1st Floor dining area
4) Significant landscaping improvements



ii) About the building work

- ❑ We want to start as soon as we can
- ❑ Currently fulfilling planning conditions
- ❑ The works will take 6–7 months
- ❑ There will be some inconvenience to local residents
- ❑ We will do our utmost to keep this to a minimum



iii) What the Clarendon Arms is going to be

- ❑ A traditional local
- ❑ Owned by a local
- ❑ Serving decent pub grub and real ale

"A friendly home-from-home where you can treat your friends and family to good, wholesome grub."

"A welcoming place to relax amongst friends."

- ❑ We'll still have a bar where walkers, cyclists, people with dogs are welcome
- ❑ Downstairs is for enjoying a casual meal with your friends and family
- ❑ Upstairs is a bit more posh
- ❑ Somewhere you can book a table
- ❑ Even book a meeting room

"Somewhere to enjoy a cup of freshly ground coffee, a pint of real ale or glass of wine."

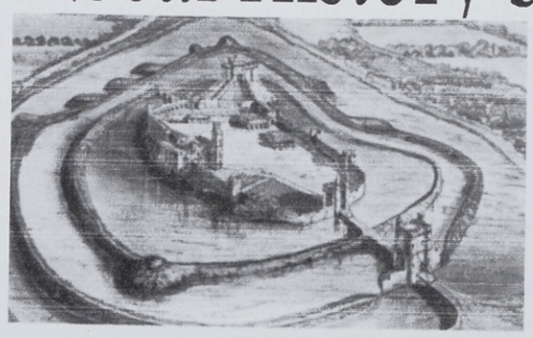
iv) Stay informed

If you would like to be kept informed with progress and receive an invite to the pre-opening events, either email or phone Shaun Gamble.

shaun@chandlerspubs.co.uk **tel : 01923 270009**



Sarratt Local History Society



Our next meeting will take place at 7.30 for 8pm on Tuesday September 18 2007 in Sarratt Village Hall.

Jenny Sherwood

will speak on

The History of Berkhamsted

All are welcome.
Tea, coffee and biscuits available beforehand

Lea House
Deadman's Ash Lane, Sarratt, Nr Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 6AW
Tel: 01923 261679 Mobile: 07711 133736
Email: tomeden@tiscali.co.uk

Mr Philip Buller
Little Bragmans
Sarratt, Herts
WD3 4NY

October 24 2007

Dear Philip,

Having successfully accomplished my sponsored cycle ride from Sarratt to Barcelona in September, I thought you might like to glance at the enclosed cutting from the Watford Observer that gives some of the basic facts about the ride.

On the back of having thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the ride, it is especially gratifying to have raised this money for my local Hospice. I am obviously hoping that the fund will soon reach £10,000 as a result of some well directed post-ride publicity in the neighbourhood.

Luck was definitely on my side as the weather was wonderful for most of the ride; we had only 2 days of rain in the 32 we were in France and Spain, although it was cold and windy for the ride through the Midi-Pyrenees. In fact the following wind was so strong in the hills above Perpignan that I enjoyed the eerie sensation of being pushed gently *uphill* without actually pedalling! "How cool is that"? said my16-year old.

Ann Dorrett, my Sarratt neighbour and "support driver", always popped up when I needed her at the end of each day, right there in the village or town we had aimed for. I'll never understand how she found her way successfully in and out of cities like Le Havre, Perpignan, Girona and Barcelona. On the way back, we came over the fabulous new suspension bridge at Millau and worked our way north through the Dordogne, Loire, Poitou-Charentes and Normandy. We stayed mostly in "Logis" type hotels, where the owners did the cooking and ran their hostelry personally. Perhaps the highlight of our stays was two nights spent in a 500-year old cider farmhouse near Lisieux in Normandy.

I will now try to stay fit for the next challenge – somewhere, sometime.

Kind regards

Tom

NEWS

Pedal power raises £8,000 for hospice



Tom Eden with his neighbour, Ann Dorrett, who was his support driver.

HE may have consumed 60 bananas, 45 high energy food bars and 50 litres of "power" drinks in 18 days but Tom Eden still managed to lose half a stone.

The 66-year-old did so by cycling 1,000 miles from his native village, Sarratt, to Spain.

The retired hotelier tackled the challenge to raise money for the Peace Hospice, Watford.

In his quest to raise £10,000 to fund a private room at the Peace Hospice for 12 months, the former vice-president of marketing for Hilton International made the journey in 81 hours and 24 minutes, spread over 18 cycling days, at an average speed of 12.4mph.

Tom said he was elated to finish the cycle and reach Barcelona and, with the help of gift aid, had raised about £8,000 towards his £10,000 target.

"This is due to the generosity of relatives, friends and neighbours in and around Sarratt and Watford," he said.

Tom's journey went relatively smoothly.

He said: "I only had two punctures and averaged 55.9 miles per day. My longest day's ride was 74.6 miles round the Pyrenees coastline from Perpignan in France to Figueres in Spain.

"The shortest and toughest day was 40.1 miles up and over the 2,800ft Black Mountain range from Castres to Carcassonne in the Midi-Pyrenees.

"I was only defeated (meaning I had to walk) by one steep hill of less than a mile, climbing up and out of a horrendously deep gorge at La Guepie, near Albi, in the Lot and Tarn department of France."

On arrival in Barcelona, Tom weighed in at 10st 4lbs, almost half a stone below his normal weight.

To help Tom reach his £10,000 target visit www.justgiving.com/tomeden.

NEWS
To keep up to date each and every day, visit www.watfordobserver.co.uk

2007

WATFORD OBS. FRI. 19 OCTOBER 2007

Who owns v



Tony Barton has campaigned for almost a year to remove the dog. Picture 42B3104: JANE PA

'They will blo with love and care'

watt. obs. 19 oct 2007



Terry and Daphne Tyler have been fostering children for 24 years. Picture 21B2403: PIPPA DOUGLAS

by **HAYLEY KEYES**

A SHORTAGE of suitable parents willing to adopt means a number of babies in Watford are remaining in foster care.

National news stories have highlighted concern for the number of children waiting for a new home, particularly older children.

However, in Watford a number of complex issues means there are babies who are also waiting for new homes.

A Hertfordshire County Council representative said: "In general as a county we have a mismatch, we are trying different strategies and there is no shortage of people coming forward, but the geography has been wrong or what they are offering isn't a match."

The council also has to take into account the ethnicity and religion of a child, when looking for new parents. The council representative said if babies are meeting their milestones they tend to be matched with adopters. However babies born to parents with complex backgrounds, such as a history of substance abuse, can struggle to meet early milestones and be difficult to find a home for.

Daphne Tyler, 62, of Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, has been fostering youngsters and preparing them for adoption for 24 years.

She and her husband, Terry, 68, a watercress farmer, have fostered more than 100 children – babies as young as one-and-a-half hours old and children up to the age of 18.

Daphne said: "The children we foster need lots of normality and good old-fashioned family values. They have to feel normal, so I always make sure they have their own belongings."

Daphne, who has two children of her own, said she always teaches children to make their beds and gives them small chores around the house for pocket money.

The couple also spend time with potential parents, telling them about the children they are likely to adopt, their interests and hobbies.

Daphne added: "The children that come in here are often traumatised, they need lots of TLC and we know they will blossom with love and care.

"With your own natural child, you would work through any problems and with foster children or adopted children, it is just as rewarding. It is lovely when the adopters take them home, they have so much time for them."

Fran and Keith Rogers, of Berry Avenue, Watford, have been fostering children for seven years.

When Fran was working in a nursery, she came across sibling groups who were in foster care and felt she could also be a good foster parent.

She said: "I have to admit, I didn't realise how big a family commitment fostering is. Our natural children have to share their mum and dad and their house and there is no respite."

The couple, who are currently looking after a sibling group of four, said they work to build the self esteem of youngsters and try to give them their own identity.

Fran, 41, said: "We take for granted that a three-year-old child would know what toilet paper is, but with the love, support and consistency we can bring these children through."

Keith, 52, added: "They all make their own achievements, whether it's riding a bike or climbing a tree and when a child goes for adoption, we know they are moving on to their next life, and it is a good life."

The county council, which is an adoption agency, holds evenings on the first Thurday of every month which people who are interested in adopting can attend.

The open evenings for prospective and approved adopters are held on the first Thursday of every month at County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford. They start at 6.30pm. For more information, telephone 01707 897654.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2007 taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	9,19 /12.9	26th /-3.4	26th /-6.0	9th / 13.1	91.0	1st snowfall of winter, 24th.
February	1st / 13.4	7th /-6.9	7th /-9.2	13th / 12.7	95.3	
March	11,12/ 16.8	22nd /-3.9	22nd /-7.5	4th / 12.8	46.6	last snowfall of winter, 22nd.
April	15th / 23.2	5th /-0.4	5th /-3.2	23rd / 0.8	1.4	last air & ground frost, 1st cuckoo, 5th, 22nd & 23rd.
May	23th / 23.0	15,30/ 2.5	15th / 0.0	27th / 33.3	130.4	
June	2nd / 24.4	28th / 5.5	28th / 4.0	16th / 20.9	82.4	
July	19th / 24.0	8th / 7.0	31st / 4.7	20th / 18.3	82.8	
August	5th / 28.6	10th / 6.8	27th / 4.4	14th / 12.7	51.3	
September	5th / 24.1	30th / 2.7	30th / 0.6	23rd / 9.6	23.6	3rd - 19th, 17 consecutive no rain days, most 1980-2013.
October	4,14th/18.3	23rd /-0.9	23rd /-3.4	9th / 17.1	45.2	1st ground & air frosts, 19th & 21st.
November	1st / 17.1	16,24,25/-4.9	18,19,24,25/-8.0	19th / 29.0	83.0	
December	6th / 13.9	20th /-7.2	20th /-8.6	24th / 13.0	66.5	

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen

NOTICES

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen!

The Blessing

The minister says

May the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Response

In the name of Christ. Amen.

1939-1945

IN HONOURED
AND GRATEFUL
MEMORY
OF THE MEN
WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

Douglas Brian Adams
John Julian Boldero
Giles Bill Clutterbuck
Ernest Charles Holliman
Owen Jennings
Peter Saunders
Brian John Smeeton
Nicholas John Stubb

'May light perpetual shine upon them'

The three men of SARRATT
named on the
ANGLO-BOER WAR MEMORIAL
in LATIMER

D Biggerstaffe G O Connell A Webber

GRAPEVINE MOVIES

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER
SARRATT VILLAGE HALL



4.30pm for 5pm
The Incredible Journey (U)
The story of three pets—a cat and two dogs- who lose their owners when they are all on vacation. Can they find their way home?

7.30pm for 8pm
Becoming Jane (PG)
Recently released on DVD and highly recommended—a biographical portrait of a pre-fame Jane Austen and her romance with a young Irishman.

*** Hot dogs * Ice creams * Bar ***
Entrance by donation (no advance tickets)

Fun and friendship event - all proceeds to youth work in Sarratt and Chipperfield

There you go, NOT in the bus,
You're heading far away.
Now farewell from all of us
We wish that you could stay.
Had such fun, we've loved it all
We'll miss you that's a cert.
So **good luck** down in Churt.

What a wonderful adventure,
Now we know where fate has sent yer
No more torture and dementia,
Keep safely marching on.

All the Jenk's family
Were born and brought up here.
Pear Tree, Little **Sarratt** Hall,
For nearly fifty year.
Donkeys, cats and lots of dogs,
They held them all so dear.
So **good luck** to you all.

What a wonderful adventure,
Now we know where fate has sent yer,
No more torture and dementia,
Keep safely moving on.

All the schemes you've had
To help the **village** and its looks.
Raffles for the Doll's House, Quilt
And **then** of course the books!
Taking Dennis far and wide
While Judy stays and cooks,
At least that's what she says!
(women only)
What a wonderful adventure,
Now we know where fate has sent yer,
No more torture and dementia,
Keep safely baking on.

You've joined in with village life
And made us all your friends.
We've ridden on the bus which is
The pride and joy of Den's.
Judy has been back-up
Though it drives her round the bends
And this is how it ends.
(men only)
What a wonderful adventure,
Now we know where fate has sent yer,
No more torture and dementia,
Keep safely driving on.

Home and garden and the barn
Have welcomed all of us.
Parties, weddings, barbecues
Provided without fuss.
Like to thank you very much
For being generous
We'll drink to your good health.
(in a drunken manner)
What a wonderful adventure,
Now we know where fate has sent yer,
No more torture and dementia,
Keep safely drinking on.

(in an even more drunken manner)
What a wonderful adventure,
Now we know where fate has sent yer,
Beer and Merlot and Tequila,
Keep safely drinking on.

©Pam Dickins 2007

SUNG TO TUNE 'TOM BROWN'S BODY'
AT FAREWELL TO JUDY + DENNIS JENKS,
VILLAGE HALL, 15TH NOVEMBER 2007

WATFORD OBS. 7 DECEMBER 2007

Farewell to 40 years in the village



Dennis (left) pictured with gardener Percy Saunders in a picture that appeared in the Watford Observer in 1995.



Dennis and his wife, Judy, at the recent leaving event, hosted by the village.
Picture 46B3402: PIPPA DOUGLAS

by **GRELLE WHITE**

FUNDRAISER Dennis Jenks has a couple of tasks lined up before he and his wife, Judy, leave their home, Little Sarratt Hall, after more than 40 years in the village.

Firstly, he has to write a letter objecting to the possible closure of the village Post Office. Secondly he has a barn full of books to "flog" for village funds.

There was a third item on his list – what to do with his vintage bus.

But when the couple leave the village on Monday, the 1932 Bedford bus which has become synonymous with Dennis's "madcap adventures" into the world of fundraising, will stay behind.

Dennis retains ownership, but a dozen villagers have formed a club to ensure the well-known vehicle will roll on. Even if it only moves about the locality, it will remind happy punters of fancy dress outings to Brighton or days at Ascot.

Dennis bought the bus as an early retirement toy to treat family and friends to special outings. But, like its owner, the bus soon got caught up in fundraising adventures.

When ancient Holy Cross Church needed a new roof back in 1995, Dennis invented Springtime in Sarratt. He persuaded homeowners around the village green to open their gardens to the public. He and a friend with another vintage bus would run a free hop-on-and-off service. The money-spinner was a raffle with magnificent prizes and the day a huge success which was repeated the following year.

By then the village hall was in dire need of a make-over, the 800-year-old church still needed funds and Dennis had hit upon another off-beat idea.

Like so many John le Carre fans, he had always been intrigued by the fact the famous author had chosen to place his fictitious spy school in Sarratt. Unlike most people, Dennis was familiar with the author's link to the village – the late chairman of Clements department store in Watford, Dick Edmonds, who also happened to be a friend of the Jenks family.

Dick and John had befriended each other on the ski slopes in Austria in their youth and John used to regularly visit the family and drive through Sarratt when he was a student at Oxford.

Through Dick, Dennis contacted John le Carre, who not only agreed to write a story for a book to raise funds for the village, but also suggested Dennis should contact former Russian spy turned writer, Mikhail Lyubimow, for a contribution.

As well as the tale, Sarratt and The Draper of Watford, of le Carre's spectacular downfall as a salesman at Clements, Lyubimow's delightful The Adventures of Colonel Karla in Sarratt, and several other stories, the book cover carried coupons with special offers, from bottles of wine in local pubs to free range eggs in the village shop.

Dennis created shockwaves when he went for a print run of 10,000, but he and his Village Books team were on a mission. As well as getting the book on shelves in bookshops and local supermarkets, they set up stall at gift fairs all over the country where they sold all sorts of books.

Sarratt and the Draper of Watford sold out last year but the fundraising book sales went on and Dennis hopes to finally clear the barn where he stored them with a big bargain sale at the village hall tomorrow (Saturday). So far, the idea has raised £120,000 for church and village hall.

Dennis has written his letter of objection to the proposed Post Office closure and when friends in Sarratt packed out the village hall for a surprise farewell party for the popular couple, Dennis urged others to do the same.

"When I first came to Sarratt, it felt like going into deep country. It was a long journey from London by train and bus and finally arriving in a small village with bicycles parked outside the houses instead of today's BMWs," Dennis recalled.

"There were six shops. Now there is one Post Office store. If that goes, it will be devastating for the village," said the man who in his business career with Jenks Brothers Foods Ltd. built Schwartz herb and spices to a brand leader in this country.

He and Judy are reluctant to leave the village, but Little Sarratt Hall is getting too big for the couple, who are moving to Surrey to "downsize" and be closer to their family.

■ The final Village Books sale takes place from 9.30am till noon at Sarratt Village Hall tomorrow (Saturday). Every penny raised will be split equally between The Friends of Holy Cross and Sarratt Village Hall.

To say your goodbye to Dennis and Judy, visit our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



Mikhail Lyubimow who visited the village in 1999.



The front cover of John le Carre's book Sarratt and the Draper of Watford.

LOW-12-07 WO

Design board bowled over by village's Cricketer's Pond

A POND in Sarratt has won a prestigious landscape design award.

The Cricketer's Pond, owned by the parish council, was named the winner of the inaugural Chilterns Landscape Design Award 2007.

The Chilterns Conservation Board has set up the Landscape Design Award scheme to encourage and reward high quality design and management of special landscape features in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Cricketer's Pond, next to the village green, had become neglected and polluted by run-off from a nearby car park over the years until the parish council put together a scheme to restore it.

The chairman of the judging panel, Bettina Kirkham, said: "The award winners, Sarratt Parish Council assisted by Hertfordshire Countryside Management Service, have successfully created a simple but elegant design for a village pond which will continue to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of Sarratt."

The design details include a reed bed to filter run off from the adjacent car park, natural coir rolls to form levels around the pond to create access to the water's edge and a sitting area, and new plants around the pond edge.

www.watfordobserver.co.uk 28.12.2007

Obituary Notice

BECKLEY, Frederick, Charles (Fred)

Passed away on 19th December 2007.

Loving husband and father.

Funeral Service in Milton Chapel, Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham at 1pm on Thursday 3rd January 2008

Enquiries to A&C Tadman (Funeral Directors), 39a High Street, Kings Langley, WD4 8AB (01923 264296)

Horse riding

W.O. 28-12-07

Make sure you can be seen

LIVING in the country, I have always had respect for horse riders and give them plenty of room when passing and slowly, but please horse riders, make sure you can be seen at night.

Friday evening in Sarratt, I saw two horses which were black or dark brown, the riders were both wearing black riding down the unlit Church Lane, they were almost invisable, even if you don't care about getting hurt yourself, please think about the danger you are putting your horses in.

Most riders wear reflective jackets but these two were not.

If you must ride at night, the flashing red lights used by cyclists would help and I thought it was a legal requirement to have some sort of lighting. — **Dave Buckler, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt**

HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE

WO 7/12/2007

Senior Division One
(Local Results)

Bedwell Rangers 0-2 **Sarratt**
(Match abandoned)

Croxley Guild P-P **Cuffley**

Old Parmiterians 4-4 **Chipperfield Cors**
Hufford, Mitchell (2) Skinner — Hall, Parkinson, Picton (2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Baldock Town	15	12	2	1	45	14	38
Wodson Park	14	11	1	2	48	16	34
Buckhurst Hill	15	9	2	4	46	23	29
Hinton	14	8	3	3	31	21	27
Mill End Sports	14	8	2	4	36	23	26
Chipperfield Cors	14	6	2	6	44	32	20
Debden Sports	12	5	5	2	26	28	20
Croxley Guild	12	6	1	5	24	22	19
Lemsford	15	5	4	6	33	34	19
North Mymms	12	4	5	3	26	24	17
Old Parmiterians	14	5	2	7	26	35	17
Sarratt	14	4	4	6	25	30	16
St Peters	14	4	0	10	15	32	12
Allenburys Sports	16	3	2	11	26	45	11
Cuffley	14	3	1	10	16	49	10
Bedwell Rangers	15	1	0	14	15	34	3

Reserve Division One
(Local Results)

Bovingdon 6-0 **Bedmond S&S**
Askey (3), Marks, Morgan, Power

Met Police Bushey 0-4 **Evergreen**
Garratt, Ward

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Met Police Bushey	12	9	0	3	61	23	27
Hatfield Town	11	8	3	0	45	15	27
Evergreen	12	7	1	4	27	18	22
Bovingdon	10	6	1	3	23	17	19
London Lions	12	5	3	4	24	26	18
Codicote	12	5	2	5	30	32	17
Buntingford Town	10	4	3	3	22	11	15
Hinton	10	4	3	3	21	18	15
Knebworth	12	5	0	7	19	35	15
Whitewebbs	10	4	1	5	7	16	13
Lemsford	10	3	1	6	16	18	10
Bedmond S&S	12	1	4	7	15	28	7
Sarratt	10	2	1	7	13	41	7
Standon & Puck	11	2	1	8	20	45	5*

* = two points deducted

Setting sights high for pub

WAT. OBS. 21 DECEMBER 2007

by **HAYLEY KEYES**

THE founder of one of Watford's biggest firms says the traditional pub he bought last year will reopen in 2008 as a high-end restaurant and bar.

David Cowham, who was one of the founders of credit firm loans.co.uk, bought the Clarendon Arms, in Redhall Lane, Chandlers Cross, at auction last October.

David and business partner Shaun Gamble bought the pub as the first venture in their new business, Chandlers Pubs.

They say when the venue is completed – next May or June – "people will be very, very shocked".

The restaurant will have the blue kitchen from reality television show Hell's Kitchen and an internationally renowned celebrity chef.

David said: "We are setting our sights very high.

"The greatest challenge with this so far has been patience, it goes against my grain. I want it to open next week."

Shaun, aged 41, said: "We were struggling to find somewhere that fit all our requirements, then we stumbled across the Clarendon Arms.

"We want to make it a destination, so that it is still a community pub where people can come along for a drink, but is not a traditional local bar."

David, who grew up in Watford but now lives in Bucks Hill, said: "It is a very sincere offering but we are doing it with selfish elements, too, because it will be somewhere we can also go out and it will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner."

The pair plan on sourcing local produce, although they are also having their own blend of coffee made and will be bringing in beers from Europe.

There will be a chef's table, wifi and a private dining area with an outside sunken garden featuring heated seats.

Shaun also hopes to secure staff from among the ranks of West Herts College.

He said: "It's not just about the food, its about service and we already have a fab team around us. We want it to be a way of life."

The partners aim to put British food back on the map with formal dining, and a brasserie-type service and pub food, to cater for all tastes.

With building work well underway and as they begin devotedly hand-picking the furniture, the pair are looking forward to opening night midway through next year.

What do you think of the new plans for the Clarendon Arms? Share your views by visiting our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



David Cowham (left) and Shaun Gamble plan to reopen the Clarendon Arms in May or June next year.
Picture 51B1708: JANE PARR

2007

Sarratt Local History Society

At 7.30 for 8pm on Tuesday
November 27 2007, in
Sarratt Village School.

Terry Simmonds



will speak on

Chipperfield Garden Scene
100 years in the making.

All are welcome.
Tea, coffee and biscuits available beforehand

WAT. OBS. 21 DECEMBER 2007



Postmistress Pat Regal and Rev Jim Stevens from Holy Cross Church look at the village Christmas cards. Picture 51B0308: SIMON JACOBS

Communal Christmas cheer

VILLAGERS in Sarratt keen to cut down on the amount of Christmas cards they send to neighbours are now able to send a greetings en masse via the village post office.

Tired of sending endless greetings to the same people year on year, resident Margaret Goldthorpe decided to introduce a giant greetings card to the village Post Office after seeing the idea work successfully elsewhere.

The idea, she says, is that families write personal messages to the rest of the village on small white cards and fix them to a notice board inside the shop.

Mrs Goldthorpe said: "Every year I'd write the same kind of messages to the same people, then I thought why? It was such a waste of time and resources.

"I think this is a much better idea. It has a much greater sense of community about it and also gets people using the Post Office at a time when it is under threat."

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN CHIPPERFIELD AND SARRATT

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Holy Cross, Sarratt

Sun 17th Dec	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sun 24th Dec	10.00 am	Morning Service
	4.30 pm	Crib Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Family Communion

St Paul's Church, Chipperfield

Sun 17th Dec	6.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sun 24th Dec	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	3.00 pm	Crib Service
	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Family Service

Christingle Services in January

Fri 5th Jan	10.00 am	Sarratt School
Sun 7th Jan	3.00 pm	Chipperfield Baptist Church

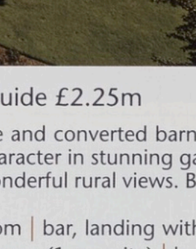
Baptist Church, Chipperfield

Sun 10th Dec	4.00 pm	Chiltern West Gallery Quire (tea afterwards)
Sun 17th Dec	10.30 am	Family Worship with Communion
Sun 24th Dec	3.00 pm	Family Carol Service (mince pies afterwards)

Christmas Tree Festival
8th (2pm to 5pm), 9th and 16th (10 pm to 5 pm),
23rd Dec (2 - 4 pm) and 1st Jan (12 - 4 pm)

Catholic Church of Our Lady, Chipperfield

Sun 24th Dec	9.00 am	Sunday Mass
	11.00 am	Sunday Mass
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass preceded by carols
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Mass
	11.00 am	Mass



Boxing Day blaze engulfed woman's home

A BOXING Day blaze ripped through a bungalow in Sarratt leaving an elderly woman's home gutted.

More than 20 firefighters were called to the fire, in Dawes Lane, at about 11.45pm.

One elderly woman was in the detached bungalow at the time, but was not hurt.

It is understood she got out of the house and watched on as the fire took hold.

She received treatment from paramedics at the scene and she is now believed to be recovering with her family.

Crews from Watford, Kings Langley, Rickmansworth, Garston and Hemel Hempstead battled the blaze for more than an hour. They had extinguished the blaze and left the scene by 1.28am.

The fire is thought to have started in the roof of the bungalow, before spreading through the loft quickly and eventually ripping through the entire roof and most of the house.

Two cars, which were parked in a driveway, were also engulfed in the flames.

Fire investigators are still trying to establish what caused the fire, but say they believe it started accidentally.

And firefighters were back at the scene yesterday (Thursday), inspecting neighbours' houses to make sure they were safe.

The fire service has again warned people about the dangers of fires at festive times of the year and stressed the importance of blowing out candles and turning off Christmas tree lights.

Last year, the number of house fires increased by almost 50 per cent higher during the Christmas season.

In 2005, the festive period saw a 68 per cent increase when compared to the rest of the year.

HENNY TERMERLEN

W.O. 28/12/07

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL

OPTIMA 25 AUGUST 2007



Sarratt Guide Price £1,450,000 Freehold

This delightful detached family house is situated within the conservation area and Metropolitan greenbelt of this popular village.

2 reception rooms | conservatory room | kitchen/breakfast room | master bed with ensuite | 4 further bedrooms | family bathroom | hard tennis court | heated swimming pool | three loose boxes | tack room | double garage | gardens

Rickmansworth Office 01923 776291
Email rickmansworth@hamptons-int.com

Christopher ROWLAND

OPTIMA 26 MAY 2007

NEW



Sarratt Guide Price £900,000

A quite outstanding detached bungalow in this highly sought after development just a short walk from The Green, and built by a well known local developer Stewart Rayner in the early 1980s. The property offers particularly spacious accommodation with delightful gardens.
Lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, principal bedroom with en-suite, 2 further bedrooms, bathroom, double garage, landscaped gardens. **01923 773171**

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL

COUNTRY HOUSES
www.hamptons.co.uk





HERTFORDSHIRE - Bucks Hill Guide £2.25m

A charming Grade II Listed period house and converted barn providing flexible accommodation of enormous character in stunning gardens and grounds adjoining farmland and with wonderful rural views. BEC060098

3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room | bar, landing with study area | 5 bedrooms | 3 bath or shower rooms (1 en-suite) | barn conversion providing entertaining areas on two levels with kitchen | garden pavilion room with snooker/games room and large garden implement store | carport | gazebo and log store | formal gardens | kitchen garden | orchard | wildflower meadow/woodland area | in all about 6.2 acres (2.5ha).

HERTFORDSHIRE LIFE FEB. 2007

Thames & Chilterns Country House 01494 672969
ThamesandChilternscountryhouse@hamptons-int.com





Villages link with African community



Children in Shyogwe.

AFTER a recent visit to Rwanda by a group of people from Chipperfield and Sarratt, the two villages are hoping to establish closer links with a struggling community within the country.

As well as giving support and encouragement, they also hope to provide much-needed resources such as sewing machines and tools.

But they also want to fund the training of leaders in health care, teaching and agriculture.

During the genocide that occurred in Rwanda in the 1990s, a generation was almost wiped out, leaving many young people with nobody to turn to now for knowledge and expertise.

A recent lunch held by parents from Sarratt School raised £1,000, which will go directly towards funding a health centre/dispensary in the Shyogwe district.

Anyone who would like to be involved is asked to contact Maya Coxon - maya.coxon@gmail.com or Julia Lawrence10@btinternet.com, or see www.twincommunities.org

MY FIRST DAY

WATFORD OBS 8-2-2008



SARRATT CoE: **Edward, Stephanie, Annabel, Louis, Alex, Sean, Tom, William.** MCA4703

Sarratt Local History Society

The AGM of
Sarratt Local History Society
will be held at the Village Hall on
Tuesday January 22 2008.

The hall opens at 7.30pm with hot drinks and biscuits
and the AGM will follow at 8pm.

After the AGM there follows a talk by

Barbara Owen

Chairman of Three Rivers Museum
Trust, about the Museum's expansion.



Front of the Museum.

THREE RIVERS

Just the ticket for village store

by **NEIL SKINNER**

SARRATT Post Office has been at the centre of a media circus this week after it emerged a £19 million winning lottery ticket was purchased from the small village shop.

Hemel Hempstead couple Stephen and Ida Smith scooped an eye-watering £18,992,109 tipple roll-over jackpot on Saturday night after popping in for three Lucky Dip tickets just hours before the draw.

The randomly generated numbers (03, 43, 02, 06, 38 and 01) gave the happy couple, who currently live in a cramped council flat, the eighth biggest payout of all time.

Post mistress Pat Regan, who has run the business for the past 20 years, says she is delighted about the publicity the couple's win has brought the shop.

Mrs Regan, who sold the winning ticket, said: "It's been incredible. We've had a visit from GMTV this morning (Wednesday), we've been on the radio and now in the newspapers – it's been great publicity.

"I remember him coming in and buying a card of three lucky dips. I didn't get to talk to him, though, because it was so busy – it always is when there's a roll-over.

"When Camelot first told us we thought it must be a local because most people who come in are, but it turned out they'd been visiting relatives in the area and were on the way home.

"It's good for them that they stopped.

"We've done the lottery ever since it started in 1994. We've had a few big winners in the past but nothing like this.

"It was interesting, though, because Camelot told us that if the couple had wanted to remain anonymous they wouldn't have told us, so I suppose it could have happened before without us knowing."

The win could not have come at a better time for the Post Office – one of hundreds of rural stores threatened with closure by swingeing cost-cutting measures.

What could you buy for £18.9m?

- 42, 204, 686 Watford Observers
- 2,71371 Ford Fiestas
- 759 times the average annual earnings in the UK
- 984,218 cans of Coke
- 52,755,858 First Class Stamps
- 189 trips into space with Virgin Galactic
- 6.3 Marlon Kings
- £18,992,109 Lucky Dip lottery tickets
- Half of Britain's most expensive house in Hampstead



Pat Regan sold the couple the winning lottery ticket. Picture 05C1704: JANE PARR

Mrs Regan, along with dozens of other post mistresses in the area, had expected to receive word on the proposed closures in March.

A six-week consultation was then planned.

However, this schedule has just been put back by a further two months.

She added: "Hopefully this will help put the Post Office on the map and get more people to visit."

You are invited to: FEBRUARY

GRAPEVINE MOVIES

FRIDAY 22
FEBRUARY
SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

4.30pm for 5pm (U)
RATATOUILLE

Golden Globe Winner for Best Animated Film —the hilarious and exciting exploits of Remy, the rat, who turns Paris upsidedown in his quest to become a famous chef! '
Highly recommended for adults and children alike!

7.30pm for 8pm (15)
ATONEMENT

Winner of 3 Golden Globe Awards and based on the best selling novel by Ian McEwan.
Starring Kiera Knightley and
James McAvoy. Not to be missed!

* Hot dogs * Ice creams * Bar *
Entrance by donation (no advance tickets)

Fun and Friendship event
all proceeds to Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda

2008

'Sorry, the cemetery is now full'

W.C.B. 29-2-08

by **HAYLEY KEYES**

THE burial ground of a village church is nearing full capacity leaving the number of burials possible for the future limited.

A meeting has been called for residents after concerns have been raised over the amount of space left in St Paul's Church burial yard, in The Common, Chipperfield.

According to Reverend Jim Stevens, there are two spaces left and he has called the meeting so that residents could discuss possible next steps. Rev Stevens said: "I have organised a meeting where everyone in the village is invited to come.

"It is a communication exercise and will give me an idea about what concerns there are, and how many people are concerned and it is a chance to explain to people what the situation is, and what might be done about it.

"I have spaces for two more burials but there isn't a great demand and I haven't done one in 12 months, fortunately, but it is important people know what the situation is, before they come to a bereavement.

"If someone came to me and their husband had died, and I had to say "sorry but we filled the last space three weeks ago", it isn't sensitive.

"I would like to pre-empt this and it is important to help people understand the situation.

"The situation will arise where I won't be able to do a full burial, I can bury cremated remains."

Luisa Clarke, spokesperson for Dacorum Borough Council, said: "Dacorum Borough Council is responsible for municipal cemeteries and not open churchyards.

"The Church of England currently has responsibility for St Paul's. Under agreement with local churches the district authority does look after some closed churchyards.

"Reverend Stevens, of Chipperfield is currently having preliminary enquiries with Dacorum to see if there is any more land in the locality available and suitable for burials."

The meeting is due to be held on Wednesday, February 27, in the parish room in St Paul's Church, at 7.30pm.



Reverend Jim Stevens wants to inform people that the burial yard at St Pauls', Chipperfield, is almost full. Picture 08C2110: HOLLY CANT

We also give thanks
for all in our immediate family
and in our wide circle of friends and relatives,
both women and men,
who shared in our nurturing and growth.

Look with love and mercy,
we pray,
on all the very mixed emotions
that run through us today.

Hallow our memories,
forgive our guilt and shame,
and enable us
to be at peace with our feelings and thoughts.

John Harvey

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

HYMN

Thank You for the love our mums give to us each day;
Thank You for the help and care that they bring our way.
Lord, we thank You for everything they do,
Show us how to help them too.
Show us how to live, teaching us to appreciate;
Show us how to live so we don't infuriate.
Lord, we ask that in everything they do
May our mums be blessed by you.

COLLECT

God of Love, passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

READINGS

Exodus 2:1-10

Luke 2:33-35



This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TALK

HYMN 511 This world you have made

COME, MOTHER GOD

Come, Mother God:
come as an enfolding nurturing presence,
come as steadfast love
to hold us.

Come, Father God:
come as an enabling, strengthening force,
come as tough love
to let us go

Come, Parent God:
come as friend and comforter
healing our wounds,
walking our way.

Come as wounded healer
to make us whole.

John Harvey

PRAYERS

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth.
God of Love – hear our prayer

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.
God of Love – hear our prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.
God of Love – hear our prayer

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.
God of Love – hear our prayer



Sarratt Village **Guide Price £1,195,000**

Grade II listed building set in just under four acres of paddocks with gardens and views of the River Chess is this detached four bedroom 17th century cottage retaining many original features. Lovingly restored and updated by the current owners offering ample reception space, conservatory overlooking mature courtyard garden, family kitchen and dining room with feature flagstone flooring. Garaging with tack room, stables and hay store.

OPENA 15-3-08

Chorleywood 01923 284125

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, SARRATT
MOTHERING SUNDAY



10.00 am Sunday 2nd March 2008

GREETING

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

PRAISING AND THANKING GOD

A candle is lit

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.
Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.
Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.
Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.
Blessed be God for ever.

HYMN 154 Give thanks with a grateful heart

With Deep Gratitude

Lord God,
father and mother of us all,
hear us as we give thanks
for mothers, and for mothering,
on this special day.

We remember before you
with deep gratitude
our own mothers

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As God's children, and heirs with Christ
we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Father God thank you

For the care of mothers;
For their patience when tested;
For their love when tired;
For their hope when despairing;
For their service without limit;

Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS

HYMN 153 Give me joy in my heart

THE BLESSING

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless *us*:
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless *us*:
may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless *us*.
May almighty God bless *us*, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

THREE RIVERS

Food outlets fail on hygiene

by **NEIL SKINNER**

A TOTAL of 38 food outlets in the Three Rivers area are failing to meet basic food hygiene requirements, the district council has revealed.

After inspecting more than 250 pubs, clubs, shops, canteens, hotels, restaurants and takeaways, the authority this week launched its Scores on the Doors scheme, which rates the cleanliness of establishments between one and five stars.

The scheme, backed by the Food Standards Agency, is not implemented nationwide but is commonplace across Hertfordshire and Greater London.

Inspections by expert examiners are prearanged and take place at set intervals, when the cleanliness of food, structural conditions, staff aptitude and ventilation are all examined.

According to the Food Standards Agency, up to 5.5 million people in the UK are affected by food poisoning each year – a number which could be cut drastically if businesses adhered to food preparation guidelines.

Councillor Phil Brading, responsible for public health, said:

"The scores will protect the public and put added pressure on unhygienic venues to clean up their act. We have already taken court action against two food outlets this year."

Star ratings cannot be changed or reassessed in the interim unless an establishment changes hands. If proprietors disagree with their ratings then they may lodge an appeal for another inspection.



Pennsylvanian manager Jo Dooley with council leader Ann Shaw, Councillor Phil Brading (second right) and environmental health officers John Scott (left) and Ted Massey

What the ratings mean:

5 stars – Excellent hygiene conditions found.
4 stars – Very Good
3 stars – Good
2 stars – Satisfactory
1 star – Fair hygiene conditions found.
0 stars – Poor hygiene conditions found. Some major non-compliance with food legislation.

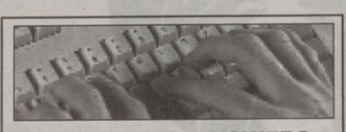
Premises with five-star rating:

- Verve Venues, Hunton Park, Essex Lane, Abbots Langley
- Auburn Mere Residential Care Home, Oxhey Lane, Carpenders Park
- Hertfordshire Catering, Sarratt JMI School, The Green, Sarratt
- Northwick Day Centre, Northwick Road, South Oxhey
- Alliance Training Centre (Nissan/Renault), Wolsey Business Park, Tolpits Lane, Rickmansworth
- White Hart, Sergehill Lane, Abbots Langley
- Sunrise Senior Living, High View, Chorleywood
- The Cricketers, The Green, Sarratt
- Chalfont Court Nursing Home, Uxbridge Road,Rickmansworth
- Marks & Spencer, High Street, Rickmansworth
- Bakers Oven, St Andrews Road, South Oxhey
- The Pennsylvanian, High Street Rickmansworth
- BT Global, Eurest Restaurant, Hercules Way, Leavesden
- Cafe Rima, Batchworth Lock Canal Centre, Church Street, Rickmansworth
- Hillside Hall School, Abbots Langley
- Chorleywood Parish Council, Common Road, Chorleywood
- Sarratt Parish Council, Sarratt Village Hall, The Green, Sarratt

To view all the scores and have your say on the story, visit our website *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*

NOSTALGIA

'The Alex Ferguson of the pub industry'



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Edited by Michael Pickard

A PAINTING of The Clarendon Arms, published in Nostalgia on February 8, brought back memories for Bill Kneller, a sales manager from Bovingdon.

Bill, 56, said: "I was very pleased to see the painting of The Clarendon Arms from Keith Wilson.

The pub was run for many years by my grandfather Harry and grandmother Katherine. It was here that my father, Jim, was born in 1924 after his brother Eddie, who was born in 1920.

"My father died in 2006 and, ironically, it was soon after he died that the pub closed. The strange thing is that my father spent the first 23 years of his life in the pub and was always a teetotaller.

"My grandfather had lived a tough life having left home in Winchester when he was 12 and he moved to Watford to find work. He eventually became the glasshouse foreman at The Grove (then the actual home of the Earl of Clarendon) – this being the days when royalty used to visit the house (real royalty, not the Beckhams).

"One of his tasks was to dress the coaches with floral displays before they were dispatched to collect Queen Alexandra from Watford Junction.

In fact, he thought he would lose his job when he burst into one of the greenhouses and, without realising she was there, almost knocked the Queen over. The Earl of Clarendon, however, was more upset that the Queen had gone into the greenhouses unannounced and told my grandfather it was her fault and not his.

"In those days that was an unusual reprieve when one considers how employees in the big houses were often treated. Following this, he worked as head gardener at Durrants when it was a country estate and while he was there he was called up in 1914 to join the Royal Artillery where he became a bombardier rough rider, which was effectively like being a rodeo rider, breaking in wild horses.

"Because he had left Durrants to join the army, his wife was thrown out of their home, one of the lodges, and she had to return to her parents' house as there was no provision for homeless people in those days.

"When my grandfather returned from the Army, and following a short stint at Croxley Mills, he was offered the tenancy of the Clarendon Arms in 1919 and remained the landlord there until 1947.

This was an incredible tenure and somehow made him the Alex Ferguson of the pub industry I would think.

"He was known as a serious, dour man but one with a heart of gold who would help anybody, but if anyone played up in his pub he could be somewhat severe in his reaction (and judging by the size of his shoulders in the photographs, was not somebody to cross).

"I once spoke to an elderly man who used to visit the pub from Watford in the 1930s, when he was a young man, and he said it was the one pub he and his mates did not cause trouble in because they were always afraid of Harry, who himself was afraid of nobody.

"One group he threw out for causing trouble accused him of being a German (with a name like Kneller) and, this being a big insult in those days, the culprit had to pick himself up from the hedge over the road after being hurled there by Harry.

"Although a quiet country pub there were occasional moments of drama, as when one of the regulars there murdered his wife and two children. This is a reminder that there were some dark sides to those days, a fact often overlooked when making comparisons with the past.

"Most of the trade tended to be summer trade and, in the quiet winter months, Harry had to chop firewood and sell that to make ends meet.

To reach the pub, most people would cycle or walk from Watford, which must surely have created the kind of thirst that would have had Harry rubbing his hands with delight.

Tragically, when my father came home on leave one weekend from the RAF in 1942, his mother collapsed in his arms while walking from the kitchen into the bar and died.

This was an event my father probably never entirely recovered from, particularly as he was only 18 at the time and his mother was still relatively young.

"It is a great regret of mine that I never met her but everybody who visited the pub spoke of her as a kind and generous lady who they all thought very highly of.

"Harry carried on running the pub on his own for about another five years and left following some skulduggery from the brewery.

"After he left the pub, Harry continued living in Chandlers Cross, with my uncle Eddie, until his death in 1962. The life he lived seems to be so far away from how we live now and their lives were so difficult, with none of the state protection we have these days. But, he was an example of how even a 12-year-old boy could leave home, never see his family again and, with no help from family or state, make a life for himself.



Eddie Kneller stands outside The Clarendon Arms.

"My uncle Eddie still lives in Croxley Green, oddly enough in a house that backs onto Durrants so the Kneller family have moved back in and will not be kicked out this time.

"Eddie has many stories to tell about those years and they are always fascinating when comparing that world with today.

"Many years later I myself had a temporary job at the brewery and one of the old draymen told me he could remember how he used to deliver to the Clarendon on a horse-drawn dray.

"He and his mate used to have a crate of beer to slake their thirst while plodding their way around all of the surrounding country pubs. Now that could be called the Good Old Days."

Flashback

20 years ago
Friday, March 11, 1988
Developers are turning a village into a concrete jungle with back garden building, it was claimed this week. Pretty Croxley Green is drowning in a sea of planning applications, say villagers, rocked by proposals to build more than 50 houses in the area. They feel the character of the community is being destroyed.

40 years ago
Friday, March 15, 1968
It was "eyes down for a full house" with a vengeance when Watford's Central Bingo Club held its first evening session at the High Street Old Clock House on Monday. So many of the club's 6,000 members turned up for the event that the full house meant many had to be turned away.

60 years ago
Friday, March 12, 1948
According to film star Sheila Sim, Wednesday was an auspicious occasion for her and her husband, Richard Attenborough, when they were invited to come dancing at Watford Town Hall as guests of the Watford Co-Operative Society Ltd.

Questions

- Did any readers work for the Earl of Clarendon when he lived at what is now The Grove Hotel?
- What is the history of the John Peel pub, in King Street?
- What were readers' greatest fashion hits and misses of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s?
- Are there any photographs of the old Bushey Hall School, in Bushey Hall Road?
- What is the history of Garston House, which used to stand in St Albans Road?
- What sporting triumphs did readers take part in, when they went to school ?



This painting brought back memories for Bill Kneller.

Watford Observer
Share your memories

Do you have an answer, a question or some information for the Nostalgia page? If so, please email Michael Pickard at:
mpickard@london.newsquest.co.uk
Alternatively, write to Michael at the Watford Observer, Observer House, Caxton Way, Watford Business Park, Watford WD18 8RJ or telephone him on: 01923 216298.

2008

Friday, April 4, 2008 www.watfordobserver.co.uk 45p



The Grove, off Hempstead Road, Watford, will be surrounded by armed police for the two-day world summit. Picture Y403317: SIMON JACOBS

Grove on red alert

for world summit hosted by Prime Minister Gordon Brown

by JOHN HARRISON SARRATT

HELICOPTERS will be hovering over a Watford hotel while armed police patrol the grounds today (Friday) as a who's who of the most powerful politicians on the planet convene in the town for a two-day world summit.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown will host 15 of the world's leaders at the progressive governance conference, to be held at The Grove this weekend.

Among the illustrious guests attending the summit are Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, South African President, Thabo Mbeki and Chilean premier Michelle Bachelet.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark and the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf are also attending the conference on globalisation.

Other guests are expected to include the head of the IMF, director of the World Trade Organisation and the head of the United Nations Development Programme.

Both The Grove and Policy Network, the international think-tank organising today's conference, have kept details of the summit under wraps until the last minute.

However, members of the resort's health spa, Sequoia, have been warned in advance that they may have their handbags or gym bags searched before they enter the hotel.

They have also been told they cannot bring a guest into the spa today or tomorrow (Saturday)



Prime Minister Gordon Brown is to host the summit.

Picture 10P2215

Village will be in bloom to mark 120th year

W.08. 4-4-08

SARRATT will be in full bloom tomorrow as the village's horticultural society celebrates its 120th anniversary year with its traditional spring show.

The society, which traditionally holds two flower and vegetable shows a year, held its first on Wednesday October 17, 1888, at the old Mission Hall in Dawes Lane.

Under the stewardship of Secretary W.H. Cully, no entry fee was charged but Gentlemen's gardeners (employees of the wealthy) were not allowed to take part in the society's many competitions.

The society, like the village itself, has seen many changes over the years but its current membership remains proud of its traditions.

Club secretary Margaret Stratford said preparations for this year's show had gone well – despite the recent inclement weather.

She said: "It's not been easy because the weather has been so foul. Some of the daffodils may be a bit past their best but hopefully we'll get some good tulips and wallflowers.

Today the club has 206 members and a dedicated volunteer committee of 12.

Tomorrow's show, which will include competitions for flowers, vegetables, and foods will open to the public from 2.30pm.

Classes in flower arranging, vegetable preparation, cookery, arts and craft and photography will be offered along with a variety of children's classes.

Mrs Stratford, who joined in 1985, says the traditional nature of the village should ensure a bright future for the society.

Extra meeting 4-4-08 W.O.

SARRATT book club has arranged an extra meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month to deal with increased demand. The first meeting will be held at 8pm on April 24 with a discussion of the novel Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. If you wish to take part then please email Elizabeth.heike@care4free.net or on 01923 286994.

HERTS SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE

Saturday, March 29

Premier Division
(Local Results)

Bushey Rangers	P-P	Evergreen
Codicote	P-P	Met Police Bushey
Sandridge Rovers og, Wickens (2)	3-1	Bovingdon McMahon
Wormley Rovers Bayford (2), Bone (3), Smith (3), Tungatt (2), Welch (2), Welsh	13-2	Bedmond S&S Purdue, Taj
Allenburys Sports	0-3	Mill End Sports Carter (2), Hall
Baldock Town Brawley, og, Smith	3-1	Chipperfield Cors Leeming
Croxley Guild	P-P	Wodson Park
Old Parmiterians	P-P	Debden Sports

W.O. 4-4-08

Senior Division One
(Local Results)

Allenburys Sports	0-3	Mill End Sports Carter (2), Hall
Baldock Town Brawley, og, Smith	3-1	Chipperfield Cors Leeming
Croxley Guild	P-P	Wodson Park
Old Parmiterians	P-P	Debden Sports

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Baldock Town	25	21	3	1	80	23	66
Wodson Park	25	19	2	4	82	32	59
Chipperfield Cors	28	16	2	10	74	51	50
Buckhurst Hill	26	14	2	10	69	47	44
Lemsford	26	12	7	7	66	48	43
Mill End Sports	24	13	3	8	62	36	42
Debden Sports	22	10	8	4	54	51	38
Croxley Guild	22	11	4	7	46	38	37
Hinton	25	11	3	11	45	47	36
St Peters	25	10	1	14	40	55	31
North Mymms	24	7	8	9	39	44	29
Sarratt	26	6	10	10	40	47	28
Allenburys Sports	29	6	5	18	44	79	23
Cuffley	24	5	5	14	26	64	20
Old Parmiterians	25	5	3	17	35	64	18
Bedwell Rangers	24	1	0	23	23	99	3

Reserve Division One
(Local Results)

Bovingdon Askey (2), Marks	3-3	London Lions Baum (2), Reuben
Codicote	P-P	Evergreen
Met Police Bushey	3-0	Bedmond S&S
Buckland, Gallichan (2)		
Sarratt	P-P	Lemsford

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Met Police Bushey	22	17	2	3	90	31	53
Hatfield Town	20	16	3	1	76	22	51
Evergreen	19	11	4	4	41	25	37
Bovingdon	19	11	3	5	53	36	36
Codicote	19	9	4	6	49	43	31
London Lions	22	8	5	9	38	43	29
Knebworth	20	8	2	10	33	59	26
Hinton	19	6	4	9	36	42	22
Sarratt	20	6	3	11	37	61	21
Lemsford	19	5	1	13	29	41	16
Bedmond S&S	20	4	4	12	24	49	16
Buntingford Town	17	4	3	10	24	38	15
Standon & Puck	22	4	2	16	40	80	12*

* = two points deducted

Continued from facing Page

Evergreen	0-3	Standon & Puck Evans (2), Nailen
Hatfield Town Brandon, Hammill, Stewart	3-1	Met Police Bushey Gallichan
Hinton Stott (5), Tesim (2), Watkins	8-4	Bedmond S&S Bernard, Hall (2), Holder
Sarratt Cavalier, Hannard (2), Millar (2), Mohr, Regan	7-0	Buntingford Town

W.O. 11-4-08

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Met Police Bushey	23	18	2	3	93	32	56
Hatfield Town	21	16	3	2	77	25	51
Bovingdon	21	13	3	5	55	37	42
Evergreen	20	11	4	5	41	28	37
Codicote	20	9	4	7	50	45	31
London Lions	22	8	5	9	38	43	29
Knebworth	21	8	2	11	35	64	26
Hinton	20	7	4	9	44	46	25
Sarratt	21	7	3	11	44	61	24
Lemsford	20	6	1	13	34	43	19
Bedmond S&S	21	4	4	13	28	57	16
Buntingford Town	19	4	3	12	24	45	15
Standon & Puck	23	5	2	16	43	80	15*

* = two points deducted

NEWS

Weather fails to dampen show

GREEN fingered villagers celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Sarratt Horticultural Society on Saturday as they attended its annual Spring show.

The wintry winds and bursts of rain outside the village hall may have been unseasonal but they failed to dampen spirits or keep visitors away.

Chief judge at the show Richard Akers was able to preside on 377 exhibits from 44 entrants.

Roger Dudley proved the star of the show, winning the Pinnaroo Trophy for daffodils as well as the awards for the best bloom in show and the Daffodil Diploma.

Christine Head claimed the Dickins Bowl for other flowers and Joan Horwood the Roy Ward Cup for vegetables and eggs.

The Women's Institute Cookery Trophy went to Noreen Singleton with Joan North winning the Floral Art competition.

The Dorrett Cup for junior entrants was won by Kieran Beausire.

MP to switch on floodlights

MEMBERS of Sarratt Tennis Club will welcome South West Herts MP David Gauke on court tomorrow night (Saturday) to switch on its new floodlights.

The club, which had more than 100 members and two courts, part-funded the lights with a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association.

The switch on will take place at 8.30pm.

Manhole covered again at last

W.O. 25-4-08

A GAPING eight foot manhole in Sarratt was finally repaired this week, days after the hole's defective metal cover collapsed into it.

The hole, just yards from the playing fields in King George V Way, was marked off with cones by Hertfordshire Highways on Thursday when they were first made aware of the problem.

However, concerned residents were forced to keep covering the hole themselves when vandals returned night after night to toss the cones into the void.

Hertfordshire Highways, which is spending more and more of its time replacing manhole covers taken by thieves, said the hole was repaired on Wednesday.



The Green
Sarratt

Family home in an enviable location.
3 reception rooms • kitchen & utility • 3 double bedrooms • family bathroom • double garage • gated driveway • planning permission granted for an extension

Savills Rickmansworth
rickmansworth@savills.com
01923 773171

Guide Price £1,200,000

'We're officially Fairtrade'

W.O. 16-5-08

RESIDENTS in Rickmansworth, Chorleywood, Croxley Green, Sarratt, Moor Park, and South Oxhey are now living in an official Fairtrade district.

More than 100 campaigners gathered at the offices of Three Rivers District Council on Friday to receive an award of recognition from the Fairtrade Foundation – a pressure group campaigning for a fairer deal for third world producers.

Community groups, shops, businesses and schools from throughout the district were all represented and have pledged to do all they can to maintain the title.

Jane Brading, of the Three Rivers Fairtrade Group, said: "By choosing to support Fairtrade we have added our voice to demands for a trade system that puts people, not profit, first.

"It sends a powerful message about how our community wants trade to work."

There are now more than 300 Fairtrade areas in the UK. This model is now being copied in 15 other countries around the world.

Fayres & Fetes

FUN FAIR

Sarrat Great May Fair on the Green

Open: Fri 2nd May, Sat 3rd May and Bank Holiday Monday 5th May

Opening Times:
Fri 6-10pm, Sat 2-10pm
Bank Holiday 12-10pm

All the Latest Rides
Kids Rides, Shows, etc.
Fun For All The Family

COME TO THE FAIR

The Green, Sarratt

£375,000 Freehold

A well-presented 2 bedroom semi-detached cottage situated on The Green in the centre of this highly regarded semi rural village.

Sole agent: Chorleywood office
01923 285886







This character property, formerly the village sweet shop, now boasts fantastic views directly over the village green. The accommodation comprises lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom and 2 double bedrooms. Cellar with potential for use as another reception room, subject to consent. Delightful sunny south west facing garden. Potential to create off road parking STPP.

Main Features
- Directly overlooking Sarratt Green
- Deceptively spacious
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Cellar/useful storage with potential STPP
- South westerly facing rear garden.

OPTIMA MAY 2008

Visit us at: www.parkheath.com

A NEW CHURCH VENTURE...

When? 10am on Sunday 25 May
Where? Sarratt Village Hall
What?

Ask discovering God together

- A time to discuss, to question, to explore... matters relating to God and spirituality
- A relaxed, informal atmosphere
- Coffee, tea, donuts freely available
- Music led by the young people
- Activities for children
- Above all, a warm welcome to **everyone**

Further details:
Angela Coakley (01923 264380)
Jenny Newman (01923 270572)

christian aid

SPRING/SUMMER
½ PRICE

DESIGNER CLOTHING SALE!



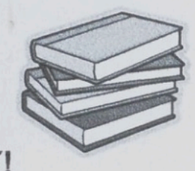
SATURDAY 31 MAY 10am-12noon
Sarratt Village Hall

Tops, Trousers, Skirts, Dresses, Jackets and Suits
Sizes from 8 – 20 ~ Prices from £9.00
Genuine bargains from Gerry Webber, James Lakeland and many more

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE!

PLUS
BOOK SALE WITH RAFFLE!

A great range of second-hand books on offer: novels, childrens' titles, books on photography and gardening, and much more!



PLENTY OF BARGAINS FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

SARRATT EVENING W.I.



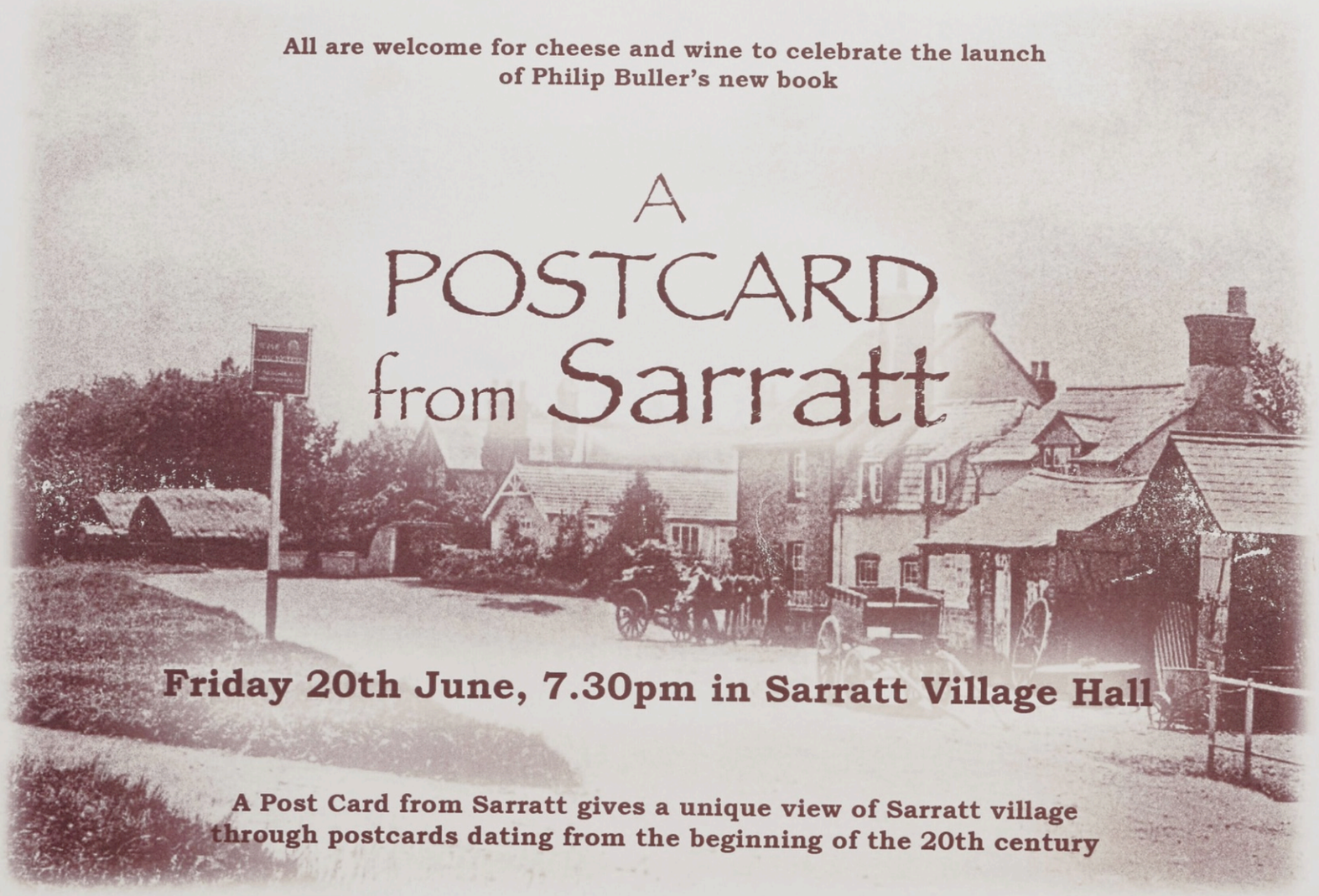
SUMMER OUTING TO KEW GARDENS & THE PALACE

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2008
Price £26.00 including coach
Leaving the Village Hall at 9.00 a.m.



To: Book Contact
Jackie Boughton, 12 The Briars, Sarratt, 01923 265897

All are welcome for cheese and wine to celebrate the launch of Philip Buller's new book



A Post Card from Sarratt gives a unique view of Sarratt village through postcards dating from the beginning of the 20th century

H.M. GAZ. 25-6-08

The following plans have been received by Three Rivers District Council

● 08/1060/FUL, Change of use: Of land from agricultural to school playing field (one cricket pitch and two football pitches) at Parmiters School, High Elms Lane, **Abbots Langley** for Parmiters School.

● 08/1067/FUL, first floor rear extension, single storey rear conservatory and conversion of garage into habitable room at 14 Greenways, **Abbots Langley** for Mr S. Higgs.

● 08/1103/FUL, demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of single storey dwelling with basement level at Three Crofts, Dawes Lane, **Sarratt** for Mr Mike Collins.

THREE RIVERS

WATFORD OBSERVER 20 JUNE 2008

Picture postcards of a bygone age



Charles Adams, former Red Lion landlord with A Gurney, W Young, Charles Hammond, and Frank Kern. The names of Charles and Frank can be found on the war memorial.

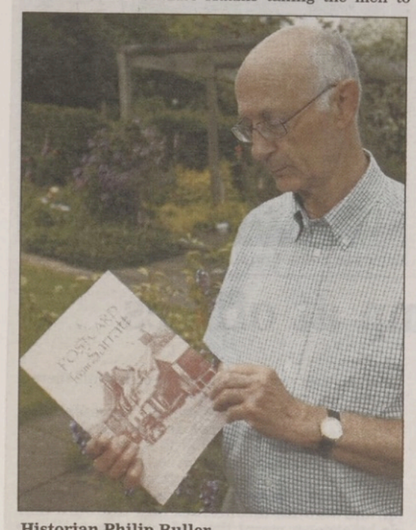


Children gather outside Martin Eli Smith's baker's shop on the west side of the Green. Circa 1912/13.

by **NEIL SKINNER**

TWO of the four young Sarratt men pictured in the above idyllic photograph would soon be dead; lost to the killing fields of the First World War.

The image, which reportedly shows former Red Lion landlord Charles Adams taking the men to sign up in Watford, is just one of 70 featured in a new book by Belsize historian Philip Buller, A Postcard From Sarratt.



Historian Philip Buller.

Picture 25C0401: RYO HAYASHIDA.

Mr Buller, who began collecting photographic postcards of the village in 1982, was so amazed at the number he unearthed that he decided to feature them in his third book – a work he hopes will allow villagers a unique glimpse into their past.

He said: "In this day and age it seems odd that people would want to send a postcard from Sarratt. But at the beginning of the last century, writing a postcard was one of the main ways people stayed in touch.

"They were the text messages of the day.

"Because the postal system was so much more efficient you could post a card in the morning and have it arrive in London the next morning.

"There were lots of little printers making postcards before and after the war. Locals would buy them to keep in touch and visitors from London would send them back home.

"Mostly the writing on the back details mundane things like illness but they really give a good idea of what local life was like."

One of the featured cards, Mr Buller added, had found its way in 1924 from Norwich to Los Angeles and back again.

Mr Buller, treasurer of the Sarratt History Society, has lived in the village since 1967. He explained that, although the history of the village, thought to date back more than 900 years, is unremarkable it still makes for a compelling historical study.

He added: "Up until fairly recently this was a relatively poor farming community, but the images in the book tell the story of the people who lived here and how the village has changed. It is the little things that make history so interesting."

The book, launched today, is available for £9.99 at Sarratt Village Stores, Chorleywood Bookshop, Three Rivers Museum, and Stanley Stores in Chipperfield.

flower festivals

H.M. GAZETTE 27-08

VILLAGE churches and societies have been saying it with flowers this summer, with weekend events that brought in many visitors to festivals and shows.

Holy Cross at Sarratt incorporated an outdoor service in its weekend flower festival with music from the Jolly Jazzers.

The title for the weekend was For All the Saints and the event brought in a good congregation.

Visitors expressed their pleasure at the talented floral arrangements and said they had imbued an air of spirituality to the church.

Proceeds are for the preservation and maintenance of the church.

St John's Church at Bourne End had flower arrangements sponsored by both individuals and organisations at its flower festival at the weekend, as well as an evening concert by the Serenata ensemble.

Bovingdon's appreciation of all things floral came in the form of the village's Horticultural Society show at the Memorial Hall, where there were 28 exhibitors and 160 entries.

Mavis Lawrence took the RHS Bansian Medal for highest over-all achievement in vegetables, fruit and flowers.

Chipperfield Horticultural Society held its show on the previous weekend and Doug Leslie, John North, Roger Pigg and Alec Parker put in some showy entries in the sweet pea section, while Bethan Rees brought a touch of amusement with Jelly Belly the bear.



Flower arrangers arriving at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt (08-727-71).

The Freemasons' symbolic garden at Hampton Court, is to be recreated in a Watford retirement home. **Francine Wolfisz** reports

WDO. 11-7-08

ONE might be tempted to call it a secret garden, but the Freemasons' winning entry at this year's Hampton Court Flower Show may just unearth some of the society's more mysterious traditions.

Called *On The Square* and presented by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex, the garden reflects the Freemasons' rich use of symbolism and is described as "an open book" on the society's traditions. Awarded the Silver-Gilt Flora medal in the small garden category, *On The Square* will remain at the show until Sunday, before transferring to Prince Michael of Kent Court in Watford, a residential care home for older Freemasons and their dependants.



Many artists are also displaying their work at the show, including stone carver Martin Cook

George Souter, who has been a mason for more than forty years and lives in Sarratt, says: "Everything about the garden reflects our use of symbolism. There's the masonic emblem, the square and compass, as well as three yew trees, which represent the three great pillars of architecture – wisdom, strength and beauty.

"The paving stones in black and white, symbolise our chequered existence on earth, as well as the joys and sorrows of life. Then there's a bee hive, reminding us to be industrious, while the waterfall represents our flow of charity to the needy."

He adds: "We asked our designers, Hazeldean Beard & Hazeldean, to take all our core beliefs and put them into a contemporary theme, which they have done exceedingly well. We are very pleased with the result."

Rounding off the garden is a rich use of grasses, to show the abundance of nature, as well as blue delphiniums and veronica austriaca (Crater Lake Blue) to represent charity, while white varieties of cornus contraversa, achillea mondpagode and bergenia symbolise the purity of life and actions.



On The Square picked up the Silver-Gilt Flora medal and will soon transfer to a retirement home in Watford

~ Philip Buller ~

We hope you will be able to join us at the

Spotlight Tea Party

3.30pm on **Thursday 14 August**
at
Micklefield Green House, Sarratt Road

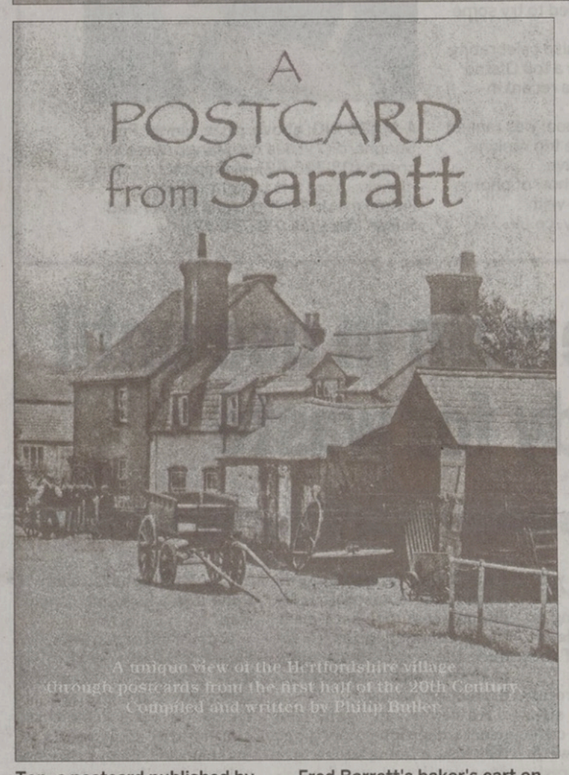
R.S.V.P. **Jeannie Poulton 260295** (PTO)

* Please let us know if you need transport. *

Village man's 20 year collection is picture postcard history of area

New book provides unique view of Hertfordshire life





CARD COLLECTOR: top inset, Philip Buller with his book of postcards featuring the Sarratt area.



by Rita Knowles
rita.knowles@ccnltd.com

WHEN Philip Buller moved into a cottage on Sarratt Green when he first came to live locally he never thought for a moment that one day he would be publishing a book of historic postcards about his place of abode.

Philip was delighted to find an old postcard showing the very cottage where he once lived and his 20 years of collecting stemmed from there. He now lives in Belsize, having come to the area in 1967.

Now that picture of The Wheatsheaf and houses nearby feature in his fascinating book of cards published last month and launched on Friday, June 20 at a special function organised by the village's local history society - of which he is treasurer.

The book was joyfully received by villagers and Philip sold 60 copies on the first evening.

A Postcard from Sarratt illustrates how, in the days before emails, even telephones, people used the frequent and cheap ordinary mail service simply to ask how friends and relatives were faring or impart a quick bit of news.

Philip built up his collection from purchases from art shops and postcard fairs and the internet.

Now 67, Philip has retired from his lifetime job as a research engineer with the Building Research Establishment at Garston, and though this book is completed, he is still collecting Sarratt postcards and if anyone has any lying unused in a drawer or album at home, he would be pleased to hear of them.

He can be contacted on philip.buller@tiscali.co.uk.

A total of 70 cards feature in the book, each with a comprehensive explanatory caption.

He said: "That involved a lot of work, checking in records offices and so on."

The book includes only postcards covering the civil village of Sarratt, where possible, and they are arranged in geographical order working south from Great Sarratt Hall along the Green and down Church Lane.

The final picture in the book probably dates from the end of World War 1 showing an Avro 504A Flying Corps training aircraft that has crash landed. It is not known if this was in Sarratt, but it was probably very close as the publisher is George Walker of Sarratt Green. Local photographers of the day published their own cards and others also had cards published privately. Do you know anything about the plane? Philip would love to hear.

Two photographs showing how the years have taken their toll are a springtime view with cherry trees in flower entitled Under the Hill Commonwood. It shows an open vista where now the foreground is overgrown with trees. And Plough Lane is shown looking remote and empty where today tree growth has changed the appearance of the lane considerably.

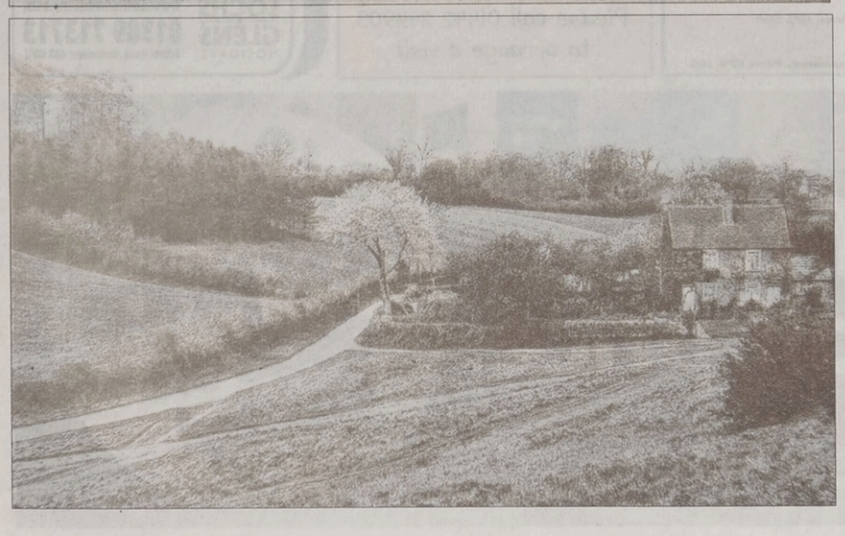
The book sells at £9.99 and is available at Sarratt Post Office and the Stanley Stores in Chipperfield.

Further copies can be supplied by Mr Buller on the email address above.

Mr Buller has also published Pots, Platters and Ploughs - Sarratt Wills & Inventories 1435-1832 with his first wife, Barbara, in 1982 and also Sarratt Byways Revisited with his second wife Connie in 2000.

Top, a postcard published by George Walker of Sarratt Green of an Avro 504A Flying Corps training aircraft which crash landed in a field it is assumed somewhere in the Sarratt area and probably towards the end of World War I. Above right, Percy Saunders with Fred Barrett's baker's cart on Bragmans Lane (originally Top Road) near the top of Poles Hill, Belsize. Above, front of Philip's book. Below, Plough Lane by junction with Red Lion Lane circa 1904. Bottom, springtime view of Dellfield Lodge.





The week in history

Wednesday July 16, 2008

1908
100 years ago

GOOD progress was being made with the arrangements for the flower show in the Bury Grounds.

Mr Tom Drake had accepted the invitation of the committee to join them and he had already interested himself in the programme which will again be of a novel character.

Mr J Steptoe the Hon. Sec to the committee had already received special subscriptions towards the prize-fund.

THE adult members of the Parish Church Choir had an enjoyable outing to Windsor. The journey was undertaken by brake and the drive afforded much pleasure.

A MEETING for the Friendly Societies' Hospital Fund took place and satisfactory progress was reported with regards to the arrangements for the demonstrations and collections.

It was decided to have the annual parade with piano-organs on August 15, to have a comic cricket match on August 22 and to have a house-to-house collection on August 29.

THOSE persons who proposed competing for the valuable money prizes offered at the Hemel Hempstead Horse Show needed to note that it is being held on August Bank Holiday and participants were reminded that entries close Tuesday next.

1958
50 years ago

WHAT a wonderful party! It was the seventh party organised by the Chesham, Wycombe and Tring Co-operative Society for old people and was held in Victoria Hall, Tring.

More than 290 guests, all over 70 years of age, were transported by coach to and from the hall.

Everyone who attended had a great time as the society's Tring Educational Committee laid on a programme of music by the Salvation Army Band.

The programme also included many musical items by children.

It was a first-class show enjoyed by all who attended thanks to the society and the many voluntary helpers who combined to give them such a happy time.

A MACHINE for 'tin crushing' was invented by scouts at the District Scout Camp held at Phasel's Wood near Kings Langley recently.

The idea behind this successful camp, attended by more than 100 scouts, was to train the boys to adapt themselves to conditions where they used only materials available at the camping site.

As a result this highly ingenious method of disposing empty, bulky tins was very acceptable.

MORE than £50 was raised in Apsley recently at the Parish Church's annual gift-day.

The Vicar of Apsley, the Rev JH Dominey, sat in the High Street collecting from passers-by and later in the church porch. Mrs Dominey told The Gazette that this figure was "more than expected."

1983
25 years ago

WOODHALL Farm in Hemel Hempstead went back thousands of years in time for a special event.

Cavemen and prehistoric women could be seen in the neighbourhood but the residents did not seem too concerned.

Closer inspection revealed that the cavemen and women were in fact pupils from Brockswood Junior School taking part in a fancy dress procession during the school fête.

The best-dressed junior was Richard Pearce and the winner among the infants was Lewis Plummer. Among the attractions at the fête were a dancing display by school pupils, pony rides and a disco dancing competition.

The fair was expected to have raised about £200 for the school.

MOULDY Edam cheese and a milk bottle containing bits and pieces that looked like debris from a building site, were the subject of complaints to Dacorum District Council's Health Committee.

Members agreed that proceedings should be taken under the Food Act.

THE Marines came to Hemel Hempstead but there was no cause for alarm.

The Royal Marines unarmed combat team was in town to give a display at Adeyfield School's summer fayre.

Also appearing were the members of the Chaulden Modern Rhythmic Gym Club.

One of the most popular events at the fête were the victims in the stocks.

The day raised about £800 for the parent-teacher association funds.



PREHISTORIC: Pupils from Brockswood Junior School in fancy dress as cavemen and women (845-83).

SB25009
FREE
The Hemel Hempstead Gazette
The Berkhamsted & Tring Gazette
Gazette
SUMMER OFFER
Loads of ways to use this great Gazette tote bag: sports kit, baby items, beachwear, books, or even shopping!
available while stocks last
A Gazette lunch pack plus cool picnics or school lunches. A Gazette mouse mat to comfort your mouse!
Just fill in the form below, send it back to our offices: Free Gazette summer offer, G/F The Gatehouse, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP19 8DB. with your credit card details or a cheque made payable to Central Counties Newspapers Ltd. and we will post your FREE Gazette Summer offer out to you. Tell us how many you would like and they will be with you in time for your next outing!
I would like ..... Gazette summer offer(s) at a cost of £1 each for postage & packing .
Please send me my FREE Gazette summer offer.
Name ..... Address .....
.....
.....
Postcode .....
Mobile phone number .....
Email Address .....
Age .....
Total cost of bag(s)
Payment method Credit card ☐ Cheque ☐
Type of card MasterCard VISA Maestro
Account no: ..... Name on card
Exp date ..... Security no: .....
Central Counties Newspapers Limited and the Johnston Press Group are constantly running great offers. If you are not interested in receiving details of them by email, post, phone, sms or fax from Johnston Press please tick here [ ] If you are not interested in receiving details on offers run by our business partners please tick here [ ] For your information for quality and training purposes, we may monitor communications.



During July and August, Holy Cross Church will be undergoing a programme of redecoration. The building will be closed during this period. Please see notice boards, Spotlight and weekly welcome sheets for details of alternative arrangements for services.

The building will re-open in September.

We regret any inconvenience that this may cause.

Churchwardens

2008

CURD FAMILY GET TOGETHER 19TH JULY 2008

SARRATT JMI SCHOOL, SARRATT HERTS

Sarratt Local History Society are holding an Open Day and Curd Family get together Saturday 19th July in the village school.

There will be a display devoted to the story of John Curd and Susannah Pymley who were married in the village church 8th August 1769 and their family.

Anyone with an interest in, or connections with, the Curd family is invited to contact me for further details:

John Hopkins
"Beckley"
Langley Road
Chipperfield
Herts
WD4 9JS
01923 268852

SARRATT & DISTRICT U3A
Family History Groups

Researching

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

By

Ian Waller

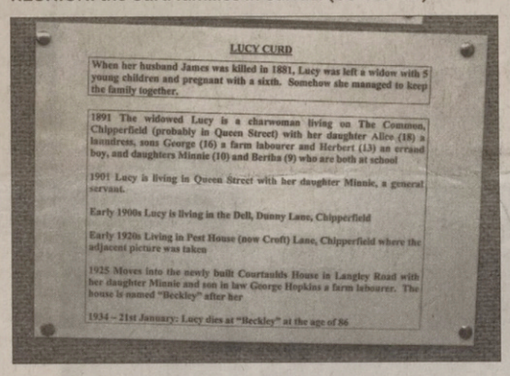
Thursday 7th August 2008
Sarratt Village Hall 2pm £5

Family reunion brings in 15 families, all descended from one Sarratt couple

Curds travel from as far as the USA to join gathering



REUNION: the Curd families in Sarratt (08-834-57).





EXHIBITION: picture and text from John Hopkins display at the reunion, above, Lucy Curd 1848 - 1934 (08-834-45).

by Rita Knowles
rita.knowles@ccnltd.com

IT'S a very unusual surname - but people came from far and wide to take part in a Curd family reunion in Sarratt.

A total of 15 separate families - around 50 people - arrived, including some from USA and the Isle of Wight.

The family stems from one couple who married in Sarratt Church in 1769.

A descendant, through the female line, is John Hopkins, who organised the event on Saturday, July 19.

He still lives locally at Beckley, Langley Road, Chipperfield.

He is not sure where the original couple came from -perhaps from Aston Abbots - but, he says, the Curd name is more common in the South East around, Surrey, Kent and Sussex than around here.

The descendants met at Sarratt village school where John had a display of family items. The youngest member at the gathering was eight-year-old Louis Curd, who lives in Chipperfield and is the 10th generation of the family.

Many of those who attended had never met before - although some had been in touch with each other through email.

It was Brian Curd, from the Isle of Wight, who first set up a family website relating to the name Curd and he was able to contact most of the people who came along.

Now there may be further regular reunions in the future.

Amongst the visitors was a representative from the One Name Study Group (which takes a particular surname and researches it). Now DNA samples are being taken from various branches to see if connections can be made with the south-east and whether research can take the family name back even further than 1769.

John Hopkins is researching his family tree and still lives in the family home into which his great grandmother Lucy Curd moved in 1925, to live with her daughter Minnie and son-in-law George Hopkins, a farm labourer. The house was named Beckley after Lucy. She died in 1934, aged 86.

Lucy was a strong character - widowed when her husband James was killed in 1881, she had five young children and was pregnant with the sixth, but somehow managed to keep the family together. By 1891 he has discovered Lucy was a charwoman living on The Common, Chipperfield (probably Queen Street) with her daughter Alice, 18, a laundress, sons George, 16, a farm labourer and Herbert, 13, an errand boy and daughters Minnie, 10, and Bertha, nine, both at school.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

SEPT. 2008

Business success in Sarratt

The small Hertfordshire village of Sarratt might seem an unlikely place to launch a successful office supplies business. But from the business launched here, you can order from over 18,000 products – all available for next day delivery.

The success story began 15 years ago when Alan Gray and his wife Samantha, set up Sarratt Office Supplies. Their aim was to supply everything for the modern office, whilst giving customers a friendly, helpful service.

Today, the company is based in the centre of Kings Langley, employs 12 staff, has an annual turnover of £1.5m and enjoys an enviable reputation for great service.



Alan Gray owner of Sarratt Office Supplies

Alan says: "Our philosophy has always been to invest in our staff, which means we can provide a high level of professionalism, advice and friendliness to all our customers. This has enabled us to achieve the Investors in People award in 2004".

Sarratt Office Supplies has over 400 customers spread all over the country with the majority based in the local area. Prices are competitive, next day delivery is free and a same day delivery service is available for urgent items.

Office Furniture: Whether you require a single desk or a full office refurbishment, let Sarratt help you every step of the way. We consult, design, plan, install and remove old furniture to agreed timescales.

Being truly independent, we can offer unbiased advice on the leading office furniture manufacturers and help you choose products most suitable for your proposed project.

Office Products: Staff are regularly trained by leading manufacturers on new products coming to the market. Our own brand 'Q Connect' is a comprehensive range of office products for your everyday needs. Great products and really knowledgeable staff give our customers the total package.

Print: Business stationery and promotional material can also be supplied. We produce artwork and design assistance to aid with all aspects of your print requirements. Our work is prompt, first class quality and competitively priced.



Sarratt Office Supplies
59-61 High Street
Kings Langley
Herts WD4 9HU
Tel: 01923 270029
Email: sales@sarrattofficesupplies.co.uk

www.sarrattofficesupplies.co.uk

Society is 120 years old

A HORTICULTURAL society is holding an autumn show to celebrate its 120th anniversary.

The Sarratt Horticultural Society is holding the event in the Sarratt Village Hall tomorrow (Saturday).

The hall will be filled with colourful displays of chrysanthemums, dahlias, flower arrangements and arts and crafts.

Photography enthusiasts will also have the opportunity to show their work.

The event begins at 2.30pm following the judging of many different classes in the morning. W.o.B. 12-9-08

THREE RIVERS

Armed robbers get away with pub takings

ARMED robbers terrorised a pub landlord on Saturday night as they stole his takings.

Two men burst into the Cricketers, Sarratt, at around 10.45pm on Saturday – just 15 minutes after it had closed for business.

After threatening the landlord with a knife the men tied him up before fleeing with money.

Police, who are appealing for witnesses and information about the robbery, have released descriptions of the pair.

The first, who wielded the knife, is described as white, aged 30 to 35, of stocky build, with short shaven hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a big navy blue jacket zipped up around the face. He had a round head with "sunken" features.

The second offender is described as a white man aged 30 to 32, of stocky build, with sharp features and dark sideburns. He was wearing a blue baseball cap and a large blue rain jacket zipped up to the face.

DC Archie Bagworth, investigating, said: "We are appealing to anyone who was either in the pub or at the function in the village hall next door. We believe the last people left at about 10.34pm and they may have seen something.

Anyone with any information can telephone DC Bagworth on 0845 33 00 222 or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555111.

OPTIMA 23-09-06

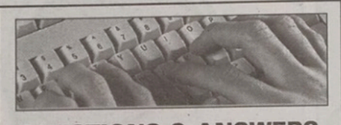


SARRATT GUIDE PRICE £1,500,000

A fine detached family home fronting The Green in this sought after hamlet. Originally a farmhouse with parts dating back to the 18th Century, situated on plot of just over one half of an acre. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 en-suites, 4 receptions, kitchen/breakfast room and utility. Annexe providing bedroom, en-suite and own front door. Double garage, outbuildings, large garden.

NOSTALGIA

A strictly school exercise regime



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Edited by Michael Pickard



York House School pupils are put through their paces in June 1955 by an ex-army PT instructor.

WATFORD resident Ian Edwards sent in these pictures, after recognising a picture printed in a recent edition of Nostalgia.

Mr Edwards, of Stratford Road, said: "The picture you published of the boys taking part in a gymnastic display triggered a memory, as I immediately recognised the location.

"The display took part on the top field at the rear of York House School on Wednesday, June 29, 1955.

"This was when the school was located on the Uxbridge Road in Money Hill, not at its present site in Croxley Green.

"I joined the school in September 1955 so am not in the picture, although many of the faces are familiar.

"These displays were organised by the gym master, Mr Fiveash. I believe he was a PT instructor in the army during the war and had a turn of phrase and sense of humour that would have made any regimental sergeant major proud.

"In gym lessons he used to march us round the hall singing loudly and enthusiastically to Colonel Bogey. Of course, at that age the lyrics didn't make a lot of sense.

"Sadly, Mr Fiveash died suddenly from a heart attack sometime in 1957/8 and was replaced by a much younger Mr Gale. I don't remember the displays carrying on into his time.

"The Money Hill site was originally The Money Hill Hotel before being bought by Arnold White, the then-headmaster, in the late-1940s when he moved the school from Finchley.

"The original buildings (YHS MHill front and YHS MHill rear) were demolished in the late 1960s some four or so years after the school moved to Redheath, Croxley Green.

"Meresworth, a residential home for the elderly, was built on the grounds and Money Hill Court was built where the old buildings once stood."

Do any readers have memories of taking part in these gymnastic displays?

READER Cynthia Jenkinson offered this anecdote, following a question about entertainers who performed in Watford. Mrs Jenkinson, of The Phillipers, Watford, said: "It must have been in the early '70s that I went to see an Elton John concert there, with Linda Lewis as the supporting act.

"Elton was in full swing, singing his first number when a police officer marched onto the stage, asked Elton to stop his performance and announced they had information that a bomb had been planted under the stage.

The whole building had to be evacuated while the police searched, after which we were allowed back into the auditorium and Elton could continue with the concert, which was a real rocking success with fans dancing in the aisles.

"Needless to say, no bomb was discovered."

Which other performers or entertainers have readers seen, and where, in south-west Hertfordshire?

FOLLOWING an appeal for information about Watford Home Guard, Mr A Hicks, of Harrow, wrote to Nostalgia about his connection with the town's wartime defence volunteers.

Mr Hicks said: "My late father-in-law, Ivan Spengler, served in the Watford Home Guard during the war.

"Ivan, who was of German descent, lived in Hagden Lane and worked on his brother's farm in Croxley Green.

"He joked about riding around Watford with a Lee Enfield rifle (drill purpose, of course) strapped to his back, being pulled by the police.

"The stories he told of wartime Watford were even funnier than the Dad's Army series."

Were any readers members of the Watford Home Guard?

MEMORIES of outdoor swimming venues prompted a letter from Tony Shepherd, of West Worthing, Sussex.

Mr Shepherd said: "I noticed you asked if anyone remembered locations for outdoor swimming.

"I remember in the 1930s being taken with my sister by my parents to the Five Arches swimming place, which was, of course, in the River Colne. I presume it was closed for what now would be called health and safety reasons. At the time we thought it was good."

WHILE British athletes at the paralympics in Beijing continue to collect gold medals, Sheila Brignall offered these memories of one of her PE teachers.

Mrs Brignall, of Malden Road, Watford, said: "In 1948, I was attending Watford Grammar School for Girls and we were all thrilled that one of the games staff, Joyce Richards, was a canoeist at the Olympic Games.

"Sadly she didn't qualify beyond the opening rounds, but it is still the nearest I have been to an Olympian.

"One other name that has stayed with me was Fanny Blankers-Cohen, a Dutch woman who impressed everyone by emphatically winning the women's sprint races.

"I learnt later that she had lived in Holland throughout the war, including the dreadful food shortages of the winter of 1944/45, but an incredible achievement in any circumstances."

A QUESTION about Peter Eames and his band led to a letter from June Barber. Mrs Barber, of Baytree Walk, Watford, said: "In answer to a question concerning Peter Eames and his band, I was one of the many dancers enjoying his music.

"In the fifties, Saturday nights were 'dancing nights' and the town hall was full of young people brushing up their prowess in the waltz, quickstep and the jive, although the jive was considered 'decadent and frowned upon'.

"Peter's band was one of a succession. He is still 'tickling the ivories' – for an amateur dramatic group, of which I am one, and also entertains at the Watford Blind Club."

NOSTALGIA is now online. Each week, the stories and memories printed in the Watford Observer can be found on the newspaper's website, along with additional content from past issues.

Readers' photographs can also be viewed, and there is a section for tracing relatives.

Details of how to submit memories and photographs can also be found. In addition, readers can offer their own recollections of subjects featured on this page.

To visit Nostalgia online, visit www.watfordobserver.co.uk/nostalgia.

Questions

- What information is there about Private 4893, H Munday, who fought in World War One? His address was noted at the time as 22 Ashby Road, Watford.
- Were any readers former pupils of Chater School or William Penn School?
- What memories are there of Odhams Printers, of St Albans Road, Watford, which closed 25 years ago on September 30, 1983?
- What is the history of the Rose and Crown public house, in Watford High Street, and who were its landlords?
- Is there any information about the Cottage Hospital and Victoria House, which was home to nurses, in Vicarage Road, Watford?

Flashback

20 years ago
Friday, September 9, 1988
Jaws the piranha literally bit the hand that fed him – and then spat the torn-away flesh back in his owner's face, minutes after arriving at his new home in Bushey on Sunday. Sixteen-year-old John Franklin, of Stevenage, was setting up the fish tank for his cousin Tony Moxley, also 16, of Bushey, when Jaws sunk his teeth into John's hand.

40 years ago
Friday, September 6, 1968
Batchworth Sea Scouts arrived back on Sunday after an invigorating camp in Denmark. They camped at the Rold Forest, the largest forest in the country, having had the good fortune to find that the local scout commissioner was also the head of the State Forestry Commission.

60 years ago
Friday, September 10, 1948
Faced with a lack of suitable headquarters, a considerable drop in membership and a loss on the year of nearly £50, many a club would have long ago closed down; but Watford Amateur Boxing Club, who are in this position, are not worried as long as they can "keep the boys off the streets".



York House School (front), then in Money Hill, not Croxley Green as it is now.

SARRATT

telegraph.co.uk/pubs
Search for your best local

PINT TO PINT

The Cock Inn, Hertfordshire, continues our guide to British pubs

Take a seat at The Cock Inn and you're two miles from a Tube station; yet it could just as easily be 200 miles.

Admittedly, Chorleywood is out at the furthest end of the Metropolitan Line, but it's still hard to believe that the five-minute car journey to Sarratt has only brought you to the inner Home Counties, rather than the rustic wilds.

Step out the back door and you're in a fence-free back garden that merges into open fields and woods. Step out the front door and you're in a Hertfordshire village graveyard (literally, if you don't look both ways for traffic).

Inside, low ceilings are the order of the day (Duck or Grouse, say the signs over the doorposts), while traditional English main courses (lamb chop, steak and ale pie, plus the odd curry) are the dishes of the day. With matching surroundings, too: the main dining room is an ancient, pointy-roofed rural barn, with a forest of overhanging beams and dangling artefacts.

The welcome from the staff is distinctly out-of-town too: much brighter and less dreary than the average urban grunt of greeting. But there's nothing country-bumpkin about the service; as befits a place which in summer is catering for customers up to 100 yards from the kitchen, the girls behind the bar can tell at the touch of a coloured till button how many haddock or scampi portions are left in the chef's locker.

As for the ale, there are four different varieties: First Gold and Tangle Foot from Badger, Sussex Draught from King & Barnes and the tastiest and strongest of them all, Fursty Ferret (4.4% ABV and featuring hops, nuts and the faint echo of orange peel), also from Badger.

Work your way through them all and you won't want to go back to the big city.

Christopher Middleton

✤ The Cock Inn, Church Lane, Sarratt, Herts (01923 282908)

ANDREW CROWLEY



Sarratt became a film set amid unseasonal weather this week. 6-11-08

Film crew conjures up a snowstorm

A BBC film crew made the most of a beautiful Sarratt snow-scape during the filming of a popular murder mystery drama.

The village post office and a small number of houses were transported last week to the fictional village of Morbury for an episode of the award-winning Waking the Dead, scheduled to air in March.

The series, starring Trevor Eve and Sue Johnston, features the Met police's Cold Cases Unit – set up to investigate old cases with state-of-the-art DNA technology. Further details of the script, however, remain a closely guarded secret.

A decaying chapel appealed to a builder's wife, says **Caroline McGhie**
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH
30 Nov 2008

CHURCH WINS A CONVERSION



Jan Mardling first visited the Providence Mission Hall in the Hertfordshire village of Sarratt in 1997 when its doors were opened in advance of its sale by auction.

She stood by the hole that had been the baptismal pit and burst into tears. "I thought: 'This is where I was meant to be'," she says. "Despite dry rot, wet rot, the vine growing through the roof and everything." Luckily her husband Keith was understanding, and a builder.

"There were hundreds of people interested," says Jan. "Ladies were measuring up for curtains, interested only in the pretty bits, whereas I was thinking about where the damp-proof course wasn't."

As Brown Owl in the local brownies, and a supporter of the village primary school, she knew that if she made a good offer she would have a chance with the village elders who were in charge of the sale.

By 1998 the Mission Hall was theirs. It had been valued at £100,000 but they paid £112,000 to secure it. She and her daughter Sarah, 18, lived with her mother while Keith and their son Oliver, 20, camped in the chapel.

"As soon as there was a tap from which they could make a cup of tea, the boys moved in," says Jan. Scaffolding went up, a damp-proof course went in, rafters and floorboards were cut and a mezzanine gallery created.

Keith's brother, who is also a builder, came to join the team for two long stints. "Because it was Baptist, it was very plain," says Jan. "The only embellishment was a chamfering on the beams and a slight dome on the altar rail.

"Keith made the stairs and the cupboards, and copied every detail he could. When he had to saw through the altar rail to take it down it was a very emotional moment. He was very mindful of keeping the essence of the place: the still sense of space."

The chapel was built in 1883. According to a plaque on the wall it was known originally as "The Sword and Trowel Mission". "It was used until 1987," says Jan.

She had all the prayer books and bibles cleaned. "I have had all these and the original noticeboard preserved," she says.

There are posters too, with slogans such as "Far Better Than Television, Look Into Your Bible Now".

The Mardlings are now selling at £850,000 through Savills (01923 773171) but moving will be difficult.

"We have given 10 years to the restoration and it has taken its toll," says Jan. So, at 56 and 60 years old, she and Keith are going to take a gap year, buy a motor home and travel round Europe.

The old baptismal pit lies beneath the dining room, covered by cellar doors. "People in the village say they never forget the day they were baptised," says Jan. "It was total immersion, you see. There was no heating and the water was freezing. But they had to do it because it was the only way to get on the summer trip to the seaside in the old charabanc."

> We were very mindful of keeping the still sense of space

Down under: Jan Mardling stands in the old baptismal pit and (inset) the building's exterior. Top: the now preserved mission hall noticeboard

MARTIN POPE

'So proud of our English village'



Following the first of Nostalgia's "Spotlight" features on Abbots Langley, this week Nostalgia moves its focus to the village of Sarratt.

Nostalgia editor Michael Pickard spoke to Dawn Pitts, president of the Sarratt Local History Society, and discovered a village that has remained largely unchanged, despite the rise of industry and two world wars.

Mrs Pitts, a retired librarian, said: "The earliest mention of Sarratt I have come across is in 796AD when King Offa of Mercia gave Sarratt to the Abbey of St Albans.

"Nobody knows what Sarratt means but the nearest guess from an expert is Syreth, which means 'a dry place'.

"For centuries it was a small agricultural village. Holy Cross Church was built about 1190, with possible Anglo Saxon origins.

"Because it's near to London, it once had lots of trade, with hay in particular. It was all produce from agriculture and traders would bring back soot and other refuse to put on the fields.

"Cherries were a feature of Sarratt. It was to do with the soil. They are a crop that doesn't keep for long so they could be grown here and quickly transported to London. Cherries still remain in Sarratt, in the name of a little road, Caroon Drive, which is a type of Hertfordshire black cherry.

"From the 1500s there's mention of houses in the village, but it was two places – Sarratt by the church and Sarratt Green. It seems people built a few houses around the green and gradually it moved up and became one place. It was probably to do with transport routes.

"The village gradually got bigger in the 19th Century. In the middle of the 19th Century, more shops appeared because there weren't many at all until then – butchers, grocers and bakers all around the village green.

"Up to the mid-19th Century, there were two classes of people living in Sarratt – the aristocratic gentry and the agricultural workers.

"Then the shops came in and there were a few in trade, but farming remained the main thing.

"The long village green is a feature of Sarratt. It is about half a mile long and there were several ponds on it. People used to keep sheep and pigs on the green at the time.

"Another of the features of Sarratt is a pump on the village green. It was built in the early part of the 19th Century and went on to be the main source of water for the village. That's still there.

"It's heyday, as far as shops and businesses were concerned, was from the end of the 19th Century and up to World War Two. After the war, shops started closing. Before then it used to be a lot more busier.

"The football and cricket clubs date back to the end of the 19th Century."

Like many English villages, Sarratt had a number of pubs in a small area.

Mrs Pitt said: "The Cricketers is still there. It used to be The Jolly Gardners, at the end of the green. Of The Wheatsheaf, only the sign is still there. A few hundred yards from there was The Red Lion, so there were three pubs in a short distance from each other. The Boot is still with us. The Cock is by the church.



This view of the Sarratt Green dates back to around 1912 or 1913, whem Martin Eli Smith revamped the bakers on the left.



Charles Adams, the last landlord of the Red Lion pub, pictured in the carriage, is about to take A Gurney, W Young, Charles Hammond and Frank Kern to Watford to enlist in World War One. They are standing in front of the schoolhouse.

Questions

- What memories do readers have of growing up or living in Sarratt?
- Did any readers drink in a Sarratt pub that no longer exists?
- How did Deadman's Ash Lane, in Sarratt, come to be named?
- Did any readers work for the John Dickinson paper mills in Apsley or Croxley Green?



This is a picture of Percy Saunders, taken in the mid-1920s. He was a baker from around 1923 to 1935.

"The parish goes down to the River Chess. There was Sarratt Mill, which was a corn mill but in the 18th Century was converted to a paper mill.

"It was quite a thriving paper mill for some time but they rather overstretched themselves by putting in a lot of big machinery. It all went bust in the 19th Century.

"There was a difficulty in transport. In comparison, John Dickinson was up-and-coming, with paper mills in Apsley and Croxley Green, and had a canal nearby which was excellent for transport.

"One of the enduring mysteries of the village is why Holy Cross Church is almost a mile from the village green. You would think at one time the centre of the village must have been down there but why it moved up there is still a mystery. Nice stories about traders bringing a plague from London to the church, which forced the village moved away haven't been proven.

"In World War Two, a pilot bailed out from his plane and set the controls of the plane to go out to sea, but it turned round and landed at Deadman's Ash Lane.

"It took the chimneys off some houses and landed in the playing fields. It was a miracle no-one was hurt.

"Also during the war, the Government took all the railings from around the green to go to make planes. Iron was precious so anything they could take they would. People used to sort bits of metal but I don't think Sarratt was to badly off in wartime.

"It's surrounded by farms so there was always lots of butter to have, even though there was strict rationing."

But Sarratt has remained a quintessential English village, Mrs Pitt said – a fact that is not lost on those who live there.

She said: "Essentially the village has remained a proper English village. The fact it's so close to Croxley Green and Watford and London and hasn't been developed, we're lucky to have it as such a lovely village.

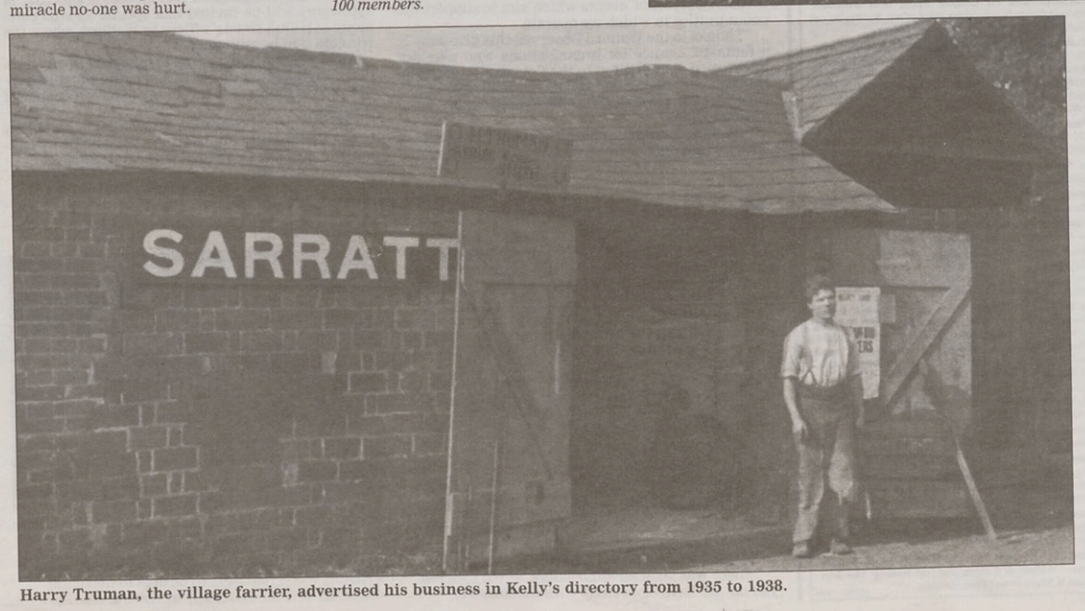
"We're very conscious that it could so easily be spoiled. People who live here are proud we have kept it as a village.

"Sarratt hasn't changed a lot and that's the way we like to keep it. It might look like a sleepy village but when you come to live here you never get a quiet moment."

The Sarratt Local History Society was formed in 1996 and currently has about 100 members.



An early view of London House, Sarratt, which was owned by the Wilbee family. It is now a private home.



Harry Truman, the village farrier, advertised his business in Kelly's directory from 1935 to 1938.

■ All pictures courtesy of A Postcard from Sarratt, compiled by Philip Buller. Available to buy at Sarratt Post Office Stores.

■ All photographs used in last week's Nostalgia, which focused on Abbots Langley, were provided courtesy of Abbots Langley Local History Society Parish Archive: David Spain Collection, except the fire brigade photograph: Dobson Collection.

Watford Observer
Share your memories

Do you have an answer, a question or some information for the Nostalgia page? If so, please email Michael Pickard at:
mpickard@london.newsquest.co.uk

Alternatively, write to Michael at the Watford Observer, Observer House, Caxton Way, Watford Business Park, Watford WD18 8RJ or telephone him on: 01923 216298.

Flashback

20 years ago
Friday, March 31, 1989
Luggage seller David Schafier, of Bushey Heath, turned his hand to telephone bidding on Sunday when he paid £2,000 for a famous handbag. Mrs Thatcher had given her beige handbag to the Capital Radio Help A London Child's charity. While listening to the radio, Mr Schafier decided he had to have the bag.

40 years ago
Friday, March 28, 1969
Eight thousand pounds! That is the sum Watford estimate it will cost them if they win promotion at the end of the season. Players', manager's and staff bonuses will make a large hole in the Watford budget, not to mention the money it would cost to strengthen the playing staff for Division 2 football. The players' bonuses are based on appearances. First team regulars could collect the best part of £500 if the club wins promotion in May.

60 years ago
Friday, April 1, 1949
Kings Langley's 1949-50 May Queen will be 15-year-old Phyllis Redding, of Toms-lane. Although she was Maid of Honour to the 1946-47 and 1948-49 Queens, Phyllis had to be persuaded to enter the competition, which took place at the Church House, Kings Langley, on Saturday.

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2008
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	20th / 13.0	6,17th/-0.9	6th /-5.2	11th / 14.2	109.6	1st snowfall of winter, 12th.
February	9th / 15.1	17th /-6.9	17th /-11.3	4th / 6.6	19.7	27th, woken at 1.00am by **earth tremor**, roof creaking, etc
March	30th / 15.4	5th /-3.9	5th /-6.1	15th / 22.9	88.3	10th, lowest air pressure since I started recording, 960mb.
April	26th / 21.7	8th /-3.9	8th /-6.7	29th / 21.4	60.8	last snow, last air frost & first cuckoo, 7th, 15th & 27th.
May	11th / 25.7	19th / 2.3	19th /-1.6	26th / 22.0	80.6	last ground frost, 20th.
June	9th / 26.1	16th / 5.3	16th / 1.8	2nd / 7.6	29.8	
July	28th / 28.9	4th / 4.5	4th / 1.1	9th / 22.5	75.6	28th, air temp already 24C at 10.00am.
August	30th / 25.6	15th / 6.0	15th / 1.4	31st / 32.8	107.1	
September	19,20/20.8	19,20,21/4.0	21st /-0.9	5th / 18.6	69.9	1st ground frost, 19th.
October	12th / 21.1	29th /-2.4	29th /-8.3	28th / 15.4	61.0	1st air frost & 1st snowfall, 22nd & 28th.
November	14th / 15.0	23rd /-3.4	23rd /-10.0	10th / 18.7	80.1	
December	20th / 12.8	30th /-5.9	30th /-10.6	13th / 17.0	41.7	

SUNDAY TIMES 12-4-09

Hertfordshire £15m

Grade II-listed and set in 44 acres, Great Westwood is a Georgian mansion once used by Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson as their hunting retreat. A wreck when the vendor bought it in 2005, the house has been completely refurbished. It has seven bedroom suites, four reception rooms and a host of outbuildings, plus three converted barns including a games room, a further two annexes and two cottages. It is 4½ miles from Rickmansworth

Agent: Savills; 020 7409 8885, savills.co.uk

They say: An outstanding contemporary country house

We say: The interior is a bit footballers' wives

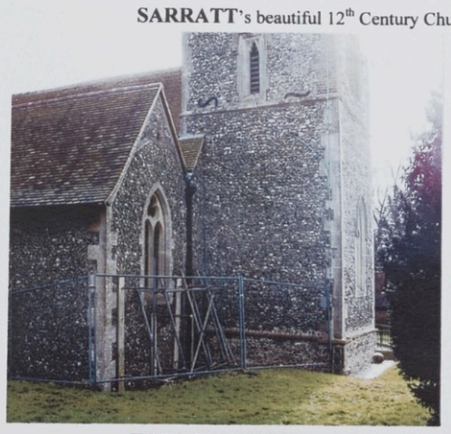


The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church. Registered Charity 1018991

FRIENDS' FLINTS

SARRATT's beautiful 12th Century Church has a big problem.





THE ANCIENT WEST WALL IS FALLING DOWN

We need to rebuild the West Wall

Please buy a flint for £10 and name it for posterity
The money raised will rebuild the wall

A digital photo of the wall has been split into 3,000 pieces. Choose a number from 1 to 3,000, or section of the wall, contribute £10 per flint (or 6 flints, with 6 numbers, for £50). Each one can be named individually and is ideal for you, your family, a friend, a memorial, a memory.

A beautiful Book of Flints has been commissioned and will have names inscribed therein.

The Church was founded in 1190. Let's rebuild it and add our names for the next 800 years.

Please contact Will Hobhouse (will.hobhouse@sarrattequity.com)
or Pat Parsons 01923-778241

2009

THE OLD RECTORY,
CHURCH LANE, SARRATT

Open Garden

(by kind permission of the Hobhouse family)

SATURDAY 9 MAY – 2 - 5pm

£5 entry (children under 12 free). Concessions.
Dogs welcome



THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS invite you
to join them for bluebells, tea, cakes, crafts, white elephant, raffle, plant sale, jazz band, face painting and other delectable, original, memorable and notable excitements!

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

PARKING - follow the signs:
In the field adjacent to the Church and walk across (shuttle available)
OR Disabled Parking at the Old Rectory

Charity number: 1018991

THREE RIVERS

Call for help to save historic church's wall

by **NEIL SKINNER**

PART of a historic church is in danger of collapsing unless costly repairs are made.

A small section of the west wall at Sarratt's 12th Century Holy Cross Church was found to be unsafe during routine maintenance work in December.

It has since been propped up with scaffolding poles but requires long-term repair works costing around £30,000 – money parishioners hope to raise with an unusual fundraising scheme.

Church volunteers have asked concerned residents to pay £10 for one of 3,000 micro sections of the refurbished wall.

Contributors' names will then be displayed in a specially-commissioned book inside.

Organiser Pat Parsons said: "We can't stand by and let this happen.

"This is such a beautiful old church.

"It has been here for more than 800 years so it is our duty to protect it.

"Sadly the money we need to spend is far beyond what we can afford so we're asking everybody to help.

"I remembered this idea from when I was at school in Dorset.

"We raised money to rebuild the school by charging people one pound each to sponsor a brick."

The project is just one of a number of rebuilds and refurbishments at the church since it opened in 1190 – one year after King Richard I ascended to the English throne.

Surprisingly, the affected wall, commissioned by then Rector Edward Ryley and designed by renowned architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, only dates back to the 1860s.

Sir George, who at one time worshipped at the church, is perhaps best remembered for his design of St Pancras Station.

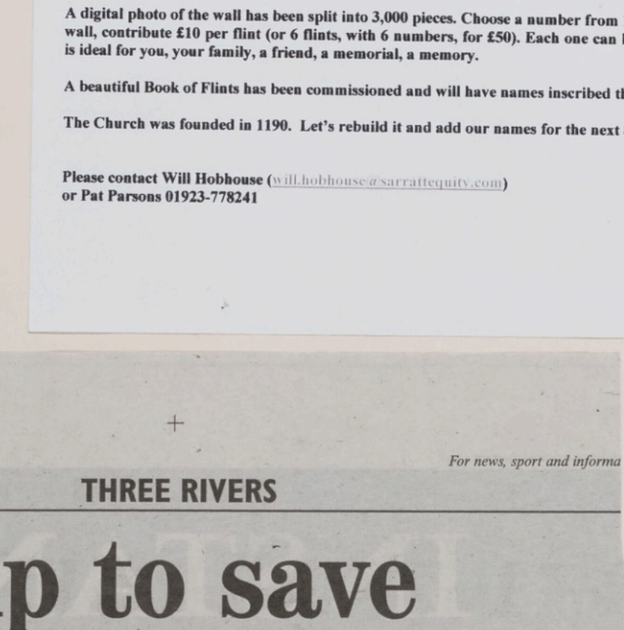
Church council member and historian John Guy explained that the mortar used to hold the flints of the wall was crumbling away, making it dangerously unstable.

He said: "The wall is made up of three layers; the inner made of bricks, the outer made of flint, and the gap filled with rubble.

"We're hoping that we only need to rebuild the outer part."

For more information or to make a donation, call Mrs Parsons on 01923 778241.

What do you think of this idea? Tell us by visiting our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



Pat Parsons by the wall which needs long-term repairing.
Picture 15E2102: HOLLY CANT

2009

Holy Cross Sarratt and St Paul's Chipperfield

COME DINE WITH ME

exploring Church together

You are invited to
explore different styles of church
at **11am** on the following Sundays:

31 May - Pentecost on Chipperfield Common
30 August - A Summer Celebration at Sarratt Village Hall
29 November - Advent at St Paul's Church, Chipperfield

to be followed on each occasion by a light lunch

2009

Evelyn Isabelle Topsy Smith

of The Woodyard, Deadmans Ash Lane, Sarratt

passed away suddenly on 11th May aged 64







The funeral will take place on Friday 29th May 12.30pm at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Followed by interment in the family grave at Vicarage Road Cemetery Watford

All Evelyns friends are invited to join her family afterwards at The Boot, Sarratt

Flowers or donations to
Holy Cross Church, Sarratt via
James Peddle, 10 Moneyhill Parade, Uxbridge Rd
Rickmansworth. 01923 772013

For more information contact Evelyns sisters:
Gloria Brownsell 01923 265534
Shirley Higgins 01923 267919

2009

01923 270577

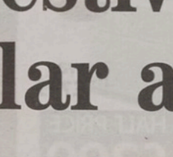
Sarratt
Care
2009

TEL: 01923 270577

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WE MEET REGULARLY IN SARRATT VILLAGE HALL OR SARRATT SCHOOL.

WE ARE CUSTODIANS OF THE SARRATT SCRAPBOOK WHICH DATES FROM **1859**



WE AIM TO RESEARCH THE PAST AND PRESERVE THE PRESENT IN OUR VILLAGE



WE HAVE OPEN DAYS, VISIT HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, HOLD EXHIBITIONS AND MUCH MORE.

FORTHCOMING TALKS:

MAY 12TH - THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF CHILTERN WOODLANDS
SEPT. 29TH - THE HISTORY OF THE PALACE THEATRE WATFORD
NOV. 24TH - OLD HERTFORDSHIRE MAPS
JAN. 26TH 2010 - THE STORY OF METROLAND

WHY NOT COME ALONG AND JOIN US!
CONTACT PAM TURNER 01923 264222 OR DAWN PITTS 01923 267071

SARRATT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Society will be held on

Tuesday May 12 2009

in Sarratt School.

John Morris

from the

Chilterns Woodland Project

will speak about

The History & Archaeology of Chiltern Woodlands

with some ideas about

Marginia Wick at Rosehall.

7.30pm for 8pm
Coffee or tea and biscuits.

All welcome.

NEWS Watford. 3 JULY 2009

Flower festival is 'as popular as ever'

COLIN & JAN PLUMMER

Cooking up a storm for visitors during Sarratt's flower festival. Picture 26E2715: PIPPA DOUGLAS

by **NEIL SKINNER**

MORE than 1,000 visitors young and old sampled the sights and sounds of the annual Holy Cross Church Flower Festival in Sarratt over a sun-soaked weekend.

The three day event, which raised funds for the upkeep of the village's 12th Century church, featured dozens of colourful floral exhibits, together with a range of food and entertainment stalls.

Co-organiser Marilyn Butler described the event as a quintessentially English village show, bringing together old and young, expert gardeners and keen amateurs.

She said: "The event was a wonderful success. We had fantastic weather over the three days and definitely more than 1,000 visitors over that time.

"The festival remains a very popular event in the village. At least 50 people volunteer to make it happen so it's a real team effort."

The festival finished on Monday.

Publicise your community events online on our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



One of the floral displays. Picture 26E2713: PIPPA DOUGLAS

WATFORD OBSERVER 31 JULY 2009

Time sealed in new flint work

by **NEIL SKINNER**

PARISHIONERS young and old gathered at Holy Cross Church in Sarratt on Monday morning to celebrate the restoration of a crumbling wall and the interring of a time capsule.

Worshippers at the 12th Century church were shocked last year to learn that its west wall was in danger of collapse unless costly repairs were made.

Since hearing the news in December, however, they have launched a £30,000 "buy a flint" fundraising campaign and overseen major renovations to the errant wall.

On Monday, as the specialist builders Lodge & Sons put the finishing touches to the refurbished wall, a time capsule was planted for future generations to discover.

Reverend Jim Stevens, who gently pushed the small plastic box into place, addressed a crowd of about 30 onlookers from the top of the scaffolding scaling the wall.

Speaking as the sun burst through the previously damp and cloudy sky, he said: "I would like to say a big thank you to everybody who has worked so hard on this restoration – to our builders and all the volunteers who have made this special project possible."

Talking later about the 25-item time capsule, he joked: "Who knows when it will be opened – if ever? I just hope I am not around to see it."

Church volunteer Pat Parsons, who organised a "buy a flint" campaign to raise funds for the work, added: "The project has been a great success but we still need to raise more money. We've raised £7,000 but still have a long way to go."

The project is the latest in a long line of rebuilds and refurbishments dating back to 1190, when the church first opened its doors.



The Rev Jim Stevens places the time capsule in the refurbished wall of Holy Cross Church.
Picture 31E0205: PIPPA DOUGLAS

The affected wall, however, dates back only to the 1860s. It is not known why the mortar holding together the flints has corroded so badly in the decades since, with theories ranging from shoddy Victorian workmanship to a simple act of God.

Items placed in the time capsule include: a prayer written for the occasion by Rev Stevens; a copy of the Spotlight parish magazine, a complete set of modern coins and the names of all the people who bought flints in the new wall.

Is your organisation planning to place a time capsule? What do you plan to include? Tell us by visiting *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*

JIM AND JULIA LAWRENCE + DAVID CLOUGH [CHURCH WARDENS]

ITEMS PLACED IN HOLY CROSS TIME CAPSULE 27th July 2009

1 A prayer written for the occasion by our Rector, the Rev. Jim Stevens.

2 Names of contributors towards the church wall repairs [i.e. who bought flints].

3 Details of the current repair work and the architects and builders involved [by John Guy].

4 Words and music of the Sarratt Hymn written by the Rev. Michael Hewlett.

5 Current guide to Holy Cross Church.

6 Church members on the current electoral register.

7 Copy of church accounts and details of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for 2009.

8 Current copy of 'Spotlight', our parish magazine.

9 A 'Friends of Holy Cross' garland brooch.

10 A current church 'Welcome', or 'Pew', sheet.

11 A 'Who's Who' leaflet for the united benefice of Sarratt and Chipperfield.

12 A leaflet about the 'Ask' service, 26th July, 2009.

13 A church pamphlet welcoming visitors to Holy Cross and containing a synopsis of Christ's time on earth, what his message was to us and what it means to us Christians.

14 Order of service for; the most recent wedding [Simon Eggs & Henrietta Phillips] and most recent funeral [Dick Machin] to be held at Holy Cross.

15 Holy Cross duty list for July 2009.

16 Hertfordshire County Association of Change-Ringers, annual report 2008 [giving details of the Sarratt bell ringers].

17 A Friends of Holy Cross tea towel depicting the lychgate.

18 A description of the village as it is in 2009 [by Dawn Pitts].

19 Annotated postcards and photographs of the church and village.

20 2009 programme for the Sarratt Local History Society.

21 2009 programme for the Sarratt Womens' Institute.

22 'New Walks on Old Paths', a book of 12 walks around Sarratt compiled by Sarratt W. I.

23 A 2009 Sarratt Care leaflet.

24 Set of the 'new' [2008] coinage, 1p - £1.

25 Sarratt Youth Project – details of projects for young people during 2009.

26 A copy of 'Sarratt Byways Re-visited' by Connie & Philip Buller.

NOTE: All metal staples were removed from magazines and all items were wrapped individually in acid-free tissue paper. A4 sized papers were similarly interleaved with tissue and lightly rolled to fit inside the box. Dawn Pitts & Philip Buller

The Church of the Holy Cross, Sarratt, Hertfordshire

Repairs to the West Wall of the Choir Vestry (the North Aisle), 2009 A. D.

The choir vestry was built in the 1860s as part of the major programme of restoration instigated by Revd. Edward Ryley, Rector of Holy Cross Church.

The repair work in 2009 has involved the replacement of the outer flint facing and loose rubble core of the west wall. This loose core had appeared to date from the mid-twentieth century, consisting of a mixture of rubble from building works, pieces of broken dressed stone, brick and tile, all without a binder such as lime or cement. Also, the repairs have required new brickwork within the core around the window.

The architect and building contractors for the repairs, who were also responsible for other repairs, painting and decorating of Holy Cross Church in 2008, are as follows:

Architect: Barry Roberts Dip Arch, RIBA AABC.
Barry Roberts is a Chartered Architect based in Hertfordshire, specialising in church buildings. He is an Inspecting Architect under the Inspection of Churches Measure and is on the register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation.

Building Contractors: Lodge & Sons (Builders) Limited.
Lodge & Sons, based in Dunmow, Essex, specialise in church conservation and restoration work. The firm's contract manager is Phil Attesley.

Clients for the project are the Rector, Revd. Jim Stevens, and the Parochial Church Council of Holy Cross. Liaison with the architect and builders is made through the PCC's Building Sub-Committee, particularly through BSC member Colin Plummer, who is PCC Hon. Treasurer and is a retired builder.

Funding for the project is being sought from The Friends of Holy Cross, Sarratt This charitable trust, created in 1990, the year of Holy Cross Church's 800th anniversary celebrations, raises funds for the care and conservation of Holy Cross. The total cost of the project is likely to be between £35,000 and £40,000.

The inspiration for the Friends of Holy Cross logo is a Tudor button brooch found in the churchyard by Edward Ryley. The logo - a garland of friendship around the cross - symbolises the way in which all friends of this lovely church can support the Friends and help ensure Holy Cross Church remains in a good state of repair for the benefit of generations to come.

Holy Cross Building Sub-Committee:
Linda Clough; David Clough (Churchwarden); Julia Lawrence (Churchwarden); John Parsons; Colin Plummer; Derek Woolcock; John Guy.

John Guy, 15 July 2009

The Village of Sarratt, July 2009

This is Sarratt now: a hilltop village in the south-west of the County of Hertfordshire, in the administrative District of Three Rivers. It borders Buckinghamshire to the West, Dacorum District to the North, Watford to the East and Rickmansworth to the South. At its centre is a village green about 800 metres long surrounded by houses and cottages, most built in the 19th century, with more modern housing spreading out along a few side roads. The population is about 2000 spread over a rural area of some 2,590 hectares including the hamlets of Belsize, Chandlers Cross, Commonwood and Bucks Hill. Property prices are very high compared with national figures, as good transport links to London mean many people commute to work there, using the M25 motorway or the Metropolitan Railway. Most families own 1or 2 cars, there is a bus service between Watford and Hemel Hempstead but only every 2 hours. A small two-bedroom cottage facing the Green will fetch nearly £300,000, whi
impossible amount for born and bred local youngsters, who have to m
Older people also often have to move away as there is no dedicated re
Sarratt is largely agricultural, with wheat and rape grown on the clay s
chalk slopes. There are many horses for recreational use. One of Hertf
watercress beds is owned and run by the Tyler family at Sarratt Botto
There is one general store and post office, Biggerstaff's garage selling
repairs, and three pubs within the village. Sarratt Junior School is flou
from rising 5 to11, with about 120 pupils, many of whom come from
Children from 11+ have to travel to schools in Chorleywood, Rickma
Langley.
Sarratt is a friendly place with many local activities, clubs and societie
of a millennium grant to rebuild our village hall, which now comfortab
several more small rooms attached, well used by local groups.
The Local History Society was formed in 1996 and currently has abou
incredibly fortunate to have the Sarratt Scrapbook in 4 large volumes,
1859, began by local Rectors Edward and Gilbert Ryley, and continue
Local History Society. We sincerely hope that it is still being preserve
these notes come to light! There are tennis, football and cricket clubs,
Club. Sarratt Care looks after the needs of elderly and sick residents w
and a fortnightly Coffee Morning which includes haircutting and chiro
Club also for the retired meets once a month, as do the two Women's
afternoon and one in the evening. The large Horticultural Society stag
where villagers compete for the best home grown flowers and vegetab
The Green was planted in 2000 to mark the Horti's centenary, it was
Sarratt Pantomime and Light Alternative Theatre (SPLAT) produces
once a year, and the Sarratt Festival of Music every September attract
performers. We care for the environment too, Sarratt Wildlife Volunte
on a Sunday morning to work on the local commons owned by the Pa
tier of Local Government. Commons and the Village Green are open
all. Allotments – areas of ground owned by the Parish Council and re
each year are well used for the growing of vegetables and fruit.
Other highlights of the village year are a gathering of old vehicles on the Green on Boxing Day, the May Fair on 1st May which stays for 2 days, the Holy Cross Flower Festival at the end of June, and the Bonfire and Firework display on The Green on Nov. 5th.
We send greetings to whoever finds this Time Capsule, inserted in the Church wall at the time of necessary repairs in July 2009. The notes and box were compiled by Mrs Dawn Pitts, President of the Sarratt Local History Society, and Mr Philip Buller, Keeper and Compiler of the Sarratt Scrapbooks

HOLY CROSS · SARRATT ·

A prayer written by the Rector of Sarratt the Rev. Jim Stevens on the occasion of the insertion of a Time Capsule into the West Wall of Holy Cross Church

27th July 2009

2009

THREE RIVERS

Charity flourishes in modest setting

by **NEIL SKINNER**

THINK of a cutting-edge medical research institution and you'd be forgiven for imagining a gleaming glass fronted clinic set against among the rolling hills of Switzerland; supported by a multi-million pound budget and staffed by hoards of white coated researchers.

Yet, nestled away in a quiet corner of Sarratt Village exists a determined group of volunteers at the very forefront of the battle against one of the most baffling, debilitating illnesses known to the medical world – Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Commonly known as ME, the illness affects more than 250,000 patients in the UK alone; confining many sufferers to bed and leaving countless others unable to enjoy a normal life.

Sympathy, however, has for a long-time been in short supply, with many sufferers exposed to ridicule and contempt – in many cases by the medical profession itself, which has been unable to find a definitive cause (let alone a cure) since the condition was first classified in the 1960s.

The CFS Research Foundation, run by small team of part-time staff and volunteers from a garden office in the village, has, since its launch in 1993, fought to right these wrongs, commissioning more than £1 milllion of research and helping to educate the professional world.

Director Anne Faulkner founded the charity with her late husband after witnessing the effects of the illness on a close family member. Her goal is to improve understanding, research treatments and develop a diagnostic test.

She said: "We're fighting against a really cruel and debilitating illness; to help find a cure and also to educate people about the condition.

"It affects people in different ways; some simply can't get out of bed and others can just about hold down a full-time job but collapse into bed at the end of it.

"I doubt there will be a single cure in my life-time but our understanding is growing all the time and people's attitudes are changing.

"In the past many people, including doctors, would just say 'pull yourself together and get on with it.' There was a real stigma attached to it.

"As a foundation we've achieved some great results with some of the leading academics in the field."

Theses results have directly contributed to an enhanced understanding of the 88 genes damaged by the condition.

Mrs Faulkner admits the foundation is far from typical. It is however, successful.

She added: "When we first started people said we would get nowhere with it; that we could discover nothing on our own.

"But in the last few years we've really moved mountains.

"You don't need luxury offices to get things done."

Read ME sufferer Stacy Hart's blog on our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



The CFS team work out of Sarratt.



Sarratt

Reception • cloaks • sitting room • dining room • study • kitchen/breakfast room • utility • master bed with en-suite • 3 further beds • family bath • garage • gardens.

Guide Price £985,000

rickmansworth@savills.com 01923 773171

OPTIMA 20-09-08



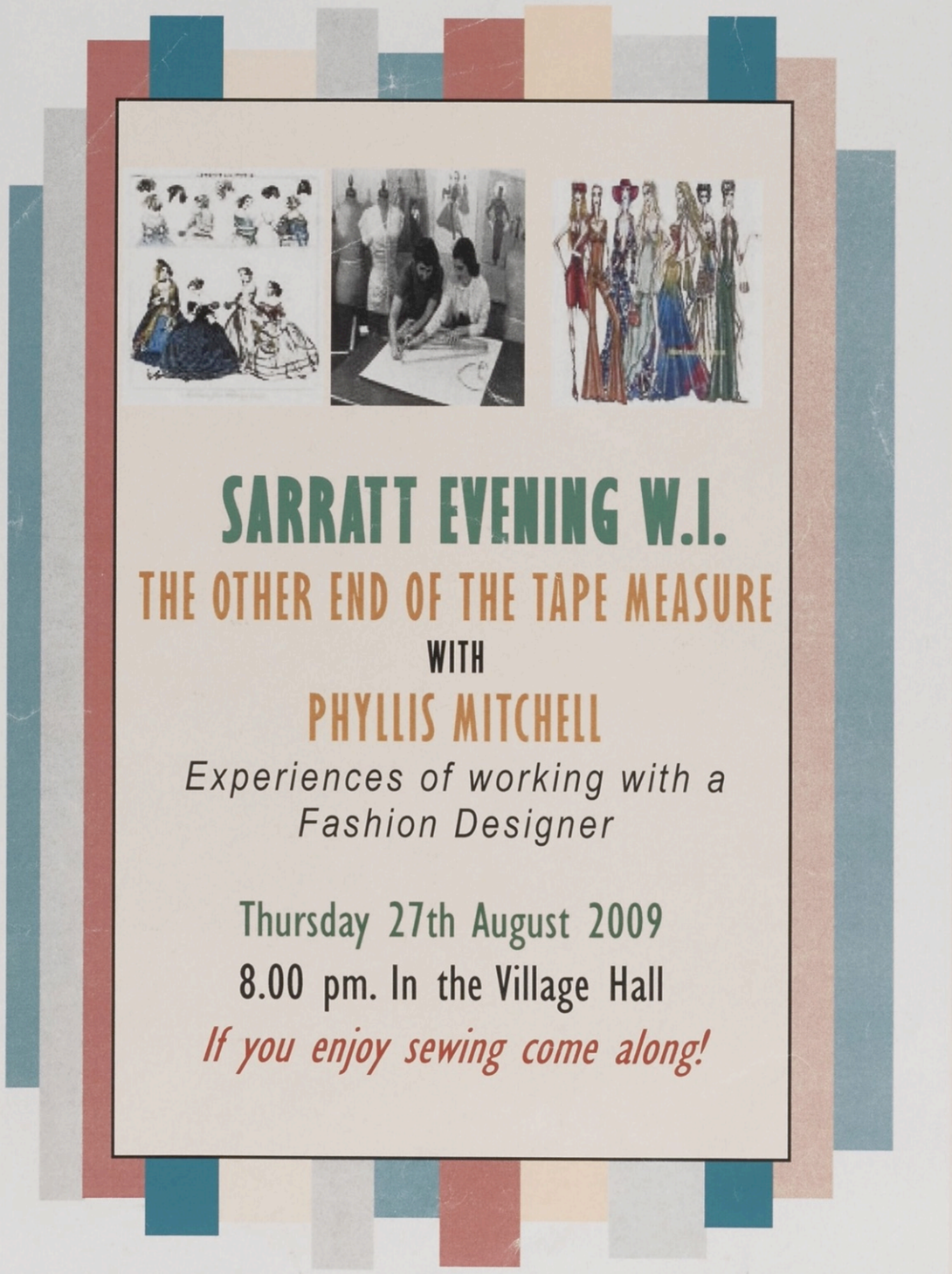
The Green, Sarratt

OPTIMA 26-9-09

Reception hall • 3 reception rooms • study • kitchen & breakfast room • cloakroom • utility room • excellent master suite • 4 further beds • bathroom • shower room • double & single garages • office • garden store & wc • heated swimming pool • attractive grounds in all about 3.5 acres.

Guide Price £2,250,000

Savills Rickmansworth rickmansworth@savills.co.uk 01923 773171





Great Westwood, in Hertfordshire, might soon have new Chinese owners

No comparing with Kowloon

THE TIMES 3-10-09

Behind the news

Anne Ashworth

For mainland China's 100 billionaires, there is a new status symbol — a house in the English shires. The usually gossipy country house trade is staying tight-lipped about which Chinese entrepreneur is buying what — although some estate agencies concede that staff are busy learning Mandarin.

But it is strongly rumoured that the Grade II-listed Great Westwood in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, is being acquired for £11.3 million by a big name from Beijing or Shanghai. The seven-bedroom Georgian house, every inch recently renovated, went up for sale in the spring for £15 million. It last changed hands in 2005 for £5.5 million — but, at that time, the property, which sits in 44 acres, needed a facelift.

Sir David Tang, the Hong Kong entrepreneur, points out that £11 million is a trifle, mere "tuck shop money" for one of the figures on the *Hurun Rich List* of China's 1,000 wealthiest people. Sir David, founder of the Shanghai Tang chain, adds that the typical £2.5 million price of an English manor house would not finance a deluxe apartment in Hong Kong, whose booming property market he says has been bolstered by "monumentally wealthy" mainland Chinese investors. Penthouse apartments in Kowloon are being marketed for HK$300 million dollars (£24.3 million).

Great Westwood is mentioned in Pevsner's *The Buildings of England* and was used as a hunting lodge by Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Savills' sale brochure says the house features an "entertainment barn" and a "programmable scene lighting system".

It is unclear whether Great Westwood's buyer will also become the owner of the house's other lavish fixtures and fittings.

Log in

THIS WEEK'S PICKS
Natural Disasters
Small & Medium Businesses

ORGANISING THE NEWS

Top Stories World Domestic Politics Business Society Technology Entertainment

Full Coverage

Two British tourists killed in Vietnam boating accident



telegraph.co.uk

telegraph.co.uk 27-Sep-2009 **Story Timeline: 12 days**

Two British tourists in their twenties have drowned in a boating accident in Vietnam after their vessel overturned during a storm. Two British tourists have drowned in a boating accident in Vietnam after their vessel overturned during a storm. Photo: GETTY A French man and two Vietnamese are also among the dead, while many other passengers have been treated in hospital for shock and hypothermia. The pleasure boat sank in strong winds on Thursday evening with twenty-five tourists and seven crew members on board. A French tourist who survived the tragedy said the tourists, as well as the Britons, included visitors from South African, America, Australia and Japan. The other passengers were saved by the crews of other boats cruising Halong Bay, a world heritage site famous for the dramatic limestone peaks that jut from its... [read full story]

Add Comment

Latest article on this story:

UK & World News: Vietnam boat accident Britons named — journallive.co.uk 28-Sep-2009

First article on this story:

Three dead as tour boat capsizes in Vietnam — earthtimes.org 25-Sep-2009

Selected publications with coverage of this story:

inthenews.co.uk theage.com.au news24.com newslookup.com channel4.com journallive.co.uk telegraph.co.uk earthtimes.org news.com.au itn.co.uk vietnamnews.net scotsman.com

RELATED FROM UK SOURCES

Found 58 documents:

UK & World News: Vietnam boat accident Britons named
journallive.co.uk 28-Sep-2009
Vietnam boat accident Britons named Two British tourists who drowned when a boat overturned in seas off Vietnam have been named by police. Tim Roney, 21, was from Sarratt, Hertfordshire, and Karen Puddifoot, 27, was from...

Vietnam boat accident Britons named
liverpoolecho.co.uk 28-Sep-2009
Two British tourists who drowned when a boat overturned in seas off Vietnam have been named by police. Tim Roney, 21, was from Sarratt, Hertfordshire, and Karen Puddifoot, 27, was from Northwood, London, Hertfordshire Police...

Vietnam boat accident Britons named
gazettelive.co.uk 28-Sep-2009

Newstin

Click to Vi

My News

Use + My N shortcuts t here.

Context

Topi Trans Accic Disas Storn Marit Natur

Regic Vietn

Intelligen

About Us

Visit our to learn company

GRAPEVINE MOVIES

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER
SARRATT VILLAGE HALL

4.30pm for 5pm (PG)

Come and find out what happens if the stories you've been told by your uncle magically come true? A recent DVD release starring Adam Sandler.





7.30 for 8pm (PG)

The new season opens with the critically acclaimed film about Queen Victoria's early rise to power—'A romantic feast'; 'Swirling with passion and intrigue'; 'A must-see!'

All welcome!

*** Hot dogs * Ice creams * Bar ***

Entrance by donation (no advance tickets)

Film titles via the Village Grapevine!

Further information from
julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com / 01923 260504

HOLY CROSS SARRATT

Harvest Breakfast
at
"The Cock"
11th October 2009
You have ordered:
Menu 2
Fried Egg
Name Philip Buller
You have Paid

Harvest Breakfast
at
"The Cock"
11th October 2009
You have ordered:
Menu 2
Fried Egg
Name Liz Smith
You have [redacted] Paid

HOLY CROSS SARRATT

The Rector and Churchwardens
of Holy Cross Church Sarratt
invite you to .....

A HARVEST CELEBRATION

10am on Sunday 11 October 2009

To give thanks to God for all His goodness to us
To seek to discern God's purposes for us in the days ahead
To consider what our own part in that vision might be

8.45am to 9.30am BREAKFAST AT THE COCK
Coffee after the Service

RSVP to Colin Plummer
by Monday 5 October—reply card enclosed



The Benefice of Holy Cross Sarratt &
St Paul's Chipperfield
Invite you to
SARRATT VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER
From 6:30pm, Presentation at 7pm.
Followed by a light supper
RSVP

Yvonne Collette
yvonne.collette@sky.com
01923 261076

Jeannie Poulton
alan.poulton@talktalk.net
01923 260295

or sign the list at the back of either church

2009.

Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

Sarratt Village Hall
24 October



Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm supper
dancing 'til 11.30pm

with

Professional caller and live Band

Tickets from Colin Plummer (263123)
Adults - £11; children 12 and under - £8.
licensed bar, raffle.
All proceeds to The Bishop's Harvest Appeal

THE LAWRENCE FAMILY INVITE YOU

TO

A CHAMPAGNE AND PASTY PARTY

MONDAY 28 DECEMBER

AT

12 NOON

MICKLEFIELD GREEN HOUSE,
SARRATT



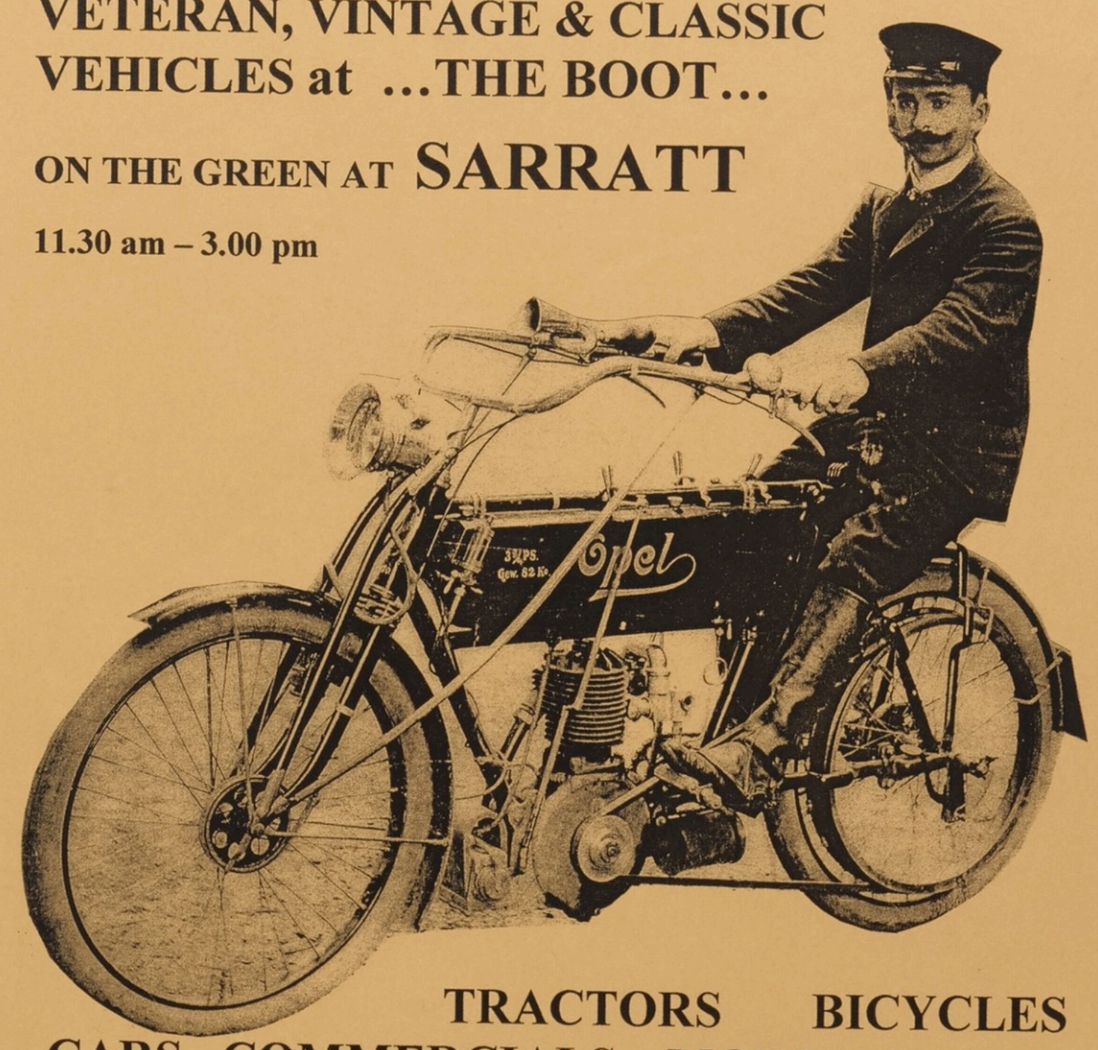
RSVP: email julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com
or telephone julia on 01923 260504
(giving an indication of numbers coming – any family members
who may be staying with you would be more than welcome!)

BOXING DAY GATHERING

VETERAN, VINTAGE & CLASSIC VEHICLES at …THE BOOT…

ON THE GREEN AT SARRATT

11.30 am – 3.00 pm



TRACTORS BICYCLES
CARS COMMERCIALS MOTORCYCLES

IF YOU HAVE AN OLDER VEHICLE OF INTEREST PLEASE BRING IT ALONG

THERE WILL BE A CHARITY COLLECTION FOR FOR CANCER RESEARCH

£310 Collected for Cancer Research on 26 December 2008

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2009
taken by Philip Buller at Littlr Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize

	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	date /max.	total	
January	22nd / 9.8	7th /-9.4	7th /-14.5	21st / 12.5	75.0	10th, max air temp only -0.6C.
February	27th / 14.5	3rd /-10.4	3rd /-16.1	9th / 27.4	61.9	last snowfall, 12th. 9th, wettest Feb day, 1980-2013.
March	16th / 16.4	30th /-3.4	30th /-6.3	3rd / 12.7	26.7	last air frost, 30th.
April	21st / 21.2	1,28 / 0.0	1st /-2.6	16th / 10.3	43.6	
May	24,31/24.0	4,6th / 2.5	10th /-0.8	14th / 10.8	30.5	
June	30th / 29.3	4th / 4.1	4th / 0.0	7th / 29.4	104.8	27th, hailstones 16mm diam, ice pieces 22mm across.
July	2nd / 29.1	10th / 8.8	10th / 2.9	2nd / 10.1	78.1	
August	19th / 28.6	22nd / 6.0	30th / 0.1	6th / 19.3	51.7	
September	8th / 27.2	25th / 4.5	13th / 0.6	2nd / 12.1	13.7	
October	11th / 19.4	18th / 0.5	18th /-1.3	7th / 7.9	47.9	1st ground frost, 18th.
November	1st / 16.2	10th / 0.0	10th /-5.7	13th / 20.0	155.5	
December	5th / 12.1	21st /-11.9	21st /-14.2	29th / 15.7	100.6	1st air frost & 1st snow, 1st & 16th. 18th, 15cms snow depth.

OBE for man who changed the rules for disabled racers

by **MICHAEL PICKARD**



David Butler has revolutionised motor sport for disabled people. Picture 01F0515: HOLLY CANT

MOTOR racing fans looking through the New Years Honours List will be thrilled to see Jenson Button has received an MBE.

One name they may not recognise, however, just above that of the reigning Formula One world champion, is David Butler, a man who has revolutionised motor sport for disabled people.

Speaking to the Watford Observer after hearing he would become an MBE, he said: "I'm absolutely delighted at the honour."

Watford-born David suffered devastating injuries aged 11 when he found an unexploded bomb on Ivinghoe Beacon.

In the explosion, he lost his left hand at the wrist, his left leg below the knee and his right leg above the knee and spent two-and-a-half years in hospital.

Search teams later found 57 more unexploded bombs from when the site was used as a mortar training ground during the war.

David attended Hemel Hempstead Grammar School and became the youngest ever person to appear on This Is Your Life, when aged 17 he was presented with the big red book by presenter Eamonn Andrews on March 5, 1962.

But it was when he was 13 that he decided to pursue a career in motor racing.

David, 65, from Commonwood, Sarratt, said: "My uncle took me to Silverstone and I met Stirling Moss.

"At that point all I wanted to do was motor racing.

"It took me 30 years to get my licence. I was turned down 14 times."

He is now chairman of British Motor Sport for the Disabled, which was formed in 1987 to help people with disabilities to get their Motor Sports Association licences.

In 1991, David passed his own assessment, leading the way for other disabled drivers, and has since obtained his full international race and rally licences.

He has competed in more than 600 events, including 110 British and World Championship rallies, in a left-hand drive car so he can change gear with his right hand.

He also uses a vacuum-operated clutch controlled by a lever on the gear stick.

A ball on the wheel is used to steer but the brake and accelerator pedals are the same as a standard car.

With the association's help, more than 200 people have now earned their licences to compete in racing, rallying and karting.

Their disabilities range from paraplegia and amputations to multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

Asked what he enjoys about motor racing, David said: "It's the thrill of driving cars at the limit and racing wheel-to-wheel with other people. It's great fun.

"It's allowed people to hope. If they wanted to, they could actually do it but, before, there was a ban on disabled people racing.

"I'm very proud of that achievement. It took a long time to do it.

"This honour is recognition of myself and lots of other people who have supported me in getting the rules changes and that's really lovely."

David, who is married to Marilyn and has two daughters and one grandson, is also due to be presented with the Prince Michael Award for services to motor sport in March.

Have you devoted time to bringing about change for others? Tell us by visiting *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*

This was Breda Tiernan of Carron Drive, on her way home from a W.I. Marmalade Making Morning. She sustained a broken leg + had a metal plate inserted 4/2/10

Watford Obse

For news, sport and information online visit www.watfordobserver.co.uk

THREE RIVERS

Woman knocked down

A WOMAN in her 70s was taken to hospital on Monday morning after she was knocked down by a car in Sarratt.

The woman, who lives locally, was hurt at about 10.30am near Biggerstaffs Garage, in Dimmocks Lane.

It is believed that the car involved skidded on ice when attempting to stop.

The woman was helped by garage staff and an off-duty policeman before an ambulance arrived and took her to Watford General Hospital.

Ambulance spokesman Garry Sanderson said she had received a "minor head injury".



The road in Sarratt where the pensioner was knocked down. Picture 05F0406: HOLLY CANT

MARCH 2010

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposed Development at :

Car Park Adjacent To Church End Cottages For Church Of The Holy Cross Church Lane

Planning Application Reference number :

09/1270/FUL

Notice is hereby given that an application has been submitted to Three Rivers District Council by Church Of The Holy Cross for planning permission in respect of the following proposal :

Removal of existing portaloo and erection of disabled toilet facilities

A copy of the plans submitted may be inspected online at www2.threerivers.gov.uk/publicaccess/

OR

Three Rivers District Council Offices, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1RL, between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.15 pm Mondays to Fridays.

AND ALSO

Sarratt Parish Council Offices

Any person who wishes to make representations to the above mentioned Council about these applications, should make then in writing to the Planning Department at the above address no later than:

DATE:

For further information please contact the Customer Service Centre on 01923 776611.

Artist Jan Clutterbuck dies aged 90



Jan Clutterbuck in her studio at Pentlands in Sarratt.

by **GRELLE WHITE**

AMERICAN-BORN artist, Jan Clutterbuck, who has died at the age of 90, initially found the transfer from Manhattan to the village of Sarratt quite a culture shock. Lonely, too.

From a hectic life working for Time magazine in stylish New York, Jan stepped into the romantic role of lady of the manor at Micklefield Hall she found aspects of a hunting, fishing, shooting lifestyle both here and in Scotland, she had not quite bargained for, when she married Jeremy Clutterbuck, the handsome young Englishman she had met in France and Ireland during the war.

Jan had joined the American Red Cross in 1943 at a time when all her girlfriends were getting married and having babies and she still had not cured a desire to do something adventurous with her life.

She met Jeremy, who was in the Lovat Scouts until he was invalided out and detailed to drive the Red Cross Club mobile, Jan was in Ireland.

They shared the experience of landing in Normandy shortly after D-Day. During her time in Europe, she visited Micklefield Hall, but at the end of the war returned to New York.

When, in 1952, Jeremy Clutterbuck crossed the Atlantic to propose marriage, she accepted.

Jan realised from the start she had to plough her own furrow in rural England in order to survive. Initially she offered her (non-qualified) services to teach at an American school in Denham. With the advent of her two children and time on her hands at home, she turned to art.

Jan soon uncovered an unexpected talent for painting and satisfied her career-girl ambition for reaching the top, when her work was accepted by the Royal Academy – twice – back in the 1970s.

During that period, she also chaired the Women's International Art Club.

At this point, the family had moved from Micklefield Hall, via Chandlers Cross, to Pentlands in Sarratt, where Jan immersed herself in both her art and village life.

After being cloistered in the hunting-fishing fraternity she delighted in the move to Sarratt because she got to know "real people".

As she would say: "Art liberated me. I realised I could be an American in England. I didn't have to be reserved."

With her new-found career and confidence, Jan started teaching art as well as painting and selling her work, delicate landscapes and humorous animals, through London galleries. From teaching evening classes, she moved on to running classes at the village hall and at her studio at home. She painted her last picture, a watercolour, on the Monday before she died, on Thursday, January 14, and was due to teach the following day.

Despite increasing physical disability, Jan remained bright, generous and humorous with a sharp, but endearing wit and earned her colours as an American English eccentric driving her electric scooter round Sarratt with her Pekinese, Emma, in a basket in front.

In their early days of marriage, Jeremy, who died in 1992, gave her a Pekinese dog to combat loneliness and she stayed true to the breed for the rest of her life.

Jan loved encouraging young artists and once a year would share her gallery and her home with other artists and crafts people to put on weekend shows for charity, initially for village causes and in recent years for Watford Peace Hospice.

She leaves a son, Benjamin, who lives and works in property in London, and a daughter, Camilla, a professional artist, based in Chorleywood.

The family is arranging a memorial service to celebrate the life of Jan Clutterbuck at a date to be announced later.

Did you know Jan? Leave your tributes by visiting our website at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*

Janette Corbett Clutterbuck Obituary:

CLICK TO VIEW OUR INVENTORY Riverbank Volksv
42 West Broad St
Stamford, CT · 866.308.5182

greenwich time.com

Search greenwichtime.com

Home News Sports Business Entertainment Obit

Resources Send Flowers Now

Obituary

Janette Corbett Clutterbuck | Visit Guest Book



JANETTE CORBETT CLUTTERBUCK, 90 (nee Diefendorf) passed away peacefully on January 14, 2010, in Sarratt, England. She was born on July 16, 1919 and resided in Putnam Park, Greenwich until her marriage to Jeremy Rupert Humphrey Clutterbuck in 1952, when she moved to England. Jan served in the American Red Cross in Europe during World War II. She met her future husband in Ireland, where he was serving with the Lovett Scouts in Donegal, Ireland. She was the daughter of the late Seir A. Diefendorf and Janette Corbett Diefendorf and step-daughter of the late Agnes Keeney Diefendorf. She was sister to the late Mary Jane Diefendorf Lee of Greenwich and half-sister to the late Edith Keeney Horn of Darien. Jan is survived by her children, Camilla of Chorleywood, UK and Benjamin of London, UK; and by two nieces, Susan Horn Corey, of Newtown, and Jean Horn Grimsley of Georgetown, Texas. In her long and active life, Jan was an artist. She was accepted and exhibited twice at the Royal Academy Summer Show and, during the 1970's, was Chair of the Women's International Art Club. One of the many exhibits she organized was an exchange show in 1976 between Rye, NY and Rye, East Sussex, UK. She produced her last painting on January 11, 2010.

Follow this Obituary
Follow on Facebook
Get Email Updates
Share with Others

Published in GreenwichTime on January 27, 2010

Nicholas P. Catcliffe
13 Snells Wood Court, Cokes Lane Amersham, Bucks., HP7 9QT
Tel. 0149[illegible] 763973

29/3/10

Mr P Buller

Thanks for your phone call + the interesting facts about the church (where we were married in Dec 1940 by candlelight – I was delayed 24 hours by gales in the Irish sea) and for sending me 3 copies of your book. I'm sure others will find it v. interesting

Nick Catcliffe

2010

About Sarratt







■ LES MAPLE LAUNCHES A NEW SERIES FOCUSING ON VILLAGES VISITED BY THE CHILTERN WAY

THE CHILTERNS AONB IS ENDOWED WITH A GREAT number of picturesque villages, many providing both historical and modern interest. Visitors come from near and far to enjoy the area for its scenery, for its plethora of walking routes, to visit and/or photograph some of the historic buildings and churches, to sample the fare provided by the local hostelries or perhaps to see if they can discover the location where a film or TV series has been shot. In future issues I hope to talk to local residents to discover what attributes and attractions they think would encourage visitors to come to their village. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Chiltern Way and it seemed appropriate to start the series by visiting villages on or close to the route – hence the chosen village of Sarratt.

Sarratt, a small parish of approximately 1,540 acres, is situated on a ridge on the Hertfordshire side of the Bucks/Herts boundary. To the south is the town of Rickmansworth and to the east is the larger town of Watford. The River Chess flows to the west and south west of the village as it meanders through the valley, providing another popular walking route – the Chess Valley Walk. There is historical evidence of Sarratt going back to approximately 700 AD, although in those days I suspect that the manor consisted of scattered farms and dwellings. The village name has seen many changes, being known as Syret during the 10th century, changing to Syreth and Sarette before acquiring its current name during the 16th century.

Top left and middle: The Church of The Holy Cross and Goldingtons – both film sets for Four Weddings and a Funeral
Top right: Across the frozen village pond towards the Cricketers pub
Photos: Les Maple

For those approaching from the A404 Rickmansworth - Amersham road, after descending North Hill and crossing the Chess Valley, the road ascends to reach the tiny settlement of Church End. This small hamlet consists of a large manor house (Goldingtons); a row of almshouses, founded originally by John Baldwin in 1770 and rebuilt in 1821 by Ralph Day at a cost of £201.10s.1d.; the Church of The Holy Cross; and the Cock Inn. The Chiltern Way passes a kissing gate leading into the churchyard.

The Church of The Holy Cross dates from c1190. It is a monastic, cruciform structure built in a Transitional-Norman style. Its 15th century tower is unique in that it has a rare saddleback roof, seen only on three other churches in the country. It was also discovered that some of the tower bricks were of Roman origin. They were thought to have come from a nearby Roman villa, which no longer exists. During the period 1864-66 a major programme of restoration took place under the direction of architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, who worshipped at the church. The font, in the Baptistry, is made of Purbeck marble and is modelled on the 12th century original, which can be seen near the Jacobean pulpit in the nave. The church and the exterior of Goldingtons were used as sets in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

I lunched at the nearby Cock Inn. Originally called 'The Cock Horse', the building is thought to be 17th century and oozes charm and character. They provide a wide selection of traditional English meals and a super range of real ales including Tanglefoot, Sussex Ale and Pickled Partridge. The Inn also provides senior citizen specials and later this year they are holding their second Gourmet Evening. It also has a 17th century Barn Restaurant which is available for small functions. The landlord, Brian Eccles, informed me that his customers came from far and wide. Sitting at the next table were an elderly lady and her daughter from the Watford area. The latter said she remembered that when she was 11 or 12 years old she went to an annual fair that used to be held every May on Sarratt Green.

In deteriorating wet weather I made the ¾ mile journey to the crossroads near the centre of the village. The road sign indicated that if I turned right it would take me to Croxley Green, and left to Chipperfield. Looking to the left I could see the dell and, beyond it, the elongated village green stretching up over the brow of the hill. The dell is thought to have been the village sand and gravel pit. It was around the Green that, during the 17th century, the linear village started to develop and there are quite a number of interesting properties, so it was rather unfortunate that I had chosen a rather damp and overcast day to make my visit.

The Village Hall, near the dell, hosts many events including a music festival, horticultural shows, the annual pantomime, dancing, and film shows – providing a rich variety of activities. The local Women's Institute, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, meets there, as does the Sarratt Local History Society. They meet five times a year and welcome new members (contact Pam Turner 01923 267000 for further details) – a good source should you want to delve deeper into the history of Sarratt.

A little further along is the Cricketers pub. The village once had four pubs, the others being the Boot (early 18th century), the Red Lion and the Wheatsheaf. The latter two have closed and are now private houses. Access to the village from the Chiltern Way can be made along the road leading from Dawes Common. Gabriel Dyer, a proprietor of the Cricketers between 1890 and 1931, was also the village wheelwright. He used a nearby pond, covered by a thin layer of ice on the day of my visit, to cool the metal rims that went around the base of the cartwheels.

To the left of the Green is Sarratt Stores and Post Office. The building has been a shop since the early 1900s, originally run by the Wingfield family. It is now the only shop in the village and was once featured in a children's television film called *The Demon Headmaster*. When I asked the person who served me if they had many visitors coming to the village, she said that the majority of people she met were walkers, especially during the summer months. The area is noted for its scenery and the footpaths are well marked and maintained, no doubt thanks to the local Path Maintenance Volunteers.

I had parked my car near a telephone kiosk at the edge of the Green. A sign on the house on the left indicated that it had once been the 'Curlew Café', a derelict looking place. I then discovered that it had never been a café at all but a backdrop for another children's TV series called *Home Farm Twins*.

Just beyond the Boot Inn on the northern section of the green I found a rather rusty looking green circular structure – the former village pump. Feeling rather wet and bedraggled I did not venture further to see two of the village's other notable buildings, Great Sarratt Hall and Little Sarratt Hall – once both owned by the Day family.

The village has a connection with a well known literary figure – John le Carre. He discovered the village in 1949 when working as a sales assistant in a shop in Watford High Street. He saw Sarratt as a forgotten piece of England – a 'secret haven'. It was to remain in his thoughts as he based his fictional spy training school 'The Nursery' on the village. In his story, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* traitor Bill Haydon, wearing striped pyjamas beneath an overcoat, is found late at night sitting on a bench near the cricket pitch – his eyes are open and his neck broken. With those shivering thoughts I made my escape from the village!

If you are interested in seeing what Sarratt looked like in the early 1900s there is a book called *A Postcard from Sarratt* by Philip Buller. It costs £9.99 and can be bought at the village store.



Post Office owner Grainger Biggs.

Picture 13f2108: PIPPA DOUGLAS

Villagers move closer to shop purchase

A COMMUNITY plan to purchase Sarratt's village shop has reached a milestone £140,000, placing it tantalisingly close to the total amount required.

Villagers, led by campaigner David Alexander, are attempting to raise £183,000 in order to purchase the shop and post office and run it as a community-led business.

In 2007, the post office faced closure as part of a nationwide programme.

But after a lengthy campaign, the office, owned by Pat Bramley and Grainger Biggs, was saved. Now residents are keen to protect its future.

Mr Alexander said: "This is about protecting the future of the shop. These businesses can deliver steady income, but are facing challenges, due to the changing nature of communities and suppliers desires, plus those of the owners.

"Communities like Sarratt need a village shop to survive and maintain the sense of community that exists.

"We fought the campaign for the post office and won.

"That issue will no doubt come round again at some point in the future, so we need to be ready and committed to defend ourselves, which is easier to do if the community is the owner."

If the group purchases the shop, it will be run as a community interest company – a limited company created by people who want to run a business for community benefit – and not purely for private profit.

Sarratt district councillor, Tony Barton, said: "The shop is the heart of the village, we fought hard to save the shop and post office, which was supported by everyone.

"David is a very capable man, and works very hard.

"He came up with this idea and at a village meeting, 100 people or more pledged their support to it."

THREE RIVERS TIMES – SPRING 2010

Visit local parks and woodlands for free. You can see them on-line at www.our**climate**is**changing**.com
The site includes information about walking groups and information for wheelchair users.



Conservation work is an excellent way to keep in shape.

Pictured are Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers 01923 267071.
More conservation opportunities are available from
>> www.threerivers.gov.uk and
>> www.cvs-threerivers.org.uk

ELIZABETH MITCHELL

DAWN PITTS

HOLY CROSS SARRATT

The Rector and Churchwardens invite you to .....

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7.30pm on Monday 19 April
at
Jenks' Barn, Little Sarratt Hall, Sarratt
(by kind permission of Tony and Diane Quayle)

7.30pm Gather for a glass of wine
7.45pm Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)
Immediately followed by APCM

RSVP: Colin Plummer - colin.plummer@btinternet.com
or phone 01923 263123 by **Sunday 18 April**



THE CRICKETERS
The Green, Sarratt,
Nr Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire WD3 6AS
Tel: 01923 270 877
www.cricketerspub.co.uk

IN JANUARY VISIT US WITH THIS VOUCHER TO RECEIVE
£5 OFF A MEAL FOR 2 OR £10 OFF A MEAL FOR 4.

W.O. 9-4-10

Farmer falls foul of planners

A SARRATT chicken farmer has lost the latest round of his long-running dispute with council planners.

Tim Norris, owner of Mulberry Bush Farm, in Dawes Lane, has been in dispute with Three Rivers District Council for nearly a decade.

In this time he has made nearly 20 unsuccessful applications to expand and improve his free-range poultry business.

The council, however, has consistently argued that he is damaging the appearance of Green Belt land.

This argument was again supported on Tuesday when an independent government inspector upheld a council decision refusing Mr Norris permission to locate a mobile home on the site.

Council members, meeting in October, said the plans would have a detrimental impact on the surrounding countryside – an official area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

Council Leader Ann Shaw even compared the sprawling collection of outbuildings to "a refugee camp."

Inspector Simon Hand said: "I have been given no reasons to back track from previous inspectors' strong support for the protection of the landscape in the AONB. I accept that agriculture needs to diversify, and that a poultry farm need not be inherently out of place in an AONB.

"However, I agree with my colleagues' consistently held views that the mix of buildings, temporary and permanent on the site is visually intrusive and harmful."

Mr Norris said he did not want to comment on the ruling.

giving in grace

Benefice of Holy Cross Saint Paul's

Holy Cross Church
Sarratt

OUR CHURCH

OUR CHALLENGE

OUR CHOICES

2010

GRAND ORIENTAL

RUG SALE

REPAIR & CLEANING OF RUGS UNDERTAKEN
References Provided

For Inquiries Contact.**Mr.M.KHAWAJA**
TEL:-020 8665 5815
Mob:07946333653
A selection of fine Hand-Knotted Persian,Kashmiri & Turkish Carpets,Rugs & Runners available.

SARRATT Village Hall

SAT 10 APR

10am----------4pm

Sarratt wildlife volunteers



Pond clearing, hay making and scrub clearing are just some of the Sarratt Wildlife Volunteers' activities. The friendly group works with Sarratt Parish Council to clear CommonWood, Penmans Green and Sarratt Green. 10am - 12pm on the second Sunday of the month. Coffee and chocolate biscuits provided.
brendaharold@btinternet.com
01923 269956

www.threerivers.gov.uk

Three Rivers Times Summer 2010

SUMMER 2010 THREE RIVERS TIMES

NEWS

SUSTAINABLE

Chess 'cress is back



Sarratt watercress farmer, Terry Tyler, has bounced back after the winter freeze saw the devastation of 95% of his crop. Terry said, "We aim to be at full production in June and we're selling direct to callers at the farm gate."

Terry's favourite recipes include watercress soup and marmite and cress sandwiches. Do you want to work on Terry's watercress farm? For hard work and low pay ring Terry on 01923 265 842.

Visit the farm down Moor Lane, Sarratt, WD3 1BZ. The farm is also located along the Chess Valley Walk - a map of the walk can be downloaded at
>> www.chilternsaonb.org
Watercress recipes
>> www.watercress.co.uk

Visit our website for more detailed information:
www.sarrattvillage.co.uk/villageday

SARRATT & CHIPPERFIELD VILLAGE DAY

SATURDAY 22ND MAY 2010

At Micklefield Hall, Sarratt

In the morning 9.00am – 12.00pm:
Go up in a Hot Air Balloon on Chipperfield Common or hitch a ride in a Classic Car from Sarratt Green around Chipperfield and back!

Then from 12.00pm - 6.00pm:
Everyone gathers at Micklefield Hall for a fun afternoon packed with activities from the Grand Prize Raffle Draw to Pig Racing!

All funds raised from the event will go to Sarratt School, St Paul's School Chipperfield and local church youth groups across both villages.



Kindly sponsored by
mothercare
binks estate agent
MICKLEFIELD HALL

10 Watford Observer, Friday, May 28, 2010

For news, sport and informat

THREE RIVERS

Pigs fly around fun day track

by **MICHAEL PICKARD**



Pigs hurtle around the course in one of the races. Picture 20F4642: HOLLY CANT

THOUSANDS of people basked in the spring sunshine on Saturday as two communities came together for the first Sarratt and Chipperfield Village Day.

Two hot air balloons towered over Micklefield Hall, in Sarratt Road, where crowds gathered to admire classic cars, take a tumble on the bouncy castle or enjoy food and drink under the shade of a giant marquee.

It was the pig racing though, which drew the largest audience as the animals competed in six races throughout the day, jumping over three fences on their way to the finish line.

Erica Walker enjoyed the sunshine with her three-year-old daughter Jasmine and her mother Sue Crofts.

She said: "It's excellent. It's the kind of thing you remember from when you were younger. It's lucky with the weather. Two weeks ago it was about seven degrees."

Sue, from West Hyde, added: "It's an excellent event and I hope they make lots of money."

Stalls dotted across the grounds were run by local groups and organisations, including the 1st Sarratt Scout Group and Sarratt Horticultural Society. Sarratt WI also had a stall, selling cakes, marmalades, preserves and plants, all made and grown by its members.

A representative of WI president Dawn Pitts said: "I think it's been very successful. We've been very pleased. This seems to have been very successful for the two villages, the weather has helped and I'm sure lots of people will say that."

Will Hobhouse, of Church Lane, Sarratt, and chairman of the Village Day committee, said the day was a great success but would not confirm whether it will become an annual event.

He said: "It's the first time we've done this. We did it to bring the two villages together in aid of the two schools and youth workers from the two churches. We live in a very beautiful part of the world, very close to London and close to big towns and it's been a great pleasure to share it with everyone. We'll be discussing it [future events] together. I'm sure we will do it again but not necessarily next year. It's been a fabulous day, everyone has worked hard and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves."

For more information about Sarratt WI, telephone Dawn Pitts on 01923 276071.

Publicise your community events online at *www.watfordobserver.co.uk*



Kew School of Dance from Sarratt. 10-750-232



Willam (2) and Freya (3) Motts take a ride in the tea cups. 10-750-240

Scorching sun shines on Sarratt for villages' big celebration day

Schools and church youth groups set to share bumper payout

By David Tooley
david.tooley@jpress.co.uk

VILLAGE schools and church youth groups were set to get a big cash booster after hundreds of people visited a community fundraising event.

Hot air balloon rides, pig races and classic car trips around the villages provided some of the centrepiece attractions at Sarratt and Chipperfield Village Day on Saturday afternoon.

Micklefield Hall, on Sarratt Road, in Sarratt, provided the hub for arena activities, as well as more than 40 moneyspinning stalls for local organisations, including WI groups from both Sarratt and Chipperfield.

A 20-strong organising committee will be splitting the proceeds of the day between Sarratt School, St Paul's School, in Chipperfield and local church youth groups from both villages.

Organisers thanked Jamie and Anna Rankin for the use of Micklefield Hall as well as a wide array of sponsorship.









Top right, Chipperfield St Pauls Primary School dancers. 10-750-221

Bottom right, Tony and Ann Soanes with their 1912 Oakland, left, and 1913 Overland, right. 10-750-260



Wellie throwers Minke (6) and Marnie (7) Peasey. 10-750-249

Far right, top, Glennys Kavanagh, left, and Jackie Boughton of Sarratt Evening WI. 10-750-278

Far right, below, pig racing. 10-75-272

To order Gazette photographs just go onto our website at www.hemeltoday.co.uk and click on 'Order photographs online'. Then enter in the picture number relating to the picture (eg. 10-750-278). You can also order the picture on mugs, key rings and even a mouse mat!



Festival scores a success

WKS. OBS. 2-7-10

A THREE-DAY flower festival in Sarratt noticed a fall in visitors on Sunday, thanks to a certain football match.

Organisers of the event in Holy Cross Church, however, say they believe approximately 1,000 attended between Friday, Saturday and Sunday despite England's World Cup defeat.

Stephen Lawrence, church warden, said on Sunday: "This must be the 30th year this has been run, it's a big fundraising event for the church and brings people together.

"It has been quieter today but we're still expecting 450 people.

"Community spirit is one of the largest drivers, as well as getting non-church people involved in church activities."

Horticultural arrangements were inspired by different proverbs, including "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush".

Stalls selling cakes and flowers were also set up in the church's garden.



Colourful blooms on show. Picture 25F4405: ADAM BINNIE

This is Sam's last Sunday with us so come and join us as we say a massive thank you for all he has done over the past year...

Sunday 18th July

11 am at St Paul's (with youth + children's activities)

Followed by...

Lunch in the Parish Room
Please sign up on the lists that are in the back of both churches or email Ellie on elliehcsp@gmail.com
Everyone welcome!

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SARRATT

2 July 2010

Dear Liz,

Flower Festival 2010

Thank you so much for all your hard work in making the 2010 Flower Festival such a success. It is one of those rare events that in its simplicity and innocence gives enormous pleasure to both those who come to admire the wonderful flowers in our beautiful church and also to everyone who participates in the fellowship of organising the event whether that is in the setting up, serving teas or selling goods on the various stalls and in the church services and evening concert. I think you will agree that we have something very special in this event.

Over the gloriously hot weekend we raised approximately £4,500 for general church funds (after provision for expenses) plus an additional £430 for the Friends coffers. This is only slightly down on last year (£4,745 -2009) despite numbers being down - 807 versus 1,004 in 2009 which I think we can attribute to the World Cup football game being played on the Sunday afternoon and perhaps to the intense heat of the day that stopped people venturing very far afield.

Provisional results for the various stalls are as follows:

Donations at the door:	£1,793	Prior coffee morning	£450
Refreshments:	£1,357	Plants:	£275
Bric a Brac:	£362	Cakes:	£660
Friends'	£430	Concert:	£141

Once again, on behalf of us all at Holy Cross I would like to thank you for all your sterling work in making the weekend such a wonderful success.

Until next year .....!

With very best wishes

Stephen

Stephen Lawrence & John Guy
Churchwardens

Sarratt Local History Society

At 7.30 for 8pm on Tuesday March 23 2010 in Sarratt Village Hall.



Leading trombonist & former plastic surgeon at Mount Vernon Hospital

Brian Morgan

will speak on

The Story of Stockers Lake

All are welcome.
Tea, coffee and biscuits available beforehand

---

www.binksweb.com







Sarratt £649,950

Attractive 3/4 bedroom detached family home offering versatile and spacious accommodation, sitting room, dining room, kitchen breakfast room, ground floor bedroom/family room with bathroom, bed 1 with shower cubicle and bed 2 with en-suite shower room, garage, gardens located very close to the village green.
Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

HETHERINGTONS







Sarratt

Located on The Green in the picturesque rural village of Sarratt, is this detached three bedroom family home offering spacious accommodation, ample parking and garaging with grounds approaching 1/3 of an acre. Sarratt is equipped with a Post Office, service station and many fine public houses. Nearby towns of Kings Langley and Chorleywood offer access to main line station services and further amenities including excellent primary and secondary schools.

O.I.E.O. £1,000,000 Freehold

CHW120155 Call: 01923 284125

2010

HETHERINGTONS

For the finest homes

OPTIMA 9/10/10

www.rightmove.co.uk www.mortgagescountrywide.co.uk www.hetheringtons.co.uk



Sarratt **Guide Price £1,550,000 Freehold**

Located in the picturesque village of Sarratt with views over The Green is this elegant country residence in need of modernisation set within grounds approaching 0.4 of an acre. The property offers a wealth of orginal features and an abundance of charm with spacious living accommodation, garaging and secluded well stocked gardens. NB: Rear elevation shown.

Chorleywood 01923 284125

binks

estate agent



Sarratt **£1,395,000**

Deceptively spacious 4 bed barn conversion, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast, bathroom, 2 showers (both en-suite), annexe comprising studio and self-contained flat, garage, car port, gardens, situated on the village green.

Chorleywood Office 01923 282244



Sarratt

Guide Price £1,795,000 Freehold

On a plot approaching one acre in the picturesque village of Sarratt within a conservation area, is this attractive spacious six bedroom detached family home with annexe, three door garage and gym. The Metropolitan/Main Line stations are easily accessible from both Chorleywood and Rickmansworth.

Chorleywood 01923 284125

SARRATT CARE

Your hairdresser appointment

is Wed. 11th Nov

at 10:50.

Please come with washed hair



Church Lane, Sarratt £750,000 Freehold

4 bedroom detached house with enviable views
Well presented throughout
4 reception rooms
Approx ½ acre plot

Call Chorleywood Office: 01923 285886

THE GAZETTE 15 SEPT. 2010





A super show at Sarratt



By Victoria West
victoria.west@jpress.co.uk

AN autumn show attracted a bumper number of exhibits from young people.

Budding gardeners, cooks and artists showed off their creations at Sarratt Village Hall.

There were a total of 288 entries from 45 entrants on Saturday, of which 12 were children.

Margaret Stratford, chairman of Sarratt Horticultural Society, which hosts the event, said: "We had been trying to encourage the children to enter."

Youngsters under eight years old were invited to present their biggest weed or enter a finger painting of a flower.

Entrants aged eight to 11 could enter a painted pebble or bake up three tasty cupcakes, while those aged 12 to were asked to show a home-made mask or create a pizza.

The overall winner in the children's section was Tom Soothill, who was presented with the AE Cox Trophy.

Christine Head bagged the Clutterbuck Trophy for most points in the show and also won the David Osborne Trophy for vegetables and fruit, along with the Dahlia trophy. She shared the Arthur Pritchard Trophy for Roses with Jennifer Phillips, a new entrant to the show.

Leigh Martins and Sandra Turner shared the Frederick Barber trophy for other flowers, Noreen Singleton won the Loader Trophy for flower arrangements, whilst Joan North won the cookery section, as well as the Morton Neal Trophy for the best aggregate points over the society's spring and autumn shows.

The Three Rivers District Council Trophy for Families was won by the Dobson-Gill family.

Mrs Stratford said: "It was an excellent show with a wide variety of entries."



Show stars: clockwise from top left, Toby Biggerstaff shows off his gladioli, society chairman Margaret Stratford holds up an unusual Anya potato for the camera, Samuel Gill, aged four, with his eye-catching painting and Joan North with her arrangement in a teapot.

Pictures by Dave Satchel

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2010 Taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller						
	air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	17th / 9.4	7th / -6.9	2nd / -6.7	28th / 8.9	50.1	max snow depth; 15cms, 7th
February	5th / 11.9	21st / -4.9	21st / -7.1	27th / 9.0	73.8	last snow, 23rd
March	24th / 17.9	7th / -5.2	7th / -8.2	25th / 10.7	52.0	
April	27th / 21.0	17th / -1.9	17th / -3.5	2nd / 5.6	17.6	heard first cuckoo, 30th
May	24th / 27.8	13th / -2.4	13th / -3.5	1st / 20.2	41.3	13th, lowest air temp for month, 1980-2013.
June	27th / 29.4	3rd / 5.0	20th / 3.2	7th / 8.3	31.0	
July	9th / 30.2	6th / 8.0	6th / 6.3	14th / 23.2	38.6	21 June-12 July, 23 consecutive days with air temp>20C.
August	9th / 25.0	31st / 5.0	31st / 3.5	17th / 28.6	145.7	wettest August for 29 years
September	22nd / 23.5	18th / 4.0	18th / 2.3	30th / 19.0	71.4	
October	8th / 21.6	21st / -2.9	21st / -4.2	2nd / 18.0	58.8	1st grd frost, 18th.1st air frost, 21st
November	4th / 17.4	28th / -6.5	28th / -8.0	5th / 16.1	55.7	1st snowfall, 27th
December	11th / 9.3	20th /-15.0	20th /-15.7	18th / 8.6	31.6	max snow depth;13cms, 19th. 20th, lowest air temp since 1981.

by **MICHAEL PICKARD**

The series of photographs above was sent to Nostalgia by Alastair East, from Leighton Buzzard. Each taken over a three-month period in 1938, they show groups of children posing in front of a fence.

Mr East said: "Could you please print the enclosed photos in the Watford Observer, to see if there is anybody in the Watford area that recognises anybody.

"I lived in Sarratt and went to Sarratt School. I then lived in Lincolnshire before coming to Leighton Buzzard."

NOSTALGIA



These pictures from 1938 were sent in by Alastair East who went to school in Sarratt. Are any faces familiar to readers? Do any readers have other pictures to share?

Who knows these faces on the fence?

savills.co.uk

savills









Sarratt, Hertfordshire

Impressive character country house with delightful rural outlook set within extensive grounds ▪ 5 receptions ▪ 8 bedrooms ▪ 6 bath/shower rooms ▪ snooker room and gym with shower ▪ sauna ▪ garaging ▪ carports ▪ stabling ▪ outbuildings ▪ outdoor swimming pool ▪ tennis court ▪ beautiful gardens and grounds with pond ▪ paddock ▪ in all about 4.5 acres.

Guide £3.85million

rickmansworth@savills.com 01923 773171
northwood@savills.com 01923 824225
country@savills.com 020 7409 8877

OLLIEBERRIE FARM
OPTIMA 25-9-10

GIBBS GILLESPIE
ESTATE AGENTS • SURVEYORS • VALUERS

gibbs-gillespie.co.uk

LONDON | BUCKS | HERTS | MIDDX









Sarratt, Hertfordshire

Asking price of £1,950,000

Situated on a quiet cul-de-sac close to the village green, this substantial extended and well-appointed detached family home in a highly desirable location, offers flexible accommodation. Sarratt is a delightful village in a rural position between Chorleywood and Kings Langley at the southern borders of The Chilterns, a designated area of outstanding natural beauty and being protected Metropolitan greenbelt.

▪**Cloakroom** ▪**Lounge** ▪**Dining room** ▪**Study** ▪**Conservatory** ▪**Kitchen/breakfast room** ▪**Utility room** ▪**Master bedroom with en-suite bathroom** ▪**Four further bedrooms, two with en-suite bathrooms** ▪**Shower room** ▪**Front, side and rear garden** ▪**Double garage**

Sarratt Sales
01923 270 170
sarrattsales@gibbs-gillespie.co.uk

Scan the QR Code with your Smartphone to view this property

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

SARRATT

HOLY CROSS SARRATT
'Proclaiming Jesus'

ANNUAL MEETINGS

MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010, 7.30 PM

AT JENKS' BARN, SARRATT

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

Philip Buller
Little Bragmans
Bragmans Lane
Sarratt
Rickmansworth
WD3 4NY



ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER



3 COURSE

Cold Roast Beef Supper,

Licensed Bar

Friday 23rd April 2010
The Village Hall, Sarratt
7.00 For 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £15.00 each
Available from Carol Chorley
01923 265096

2011

Refuse and recycling collections in Three Rivers

We apologise for the recent disruption to the refuse and recycling collections, caused by the bad weather before Christmas. The crews have been working hard to catch up, but we are aware that there has been some confusion.

From the week commencing 17th January collections will return to normal and all residents should follow the dates listed on the collection calendar they received in November. This will mean that you will miss one week of either your recycling or your brown bin collection, however this is unavoidable whilst we are trying to get back on schedule.

Collection dates can also be looked up via the online service function on the Council website.

Thank you for bearing with us and please be assured we are doing everything possible to minimise the disruption.

WasteAware Hertfordshire Partnership Reduce Reuse Recycle Recover

01923 776611
www.threerivers.gov.uk

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

2011

Ask

discovering God together

10am Sunday
27 February
Sarratt Village Hall

CHRIST IN TRANSLATION

Why not come along and enjoy a mug of freshly brewed coffee/tea as we explore the **400 Anniversary of the King James Bible** and its relevance in today's world.
A warm welcome awaits!



plus... for Children aged 3-10

Children's Ask — discovering God together

Games ? Fun and Friends Craft
Prayers ? Bible stories ?
... and a chance to ask questions

Parents: Children may be brought to the front foyer at **9.50am** and collected from there at **11am**.

Further details:
Janet Mitchell (01442 831617) Julia Lawrence (260504)
Children's Ask: Jeannie Poulton (260295)

2011

SPLAT presents....
2010 WINNERS OF NODA "It's behind you AWARD"

ANOTHER BIT O'SPLATTER



VARIETY SHOW

AT SARRATT VILLAGE HALL,
ON 24th/25th/26th FEBRUARY 2011.

TICKETS AVAILABLE...
FROM "phone" 01923 261729

PRICES

THURSDAY 24th / FRIDAY 25th } 7.30pm ..... £6/£8
SATURDAY 26th @ 7.45pm .... all at £9.

BAR & DOORS OPEN 30 minutes EARLIER

THE BENEFICE
OF
HOLY CROSS, SARRATT
AND
ST PAUL'S, CHIPPERFIELD

LENT PROJECT



Living God's Love

The Diocese of St Albans

Sarratt Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on

Tuesday March 22 2011

in

Sarratt Village Hall at 8pm

Eve Davis

will speak on

"Bygone Hemel Hempstead"



Coffee & biscuits will be available from 7.30pm.

All are very welcome.

Sarratt Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday May 24th 2011
at 8pm in the Village School.
An illustrated talk will be given by

Alan Willmott

of "Windjammer Films"
showing historic footage of life in Britain in the 1950s, including some of

Sarratt

in that era.

All are very welcome.
Refeshments from 7.30pm.

Benefice of Holy Cross Saint Paul's

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK 10am COMMUNION SERVICES

March		April	
2	Holy Cross	6	St Paul's
9	St Paul's	13	Sarratt Village Hall
16	Sarratt Village Hall	20	St Paul's
23	St Paul's	27	No service
30	Holy Cross		

FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

March

3 **Alpha Course** – and **Thursday evenings** throughout March
4 Women's World Day of Prayer – Chipperfield Roman Catholic Church
5 **Alpha Away Day**
5 The Big Picture – 5.30pm – St Paul's
11 Grapevine Movies – Sarratt Village Hall
16 Open Door – 2.30pm Micklefield, Sarratt – Jenny Newman
20 St Paul's APCM – immediately after 10am Benefice Communion

April

2 The Big Picture – 5.30pm – St Paul's
4 Holy Cross APCM – 7.30pm - Jenks' Barn
7 **Alpha Course** – final session
15 Grapevine Movies – Sarratt Village Hall
20 Open Door – 2.30pm – Micklefield, Sarratt – Keith Dawson

For further details and news of additional events, please see weekly newsletter and parish websites www.holycrosssarratt.co.uk and www.stpaulschipperfield.co.uk

Welcome to Holy Cross Sarratt and St Paul's Chipperfield

	Holy Cross	St Paul's	
MARCH 6	**10am Benefice Communion**	*8am Holy Communion*	
9	7.30pm **ASH WEDNESDAY Communion**		
13	10am Holy Communion	*8am Holy Communion* 10am All Age Worship	
20	*8am Holy Communion (BCP)* 6.30pm Compline	**10am Benefice Communion**	
27	*8am Holy Communion*	10am Morning Prayer	10am ASK Sarratt Village Hall
APRIL 3	**MOTHERING SUNDAY** 10am Family Worship	*8am Holy Communion* 10am Family Worship 6.30pm Confirmation Service	
10	10am Holy Communion	*8am Holy Communion* 10am All Age Worship	
17	**PALM SUNDAY** *8am Holy Communion (BCP)* 10am Morning Worship 6.30pm Compline	10am Holy Communion 6.30pm Music for Passiontide	
21	**MAUNDY THURSDAY**	7.30pm Supper with Communion	
22	**GOOD FRIDAY** 2pm An hour at the Cross		10.30am Family Service Chipperfield Baptist Church
24	**EASTER** *8am Holy Communion* 10am Family Communion	10am Family Communion	

Please remember that as from 13th June your collections are changing.
Your brown bin will be collected EVERY week.
Your green refuse bin will be collected fortnightly, along with your recycling boxes.

Please refer to your new collection calendar.

For enquiries regarding this matter
please call 01923 776611
enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

JENKS' BUS NEAR CRYSTAL PALACE, LONDON → BRIGHTON, MAY 2011

2011

CILLA ROE KEVIN BIGGERSTAFF TOM ROGER



1932 Bedford WLB, new to Williams of Blaina, it has a 20 seat Davis coach body. Entered by K Biggerstaff, Sarratt ~ JK

2011

The Friends of Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Raising funds for the care and preservation of Sarratt Church. Registered Charity 1018991

You are invited to
The Friends Tea Party

Sunday 12th June 2011, 4pm – 6pm
The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire WD3 6HJ
by kind permission of Kate & Will Hobhouse

Guest Speaker – Clive Aslet, *Country Life* Editor at Large
No admission charge • Donations appreciated • Free entry to prize draw

RSVP: e-mail johnguy267@btinternet.com or telephone 01923 267549

Holy Cross Church
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2011



"The Bible in Bloom"
Celebrating 400 years of the King James Bible



HOLY CROSS CHURCH
SARRATT

Flower Festival Concert
'Words & Music for a Summer Evening'

25 June 2011
by
Sarratt Singers and friends
at 7.30pm

Retiring collection in aid of Holy Cross Church

FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Bible in Bloom
Celebrating 400 years of the King James Bible

Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
25th June	26th June	27th June
10am – 5pm	11.30am – 5pm	11am – 3pm

Lunches, Cream Teas, Coffees, Stalls for cakes, plants and lots more

Entrance and parking – FREE

Concert - 7.30pm Saturday 25th June
'Words and Music for a Summer Evening'

Sunday 26th June	10.00am	Outdoor Festival Service
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Monday 27th June	3.30pm	Thanksgiving Service



Sarratt Village
Harvest Supper

Arranged by members of Holy Cross Church for all the parish

Jenks' Barn, Little Sarratt Hall
Moor Lane, Sarratt

courtesy of Mr & Mrs Tony Quale

7p.m. for 7.30p.m.
Saturday, 1st October

Everyone is invited - young and old alike.
A light supper will be served at 7.30. Bring your own drinks.
Tickets £6 each, available from John Guy 01923 267549.

Ticket £6



Sarratt Village
Harvest Supper

in aid of a local charity and the Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal

Jenks' Barn, Little Sarratt Hall

Moor Lane, Sarratt

Courtesy of Mr & Mrs Tony Quale

Saturday 1st October

7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Light supper will be served at 7.30

Bring your own drinks

Riley Dunn & Wilson Ltd.
Specialist Bookbinders & Conservators
Almond Court, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, FK2 9HT
Tel: +44 (0)1324 621591 *Fax:* +44 (0)1324 611508
www.rdw.co.uk

JB/NH

27 October 2011

Mr. Buller
Little Bragmans
Sarratt
Rickmansworth
WD3 4NY

Dear Mr. Buller,

I am pleased to submit a revised estimated cost for a loose leaf binder following your recent telephone call with my colleague Colin McArthur.

1. To produce a loose leaf binder in brown buckram 25 ¼ x 19 ¾ with 100 pages of archival rag end leaf 160gsm with brass nuts & bolts. Est. Cost £240.50 per binder.

Please confirm if you wish to go-ahead with this estimate and if given the go-ahead and as per your phone call we will try and arrange delivery with our London van.

Please note this estimate is only valid for 30 days from receipt.

Yours Sincerely

Natalie Hill

Jan Burns
Conservation and Bindery Manager

QUOTE FOR TWO
SCRAPBOOK BINDERS

Riley Dunn & Wilson Ltd 1909 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 2009 OF BOOKBINDING & PAPER CONSERVATION

Registered in England and Wales: 6237537 *Registered Office:* 22 Occupation Road, Lindley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD3 3BD *VAT No:* 905 2142 62
Directors: C.B. Dunn (Managing), J.M. Mills (Secretary)

8 Herons Way,
St Albans, Herts,
AL1 1UX.

30 jan 2011

Dear Phillip,

How very thoughtful of you to give me your book 'A Postcard from Sarratt'. I am both grateful and touched, and Joy and I will tour Sarratt with the book in hand. Thank you.
It is always good to meet like minded people who empathise with the historic pile. For me it is a never ending source of interest. I am so glad you enjoyed the 'tour' of the Abbey.
You may remember I mentioned the Wheatsheaf of Sarratt as being a pub my grand father, John Nash ran plus his brush and basket making business. My Dad was born there in 1896, he being the eldest of seven surviving children. Two children who died were buried in the local church yard. As they were not C of E they do not appear in the Church records. I have fruitlessly search for their graves but to no avail. The family moved to the Two Brewers at Chipperfield and left there for Market Street Watford circa 1904/5. I do have photos of my grand father at the Two Brewers copies of which I have promised to give to the current manager.
Should any relevant information come to light re the Wheatsheaf, I would delighted to hear from you. May I give you my e mail address just in case something turns up,
tomjoynash@aol.com
I was for a short while certain you were Paul Attbury of Antiques Roadshow fame, I bet I am not the first to say that!
Once thank you so much.

Tom Nash.

AFTER A CONDUCTED TOUR OF ST. ALBANS ABBEY
I SENT THE GUIDE A COPY OF MY BOOK 'POSTCARD
FROM SARRATT',
THIS LETTER FROM HIM GIVES DETAILS OF LOCAL
HISTORIC INTEREST.

Philip Buller.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

SARRATT

'Proclaiming Jesus'

ANNUAL MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2012, 7.30 PM

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,
SARRATT

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

Philip Buller
Little Bragmans
Bragmans Lane
Sarratt
Rickmansworth
WD3 4NY

2011

Riley Dunn & Wilson Ltd.

Specialist Bookbinders & Conservators

Almond Court, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, FK2 9HT
Tel: +44 (0)1324 621591 *Fax:* +44 (0)1324 611508
www.rdw.co.uk

JB/NH

14 October 2011

Mr. Buller
Little Bragmans
Sarratt
Rickmansworth
WD3 4NY

Dear Mr. Buller,

I am pleased to submit an estimated cost for a loose leaf binder following your recent telephone call with my colleague Colin McArthur on Thursday 13 October 2011.

1. To produce a loose leaf binder in brown buckram 25 ¼ x 19 ¾ with 100 pages and brass nuts & bolts. Est. Cost £75.50.

Please confirm if you wish to go-ahead with this estimate and if given the go-ahead and as per your phone call we will try and arrange delivery with our London van.

Please note this estimate is only valid for 30 days from receipt.

Yours Sincerely

pp Natalie Hay.

Jan Burns
Conservation and Bindery Manager

Riley Dunn & Wilson Ltd. 1909 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BOOKBINDING & PAPER CONSERVATION 2009

INITIAL QUOTED FOR NEW SCRAP BOOK

Registered in England and Wales: 6237537 *Registered Office:* 22 Occupation Road, Lindley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD3 3BD *VAT No:* 905 2142 62
Directors: C.B. Dunn (Managing), J.M. Mills (Secretary)

JOHN SMITH has written in about the mysterious character of "Flight" Cracknell, who was mentioned in an article about the visit to Cassio College by the Duchess of Kent, in 1969.

The RAF veteran turned his hand to the Scout movement and became famous in the Sarratt area for his loud organ concerts on a Sunday morning.

He said: "My sister-in-law sent me your Nostalgia column. Although I went to Cassio College, it was when it was in Queens Road.

"I was an inaugural student of the course in retail management and I was working with the John Lewis Partnership at Trewins, also in Queens Road.

"I remember the building of the new college well, and attending evening classes there to extend my retailing qualifications.

"I don't remember the visit you describe, but I do remember 'Flight' Cracknell.

"He was a renowned "scouter" and a sometime close associate of Ralph Reader of 'Gang Show' fame.

"Locally he was very involved with the Lees Wood camp site and hosted many small gatherings of the scouting fraternity at his home in Sarratt.

"He lived next to my parents in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt when they were retired and would arrive uninvited for coffee every morning except Sunday when he would blast out a medley of hymns and tunes on the organ he had installed in his sitting room, penetrating the party wall with ease.

"Beyond the end of his garden there was a large expanse of land, which had originally been a smallholding shared by the families in both properties (the Bulls, Pullens and Quartiles).

"He laid it to grass and trees – many of the trees were named after his friends and bore labels to that effect.

"One was dedicated to the comic and actor Peter Sellers and another to the actor's mother, both of whom visited the site.

"Undoubtedly 'Flight' was what one would describe as a character and I am sure that there are many boys in the locale of the Watford Observer who remember him and owe a lot to the RAF veteran who found his place as a guiding hand to the youth of the day."

Do you remember Flight Cracknell? Contact Nostalgia using the details right.

Wo 25-11-11



Wo 2.12.11

BAGS OF HELP: **Members of Sarratt Women's Institute did their bit for the environment when they made 100 shopping bags out of old curtain material. The green alternatives to the plastic carrier were donated to the village post office where customers can use them in exchange for a donation to the Wildlife Trust. Dawn Pitts, who organised the project, handed the curtain carriers to manager Grainger Briggs along with several other members of the WI on Friday.** Picture 47G1605: HOLLY CANT

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Illness must be taken seriously

A SILENT tragedy could be affecting up to 5,000 people in Hertfordshire.

Many will be housebound, some bedbound, careers will have been ruined, children unable to attend school and students will have had to give up courses. Yet for many years they have not been taken seriously because they suffer from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS/ME) – an illness trivialised for too long.

But it is no trivial illness. Sufferers experience flu-like symptoms, overwhelming exhaustion of both muscle and mind, loss of short-term memory, loss of concentration, gastro-intestinal problems, joint and muscle pain, migraine and insomnia.

Furthermore, the condition waxes and wanes; this can occur within an hour, a day or over the years.

There is currently no diagnostic test for CFS/ME but at the CFS Research Foundation we are working hard to find one. If you would like more information, visit our website at www.cfsrf.org. uk. — **The CFS Research Foundation, The Briars, Sarratt**

2011



Carols by Candlelight at Holy Cross

Sarratt Village Carol Service

6.30 p.m. Sunday 18th December

Holy Cross Church, Sarratt
Church End, Church Lane, Sarratt

Everyone welcome

Christmas *at the* Cricketers 2011



"At the Cricketers you'll find a warm, buzzy atmosphere, lots of pleasant people, and a genuine welcome. Our food is cooked simply but with a great deal of care, and we hope you'll join us."

www.cricketers.hcpr.co.uk

BackToChurchSunday

October – Sunday Services

2nd	8am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
	10am	Harvest Communion	Holy Cross
9th	8am	Holy Communion	St Paul's
	10am	Morning Worship	Holy Cross
	10am	All Age Worship	St Paul's
16th	8am	Communion (BCP)	Holy Cross
	10am	Harvest Communion	St Paul's
	6.30pm	Mozart Requiem	St Paul's
23rd	8am	Holy Communion	Holy Cross
	10am	Morning Prayer	St Paul's
	10am	ASK	Sarratt Village Hall
	6.30pm	Compline	Holy Cross
30th	8am	Holy Communion	Holy Cross
	10am	5Alive	St Paul's School

Midweek Holy Communion Services at 10am

Wed 5th St Paul's (BCP)
Wed 12th Holy Cross
Wed 19th St Paul's (BCP)
Wed 26th Sarratt Village Hall

Also in October

4th Quiet Garden – 10-12noon - 40 Church Lane, Sarratt
13th Thursday Night Together – 7.30 Chipperfield Baptist
14th Grapevine Movies – Sarratt Village Hall
19th Open Door – 2.30pm – Micklefield – Mike Steere

Further details on weekly newsletter and parish websites
www.holycrosssarratt.co.uk and www.stpaulschipperfield.co.uk

www.backtochurch.co.uk

Sponsored by TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

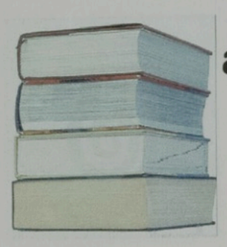
204

Sarratt Local History Society

Tuesday September 27th

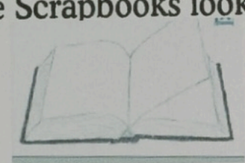
Village Hall 7.30pm

Scrapbook Special



an open evening with our special books full of Sarratt's history back to 1859

Look at and wonder at the Scrapbooks
Short talks about Sarratt's history gleaned from the books
How are the Scrapbooks looked after today?



Wine, nibbles, coffee and biscuits

Everyone welcome and it's free!

SARRATT FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW SATURDAY

204

10th SEPTEMBER

2.30 p.m

VILLAGE HALL

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2011
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	Air temp [°C]		min ground	rainfall [mm]		comments
	date /max.	date /min.	temp [°C]	max.	total	
January	13th / 12.6	31st / -3.7	10,31/ -5.5	17th / 17.8	84.9	last snow, 3rd
February	24th / 15.0	1,8th / -2.9	1st / -5.8	18th / 10.5	55.4	
March	25th / 18.9	8th / -4.9	8th / -7.1	30th / 4.5	9.7	driest March since 1981, 31 years.
April	23rd / 27.3	13th / 0.5	13th / -1.9	23rd / 5.5	10.1	heard first cuckoo, 17th
May	6th / 23.9	4th / 1.0	4th / -2.0	7th / 13.7	35.4	
June	27th / 30.0	12th / 2.5	12th / 1.0	5th / 15.5	70.5	
July	5th / 25.0	25th / 6.0	25th / 3.0	16th / 4.7	49.3	
August	1st / 28.5	19th / 6.0	19th / 3.8	25th / 23.4	88.0	
September	29th / 28.2	18th / 4.5	15th / 3.1	4th / 15.6	41.9	
October	20th / 28.3	21st / 0.7	20,21/-1.0	26th / 5.4	17.3	1st gd. fr'st, 15th. Driest Oct 31 years
November	1st / 16.8	28th / -3.4	28th / -3.8	3rd / 16.7	30.0	1st air frost, 28th
December	22nd / 12.9	19th / -3.8	19th / -5.2	12th / 18.0	70.3	1st snowfall, 16th

BENEFICE DAY PILGRIMAGE

Chenies Baptist Church
Saturday, 15th October 2011



YOUR INVITATION
to come on a journey -
a pilgrimage of faith, hope and joy,

through worship, teaching,
fellowship and fun.

Everyone at Holy Cross and St Paul's is warmly invited to spend an 'Away Day', a day with families and friends, at Chenies Baptist Church on Saturday, 15th October.

11.30 - 12.30 **Session 2 - Going out to help transform communities**
11.30 - 11.45 Mid-Morning Worship - Leader: Ellie Freeman
11.45 - 12.00 Teaching - Phil Waine
12.00 - 12.10 Prayers
12.10 - 12.30 Rwanda Report - Steve Lawrence
12.30 - 12.50 Group Discussions & Reflection

1.00 - 2.00 **Lunch** - Main course provided, bring & share desserts

2.00 - 2.30 **Time Out** - light-hearted games, fellowship and fresh air

2.30 - 3.30 **Session 3 - Walking alongside others to make new disciples**
2.30 - 2.45 Mid-Afternoon Worship - Leader: Robin Gain
2.45 - 3.00 Teaching - Phil Waine
3.00 - 3.10 Prayers
3.10 - 3.30 Group Discussions & Reflection

3.30 - 4.00 **Tea & Biscuits**

4.00 - 4.15 **Session 4**
Looking back on the day, and the journey from here
Jim and other leaders answer questions and lead discussion

4.15 - 4.45 **Compline** - Leader: Keith Dawson

4.45 **The Blessing** - Jiim Stevens

Please complete and return this booking slip to John Guy, Greenwood, The Green, Sarratt, Rickmansworth WD3 6BH as soon as possible.

I / We wish to attend the Benefice Day Pilgrimage on 15th October and understand a charge will be made of £10 / head (children free).

Name/s_____

Address_____

_____Phone No._____

2012

FEATURED RESTAURANT

THE CRICKETERS

THE GREEN • SARRATT • WD3 6AS • 01923 270877

Reviewed by Alan Cox





WHEN IT COMES to location, The Cricketers in Sarratt probably has it all. Taking pride of place in the centre of this delightful little village, right next to the duck pond, it's hard to ignore its instant kerb appeal, and on a cold and dank January evening there's nothing to beat its cosy welcome with its roaring open fire and homely interior.

I loved the feel of the place, with its many nooks and crannies and hidden seating areas around unexpected corners. Add to this the warm atmosphere created by the clever, sophisticated lighting and the candles lit on every table in the restaurant area, and my first impressions were good.

The menu is extensive but – without wishing to cause offence to chef or owners – quite predictable in many ways. As we were about to discover, though, this isn't your standard pub grub. Where The Cricketers undoubtedly scores a resounding 'six' is in its homely and hearty delivery of some classic rustic dishes.

I started with Pan-fried Wild Mushrooms and Wilted Spinach on Toast, topped with a Poached Egg, whilst my wife continued her love affair with Scallops: Pan-fried and served with Crushed Peas and a Bloody Mary dressing. Both dishes were well presented, with the peas a perfect partnering for the shellfish and the delicate drizzle of dressing adding colour and interest. Hard to fault the simplicity of my mushroom starter; suffice to say, I'd eat it all again right now!

Pub favourites such as Fish and Chips, Burgers and Chicken and Ham Pie all find their way into the varied selection of main courses, together with a fair few 'winter warmers', ideal for a chilly night. I opted for the Braised Pork Belly on Black Pudding Mash, Seasonal Veg and Apple Sauce; my wife chose Braised beef in Guinness, served with Onions and Horseradish Dumplings, Garlic Mash and Buttered Cabbage.

She was (forgive the continuation of the cricketing metaphor) bowled over with this 'melt in the mouth' beef with its rich sauce. The mashed potato was an instant hit, full of lovely pieces of garlic, although the dumplings, by contrast, were a little subtle; it was hard to appreciate the addition of the horseradish.

My own mash, with its flecks of black pudding, likewise proved to be a little bland, and didn't really hold its own alongside the excellent and very flavour-some pork, which demanded full attention.

As you'd expect from a drinking establishment, the wine list is comprehensive and I liked the divisions of 'light and fruity', 'smooth and earthy' and 'rich and plummy', which makes it so much easier for a non-expert aficionado.

When it comes to puddings, here is a chef after my own heart. I would have been happy with almost anything off the menu, and I couldn't fault my choice of Apple and Mixed Berry Crumble, served with custard. Delicious, indeed, as was my wife's decadent Sticky Toffee Pudding served with vanilla ice cream.

The service was excellent throughout the evening, working to a perfectly executed game plan, and adding a final personal touch to a rather pleasant first innings at this charming and endearing establishment.

Howzat!

PRICE GUIDE: STARTERS: £4.95-£8.95 • MAINS: £9.95-£17.95 • DESSERTS: £4.50-£5.50 • HOUSE WINE: £14.50

21 JAN 2012

THE BENEFICE OF
HOLY CROSS AND ST PAUL'S

LENT APPEAL 2012



David Dale Shyogwe Trust

DENS Action Against Homelessness

ANGEL TREE

Living God's Love

The Diocese of St Albans

THE LENT APPEAL will be launched at the **Ash Wednesday Communion Services** on **22 February—10am at Holy Cross** and **7.30pm at St Paul's**

It will be concluded on **Easter Day 8 April** when we will have the opportunity to give thanks for all contributions at the **8am Holy Communion Service in St Paul's** and at the **10am Services in both churches**.

Cheques: to **PCC Holy Cross Sarratt** or **PCC St Paul's Chipperfield** and gift aided where possible (Gift Aid envelopes available in both churches). Please mark the back of your cheque 'Benefice Lent Project'. Thank you.

Contact: Revd Jim Stevens, The Vicarage, The Street, Chipperfield, Kings Langley WD4 9BJ. revjim@tiscali.co.uk or 01923 265848

February 2012

David Dale Shyogwe Trust — Maternity facilities at Shaki

We will continue to support our links with Rwanda and 50% monies raised at both Holy Cross and at St Paul's will be sent to improve medical facilities at a remote dispensary serving 10,000 people.

Angel Tree - 50% Holy Cross Lent Appeal

A programme of prison fellowship that aims to transform lives and reconcile families through such work as providing Christmas gifts for children on behalf of a parent in The Mount Prison, Bovingdon.

DENS—50% St Paul's Lent Appeal

An independent charity, supporting homeless people in and around the Dacorum area of Hertfordshire through projects such as its Day Centre, Night Shelter, Resettlement Supports and Distribution Service.

Dear Friends,

Last year's Lent Appeal did amazingly well in supporting the work of the church in Rwanda. Most of the money raised went towards the Maternity Project in Shaki. This year our PCCs welcomed the suggestion of a further Lent Appeal. Again the suggestion is for everyone to set aside a 'coin a day' (a £1, or 50p if that's too much) for each of the 40 days in Lent. Both PCCs agreed that 50% of money given would be sent to Rwanda. Holy Cross PCC would donate the other 50% to the Angel Tree charity and St Paul's PCC to the DENS charity in Hemel Hempstead. Both charities seek to alleviate real needs in the locality.

In these days of financial difficulty those least well off suffer the most - we felt therefore that it was good to be generous in these circumstances. If you are able to gift aid your donations, please do. Please bring your donations, suitably marked, to church on Easter Day. Might we also ask that you encourage others to consider supporting this project.

Thank you so much in advance for your support.

Jim Stevens

Sarratt Local History Society

The next meeting of the society will be held on

Tuesday May 1st 2012

at

8pm

in

Sarratt School

when

Mike Howgate

will speak on the subject of

"The stones of Hertfordshire Churches".



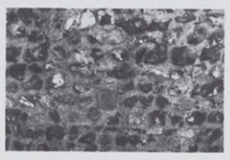
Great Gaddesden



Reed



Puddingstone



Flints

A look at how available materials influenced the style of local churches, including the use of Puddingstone.

Tea or coffee and biscuits available from 7.30pm.



Caldecote

All are welcome



Sarratt





Sarratt Evening W.I.



BEATRIX POTTER

With Pam Wright

THURSDAY 22nd March 2012
8.00 pm
THE VILLAGE HALL
SARRATT





GIBBS GILLESPIE
ESTATE AGENTS • SURVEYORS • VALUERS
gibbs-gillespie.co.uk
LONDON | BUCKS | HERTS | MIDDX









Sarratt, Hertfordshire

Asking price of £1,195,000

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location, close to the village green this delightful and substantially extended detached family home offers flexible accommodation to include two reception rooms and three en-suite bathrooms. Sarratt is a delightful village enjoying a rural position between Chorleywood and Kings Langley at the southern borders of The Chilterns, a designated area of outstanding natural beauty and protected Metropolitan greenbelt land.

▪ **Lounge** ▪ **TV/Family room** ▪ **Ground floor cloakroom** ▪ **Conservatory** ▪ **Dining room** ▪ **Kitchen/breakfast room** ▪ **Utility room** ▪ **Five bedrooms, three with en-suite bathrooms** ▪ **Double garage** ▪ **Workshop**

Sarratt Sales
01923 270 170
sarrattsales@gibbs-gillespie.co.uk

Scan the QR Code with your Smartphone to view this property

Call 0845 481 1640 for your free market appraisal.

OPTIMA APRIL 2012

Welcome to Holy Cross Sarratt and St Paul's Chipperfield

	Holy Cross	St Paul's	
MAY			
1	**10am Benefice Communion**	*8am Holy Communion*	
8	10am Holy Communion	*8am Holy Communion* 10am All Age Worship	
15	*8am Holy Communion (BCP)* 6.30pm Compline	**10am Benefice Communion**	
22	*8am Holy Communion*		5Alive Sarratt School
29	*8am Holy Communion*	10am Morning Prayer	10am ASK Sarratt Village Hall
JUNE			
2	8pm Ascension Day Service		
5	**10am Benefice Communion**	*8am Holy Communion* 6.30pm Choral Evensong	
12	10am Holy Communion	*8am Holy Communion* 10am All Age Worship	
19	*8am Holy Communion (BCP)* 6.30pm Compline	**10am Benefice Communion**	
26	*8am Holy Communion* 10am Flower Festival Service 6.30pm Choral Evensong	10am Morning Prayer	

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK 10am COMMUNION SERVICES

May		June	
4	St Paul's	1	NO SERVICE
11	Sarratt Village Hall	8	Sarratt Village Hall
18	St Paul's	15	St Paul's
25	Holy Cross	22	Holy Cross
		29	St Paul's

FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

May
3 Quiet Place/Garden – 10-12noon - 40 Church Lane, Sarratt
5 Benefice Prayers – The Vicarage, Chipperfield
7 Men's Breakfast – 8am – Hunton Park – Andrew Williams, RETRAK
The Big Picture – 5.30pm – St Paul's
15-21 Christian Aid Week – 17th at 7.30pm Quiz Night, The Plough, Belsize
18 Open Door – 2.30pm Micklefield, Sarratt - Peter and Anne Corbett
19 Thursday Night Together – 7.30pm Chipperfield Baptist Church

June
4 The Big Picture – 5.30pm – St Paul's
7 Quiet Place/Garden – 10-12noon - 40 Church Lane, Sarratt
12 Open Garden/Lecture – 3.30pm Old Rectory. Sarratt
15 Open Door – 2.30pm – Micklefield, Sarratt – Mick and Sheila Warner
16 Thursday Night Together – 7.30pm Chipperfield Baptist Church
24-26 Holy Cross Flower Festival

For further details and news of additional events, please see weekly newsletter and parish websites www.holycrosssarratt.co.uk and www.stpaulschipperfield.co.uk

THURSDAY NIGHT TOGETHER

7.30 pm Thursday 19 May in Chipperfield Baptist Church

This is our first opportunity to worship, learn and discuss, following the recent Alpha Course. Our topic for this evening will be

'Is there conflict between science and Christianity?'

Plentiful supply of tea/coffee and delicious desserts. Come and make new friends and enjoy a relaxed time together. All welcome.



also on Thursday 16 June and 14 July

and BBQ planned for 11th August



Sponsored by St Paul's, Holy Cross and Chipperfield Baptist Church

What's happening in the **Youth** this Summer!?

Youth Programme

'Come near to God and He will come near to you'

James 4.8

Extra Dates to Note...

Please chat to Ellie or Tom if you would like to go to one of the events/camps.

Soul Survivor Festival
A youth camp in Somerset for year 9+
Week B 7th—12th August 2012
Book online at www.soulsurvivor.com/uk with
Booking Ref: B2K12-27008

Resonate
A local youth camp for years 6-9
18th-22nd August 2012
Book online at www.resonate2012.eventbrite.com

Church:
1st Sunday: 10am Holy Cross
2nd Sunday: 10am All Age Service, St Pauls Parish Room
3rd Sunday: 10am St Pauls
4th Sunday: 10am, ASK Café Style Service, Sarratt Village Hall

2012

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE
OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SARRATT
Trinity Sunday, 3rd June 2012, 10 a.m.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Members of Holy Cross invite you to join them after the service for coffee and cakes at The Cock

Holy Cross Flower Festival (theme: The Diamond Jubilee)
Saturday 30th June, Sunday 1st July and Monday 2nd July
See 'Spotlight' for full details. Everyone will be made very welcome

THE PARISH OF SARRATT

CELEBRATING Queen's 1952 2012 Diamond Jubilee 60 GLORIOUS YEARS

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS

Programme of Events

Saturday 2 June

FAMILY PICNIC IN THE PARK
KGV PLAYING FIELDS

FROM 1.00 P.M.

◆

A relaxed fun afternoon including
Crown making, fun races, tug of war,
kids talent contest.
Bring a plate of food for a Big Tea get together
later in the Afternoon, for what to bring
Contact Pippa - pippa@sunriseandsunset.org

Sunday 3 June
at Holy Cross Church -10am

Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service

Individuals, families and members of Village Organisations are warmly invited to attend this special service to give thanks for the sixty year reign of Elizabeth, our Queen, and to pray for her continued service to God and the Country.



Monday 4 June
12.30 Barbecue at the Boot p.h.

Sporting Fun, Craft Displays and
Jazz on the Green *- From 1.30pm*

COMPETITIONS - ENTRY TIME 1.30pm

1. **SCARECROW** – Any Prime Minister of the Queen's Reign
2. **A CROWN** – in any medium
3. **A CONTAINER** (Any size) – with Red/White/Blue Plants or Flowers
4. **DECORATED CAKE** in Red/White/Blue
5. **PHOTOGRAPH - 'Sarratt at it's best'**

2.15 pm. FANCY DRESS COMPETITON (King, Queen, Guardsmen Princess etc.)

2.45pm CUTEST JUBILEE PET — (ANY PET)

BEST DECORATED HOUSE— WINNER CHOSEN EARLIER

BRING AND SHARE PICNIC TEA

com- mences at 3.15pm





Some chairs and tables will be provided but if you could bring along your own small tables, chairs or rugs it would be helpful.

You are welcome to come dressed in 1950s Fashion or Red/ White/Blue attire or as you please

In the event of inclement weather all this will take place in the Village Hall except for Sporting Fun.

IN THE VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 4 JUNE at 7.45pm



LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
OF MUSIC AND SONG
ORGANISED BY DAVID CLOUGH



SIMPLE PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER
LICENSED BAR

TICKETS £3.00
From Carol Chorley 256096
Jackie Boughton 265897
Julia Cheetham 269083



Style capital: Shoppers admire the flags flying in New Bond Street, London



Spot the pub: The Churchill Arms in Kensington is covered in decorations



Going the distance: Eight miles of bunting in Ashbourne, Derbyshire

GONE BONKERS FOR BUNTING!



For Queen and country: A decorated house in Cambridge

FROM London to Land's End, Norfolk to Newcastle, Plymouth to the Peak District, the flags are flying high.

With just one day to go before the Diamond Jubilee, houses, high streets, pubs and churches are all decked out in red, white and blue.

Ashbourne in Derbyshire was ablaze with colour yesterday, having stretched eight miles of bunting across its Georgian streets.

Villagers in Randwick, near Stroud, set a new world record for the longest line of continuous bunting after stringing up 14,583 triangular flags for four unbroken miles.

And Vivienne and Alex Tate have turned their home in Teddington, South-West London into a giant Union Jack, winning the title of most patriotic home from website localpeople.co.uk.

'We had been meaning to paint our house ever since we moved in two years ago,' Mrs Tate said. 'When I first suggested it to my husband he thought I was mad but he came round to the idea.'

The Queen's crowning glory PAGES 22-23



Let the party begin: An avenue of homes in Sarratt, Hertfordshire



Patriotic: Castle Combe in Wiltshire



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

Open Church Sunday, 24 June 2012

Although you may be familiar with the inside of our church, how often do you visit other local churches? You may have attended the occasional service, but have you had the opportunity to appreciate their architecture or fabric?

Now for one Sunday in June, many churches throughout the diocese have agreed to open their doors, welcome visitors and, in many cases, provide refreshments and activities.

So here is an idea for a family day out on Sunday 24 June. Pack a picnic, plan a route using the booklet of open churches or the list at www.livinggodslove.org/openchurchsunday and drive, cycle or walk on a tour of churches in your area. You will be sure of receiving a warm welcome and seeing what is inside some interesting buildings that you now just drive past.

Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, will be open from 11am - 5pm. As many footpaths converge on Sarratt Parish Church, Holy Cross has been called *"The Walkers' Church"*. Come and see a special display of footpath maps and information about walks in the beautiful Chess Valley and Sarratt countryside, and also enjoy the many fine features of this lovely, ancient house of prayer.

St Paul's Chipperfield will be open from 0900-1800.
Local Historian, Mary Nobbs, is offering tours of St Paul's at 11.30 and 2.30pm.

Worth noting are the unusual orientation of the church, the west window by John Hayward and the Exceptional 3-manual TC Lewis/ Hill pipe organ, extensively overhauled and modernised in 2008. A talk about the organ, with demonstration, lasting 15-20 minutes will follow on from the church tours.

Delicious Cream Teas will be served in the award winning Parish Room between 1400-1700

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Celebration in flowers of
Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

at Holy Cross Church, Sarratt

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
30th June	1st July	2nd July
10am – 5pm	11.30am – 5pm	11am – 3pm

Lunches, Teas, Coffees, Stalls for cakes, plants and lots more

Concert - 7.30pm Saturday 30th June
'Words and Music for a Summer Evening'
Admission Free – retiring collection

United Benefice Service of Holy Communion
Sunday 1st July 10.00am

FREE
Entrance and Parking

OPTIMA 9/6/12

HETHERINGTONS FOR THE FINEST HOMES







Sarratt

A beautifully presented four bedroom family home located in the picturesque village of Sarratt. The property offers spacious living accommodation, garaging and an attractive well stocked rear garden.

Guide Price £850,000 Freehold
CHW100061 Call: 01923 284125

2012

Knight Frank









Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire borders

Georgian gem close to London

Sarratt 1 mile, Amersham 7 miles, Central London 29 miles, Heathrow Airport 25 minutes

Imposing Grade II listed Georgian house. Reception hall, drawing room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, large rear hall and lobby, shower room, cellars, master bedroom suite, 8 further bedrooms, 3 further bathrooms, garaging for 5 cars, outdoor heated swimming pool. Lawn tennis court, attractive landscaped gardens and grounds. **In all about 6.5 acres.**

Guide price: £3,250,000

knightfrank.co.uk/BCN110157

KnightFrank.co.uk/Country
christopher.dewe@knightfrank.com
020 7861 1779

KnightFrank.co.uk/Beaconsfield
william.furniss@knightfrank.com
01494 675368

Rector at Holy Cross, Sarratt and St Paul's, Chipperfield

Reverend Jim Stevens, The New Vicarage, The Street Chipperfield
Herts. WD4 9BJ Tel: 01923 265848 e-mail: revjim@tiscali.co.uk

15th June 2012

Dear Christian friends at Holy Cross and St.Paul's

Greetings to you all. We are now drawing close to the vacancy – my last Sunday with you being 22nd July. We have but one service that day, as I am sure you know, at 10.00am in Sarratt Village Hall. I would like to encourage you please to come so we can together thank God for all his goodness, and be of real encouragement to each other for the future. A vacancy is always both a time of change, of extra work, but also of opportunity for encouragement, development and growth.

Key to the life of the people of God is prayer – both looking to the Lord for His gracious provision for the things over which we have no control - and opening ourselves to know how He would have us deal with things which are our responsibility to tackle. It has always been the case down the centuries that as God's people earnestly seek Him, He delights both to *give* to His own and to *guide* them in their decision making. He is the Lord of the church, and He always desires to build and encourage us, His People.

There are a number of things which we need to bring to the Lord at this time;-

(1) All those who will be involved in the search for a New Rector.
(2) Those who will carry extra responsibility during the Vacancy, and how each of us can play our part in encouraging and supporting one another.
(3) The provision of a New Intern for September – a key appointment. Housing for that person also needs to be found.
(4) For very good reasons two of the most generous financial pledged gifts which St.Paul's have received down the years have now been largely withdrawn, and St.Paul's faces a pledged giving decrease of over £10,000 for 2013. Finance is an issue for both our churches.

In the light of this the churchwardens and I feel it is right to call the whole church to prayer over these next few weeks. We should pray on our own, but also together, having opportunity to *share together what we sense God may be saying to us as to how He wants us to address these issues*.

With this in mind we are planning four specific occasions listed below, **and invite you to come to at least one of them**, giving the whole hour to pray, to listen, and to seek God himself in all we face.

(a) Thursday 5th July 7.30-8.30pm in Holy Cross – this is our usual Monthly Benefice prayer evening

(b) Sunday 8th July 5.00-6.00pm in St.Paul's, and to stay on for Choral Communion at 6.30pm

(c) Tuesday 10th July 8.00-9,00pm in St.Paul's following the youth "Revive" meeting – with the encouragement for the young people to pray with us.

(d) Sunday 15th July 5.00-6.00pm in Holy Cross, and stay for Compline at 6.30pm

We will on each occasion give you information to help you pray, and the means of sharing in what way you sense the Lord may be leading us. We very much hope that you will want to be a part of this coming together in prayer.

With my prayers,
Jim

The art of gardening

The elegantly designed gardens at The Grove near Watford are the perfect setting for a sculpture exhibition. Philippa Pearson meets landscape designer Michael Balston and enjoys an afternoon of art spotting

'WHEN I first came here in 2000,' says award-winning landscape architect and Chairman of the RHS Show Gardens Committee, Michael Balston, 'most of the garden was a mass of brambles, sycamore seedlings and there were also lots of chicken houses!'

A daunting sight for anyone who designs gardens, but this was to be the garden of a soon-to-be-prestigious country hotel. The estate was once home to generations of the Earls of Clarendon, but in the 1940s it became the secret HQ for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway with the house and grounds meeting more functional and utilitarian needs.

Afterwards, everything fell into disrepair and with little sign of the once formal gardens enjoyed by royalty and aristocrats, Michael turned to original 18th and 19th century layouts for inspiration to re-design the 10-acre gardens running along the length of the now extended hotel.



The wide herbaceous and shrub border by the grand canal

The new formal gardens at The Grove incorporate the line of the original east-west axial path that once flanked the country house and together with a combination of further linear and sinuous pathways, which divide the area into smaller and more intimate gardens,

Michael has created a classical English formal garden with a 21st-century contemporary twist.

Adjacent to the main pathway is an impressive stepped grand canal with a series of waterfalls and fountains adding height and interest; the copper bowl at the head was originally from a Scottish distillery. 'There had originally been a couple of pools here,' says Michael as we admire the canal, 'and I wanted to combine the water link to the previous garden with the east-west ax the main pa running alo the building

A massive deep border reflects i water of the grand canal; here, Mi has used a palette of tall, graceful Miscanthus grass, architectural shr and traditional colourful herbaceo plants in large clumps planted in a flowing repetitive manner for imp cohesion. Looking over the rose g and outdoor terrace area, a huge b

The 57 sculptures are inspired by two key events in 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic Games

SEE FOR YOURSELF

The Grove
Chandler's Cross WD3 4TG
01923 807807
E-mail: info@thegrove.co.uk
www.thegrove.co.uk

Expressions of Movement 2012 sculpture exhibition is on display in the formal gardens at The Grove until September 30. All pieces are available for sale.

Holy Cross Church
Sarratt, Herts

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2012

Saturday 30th June to Monday 2nd July

Celebration in flowers of
Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



Corgis and crown jewels in bloom

HUNDREDS of visitors turned out to enjoy a village flower festival despite the unpredictable weather over the weekend.

The annual Sarratt Flower Festival returned to the Holy Cross Church on Saturday, Sunday and Monday for a special diamond jubilee version of the event.

Arrangements varied from depictions of regal locations, such as Balmoral and Sandringham, to other important things in the Queen's life included a royal corgi and the Royal Yacht Britannia.

More than 30 displays filled the church, making up the festival over the three days, and there was a words and music event held on Saturday evening.

Church warden John Guy said: "It went very well. We were very pleased, it was a very happy weekend.

"It was good, not only because so many people came to see it, but also that so many people in the village were involved in making it such a great village event."

There were also stalls outside the church including a plant stall, and refreshments were also on offer.

Pictures by Dave Satchel

12-594. Order online at www.hemeltoday.co.uk



16 Hemel Hempstead Gazette, Wednesday, July 4, 2012

PICTURE POWER







FLOWER FESTIVAL: A three-day flower festival in Sarratt celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in attracted nearly a thousand visitors. The event took place in Holy Cross Church on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. David Butler, from the church, said: "The flower festival went very well and we were very lucky the rain held off. We had more than 950 visitors. We don't have competitions for the best exhibit it is all just done by volunteers to attract visitors who donate to Holy Cross funds to help maintain our lovely old church." NATFEAD OBSERVER 6 JULY 2012 Picture 26H4301



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

SARRATT

Flower Festival Concert

'Words & Music for a Summer Evening'

30 June 2012

by

Sarratt Singers and friends

at 7.30pm

Retiring collection in aid of Holy Cross Church

OLYMPIC FLAME

David Butler will carry the Olympic Flame on Sunday 8th July in Hemel Hempstead. Starting at approximately 5.41pm the flame will be carried along The Marlowes **near Bank Court to Hillfield Road –** please support him along the way !

GOING FOR GOLD!

5Alive - Sunday 29th July - 10.30am at Chipperfield Baptist Church:
A time for all from our two villages to gather together to consider an Olympic theme! All are most welcome. Please note: there will be no 10am services in either Holy Cross or St Paul's on 29th. The fifth Sunday is a time when our two churches come together with the Chipperfield Baptist Church at various venues in our two villages. We thank Jason Gain for hosting us on this occasion.
(*Please note 10.30am start time!*)

HOLY CROSS FLOWER FESTIVAL - A BIG THANK-YOU!

We are most grateful to Marilyn Butler, Colin Plummer and their teams of flower arrangers and stallholders, their other helpers, and the Festival Concert singers and musicians, for making the Flower Festival such a happy occasion and such a great success. And, of course, we are grateful to the many who came to Holy Cross and enjoyed the Festival. Although not all expenses are in yet, it looks as though net proceeds will be in the region of £5000 - an excellent result. You can see great photos of the wonderful flower arrangements on the Holy Cross website, and there are some other good ones on page 16 of the July 4th issue of the Hemel Hempstead Gazette (available at Sarratt Post Office Stores!). Thank you all very much indeed. David Clough & John Guy

YOUTH REPORT - Hello all, firstly thanks to everyone who came to the youth service last Sunday evening. It was a great success and we were really encouraged with the mix of ages all in together - both young and not so young! We had a good evening at Contact this week, however we are starting to get short of helpers, so if you'd like to start volunteering please let us know !
Lots of Love Tom & Ellie x

Holy Communion services during the vacancy
There will be a Communion service **each Sunday** within the Benefice

8.00am on the 2nd Sunday at St.Paul's, and the 4th Sunday (BCP) at Holy Cross, of each month. On 30th September (5th Sunday) at Holy Cross.

10.00am Benefice communion will follow the current pattern of 1st Sunday at Holy Cross and 3rd Sunday at St.Paul's.

Wednesday 10.00am Communion services will be on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Holy Cross, and the 4th Wednesday (BCP) at St.Paul's.
Watch this space for other Wednesdays.

2012

Let us all congratulate
A real Sarratt gem,
We are here to celebrate
Our Colin - B.E.M.

He always is so active,
Around our village fair
Whenever there's a problem
Our Colin's always there.
Chorus
On weekdays he is busy
With tasks both great and small
To make sure there's no trouble
Around our Village Hall.
Chorus
At Holy Cross on Sundays
You'll find him in his pew
Or standing by the doorway
To welcome me and you.
Chorus
He keeps the church funds balanced,
As treasurer he's great.
To keep his funds in credit
Please put more in the plate.
Chorus
Without his guiding presence
Flower festivals would fail;
With tents and power and water
And then – a pint of ale.
Chorus
But Colin would admit it
He cannot cope alone
Janne keeps him fed and watered;
The power behind the throne.
Chorus
Though Colin you're quite bashful
And do not like a fuss
We **have** to sing we're grateful
For all you've done for us.
Chorus

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH | SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012

Queen's Birthday Honours

community in Northwood, NW London. **Colin Leslie Plummer,** for serv to the community in Sarratt, Hertfordshire. **Mrs Mary Pointon,** for serv to the community in Hopwas, Staffordshire.

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL AWARDED TO COLIN PLUMMER

THE COCK INN SARRATT

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN WON THE HALL & WOODHOUSE REGIONAL AWARD FOR W. 6/7/12
BEST FOOD PUB 2011



LIVE MUSIC every Sunday 3.30pm to 6pm with PAUL GREEN

We are now serving food on Monday evenings from 6pm - 8.30pm and all day Sunday.

Fizz and Chip Friday
Haddock, Chips & Peas & a glass of "FIZZ" only £10
12pm - 2.30pm & 6pm - 9pm

Tapas Week is Here Again Back by popular demand
Tuesday 7th August - Saturday 11th August

Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Wakes & Private Dining in our 17th Century Barn Restaurant with Terrace.

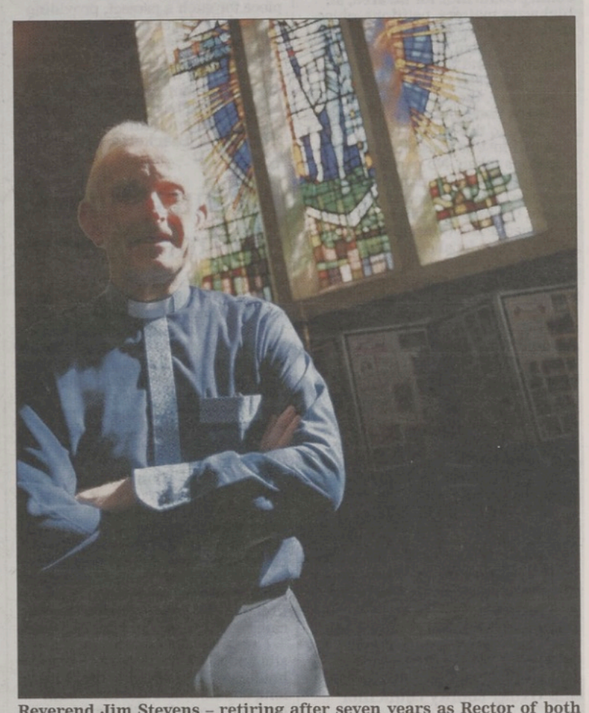
• Award winning Badger Ales with seasonal specials • Bar Food
• Award winning A La Carte Restaurant • Senior Citizens Menu

The Cock Inn, Church Lane, Sarratt WD3 6HH
Tel: 01923 282 908 email: enquiries@cockinn.net
www.cockinn.net

WATFORD OBSERVER 6 JULY 2012

'A delight when people discover Christ is alive'

by **ADAM BINNIE**



Reverend Jim Stevens – retiring after seven years as Rector of both Holy Cross Church in Sarratt and St Paul's in Chipperfield.

THE retiring Rector of two churches in Sarratt and Chipperfield has said his career in the ministry had been an "enormous privilege".

Reverend Jim Stevens, 65, has been the Rector of both Holy Cross Church in Sarratt and St Paul's in Chipperfield for more than seven years. His final service will be a Holy Communion of All Ages on July 22 at Sarratt Village Hall, followed by a lunch.

He said: "I'm going to buy my own home in Kent and I won't be committed to the leadership of any particular church. But I hope I can be around to be supportive to whichever church I'm nearest to.

"I've had lots of good times with different people. It's an enormous privilege to sit aside so many people from so many walks of life. It is a delight when people discover that Christ is alive and real and to see their lives utterly changed.

"But that is not to say there aren't things that are difficult or painful and make you scratch your head, but that is the way life is. Faith is not about having all the answers."

Reverend Stevens spent nine years working as a scientific technical troubleshooter before taking on his first parish in Hereford, for four years. After that he spent five years in Lowestoft, and 15 in Dorridge, south Birmingham.

He discovered the Christian faith while studying theoretic physics at Oxford University.

Reverend Stevens said: "Science is about walking God's steps after him. The difficulties arise when people of science or people of faith step over the boundaries.

"The two really go hand in hand. Science is fun and interesting, and there is a real beauty in it."

Reverend Stevens said he and his wife, Judy, looked forward to spending more time with his family and continuing to build links with a church in Rwanda, which he has visited four times.

David Clough and John Guy, wardens at Holy Cross, said they wanted to celebrate Reverend Stevens' ministry and to say thank you for his pastoral care, teaching and bereavement counselling.

Presents and donations can be left at Sarratt Post Office Stores.

THURSDAY NIGHT TOGETHER
7.30pm THURSDAY 14 July
CHIPPERFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

Topic: IS JESUS UNIQUE ?

Holy Cross, St Paul's and Chipperfield Baptist Church extend an invitation to anyone with an enquiring mind to come and explore, ask questions, and freely discuss issues relating to the Christian faith. Plentiful supply of coffee/tea and delicious desserts! Come and make new friends and enjoy a relaxed time together.

Do come and give it a try.



BBQ planned for 11th August



The Church of The Holy Cross, Sarratt

July 2012

Dear Parishioner/s

RETIREMENT OF REV. JIM STEVENS

Invitation to 'Holy Communion for All Ages' on 22 July at 10 a.m. in Sarratt Village Hall
Jim and his wife Judy are retiring, and Jim's last service will be Holy Communion for All Ages on 22 July at 10 a.m. in Sarratt Village Hall to which all members of both parishes are invited.

Jim has been with the Benefice for seven years as Rector of both Holy Cross Church, Sarratt, and St Paul's Church, Chipperfield, and he has been tireless in building up a church rich in God's love. We want to celebrate Jim's ministry and to say thank you for his pastoral care, excellent teaching, bereavement counselling and his positive influence within the schools, through his assemblies and Bible teaching, and his encouragement of youth work. We also wish to thank Judy for all her support to Jim and for her own much-valued work in our Benefice. At the same time, we also will be saying goodbye and thank you to Assistant Youth Worker, Tom Hodkinson, who has worked so well with our Youth Worker, Ellie Freeman for the past two years.

How to contribute to a leaving present for Jim & Judy
We know church members and others living in the two parishes would like to contribute to a present for Jim and Judy, and consequently we are arranging for donations to be deposited at Sarratt Post Office Stores, or to be sent to Colin Plummer, Holy Cross Treasurer, Greenhill Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt WD3 6AR. An envelope is provided with this letter for your use. Please make your donation before 14 July.

Invitation to the Bring-and-Share Farewell Lunch
You cordially invited to a bring-and-share lunch, which will be held in the Village Hall at about 12.30 p.m., after the service, when there will be a chance to thank Jim & Judy and Tom for their ministry in Chipperfield and Sarratt and to say farewell. To facilitate the catering, if you are able to provide a plate of food, please would you fill in the list which will be at the back of each church, or contact Julia Lawrence by telephoning her on 01923 260504 or by e mail (julia.lawrence10@btinternet.com). It will be helpful to know what you intend to provide and for how many. We would like the lists completed by Wednesday, 18 July.
Drinks will be supplied.

Yours faithfully,

David Clough & John Guy
Church Wardens, Holy Cross

.....

*Please detach and return with your donation **before 14 July** to Colin Plummer, Holy Cross Treasurer, Greenhill Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt WD3 6AR or hand in at Sarratt Post Office Stores*
Cheques should be made payable to PCC, Holy Cross, Sarratt

Name/s (please print) .....

Telephone Number .....

Please delete as appropriate:
I/We shall / shall not be attending the service on 22nd July in Sarratt Village Hall

I/ We shall / shall not be able to stay for lunch

SARRATT CARE

Your hairdresser appointment is Wed. 3 August at 10.30.

Please come with washed hair

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

AS THE BELLS ARE RUNG ACROSS OUR NATION

8.12-8.15am Friday 27 July 2012

Pray individually or meet at **8am** at **Holy Cross**



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and
recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lords favour."

Luke 4:18-19

Ringing the Bells in World War 2

In WW2 after the Battle of El Alamein, Winston Churchill was so convinced that the battle marked the **turning point** in the war that he ordered the ringing of church bells all over Britain!

He later declared, 'before Alamein we never had a victory, after Alamein we never had a defeat'.

The Battle of El Alamein was actually two battles: The first ran from 1st July to 27th July 1942 and was a stalemate. The second from 23rd October to 3rd November and saw victory.

The date of the ringing of bells across our nation, 27th July 2012, is **exactly 70 years** from the last day of the first battle of El Alamein - the end of stalemate!

A prophetic word from 1930

This word was given to a group of people in Wales in 1930, including Arthur Burt who is now 100 years old:

"There shall come a breath and the breath shall bring the wind, and the wind shall bring the rain, and the rain shall bring the floods, and floods and floods and the floods shall bring the torrents and torrents and torrents.

"So shall they be saved like falling leaves from the mighty oaks swept by a hurricane in a great forest. Arms and legs shall come down from heaven and there shall be no ebb."

Watford Observer

Sponsored by Chipperfield Land Rover

NEWS SEND YOUR NEWS, PICTURES & VIDEOS

Cyclist found dead in Sarratt had been weeks from getting married



By Adam Binnie, Senior Reporter 5:11pm Thursday 9th August 2012 in News

A man who died last Friday after coming off his bicycle in Sarratt was due to marry in just over a month.

Scott Crawford, from Giffnock in Scotland, was found in Dawes Lane where he had been cycling. He was due to marry his partner of nine years, Iona, in five weeks.

Mr Crawford worked in Rickmansworth and lived in Little Chalfont during the week. He travelled home most weekends, but on this occasion stayed in order to visit the Olympic Games in London.

Partner Iona was also busy, having her hen night celebrations.



"Devoted dad" Scott Crawford.

Dead cyclist is named

A CYCLIST who died in Sarratt after coming off his bike on Friday evening has been named as Scott Crawford.

The 50-year-old, from Little Chalfont in Buckinghamshire, was believed to have been cycling in Sarratt village at around 8.30pm.

A resident saw him on the ground and called an ambulance, but Mr Crawford was pronounced dead at the scene.

PC Bob Hauxwell from Hertfordshire's Road Policing Unit, said: "We would like to appeal to anyone who saw this man cycling prior to or around the time of this incident.

"He was wearing blue shorts and a red T-shirt and had brown sports sandals on. He was also wearing a silver cycling helmet and was riding a Scott Sub 30 orange coloured pedal cycle.

"He is described as being quite stocky with short cropped greying hair.

"His next of kin have been informed and we would ask anyone who can help to call us on the non-emergency number 101."

For news, sport and information online visit www.watfordobserver.co.uk

THREE RIVERS WATFORD OBSERVER 21 DEC. 2012

Debris left in the road led to death of cyclist



Scott Crawford: Died instantly when his bicycle struck something lying in the road.

by ADAM BINNIE

A SCOTSMAN who lived locally during the week while working in Rickmansworth, died after his bicycle hit a rock, causing him to be thrown onto the road.

An inquest into the death of Scott Crawford, who was found in Dawes Lane, Sarratt, on August 3, heard on Wednesday how he had been cycling home in the evening when he had the accident.

The 50-year-old lived in Westwood Drive, Little Chalfont, while he worked as a quality assurance manager during the week, but his home was in East Kilbride, Scotland.

A post mortem showed not only bruising, but skull and rib fractures which led to internal injuries to brain, right lung, liver and spleen.

Speaking at the inquest in Hatfield, John Spears, a forensic collision investigator, said: "The bike was in very good condition and Mr Crawford was wearing a helmet.

"The bike had struck an item at speed, causing the tyre to be crushed and two punctures. This caused rapid deflation and the rider to be thrown off.

"The road was very small and it was windy, and overhanging foliage caused a lot of darkness. There were large pieces of flint and rock on the road surface."

Paramedics were called to the lane and attempted resuscitation but realised there was nothing they could do.

PC Robert Hauxwell, from the serious collision unit, said: "No one saw Mr Crawford come off his bike.

"He was found by a man who lives near the lane, who saw a red flashing bicycle light and then realised there was a man lying on his back.

"Another neighbour said the water board had been working nearby the night before.

"The workmen had gone but there were stones all over the walkway.

"The people I spoke to all felt the stones were a factor and they felt guilty for not moving them away. They were most likely from a contractor's lorry."

In August, the Watford Observer reported how Mr Crawford had been due to marry his partner of nine years, Iona, the following month.

He travelled home most weekends, but the weekend of his death he stayed, in order to visit the Olympic Games in London. Iona was also busy, taking part in her hen night celebrations.

Coroner Edward Thomas recorded accidental death and said: "Some lorries have to use these narrow roads and their tyres rub up against the bank leaving debris behind.

"He hit his head very hard and died almost instantaneously. He was very well respected at work, was very happy and had lovely kids. It's awful and very, very sad.

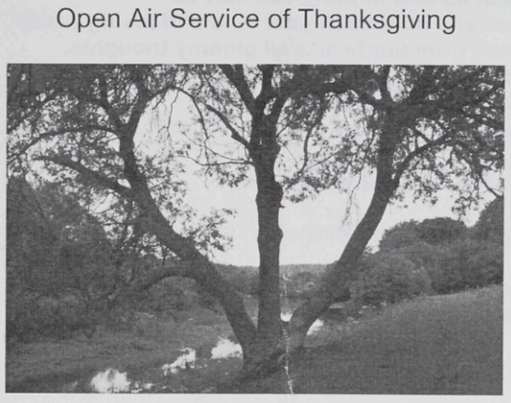
A tribute from his family described him as a devoted dad to his three children, Ashleigh, 23, Fraser, 21, and Adele, 14.

It read: "All Scott's family and friends have been left devastated by his untimely death. He was a beloved son to Andrina and Ronnie.

"He will also be missed by his sister, Valerie, and was a loving uncle to Cara and Cai."

Order of Service

Open Air Service of Thanksgiving



Sunday, 19th August 2012, 6.30pm
The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Sarratt
(with thanks to Will & Kate Hobhouse and family)

We come together to praise our Heavenly Father and to give Him thanks for the communities of Sarratt and Chipperfield and the lovely countryside that surrounds our villages

The Sarratt Hymn

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.

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

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

And by that cross upon the hill
Spreading abroad its influence still,
Though trees may mask it, houses hide,
Our weekday world is sanctified.

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.

Conclusion

May we go in peace;
and may the blessing
of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
rest upon us and remain with us,
this night and for evermore.
Amen

THURSDAY NIGHT TOGETHER

Autumn dates:

September 8 – God the Father
– with reference to The Prodigal Son

October 13 – God the Son
– with reference to the Old Testament

November 10 – God the Holy Spirit
– and His availability today

December 8 – Christmas party
– bring your friends!

Meet at **7.30pm** for coffee and desserts
at the Baptist Church in Chipperfield. All welcome!

Holy Cross, St Paul's and Chipperfield Baptist Church

2012

SARRATT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 2012 - Patron John Lill CBE

Friday September 21st 7.45 pm

Paul Lewis (piano)

Paul Lewis is internationally recognised as one of the leading pianists of his generation. His many awards include the Royal Philharmonic Society's Instrumentalist of the Year, the South Bank Show Classical Music Award and three Gramophone awards, including Record of the Year in 2008. In 2010 he had the honour of being the first pianist in the history of the BBC Proms to perform all five Beethoven concertos in a single Proms season. In Sarratt he will perform a programme of Schubert sonatas, a composer with whom he has a special affinity.

"...arguably the finest Schubert interpreter of his generation... time and time again you marvel at the sureness and confidence of his playing, combined with finesse and musicality."

Gramophone

Saturday September 22nd 7.45pm

The Haffner Ensemble - wind quintet and piano

A welcome return to the Festival for these superb musicians. The Haffner Ensemble is one of Britain's leading chamber ensembles. Each member is a soloist in their own right and the breadth of their musical experience creates a secure and fluent ensemble, one that plays with freshness and vivacity. They are regularly heard on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and have appeared at many leading festivals including Aldeburgh and the Proms. The programme will include Mozart's Quintet for piano and wind and Poulenc's exuberant sextet.

Friday September 28th 7.45pm

"100 years of jazz in 99 minutes"

The Jazz Repertory Company

Six multi instrumentalists create a highly entertaining journey through the decades taking in everything from New Orleans to BeBop, Swing to Latin, Hot to Cool, and Louis Armstrong to Joe Zawinul. The music is interspersed with fascinating stories from the music's history as well as the inimitable humour of the band's musical director Pete Long. Licensed bar open from 7pm.

"Listening to this remarkably versatile band of musicians tackle the contemporary jazz of Abdullah Ibrahim with the same fervour and intensity as they produced for Miles Davis's "Kind of Blue" or Sidney Bechet's 1920s romping New Orleans jazz was a tremendous experience. Every era is evoked with complete conviction."

Alyn Shipton (presenter of BBC Radio 3's Jazz Library and Jazz critic for the Times)

Saturday September 29th 7.45pm

Craig Ogden (solo guitar)

Australian born Craig Ogden is one of the UK's most recorded guitarists. His Classic FM albums "The Guitarist" and "Summertime" shot straight to No.1 in the UK classical chart in the summers of both 2010 and 2011. His programme will include some delightful Scarlatti sonatas and some popular Spanish music including Recuerdos de Alhambra by Francisco Tarrega.

"A worthy successor to Julian Bream." **BBC Music Magazine**

Our commitment to children's musical education and entertainment continues with a performance and workshops from Travelling by Tuba which will take place for the pupils of Sarratt School in late September.

The box office will open on August 13th.
Tickets will be despatched from early September onwards.

We are keen to send future information via e mail. If you are on our mailing list please visit our new website and follow the directions to sign up. We promise never to pass your address on to 3rd parties or to bombard you with irritating e-mails.

Box Office
01923 269083

More information on the website - www.sarrattfestivalofmusic.co.uk

SARRATT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 2012 - BOOKING FORM

The box office will open on August 13th. All concerts take place at Sarratt Village Hall WD3 6AS

Event Title	Date and Time	Adult Price	No. of Adult Tickets	Concession Price	No. of Concession Tickets	Sub-Total
Paul Lewis	Friday 21st Sept - 7.45pm	£ 18.00		£ 16.00		£
The Haffner Ensemble	Saturday 22nd Sept - 7.45pm	£ 18.00		£ 16.00		£
100 Years of Jazz	Friday 28th Sept - 7.45pm	£ 18.00		£ 16.00		£
Craig Ogden	Saturday 29th Sept - 7.45pm	£ 18.00		£ 16.00		£
					Total Cost	£

Please enclose a cheque made payable to: **Sarratt Festival of Music and a SAE.**

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:.....

Send this form to:
Sarratt Festival of Music - Box Office,
Peel Cottage, Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt, Herts , WD3 6AR
Telephone: 01923 269083

- Concession prices for OAPs and under 18s
- All concerts include complimentary glass of wine (except 100 Years of Jazz, which will have a licensed bar)
- No returns unless tickets can be re-sold.

Sponsored Bike 'n Hike



Raise funds for our church

and for other churches & chapels in Beds & Herts

on

Saturday 8th Sept 10am to 6pm

by
cycling or walking
to churches & chapels
in our area.

For more information on the HOLY CROSS SARRATT Sponsored *Bike 'n Hike* please contact:

ALAN POULTON
01923 260295

Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust
Saving the Past for the Future
www.BedsHertsHCT.org.uk
BHHCT Registered Charity No. 1005697
Bike 'n Hike in association with the national ***Ride & Stride***

Support our Designated Fighting Fund

No HS2 across the Chilterns



Sarratt Local History Society

Our first Autumn meeting
will be on
Tuesday September 25 2012
at
7.30 for 8pm.
in
Sarratt Village Hall





Greg Edmund, our keen, young local enthusiast will tell us about "Some coins and artefacts from around Sarratt"

All are very welcome.
Tea or coffee and biscuits are available from 7.30pm.

GALLERY

HERTS H. GAZETTE 12 SEP. 2012

SARRATT AUTUMN SHOW

Pictures by Dave Satchel 12-749







DESPITE the difficult weather conditions this summer, a successful Autumn show was held at Sarratt.

There were 248 entries from 35 contestants including seven children on Saturday at the village hall.

The day was dominated by Christine Head who won the Clutterbuck Trophy for overall show winner and the Jenkins Trophy for dahlias and the Arthur Pritchard Trophy for roses.

In the other classes, chairman Margaret Stratford retained the Frederick Barber Trophy for other flowers.

There were new winners for both the David Osborne Trophy for vegetables and fruit and the Flight Cracknell Trophy for arts and craft which were claimed by Steven Booth and Sarah Dobson respectively.

Vice president of Sarratt Horticultural Society, Elsie Collings won the Collins Trophy for cookery while the Loader Trophy for flower arranging was shared between Barbie Knight and Natalie Morris.

In the children's section, the AE Cox Trophy was won by Samuel Gill, while the Three Rivers Family Trophy went to the Dobson-Gill family.

Pictured above left is Christine Head with her gladioli, above right is Oliver Gill, aged eight, and his five grass seed heads, while above is Philip Beausire with his bowls made from sycamore and African hardwood

WATFORD OBSERVER 26 OCT. 2012 NEWS

Cannabis man jailed

TWO cannabis factories were discovered after the police smelled the drug in a Mercedes they had pulled over at Hunton Bridge.

Pedro Faustino, a 37-year-old Portuguese man, was stopped in Watford Road on July 20, St Albans Crown Court heard on Friday.

Prosecutor David Chrimes said the car smelled of cannabis and when it was searched they found a small knife and £3,000 in cash.

Faustino was helpful to the officers and gave them two addresses where cannabis was growing.

They found 80 plants in Little Hill, Rickmansworth, and 244 more at Acre Wood in Dimmocks Lane, Sarratt.

At Sarratt there was another outbuilding that had been used to dry an earlier crop.

Mr Chrimes said Faustino, a former chauffeur, gave full and frank admissions to the police saying that when he was stopped he had sold ten ounces of the drug for £1,300.

The 324 plants could have yielded 13 kilos of the drug with potential street value of £130,000, said the prosecutor.

Faustino, of Popes Road, Abbots Langley, pleaded guilty to possessing 5.67 kilos of cannabis with intent to supply, production of cannabis and having a blade on July 20.

As each charge was put to him he said: "I am sorry, guilty." He had no previous convictions.

Kate Barbour, defending, asked for credit for Faustino's early guilty plea and the co-operation he had given the police.

She said Faustino, who had come to the UK in 1997, was not aware of the seriousness of the offences.

He had been in a significant amount of debt after his chauffeur business had failed.

He had separated from his wife, but they were now reconciled, she said.

Judge Stephen Gullick jailed him for 18 months.

A confiscation hearing will be heard at a later date.

in aid of CANCER RESEARCH UK

AUTUMN FAYRE

SARRATT VILLAGE HALL, SARRATT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH 10.30 till 4.00PM

Children's Clothes
Toys
Christmas Cards
Fashion
Handbags
Lace & Linen
Books
Kitchen gifts
Hand Made Silver
Lingerie
Cakes
Jewellery
Bridge & Golf

Beat the Christmas crowds and buy your cards and presents early

Cakes and Refreshments

Registered Charity No. 1089464

ADMISSION £2.00
All proceeds to charity

IMMEDIATE CASH

Paid for

Old jewellery, silver or gold



Berkeleys
Cordially invite you to

The Village Hall
The Green
SARRATT
Wednesday 31st October
10.30am – 12.30pm

Good prices paid for Contemporary paintings

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS SARRATT AND ST PAUL'S CHIPPERFIELD

OCT	HOLY CROSS	ST PAUL'S	
2	**10am Harvest Communion**	*8am Holy Communion*	
9	10am Morning Worship	*8am Holy Communion* 10am All Age Worship	
16	*8am Holy Communion (BCP)*	**10am Harvest Communion** 6.30pm Mozart requiem	
23	*8am Holy Communion* 6.30pm Compline	10am Morning Prayer	10am ASK Sarratt Village Hall
30	8am *Holy Communion*		10am 5Alive St Paul's School
		6.30pm Taizé reflective service	
NOVEMBER			
6	**10am Benefice Communion**	*8am Holy Communion*	
13	10.30am Remembrance service	*8am Holy Communion* 10am All Age Worship 10.50 Remembrance Service	
20	*8am Holy Communion* 6.30pm Compline	**10am Benefice Communion**	
27	*8am Holy Communion*	10am Holy Communion(BCP)	10am ASK Sarratt Village Hall

OPTIMA 3 Nov 2012



Sarratt **£595,000**

Beautifully presented 3 bed semi-detached brick and flint character cottage, 2 receptions, kitchen, cloakroom/shower room, bathroom, gardens, located on the green in the picturesque village of Sarratt.
Chorleywood Office 01923 282244

SARRATT ANNUAL FIREWORKS

Saturday November 3rd 2012, King George V Playing Fields, Sarratt
Activities from 6pm, Fireworks at 7.30pm

FIREWORKS, CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS COMPETITION, GUY FAWKES COMPETITION, FULLY LICENSED BAR, BBQ, FUN STALLS, GAMES

Advance tickets - Adults £1.50, Children £1
On the night - Adults £3, Children £2*
*Subject to availability

Tickets can be purchased at Sarratt Shop or through any of the KGV Clubs
Parking on 'The Green' (at owners risk)

Guy Fawkes Competition

Lets create a new Sarratt tradition! Make a Guy Fawkes and put it in your front garden for everyone to see anytime from 20th October. Then, bring it along to the Fireworks evening and enter it into our competition to win a prize

Children's Fancy Dress Competition

Why not let your children come dressed in their favourite fancy dress outfit? Whether it's a Princess or a Superhero - everything is welcome!





HOLY CROSS CHURCH SARRATT

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY 23RD
10.00 AM — MORNING WORSHIP
6.30 PM — VILLAGE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

MONDAY 24TH
3.30 PM — CRIB SERVICE
11.30 PM — MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

TUESDAY 25TH
10.00 AM — FAMILY COMMUNION

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS





001159

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, SARRATT

Draw will take place at Sarratt Village Hall
Friday 14th December 2012. Doors open at 7.30 p.m.

★ GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW ★





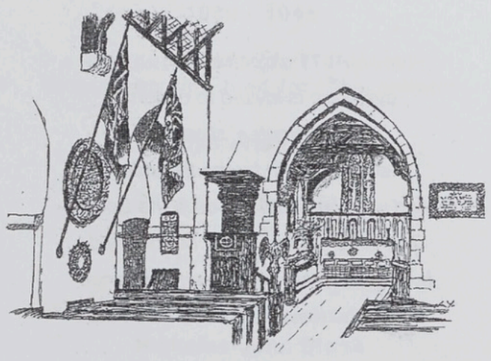
1st Prize: £100 Harlequin Gift Card
2nd Prize: £60 One 4 All Gift Card
Plus other great prizes
Gift Cards may be used at The Harlequin Shopping Centre, Watford

TICKETS £1

Promoter: J B Guy, Greenwood, The Green, Sarratt, Hertfordshire.
Registered with Three Rivers District Council under the Gambling Act 2005.
Printed by Printdomain, 107 High Street, Rotherham. Tel. 01709 892367

2012

A Service of Remembrance



Sarratt Remembers

Minister: The Reverend Hitesh Dodhia

11 November 2012
The Church of The Holy Cross, Sarratt

1914 - 1919

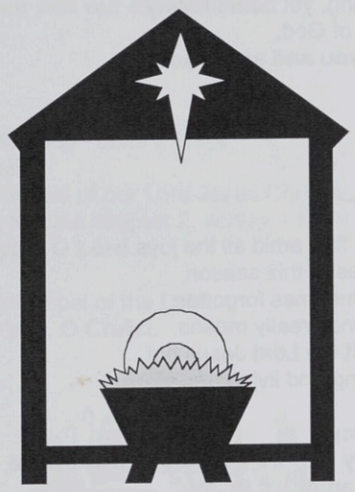
To the glory of God
and in memory
of the men of Sarratt
who fell in the Great War

H Biggerstaff • A P Bignell • F Bunker
J Burgin • P Clutterbuck • F W Dowse
C Dyer • S C Evans • F T Freeman
F Friend • J R Gulston • C H Hammond
B Hayward • H C Humphrey • A Juson
F Kirn • R Leech • H Prestidge
A E Pritchard • E Rackley • G Rackley
G Seabrook • J Washington
F J Whitmore • A Woodward

Their name liveth for ever more



The Church of The Holy Cross, Sarratt



A service of
Holy Communion
for all the family
on Christmas Day 2012

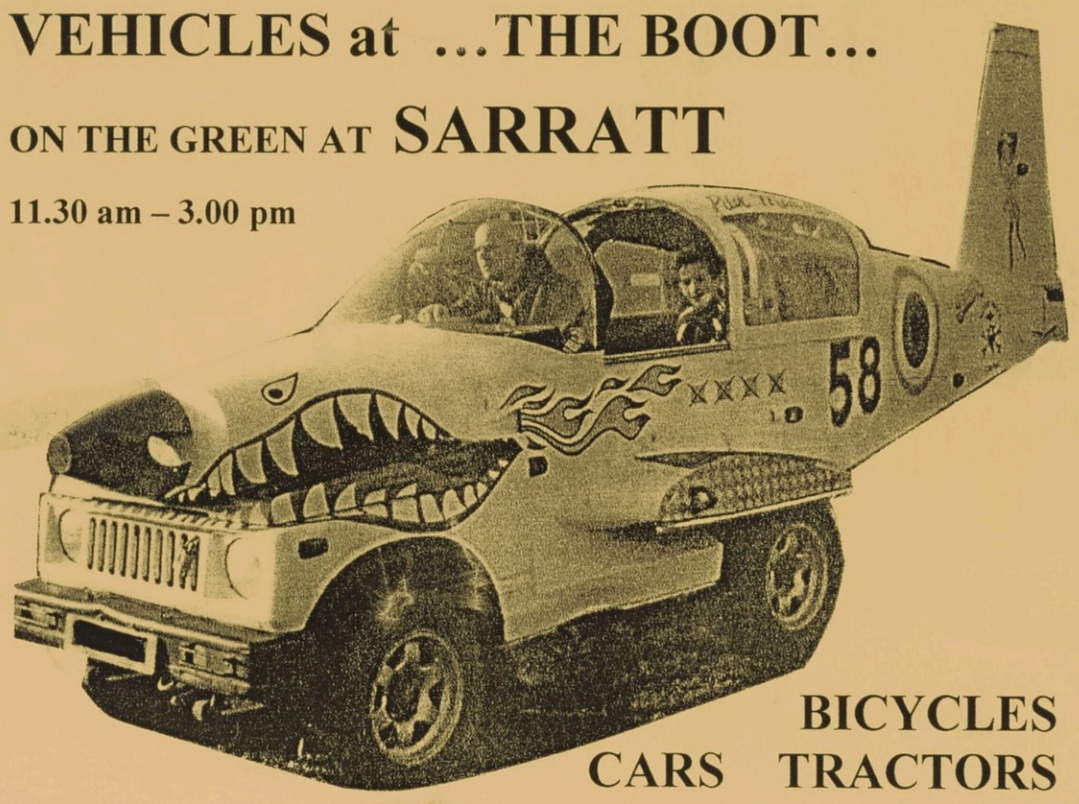
2012

BOXING DAY GATHERING
26 DECEMBER

VETERAN, VINTAGE & CLASSIC VEHICLES at …THE BOOT…

ON THE GREEN AT SARRATT

11.30 am – 3.00 pm



BICYCLES
CARS TRACTORS
COMMERCIALS MOTORCYCLES

IF YOU HAVE AN OLDER VEHICLE OF INTEREST PLEASE BRING IT ALONG

THERE WILL BE A CHARITY COLLECTION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

£361 Collected for Cancer Research on 26 December 2009
£272 Collected for Cancer Research on 27 February 2011

SUMMARY OF WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR 2012
taken at Little Bragmans, Bragmans Lane, Belsize, Sarratt by Philip Buller

	air temp. [°C]		minimum ground	rainfall [mm]		number of days	comments
	date/max.	date/min.	temp. [°C]	date/max.	total	thunder	
January	12th/ 12.8	17th/ -6.4	17th/ -7.5	3,4th/ 9.5	43.4	0	
February	23rd/ 18.0	11th/-16.2	11th/-16.6	5th/ 14.0	22.8	0	5th - 10cms snow at 9.00am. Snow lay for 10 days. 11th - coldest Feb day in 31 years. 23rd - warmest Feb day in 31 years.
March	28th/ 22.5	19th/ -2.2	19th/ -3.5	4th/ 14.5	18.1	0	4th - last snow. No rain fell on 26 days of this month. 28th - warmest March day in 31 yrs.
April	30th/ 18.3	6th/-4.4	6th/-6.2	28th/ 20.5	144.5	3	Wettest April since 1981, 31 years.
May	21st/ 26.7	7th/ -0.4	7th/ -2.8	9th/ 9.0	36.0	2	8th - heard first cuckoo. 7th and 13th, last air and ground frosts.
June	28th/ 26.9	13th/ 3.5	13th/ 0.1	10th/ 24.6	146.2	0	Wettest June since 1981, 31 years.
July	25th/ 29.7	30th/ 5.2	30th/ 2.6	12th/ 12.1	82.5	1	
August	19th/ 29.3	31st/ 6.0	31st/ 3.0	6th/ 7.3	33.6	2	
September	9th/ 27.6	30th/ 2.5	12th/ 1.6	23rd/ 17.7	42.3	0	
October	2nd/17.5	28th/ 0.0	28th/ -3.1	17th/ 19.5	118.7	1	13th - first ground frost. 27th - first snow.
November	13th/ 15.3	30th/ -3.4	30th/-10.3	24th/ 15.8	98.6	0	3rd - first air frost.
December	22nd/12.6	12th/ -8.1	12th/-10.1	19th/ 20.0	120.4	0	
			Annual total		907.1	9	This is the 5th wettest year that I've recorded in 31 years.