



Editorial

Did anyone see summer this year? My general impression was of rain and cold! And now we have galloped into autumn with the hour changing and the evenings starting around 5:00 pm! I really feel the need for something to cheer me up.

We have a very good reason to be cheerful though, have you seen the activity on the watercress beds? Volunteers as far as the eye can see! Who would have thought all those years ago that the beds would be looking so good now. When the beds became available to purchase one group took on the task – the Chiltern Society led ably by Beryl and Hugh Hunt. If it hadn't been for their drive and boundless enthusiasm the beds would not be in the condition they are today. Both Beryl and Hugh found the necessary funding from the village and elsewhere, organised the volunteers, raised funds for the Visitor Centre, worked tirelessly to restore the beds to some semblance of their former glory as well as creating a nature reserve. For both of them it was a real labour of love and – they weren't getting any younger!

As you will read in the Management Team's newsletter, Beryl and Hugh have decided to call it a day and enjoy a well-earned retirement. I would like to put on record my thanks to both of them for their tireless enthusiasm over the years which has produced – with the help of many others – a really attractive amenity that the village should be proud of. Thank you Beryl and Hugh – we couldn't possibly have done it without you!

In the last edition of the News we learnt more about the work done by the Ewelme Trust. The working of the Trust has always been a bit of a mystery to many of us and to that end they have produced a very informative booklet about all the things they do. It's well worth a read and can be obtained from Dee Rosier at Cloister Cottage at the top of Burrow's Hill.

The Editor

Edward Gerald Smith, 1929 – 2008

Gerald, or Ged as he was always called, was born on 12 November 1929 and lived at number 1 Watercress Cottages. His parents were the owners of the watercress beds, a flourishing village industry. Gerald went to Ewelme

School, became a cub and then a boy scout. On leaving Ewelme School at the start of World War II he went to Wallingford Grammar School, cycling there daily with his neighbour, Wallace Miners. On leaving school at 15 Gerald worked in the family business. His father, having died earlier in Gerald's life and being an only child, the responsibilities of running the watercress beds with his mother became too much and the business was sold to his uncle Walter Smith. The business then thrived and, along with Percy Strickland (who used to live where Peter Lemaire lives) they continued the sale of the famous Ewelme watercress to the markets in Oxford, Birmingham and London.

On 2 July 1955, Gerald married his village sweetheart, Yvonne Smith, and very soon moved to number 4 Watercress Cottages. Just over a year later a daughter, Elaine, was born and in 1958 another daughter Vivienne. Gerald was always a happy family man. He played football for the village team on The Common and completed his family with the arrival of Kevin in 1966. By now the cress beds had been sold on to Mr Jim Chevasse who had new ideas on growing watercress – ideas that unsettled Gerald and he left the old family business to become the village milkman at Winfield's Dairy. This was at a time when everyone had their milk delivered in the early hours of the morning, getting up at 3:30 am was no problem for Gerald and he would still help at the watercress beds when called upon.



Gerald working in his beloved watercress beds in Ewelme a few years ago

Grandchildren arrived in the 80s and 90s for both Elaine and Vivienne but family happiness was shattered when in 1994 Vivienne died of cancer shortly after the birth of Jack. Life for Gerald and Yvonne became a lot tougher from being doting grandparents to now being full-time parents again, bringing up Danielle, Keira and Jack. The raising of a second family had all its highs and lows and Yvonne and Gerald, although in their retirement years, coped admirably. The death of Yvonne in 2006 was devastating for both Gerald and the family. Soon after Gerald's health deteriorated and on the 23 September he died peacefully in the family home in the village he loved.

Vernon Miners, friend and neighbour

Parish Council News

One of the activities lined up for the village is a clear up of Day's Lane. Vernon Miners has decided that the dead wood and general debris need

moving and then said, “Wouldn’t it be good if the village helped clear it?” The date set for this is Saturday 22 November starting around 9:30 am. It would certainly be a good idea as the road seems to be reducing in width each time I travel up or down it! If everyone with a vested interest, ie, drivers who use the road, decided to help, then the task would be done quickly and efficiently. If it’s just left to a few of us it will take considerably longer. Just think, you can expend lots of excess energy clearing the banks and planting a few bulbs in the morning, rest in the afternoon and then let your hair down and enjoy the Race Night in the evening! How’s that for an enjoyable Saturday?

It really is great news about the Ewelme Village Store and the preparations are certainly gathering pace. After a very successful ‘launch’ many people now have shares in the store and the committee is working hard to equip the shop ready for its opening later in the spring. There are various items needed before the shop can open and if anyone is keen to help – either financially or in kind – I am sure that any of the Committee would be very pleased to hear from you.

Many of you will be aware of the fund-raising activities to supply water to a village in Kenya. From all the money raised so far the work has begun. You can read more about it in Gemma Benoliel’s article further on in the News. I want to publicise the ‘BIG’ event on the 20 December in the Village Hall called ‘A Christmas Special’. Along with the mulled wine and food, an ‘old-fashioned’ evening of entertainment is being prepared – along the lines of those wonderful get-togethers that we had in the school before the Village Hall was built! It promises to be great fun and what a thrill it would be to have the Village Hall full to overflowing! Please mark it in your diaries now and watch out for the posters that will flood the village!

Peter Lemaire, Chairman, Ewelme Parish Council

The Revd Jonathan Meyer

I have been asked to write a few words about myself and the family. It is always difficult to find something to say about oneself, indeed what to mention and what to leave out. So all I can really do is to give you a short mini-biography and let the villages come to their own conclusions when we arrive, which I am sure you will do anyway.

I have spent most of my working life in the auction business at Sotheby's and several other firms. Having read Theology at University, it took me almost 30 years to come to ordination just over three years ago – the moral being that God catches up with you in the end. I still act as a consultant and do some free lance work, which I will need to continue as the role in the benefice is on a House-for-duty basis only.



The Meyer family photographed at Christchurch Cathedral when Jonathan was ordained

Shirley and I have been married for 22 years and she teaches Art at the Downs School in Compton, about 25 minutes away. Our daughter Charlotte is in her second year at Exeter University and Ellie has just started VI Form at a Boarding School.

We have lived in Kintbury near Hungerford for 15 years, where I am a non-stipendiary minister in a small team looking after 7 churches. We are all excited about moving to Ewelme, which seems to have so much to offer. Personally I feel very privileged to have been chosen for the post and each time we come over we feel amazed and blessed to be able to come and live in the Rectory. We are keen to share in the life of what is clearly a lively village and to work in the parishes of Brightwell Baldwin and Cuxham with Easington.

Lastly I am very aware how much the Reverend Martin Garner is missed and how much he gave to the village. We have met both Philip and James, who have been really helpful and encouraging as we prepare to move in. There will be many ways in which I will be different from Martin but I have already learnt that he cherished the Old Testament, so often neglected today; I share that interest. It is my prayer that we preserve and nurture the great traditions of the Church of England as well as making the House of God accessible to all, who seek his presence.

The Revd Jonathan Meyer

EMISaccess - the online appointment and repeat prescription service

Have you ever wanted to request repeat prescriptions, book or cancel appointments online, 24 hours a day? Well you can, via EMISaccess available on our website www.millstreamsurgery.nhs.uk

To register for EMISaccess visit reception so we can give you a letter with all the details you need to get started. This will include a password and PIN to create your own unique EMISaccess account online.

To start using EMISaccess click the link from the practice website Home Page. Then click Create your account and follow the on-screen instructions. Once registered the site is quick and easy to use.

Important notes:

- Your password is CaSe SeNsItIvE for added security.
- For confidentiality reasons, you will need to collect your registration letter in person and each member of the family needs to have their own password and PIN.
- Having problems? Please contact the practice for further information or advice, on (01491) 838286.

Flu vaccination reminder – don't leave yourself unprotected

If you are due a flu jab this year please contact the surgery to book an appointment.

Dr Stephen Harper

Women drivers

This morning on the motorway, I looked over to my left and there was a woman in a brand new BMW doing 75 mph with her face up next to her rear view mirror putting on her eyeliner. I looked away for a couple of seconds!

When I looked back she was halfway over in my lane, still working on that makeup. As a man, I don't scare easily.

But she scared me so much; I dropped my electric shaver, which knocked the meat pie out of my other hand. In all the confusion of trying to straighten out the car using my knees against the steering wheel, it knocked my mobile phone away from my ear which fell into the coffee between my legs, splashed and burned Big Jim and the Twins, ruined the phone, soaked my trousers, and disconnected an important call.

Wretched women drivers!!

Written by an anonymous man!

The Ewelme Village Store

THANK YOU: A big, big thank you to over 200 people who have already bought a share in the village shop or made a donation. The support has been amazing. At the village meeting on 22 September, we said that our fundraising target was £20,000. At the time of writing, we have collected £15,800. We are hopeful that we can reach £20,000 by Christmas which will enable us to start fitting out the shop and preparing for opening in the spring. If you have not yet bought your share, or made a donation, it would be really helpful if you could do so by contacting Gemma Clive or myself at the addresses below.

PROGRESS: Many of you will have seen that building work for the shop, and flat above, started at the beginning of November. Andrew Clements is in regular contact with Sylvia and Michael Jay, and the builders, to ensure that we meet all the legal requirements, including those for Health and safety, environmental and building regulations for running a community shop.

The Ewelme Village Store Association is now a limited company with a bank account, agreed business plan and 25 year lease on the premises. The

Esme Fairbairn Foundation has confirmed that it will be able to give us a free grant of £20,000 (to match money raised in the community) and we are in the process of applying for a loan as part of the package. We are also applying for grants from SODC, DEFRA, the European Community and the Lottery.

Gemma has spent a lot of time talking to potential suppliers to the shop. We plan to sell competitively priced basic goods including newspapers, bread and milk as well as local fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, and will also be offering a number of other specialist items and services. These include a scaled down post office service including parcel collection, a delivery service for the older people in the village offered by the school, homemade ice cream, old fashioned sweets in jars, homemade ready meals (in portions of 1 and 2) from Cooks in Henley, walking and cycling maps of the local area, a few selective gifts, locally produced beer and wine. We will also be serving tea and coffee with homemade cakes.

I hope that I have addressed most of the questions raised at the village meeting. Since the meeting, we have been in contact with the police for advice on security, have discussed offering a home delivery service with the help of the school children, are considering a pharmacy drop-off service and are actively considering how to engage our young people in the project.

If you have any ideas, or would like to get involved, please do give either myself or Gemma Clive a call. We'd love to hear from you!

*Sarah Maine, White House,
825292*

*Gemma Clive, Old Rectory Cottage
837887*

A new beginning

These words, apart from referring to the dramatic events on the 'other side of the pond', reflect also our feelings of anticipation here locally in Ewelme. They conjure up various wishes and hopes:

- a chance to make amends to do better;
- starting at a new school – a new chapter in our lives;
- a sense of achievement in passing our examinations;
- a change in our relationship to someone;
- a change of direction bringing a more positive purpose.

The list is endless!

We in Ewelme, after nearly a year of sadness and uncertainty, are at the gate of 'better things to come' and our thanks go out to all who have helped us through the undergrowth of doubt – particularly our churchwardens and the various clergy who have taken holy communion for us.

How should we prepare ourselves for the opportunity given?

First of all, by showing gratitude to those who have helped us locally – not only to Martin and Audrey Garner during the happy years when they were with us, but to the basic reason for happiness available to every Christian. That God loves us – each one of us – through the gift of his son to the world which we celebrate shortly. But when we fully appreciate the strength of that suffering which that gift eventually entailed, any gratitude from us seems very inadequate and should be topped up with life-long commitment, service and love; and, because of the dual nature of Christ, perfect man and perfect God, we are confident that as man he will appreciate that gratitude – in addition to our life-long love.

About fifteen years ago we welcomed our new rector Martin Garner, and his wife Audrey, into our lives with a surge of love and affection that has been more than repaid in full and the village is a nicer place for their coming and we are all in some way better people for knowing them!

I would like to think that because of Martin's influence, some of us are stronger in our Christian faith and more determined to live our lives closer to God through the love of Christ. If this is rather wishful thinking, perhaps there are many people in the village whose lives have just been touched by Martin to make them want to know what 'made him tick' to be such a wonderful man and friend.

Secondly, by welcoming Jonathan Meyer and his wife and family when he is licensed in January.

Thirdly – and more importantly – try to live our own lives with our thoughts flavoured and strengthened with the knowledge and love of someone who is no longer with us in the flesh, but very much with us in spirit and our memory because of what he has left behind.

Words of comfort for those who have tried to follow the wonderful example left to us by Martin and Audrey. St Paul's words in his second epistle to Corinth, chapter 5 verse 17:

‘Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature – old things are passed away and behold all things become new’.

Words which have a striking similarity to those used by the Democratic Party in America and the original St Paul version – a wonderful target for any New Year Resolution.

Good luck and God bless us all.

John Burbidge, Reader Emeritus

Parish Council meeting notes for 10 September 2008

Present: David Cooper, Paul Humphrey, Peter Lemaire, Vernon Miners, Theresa Redgewell

Apologies: Melissa Fletcher

Project money – it was decided that any village requests for money to help towards the funding of different projects should be looked at annually. This would end the somewhat haphazard dishing out of money.

Telephone box – as this hadn’t been used for over a year, BT was asking if it was still needed. We could adopt it for a nominal amount or lose it.

Play area – ROSPA had been to check and had nothing major to report. The shelter structure behind the bowling net to be moved to the play area.

Recreation area grass cutting – this will need to be reviewed ready for next season and a decision made.

Planning – The Old Post Office plans had been passed by SODC. The plans for Manor Cottage were submitted to the council and approved.

Air ambulance – a request for a donation had been received. The council discussed it and after a split vote it was deferred to the next meeting.

Finance – it was decided to discuss financial matters earlier in the meetings when councillors are less jaded!

Parish Council meeting notes for 8 October 2008

Present: David Cooper, Melissa Fletcher, Vernon Miners,

Apologies: Paul Humphrey, Peter Lemaire, Theresa Redgewell

Telephone box – Nolay to be contacted to see if they were interested in having it.

Pavilion – this needs repainting possibly March 2009.

Car park signage – councillors preferred the finger signs as opposed to the large square signs. Would investigate costs for four possible locations.

Eyres Close – complaints received about traffic speeds and poor visibility at the junction with Eyres Lane. OCC to be contacted requesting a site meeting as soon as possible.

Recreation area – it was proposed to set up three goal sleeves so that the goals could be moved periodically to reduce wear and tear on the grass.

The Common – a positive meeting had been held to sort out a possible grant application for replacing the stiles and improving access.

Proposed car park – OCC had no problems with the access to the area by the triangle but planning permission may be required. The area of land to be measured and quotes sought.

Planning – the Master's Flat permanent change application had been granted by SODC subject to access not being through the courtyard, only to be used during school hours and sound deadening material should be used on the floor.

Beggarsbush Hill – following residents' complaints about a possible breach of planning in the field opposite Horseshoe Cottage, SODC had informed council that there was no breach and that the field was no longer being used as a storage area by an electrical company.

Hampden Way – rumours were rife about a planning application for affordable housing to replace the garages. A meeting to be sought with SOHA and SODC to find out what was going on.

Air Ambulance – some councillors felt that the charity was worthwhile but not closely related to Ewelme. The £100 suggested donation was defeated by a 2 – 1 vote.

Charitable donations – requests for these should be presented to the council and discussed each January. Guidelines to be drawn up.

Day's Lane – a working party to be organised to clear the banks of dead trees and generally trim and plant daffodil bulbs.

Please remember that these are only random notes from the Parish Council meetings. Full minutes can be seen on the notice boards outside the Reading Room and at the bottom of Green Lane. Alternatively the Parish Clerk can email minutes to you on request at sue@hill1285orangehome.co.uk

The Editor

Ewelme Parish Church

Churchwardens	-	Mr Martin Spence Mrs Catherine Hare
Organist and choirmaster	-	Dr James Garnett
Tower Captain	-	Miss Kay Tuckwell
Church Flowers	-	Mrs Angela Smailes
Parochial Church Council		
Secretary	-	Mr Graham Bayford
Treasurer	-	Mr Neil Blake

Warden of the Almshouses - Mrs Dee Rosier
Ewelme School headteacher - Mr Andrew Markham

As this year of interregnum draws to a close, we would like to record our profound gratitude to the many local clergy who have given their time and energy to conduct our Sunday services, as well as numerous baptisms, weddings and funerals. We also extend special thanks to George Cannon, our Lay Reader, for taking the school's weekly service in addition to the monthly Family Service and Pram Service.

Although the year has been difficult in some respects, it has been a valuable opportunity for everyone to work together to 'keep the show on the road', and collectively we have certainly succeeded in doing that. So, thank you and well done to everyone involved in the life and management of the church, including the choir, the cleaners, the bell-ringers, the PCC and, of course, our loyal and supportive congregation.

James Garnett, our choirmaster and chief organist for the past 17 years, will be stepping down after Christmas. James has made an enormous contribution to our worship, and choir and congregation alike will miss his

inspiring lead. Fortunately we are not losing him altogether - he plans to continue to play for us one Sunday per month. Moreover, our current 'relief organist' Peter Lemaire has very kindly agreed to assume the mantle of chief organist and choirmaster. Three cheers for Peter!

We look forward to our usual large congregations at our Christmas services. But why wait for Christmas itself? Brightwell Baldwin has a special Advent Service on 30 November to which Ewelme parishioners are warmly invited. Also, former Ewelme resident Dr Will Orr returns again to conduct Handel's 'Messiah' in Ewelme Church on 7 December - highly recommended! For full details of all services, see below.

As most readers will already know, we are delighted that the Revd Jonathan Meyer has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of Ewelme, Brightwell Baldwin, and Cuxham with Easington, and we look forward to welcoming him and his family. Jonathan's ministry here will begin with his Licensing Service in Ewelme Church on Wednesday 7 January 2009 in the early evening. EVERYONE is invited to the service, which will be followed by refreshments in the Village Hall.

All services will be in Ewelme Church unless indicated otherwise. Special services are highlighted in bold.

- 30 November 8 am Holy Communion
**10 am Advent Service of Hymns, Carols and Readings
in *Brightwell Baldwin***
- 7 December 8 am Holy Communion
11 am Family Service
6:30 pm Performance of Handel's "Messiah"
- 14 December 8 am Holy Communion
11 am Morning Prayer
4 pm Ewelme School Christingle
- 21 December 11 am Holy Communion
4 pm Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
- 24 December **4:30 pm Crib Service for younger children and families
in *Brightwell Baldwin***
11:30 pm Holy Communion
- 25 December **11 am Family Service, followed by shortened Holy**

Communion

28 December **10 am Holy Communion in *Easington***

4 January 8 am Holy Communion
 11 am Family Service

7 January **early evening Licensing of Revd Jonathan Meyer as
 Priest-in-Charge of Ewelme**

N.B. Services for the rest of January are provisionally as follows:

11 January 8 am Holy Communion
 11 am Morning Prayer

18 January 11 am Holy Communion

25 January 8 am Holy Communion
 11 am Morning Prayer

Ewelme School attends church every Friday in term time. Preschool children have a very informal 'Pram Service' on the first Tuesday each month in term time. Check details with Natalie Fraser 834721 or George Cannon on 835154.

Newcomers are most welcome to services; to learn bell ringing on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm below the tower; to join the choir on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm in the church; to offer help with flowers ring Angela Smailes on 836964; to bring any skill that could help in the working of our village church built in 1437 and always dependent on volunteers – please feel free to approach any one of us.

Martin Spence and Catherine Hare, Churchwardens

Kenya water project

I am writing to tell you about a fund raising event we will be having for the water project we are funding in the village of Mang'ombe in Kenya.

Sandra, my sister and I visited the project at the end of September and we are delighted to report that the work has started. Much of the area has been cleared and the breaking and moving of stones (to be used to construct the dam) is well under way.

We have so far had to spend money on: hammers, wheelbarrows, shovels and sand as well as the engineer's report and the certificate giving permission for the work to proceed.

We are also spending money on food for the workers because the rains didn't come in the March to May period, so there is no maize in the village. As we are not paying for any of the labour, it seems only fair that we feed the people for the days they work. The people are doing the work on the project in between working on their own land, and they often have to walk a long way to get to the site.

All the people we met are very excited at the prospect of having a store of water (especially the women) and are very grateful for our efforts. It seems they have been promised water before, but neither their own government nor the voluntary organisations have ever come up with the goods.

So that we don't let them down we need your help to raise more money because - as we all know - money never seems to go as far as we expect.

20 December

“A Christmas Special”

Ewelme Village Hall

7 for 7:30 pm - tickets £10 to include: mulled wine, a two course supper and some light-hearted festive entertainment. We will be sending invitations in the near future.

Gemma Benoliel

The 28th Annual Horse Show

Considering the very wet weather we had prior to this year's show on Sunday 7 September, we had a surprisingly good turn out of competitors. Both horse and dog classes were well supported.

The ground was not as bad as expected, due to the fact that the grass was fairly long, plus good drainage of the venue made it fairly good going for both horse and rider. Even a rather heavy shower early in the day didn't deter the very competitive youngsters.

We didn't make a huge profit this year, but we managed to cover our expenses which seem to escalate each year! Our trophies are 28 years old now and some are in need of replacing as they are rather looking their age. So anyone who feels they would like to sponsor a class or present a class with a new trophy, please contact either myself or one of the committee.

This year we held a new class just for local riders and it appeared to be very successful. The Joker Memorial Trophy for this class was kindly donated by Sue Veitch in memory of her old pony Joker, who, for many years with Sue, was a winning combination at the show. The trophy this year was very aptly won by Sue's daughter Jessica.

The show takes a large amount of time and effort to organise and run. It's not only the committee who give their time freely, but the judges, the stewards, commentators, all the helpers on Saturday afternoon who put up the five rings ready for Sunday. Everyone who did even the smallest of tasks we thank you for all your help and we hope the rain we had on the day didn't dampen your spirits for next year's show.

Sandra Ayling, Show Secretary

Ewelme Village Show

What a fantastic day! The Horticultural Society Committee and myself would like to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment on the day of our Village Show. It was surely one of the most successful shows that we have had. To add to the success we were lucky enough to have had sunshine as well!

The entries this year were of a very high standard, and we had a total of 518. This was tremendous as only 3 years ago we were advertising a 'Use It or Lose It' campaign, and thanks to all of you we certainly haven't lost it! The children's exhibits were particularly popular, and one talented boy, Oliver Taylor-Lane, won two prize-winning cups, one of which was for the Most Outstanding Children's Exhibit. The Most Outstanding Adults' Exhibit was won by Des Dix for his beautiful walking sticks, which also won him the cup for The Best in Show.

It was nice to see new faces as well as old this year. As always the Benson and Roke Band kept us entertained. The Classic Cars were a great attraction, as was Dudley Chapman starting up his Mustang for the young visitors. John and Andrew from Cuckoo Pen Nursery said that they had a successful afternoon and hopefully will join us again next year. They enjoyed judging the 'Design a Garden' class, which was won by Kathy Bainbridge. As for the people running the 'teas', they were working non-stop throughout the afternoon. This was made possible by many of you stepping in to help Anne Critchley with what was the busiest attraction. Their takings were £631.27 and this largely helped to pay for the marquee, schedules, judges, prizes etc. Thank you Anne for a fantastic job.

We had some very interesting photographs of Ewelme in the photographic class. It is difficult choosing a new subject each year that people will like. If anyone would like to suggest a subject for next year, please let me know and telephone (01491) 834111.

There are so many people to thank! All of you for coming and supporting us; those who donated very generous raffle prizes and cakes for the 'teas'; Gemma Clive, our president, who presented the cups and very kindly supported me; Wallace, who helped us on the door at very short notice; Vernon, whose auction was great fun; the stewards who helped us during the judging and everyone who helped during the afternoon. A very big thank you to Jack, Daniel, Chloe and Bella, Elspeth and Joe who helped us return the chairs and tables to the Village Hall. This is always a very difficult job at the end of a very tiring day! My particular thanks go to the committee and their families who made such a great event possible.

Thank you all once again. We can now start planning for our Village Show 2009!

Forthcoming dates for your diaries:

Skittles Evening.....28 February 2009;

AGM with a talk by Richard Roslyn on Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes and Tubers.....30 April 2009;

Plant Sale.....16 May 2009

HORTICULTURAL SHOW PRIZE WINNERS

2008

The Winfield Cup - most points gained

Tracey Perkins

The Taylor Cup - winner of top tray	Des Dix / Joanna Oliver
The Lady Hambleton Challenge Cup - Div I & II	Sylvia Jay
The Arthur Johnson Rose Bowl - Div III	Louise Jaggard / Molly Franklin
The Freda Young Challenge Shield - Div IV	Margaret Connelly
The Mary Johnson Cookery Challenge Cup - Divs V & VI	Tracey Perkins
The Junior Challenge Cup - Div VII	John Spence
The Best Challenge Cup - Div VIII	Oliver Taylor-Lane
The J C Bruce Junior Cup - Div IX	Mary Spence
The Roland Eustace Cup - Div X	Elsbeth Wilson
The Bert Rye Memorial Vase - best fuschia in Show	Sheila Collins
The J McLaren cup - heaviest onions	Michael Glasson
The Rowse Trophy - Ewelme school child	Oliver Taylor-Lane
The Watts Trophy	Des Dix
Red Riband Award - awarded by the President	Des Dix
Most exhibits in show	Michael Glasson
Single rose - judged by the public	Vernon Miners
Best junior exhibit	Oliver Taylor-Lane
Best Hanging Basket	Ian Harrison
Chocolate Cake Challenge	Sheila Watts
Scarecrow	The Watts Family
Design a garden	Kathy Bainbridge

New Household Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Contract – coming June 2009 for South Oxfordshire residents

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are joining forces to secure a new waste collection and street cleansing contract. The councils have decided to work together to identify the new contractor in an effort to produce a more efficient service, increase recycling and reduce waste going to landfill. The new services will start from June 2009 in South Oxfordshire and from October 2010 in Vale of White Horse.

The main driver for changing our existing services is the pressing need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill - it's damaging on the environment, landfill space is rapidly running out and we face huge fines from government if we don't.

The new services will not only help us to achieve this but were also the most cost effective options.

The procurement process for the new contract is now well underway. Three companies have been short-listed and officers are now involved in detailed discussions about their proposals for the new service. All three are proposing similar solutions to help to meet our tough waste and recycling targets and we know that from June 2009 the new service will include:

- weekly separate food waste collections in kerbside bins;
- fortnightly residual waste collections in wheeled bins;
- at least fortnightly collections of dry recyclables (including glass);
- continuing with the garden waste service in wheeled bins (charged for service).

The final decisions around container types and sizes will be agreed once the new contractor is appointed at the end of 2008.

Over the next few months officers will be working closely with Town and Parish councils and housing associations to identify those properties that

may have difficulties storing and using wheeled bins and to provide suitable solutions.

The contract will be awarded to the successful company at the end of the year and we will be letting residents know more details about the new service at the start of 2009.

S O D C

Ewelme Village Hall

Have you noticed our new Village Hall floor? It is certainly easier to keep clean and it makes the whole place look that much brighter. We are very grateful for the contributions from various village organisations towards the cost of nearly £4,500 and – hopefully – this new floor will last for another 20+ years!

Our next venture is the annual Race Night to be held on Saturday 22 November starting at 6:30 pm. If you have never tried one of these before why not come along and find out how it all works? It's great fun and totally daft! You choose a horse number; you know nothing about its form or when it last ran or even whether it has four functioning legs. You then decide how many tickets to buy at 20p each. You go up to the 'tote table' and pay for the tickets and sit back and watch the race. If your horse wins then you go up to collect your winnings, this could be 90p a ticket or maybe £2.50 – it all depends on how many other people thought that horse was going to win. There are eight races altogether and the evening swings along. We eat a hot meal, usually a baked potato and chilli con carne with a veggie option, after the fourth race and by this time the wine is flowing freely and everyone is swapping tales about how much they won or how close they came to winning. There is also the forecast table where you decide which horses will come in the first two places – this costs 50p a go and sometimes the winnings can top £10 - £15 each time.

Before the final race we hold an auction. All eight horses are auctioned and the highest bidder becomes the owner of that horse. We also auction the position of trainer who wins a good bottle of champagne. Last year's winning owner pocketed over £120!

If you want an enjoyable evening with friends, good food and drink, lots of laughs then you need to be there to experience it. Last year we had around

70 people but we could stretch to 80 without it becoming too crowded. If you have attended a race night you know what fun and games to expect – if you haven't, then why not pop along and join us. Further information is in the advert somewhere in the Ewelme News.

As a committee, we are charged with making the Village Hall pay its way and this is the only fund-raising event that we run. The lettings provide a small income for us but sometimes it hardly covers the costs of the heating and lighting. We have therefore reluctantly raised the hiring rates slightly as from 1 January 2009 – but don't worry, it's lower than the rate of inflation!

Many people who visit the hall are very impressed by the facilities offered and that is due to a hard-working committee whose only objective is to stay in the black whilst attempting to enhance those facilities whenever possible.

Peter Lemaire, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee

Nature Notes

18 October - Peter, the Editor, was quietly watching a bird feeding on his bird feeder outside his kitchen window when, quicker than the eye can see, a sparrow hawk streaked out of the sky, grabbed the bird but continued to head straight for the window. When Peter had picked himself up from the floor all that could be seen were a few feathers floating in the breeze!

20 October - Cynthia saw many lapwings in a field by the Hyde. A recent survey carried out by British Ornithology, showed a ray of hope for the lapwings, one of our most threatened farm birds. This seems to be true in Ewelme.

29 October - The first snow in the south in October for 34 years.

Have you noticed how few birds are seen in August and September? The reason is that they all moult, some can't fly thus making them more vulnerable to their predators.

Joan Standbridge had the pleasure of seeing a fox playing outside her gate and seeing a hare at the bottom of the garden all in one morning.

The worst year for honey ever. Our bees have been having a hard time in recent years due to a parasite mite called Varroa feeding on their blood which carries a lethal virus from bee to bee. This year the cold wet spring and wet summer have made things worse. At first thought this does not seem important, but without the bee to pollinate the flowers, fruit and veg it would be a disaster as they provide a vital link in the natural chain and being without them could seriously damage our rural economy.

If you get invaded by mice, use peanut butter as bait on a mouse trap.

A friend of ours bought a python and the next day when he was handling it, it swiftly wound itself three times round its owner's throat, almost choking him and couldn't be moved. His wife promptly rang the shop where he had bought it from and the shop owner said he is trying to kill you, so lay down on the floor and pretend to be dead, and the python will release you, which thankfully it did!

Autumn is my favourite season; a kaleidoscope of coloured leaves and plenty of shiny berries which will keep the birds in food for the forthcoming winter. The first snowy day I met Ann Truesdale at the bottom of the site photographing the pretty hedge row, who said the best things in life are free! I fully agree.

Des Dix, formerly Site Warden of the Ewelme Watercress Beds

Ewelme Village Preschool

Well, Preschool is back and the good weather has finished in rather dramatic fashion with huge quantities of rain and even a snow fall! Appropriately enough, Preschool's themes for this term are Winter and Christmas. Reading the latest newsletter I can see that the children are in for another exciting term. As well as looking for signs of winter, how ice melts and making sandwiches, the children will also find out about Remembrance Day and the festival of Diwali. Naturally much of the term's energies will be directed towards Christmas activities and in particular, practising for the Nativity performance (dressing gowns (children!) and hankies (adults!) at the ready). The provisional date for this is Wednesday, 10 December but further details will be available nearer the time. There will also be a Christmas party, of course! With all this excitement let's hope that everyone can keep going to the end of term- on Friday 19 December!

As far as our fundraising is concerned we have good and bad news to report: the final figure for the Sam Brown gig was over £1000, so thanks to everyone who attended and added to our coffers! Sadly our bid for lottery funding (to complete the upgrade of the garden) has been turned down. The reason given was that as the Preschool didn't own the garden we were not eligible. Of course we are very disappointed, however, thanks to the efforts of Kerry Sawyer (our Chair) we have secured some generous donations and hopefully we will eventually find the short fall. As I write this we are preparing for our Christmas Shopping Extravaganza. It promises to be an exciting event with stalls selling a large range of Christmas goodies. Hopefully next time I write it will be with excellent news that we have raised gigantic amounts of money....fingers crossed!

The Preschool has once again operated close to capacity and by January we will be chocka-block! Ewelme Preschool is open to all children aged from 2½ to 5 years old. We run during term time Monday to Friday, 9:15 to 12:00 noon, with extended lunch sessions offered on Monday and Wednesday. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please do contact our admissions registrar. Please call (01491) 835413 or email ewelme.preschool@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Natalie Fraser, Secretary

RHS Wisley Gardens 2009

Would you like to join us on a visit to the lovely gardens at Wisley?

The committee of the Horticultural Society have organised a visit to Wisley Gardens. This will be on 20 June 2009, leaving Ewelme at 9:00 am and returning at about 5:30 pm. The cost of this, which includes the coach and entrance, is £17.50.

We do have some extra seats, so if anyone would be interested in joining us it will be on a 'first come – first served' basis. It would be lovely to have more people from the village with us to enjoy what I'm sure will be a pleasant day.

If you are interested, please ring me on (01491) 834111

Angela Harrison, Chairman of the Ewelme Horticultural Society

Ewelme Watercress Beds and Local Nature Reserve

Management Team Newsletter No. 2

All being well you will have received this November edition of the Ewelme News before the Annual Village Meeting. We will be advertising this in the usual way to remind you that it will take place on **Friday 28 November at 8 pm** in the **Village Hall**. This is **your** opportunity to meet the Management Team, find out what is involved in managing the site, and hear about plans for the coming year. If any you have any questions for the Village Meeting that may involve research please send them beforehand to Ann Truesdale (835173). We are pleased to report that Brian Connelly and Wallace Miners are joint Tool Masters, Ian Stevenson is the Biodiversity Officer and Margaret Connelly has agreed to take on the role of Education Officer. Please contact Margaret (833649) if you have any contacts with local schools outside Ewelme.



Hay making the first weekend of September was a great success, with a record number of volunteers. For many, this was their first workday and we were also delighted to welcome several young people. Many hands really do make light work and, not only was the hay cleared before lunch time, there was time to fit in other jobs. And many of our new volunteers

came again at the beginning of October and November. Tom prepares the list of jobs for each workday and the information is posted on the web, pinned to the notice board and emailed to volunteers on the circulation list. If you want to add your name to this list please give your email to Tom on 836888 or Thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com. You may then wish to come and join us the first Saturday and/or third Wednesday of the month.

We had a beautiful frosty morning the last week in October. Autumn colours glowed against a blue sky. And we have even had snow. Amazingly it snowed on the first of our Open Afternoons in April this year. Guided walks now replace Open Afternoons (November to April inclusive) when visitors meet at 10:30 am for a short introduction about the Watercress Beds and the natural history of the site followed by a 10 minute video about the watercress industry in the 1960's, featuring shots of Gerald Smith as a young man. We were really sorry to hear of his death recently. He was part of our village history and we consider ourselves privileged to have known him. Some of us watched him plant watercress in our demonstration beds a couple of years ago, and Tom captured him on video. Des of course carries on the tradition of planting watercress.

Winter seems to have really arrived at the beds with the arrival of water rails (at least two favouring the lower end of the Trout Pond) and the first sighting of our winter thrushes. At present these are restricted to a few redwings feeding on the hawthorn berries but we expect numbers to quickly build up. The kingfisher has returned from its summer holiday down on the River Thames and can often be seen in the area. As this is being written there are still one or two red admiral butterflies to be seen in sheltered spots during sunny intervals but I suspect we have seen the last of other butterfly species and also of dragonflies. It has been a poor summer for butterflies with the wet weather leading to lower numbers overall and only about 19 species being recorded. This same weather has probably helped dragonflies with ten species having been seen on the beds.

At the AGM of the Chiltern Society held in October I reported on the activities of the Watercress Beds and LNR and was able to take the opportunity to thank Beryl and Hugh Hunt, following their retirement, for the enormous contribution they have made over the last almost 20 years. The Ewelme beds were put up for sale in 1995 and Beryl suggested the Society should buy them to preserve them for future generations. Beryl and Hugh began to seek grants and mounted a fund-raising campaign, and in November 2000, they concluded the purchase for the Society. Further

grants were obtained to build the Visitor Centre and fund the restoration. In all, funds raised amounted to approximately £300,000, and a large part of their personal time was spent on completing the restoration so that there is now a valuable site for the Society and village to enjoy with Local Nature Reserve status. Thank you, Beryl and Hugh.

John Taylor, Chairman of the Management Team

The end of an era

After Christmas I shall be handing over the reins as organist at Ewelme Parish Church after 17 years as a part-time member of the village community. I started playing in 1991 at the invitation of Christopher Seaman, whom I had met while temping at Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund headquarters where he was Secretary. At this time, Ieuan Williams was looking after the parish in the period between the departure of Peter Renshaw and the arrival of Martin Garner.

In the years that followed, choir practice on a Friday evening and the services on Sunday became a constant in my life while almost everything else changed: Alison and I moved to Wallingford, our children were born, I started my career in the pensions industry, I changed career to become a music teacher. Playing the organ at Ewelme has kept me in touch both with music and with the fundamentals of life, expressed in the regular services and the special occasions. Were I better at record-keeping, I should be able to quote statistics for the numbers of weddings, baptisms and funerals I have played for, backed up by a collection of service sheets. As it is, I find myself periodically delighted as I bump into people around South Oxfordshire who tell me that I played at their wedding or introduce me to the teenagers whose baptisms I accompanied. It has been a real privilege to provide music for these occasions and to do so in such a wonderful church in such a beautiful village.

But of course, I have only been part of this picture. It has been a time of partnership - partnership with the other organists who play and have allowed me some time off (principally Peter Lemaire); partnership with the choir, who have taught me so much, particularly about playing psalms; partnership with the clergy and lay readers, especially with Martin. It is these friendships that make it impossible for me to leave entirely. I am delighted that Peter, a full-time member of the village, will be taking over as organist after Christmas. I am also grateful for the opportunity to

continue playing for one service a month in order to keep up with the Ewelme news.

James Garnett

The Friends of Ewelme Watercress Beds

THE NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN

This time last year we were complimenting the Chiltern Society for their initiative in commissioning a revised Management Plan, to be independently prepared by Sarah Coulson-Phillips and a Review Group which was to include several well respected people from the village who were not part of the existing Management Committee. The Friends Committee thought that the final version of the Plan was certainly a most excellent and well-considered document and (together with the Parish Council and the Ewelme Society) were therefore pleased to confirm in writing their wholehearted support before it was put to the Chiltern Society. Pleasingly, the Plan was subsequently approved by the Chiltern Society Executive Committee in its entirety and without amendment. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Sarah and her Review Group most sincerely for the considerable amount of work that this entailed.

Following on from the acceptance of the Revised Plan, the Chiltern Society has put together a new Management Team to implement it. John Taylor has agreed to take on the role of Chairman, Tom Stevenson has accepted the position of Nature Reserve Manager and Ann Truesdale has responsibility for the Centre. The Friends' Committee would like to express their thanks and confirm their full support to all these individuals, and to the other members of the Team, for all the work involved. It is very gratifying to see that John Taylor, who is also Chairman of the Chiltern Society, is taking the time to give the Ewelme cressbeds his personal support and attention.

As a result of the Revised Plan and the new Management Team, Beryl and Hugh Hunt have now been able to step down from active involvement. They were significantly involved with the management of the cressbeds project from its inception and, whilst The Friends' Committee was certainly not able to agree with them over everything, it is a fact that without their drive and determination the project would not be where it is

today. We would therefore like to express our thanks to both of them for all their hard work over the years.

JANUARY QUIZ EVENING

Our 2009 Quiz in the Village Hall will be on Saturday January 24th, commencing at 7 pm sharp and ending by 10:30 pm at the latest. This is always a very popular event and Vernon Miners has kindly agreed to think up yet another set of challenging questions!

There will be 6 people in each team as usual and the cost will be held at £8 per person as per the last five years, to include supper and the cost of the £3 membership subscription for 2009. Bookings will be on a 'first come - first served' basis, and, if demand outstrips supply, preference will be given to teams consisting entirely of existing members of The Friends. Everyone who attended the Quiz in January this year automatically became a paid-up member for 2008.

So get your team of 6 together, list out the names and addresses of all team members, and post or deliver the list, plus cash or a cheque for £48 (payable to 'The Friends of Ewelme Watercress Beds') to Cynthia Winfield at Aquelma, Burrow's Hill, Ewelme. The team leader will then be sent 6 tickets for what will definitely be another great evening! If you would like to take part and are not able to find a team to join, let Cynthia know and she will try to fit you into a team that may be short.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

All of our existing 270+ members will receive Renewal Invitations in early 2009 (if they have not already booked to take part in the 2009 Quiz - see above). We very much hope that you will assist our administration by renewing in good time, either unprompted or in response to our invitation when received. If, however, you have recently come to the village and are not already a member of The Friends do please consider joining us. You will be most welcome. Our funds are directed only and specifically towards the maintenance of the cress beds and surrounding land, so it's a very worthy village cause. Just put your name, address, and £3 per person membership fee in an envelope – and put it through the letterbox at Yew Tree House, next to the ford on the High Street.

NOTIFICATION OF AGM

Our AGM will take place at 7:30 pm on Monday 16 February 2009. All members are welcome. Any resolutions to be put to the AGM must be received in writing by the Secretary no less than 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any member wishing to stand for election to the Committee must obtain a Nomination Form from the Secretary and return it to her duly signed no later than 7 days prior to the date of the meeting. All 7 members of the existing Committee as listed below have already expressed their willingness to be re-elected in 2009.

The Friends of Ewelme Watercress Beds Committee

Des Dix	Chairman	838876
Patrick Gosset	Vice Chairman and Publicity	838228
Peter Lemaire	Treasurer and Membership admin	835660
Cynthia Winfield	Secretary	835687
Vernon Miners	Events and Fundraising	839209
Juliette Nissen	Minutes Secretary	835644
Alisa Moseley	Asst Minutes Secretary	825346

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I greatly sympathise with the reported annoying situations of speeding through the High Street. But spare a thought for those living in/walking through Eyres Close, where traffic approaching from the North down Eyres Lane can attain full decontrolled speeds. For walkers attempting the death-defying act of reaching the nearby bridleway in front of 'The Views', and who follow the 'country code' to face on-coming traffic, they are often having to take split second decisions as to whether the on-coming driver has seen them or not. However, in trying to ascertain why traffic is not

taking a 'blind' bit of notice of local speed regulations, I inadvertently discovered on a walk further up the Lane, that drivers are not actually aware (until too late), that they have unknowingly passed 30 mph signs!



I submit some pictures, which show firstly the view North up Eyres Lane. The two decontrolled signs are easily seen. Then looking the other way having walked passed the signs for a view by a driver driving legitimately at up to 60 mph. You may be just able to see the tips in the overgrown hedges. Although the hedges have either been neatly trimmed by the Council or a farm worker, neither seems to have taken any responsibility for ensuring the signs are clear.



For drivers attempting to turn out of Eyres Close, the danger is even greater. We often have to remind the Council to cut grass from the adjacent verge since sighting of cars is very restricted. Notwithstanding that, cars exceeding the speed limit beyond the signs are putting Ewelme residents at severe risk. But look at the third

picture taken some 50 meters before Eyres Close. It's a bit late here to tell drivers to watch their speed! Is the 'junction sign' for Eyres Close or the turning into the High Street? It's too late for Eyres Close and the junction at the Shepherds Hut is now a Give Way T-



junction anyway. I suppose the thing that surprised me most is that there are two sets of traffic sign poles further up the Lane, with nothing mounted on them at all!

I guess for walkers, one solution could be for them to walk over what has previously been defined as the open countryside area within Eyres Close. For drivers however, there requires some urgent activity to ensure that speed control signs are seen at all times, or even to move them further up the Lane. As for warnings about impending junctions, how about utilising the currently naked poles?

I know that the Village has previously locally discussed methods of speed management, but whose responsibility is this kind of thing? Is a member of

the PC tasked with dealing with such matters or at least reporting or making recommendations to the SODC or Oxfordshire Highways? I fear that just a lone voice to some local government department will not bear much fruit. However, I do know, dear Editor, that the 'Ewelme News' is read avidly by parish, district and county councillors alike, where hopefully one or more of our esteemed representatives might perhaps be able to promote some 'action this day'?

Chris Jenkins, Eyres Close, Ewelme

Dear Editor

I think Des Dix should be renamed the 'Village Warden of Ewelme'.

Last winter a tree was reported to have blown across the stream opposite Suffolk House which was dealt with immediately and the remainder pushed back up.

Water leakages, usually in Eyre's Lane and Chaucer Court, are reported to Des in case they flow into the stream.

A fox had to be shot (licence held) because it had been previously shot but not killed outright. It was believed to have limped a considerable distance before it was spotted.

He often has to set mole traps for our neighbours, deter the mink and catch the invasive crayfish.

He shoots poorly birds. He has freed a rook found on The Common tangled up with cord.

A bee caught in the eaves at the Almshouses (really). Turned out to be caught in a cobweb!

A large hole reported to have appeared in King's Pool. With the help of his grandson, Zak, he had to move rubble a long way to refill it.

Recently he helped Vernon to unblock the stream under the bridge of Ewelme Manor because the road was flooding. Des used an extra long rake that he had made for an earlier occasion.

He will shortly be cutting down scrub on the right hand side of Day's Lane, so that Vernon may plant daffodil bulbs.

What do other people think?

Avril Dix, Yew Tree House, Ewelme

Dear Editor

I planted two Sumach Trees alongside Ewelme Stream and Suffolk House garden and they have really enhanced the garden. They were given to me about 1982 by Mrs Hilda Timms from her garden in Roke. The autumnal colours are so beautiful.

Due to aging problems I now have to spend more time indoors and just looking around the garden. May I give a big thank you to all friends and relations who have supported me through this year.

Iris Grace, Suffolk House, Ewelme

Dear Editor

It is comforting to know, that by informing the Editor of the Ewelme News earlier in the month of a dangerous traffic situation in the village, who then passed this on to the Chairman of the Ewelme Parish Council (shift in mind set?), who at a meeting of the PC then actioned the representative responsible for highway matters, who then wrote to the owners of the hedges covering speed restriction signs, has actually caused the 30 mph limit signs in Eyres Lane to be made visible again...just about! The important thing is that in seeing 30 mph signs at a distance (e.g. ¼ mile) when driving at speed, provides an unconscious stimulus for a driver to either lift his/her foot from the accelerator and/or to apply brakes. All I can report is that there has been a noticeable reduction in speed of vehicles passing Eyres Close since this recent clearance, for which I am sure we are all very grateful. This doesn't detract from the fact that this junction, and perhaps presumptuously, that at 'The Views', remains vulnerable to speeding traffic. However, I do feel confident that now this matter is the hands of an undoubtedly active parish council, that any additional speed reducing measures deemed necessary to prevent an 'incident' occurring here, will be promulgated.

Chris Jenkins, Eyres Close, Ewelme

THE EWELME SOCIETY

Two video's originally filmed by George Cannon were loaned to the archive for transfer to DVD. One is of the 1992 Horticultural Show recording the setting up, staging and judging of the exhibits. This is a baffling process hidden to the majority. The home made wine class was judged most solemnly, and a portly lady bravely chewed through the cakes and pies to choose the best exhibit. Lady Hambleden graciously presented the prizes - as was customary. Apart from realising that many on the film are no longer with us, it is comforting to see that the unchanging traditions remain and that the Show continues to prosper. The other video features the May 1995 VE Day Celebrations. This kicked off with a supper/concert in the Village Hall with a heavily be-whiskered Peter Lemaire at his keyboard accompanying the late Amy Reeves in fine voice leading the community singing of patriotic old songs. The Church thanksgiving service and refreshments in the Cloisters preceded the Cricket Match and Street Party. The DVD's can be borrowed from the Society on request.

For some years it has been a dilemma to decide where to place the original copy of Flt Sgt Bill Johnson's memoir of his RAF pilot training and operational flying on a PRU Spitfire Squadron at RAF Benson and subsequent years as a POW. The memoir was kindly donated to the archive by his widow Mabel in 2001 and News readers may remember the serialisation of Mabel's reminiscences of living for 6 months in 1943 as a young bride at The Views. Bill Johnson's wartime experiences are so interesting and informative it was felt it would be a shame if they were placed in a vault in an official military archive. However, a plea by Mathew Smaldon in the May issue of the Benson Bulletin solved the problem. The Second World War Experience Centre has been set up to record and store memories of combatants and non-combatants. Mr Smaldon (from Abingdon) asked for volunteers to be interviewed on tape, (the recording is then typed up and archived to be made available to researchers, authors, the media and the general public). We emailed Mr Smaldon suggesting he interview Freydis (Leaf) Sharland of Benson, one of the courageous lady ATA pilots who ferried military aircraft to operational airfields during the war. The interview took place on the 18 September and the opportunity was taken to meet Mr Smaldon and donate Flt Sgt Johnson's memoir to the museum. Hopefully, his experiences will be informative and an inspiration to those who consult them. The Ewelme archive has retained a copy, and there is also a copy in Benson Library's Reference Section. Mr Smaldon is interested in interviewing anyone with memories of the last War, as it is now appreciated that these recollections

are greatly valued. The Centre's web site is www.war-experience.org and Mr Smaldon's email is matthew.smaldon@googlemail.com - or he can be contacted via the Ewelme Society.

From the number of enquiries the Ewelme Society receives it is evident that many former pupils and residents demonstrate a deep-seated nostalgia for both the School and village. Following on the July visit by Bob Quixley Jnr and John Nicholas Light, (reported in the last issue of the News), Valerie (Tee) White who now lives in San Antonia, Texas, recently made her second visit to Ewelme in just over a year. Valerie was a pupil from 1947 to 1950 and was reunited with her old pal Jenny (Townsend) Baker. They visited the school where the head teacher was kind enough to allow a tour of the classrooms in session. A gesture much appreciated by them both.

Reproduced below is a narrative from Mick Phillips, who attended the school in 1957. Like Valerie, he was an RAF Benson child - so his link to Ewelme was all too brief before his father was posted onwards again. However, the enduring magnetism that draws so many back to Ewelme is perfectly explained and summed up in the last sentence of his account.

Ewelme School 1957 - Mick Phillips – from RAF Benson

“I am Mick Phillips and I was at Ewelme School in 1957. Mr Coles was the headmaster and Miss Walker was my class teacher. We were 9 and 10 year olds in the upstairs room and the younger children were taught downstairs by a Miss Lewis, who got married around that time to someone from RAF Benson.

I remember Miss Walker being presented with some flowers at assembly one morning by Mr Coles to mark her 25th year at the school. She was a rather serious Irish lady in her fifties who rapped my knuckles for not understanding fractions and read to us from ‘Wind in the Willows’ on Friday afternoons. Although probably no record exists, the BBC came to the school and filmed an item which included one or two classroom shots and a studio interview with Miss Walker. I can't remember what the item was about, but Miss Walker was impressed with the BBC's efficiency and timing and suggested how we might benefit by applying the same attitude. I also remember a village fete being held in the grounds of a house just to the right of the school (looking from Rabbits Hill). The fete was opened by Sabrina, a bosomy, blonde young lady who had recently been discovered by Arthur Askey.

I remember trying to impress (although I didn't know why) as a 'B' member of the Ewelme School Gymnastic team. We had to dive through paper covered hoops held on the vaulting horse and land on coconut mats. In my enthusiasm, I flew beyond the coconut mat and landed in the 'Bowl for a Pig' skittle alley amidst much squealing (me AND the piglet!). The Rev Bolton was the incumbent St Mary's officer and among some of the others I remember were Richard Rowse who took me to his home after school one day to show me the bees his father kept. That seems to have been a good idea as I believe he is now the Managing Director of Rowse Honey, a major company in the area and trading on an international level. Albert Crockett, David Reeves, Geoffrey Hutchinson and Tony Munday were local lads I believe and Graham Gladding, Peter Hayes, Roger Setterfield, Robin and Derek Prior, Michael Reynolds and Raymond Jalland all had fathers in the RAF - as I did.

I have been back a couple of times with different wives [actually two!] over the past fifty years and the magical quality is that very little has changed. On a quiet Sunday afternoon with only the school building and no cars or people to give a reference to the decade, I could easily have been ten years old again.”

Carol Sawbridge for the Ewelme Society

Science reveals heaviest element

Research has led to the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction normally taking less than a second, to take from four days to four years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2 - 6 years. It does not decay, but undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and 20 deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more

morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes, not to mention multiple oxymorons.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. That hypothetical quantity might normally be called "critical mass" but, in this unique case it is known as "critical mess".

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium (Am), another just-discovered element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

From the internet

Ewelme Cricket Club - Awards Dinner and Prize Draw

The Members and supporters gathered at the Shepherd's Hut on 31 October to celebrate the end of the rain affected 2008 season and to present awards to the Stars of Season. After dinner, Captain Adam Arscott described the events, successes and tribulations of the season and thanked all those who had played a part in the life of the Club on and off the field. The hard work of Andrew Ford had ensured that the pitch had been maintained in a good playable condition.

Chairman, Tim Hirst addressed the gathering and expressed thanks to the executive and the officers for a great deal of hard work. The sponsors and supporters had special mention: as without their support the Club would not survive. The costs of the season in pitch preparation, equipment are high and increasing. A highlight of the season had been the match between the President's XI and the Captain's XI. This great success will be an annual event in the Club's calendar.

A great deal had happened in the season and the Club can be proud of the new nets, equipment, scoreboard and equipment store. In all, not bad for a single season.

STARS OF THE SEASON

Medals and Trophies were presented for the best performances of the Season :

Highest Score

Adam Arscott (65)

Best Average	Adam Arscott (22. 08)
Most ‘ Sixes’	Adam Arscott (17)
Most runs for Season	Adam Arscott. (265)
Best Bowling Average	Andy Climpson (14.75)
Best match bowling figure	Adam Arscott (4 for 4)
Most wickets	Ross Mathews (15)
Most catches	Andy Climpson (4)
Most improved player	Ross Mathews
Young player of the Season	Jack Eccles
Player of the year	Reg Hickman

The draw was then made for the Clubs 2008 Prize Draw; this had been a successful and much needed fundraising effort and had raised in excess of £1000 in ticket sales and donations.

Prize Winners:

- 1st Prize Flight Simulator Experience - Andy Glasson
- 2nd Prize Obagi Beauty Treatment value £350 - Owen Carter
- 3rd Prize Lunch for 2 at the House of Lords - John Ryder

9 other prizes were also presented

The evening had been a great and enjoyable success. The members had been joined by two special guests and keen supporters: Peter Lemaire, Chairman of the Ewelme Parish Council and Michael Jay, Vice President of the Club.

Michael Howard, Secretary

Ewelme Cricket Club Captain’s annual report

At the start of the season we had our new net installed and we were ready to go and the start couldn’t have gone any better, with us winning the first

2 games in a row, but then we had to wait for 10 games and 6 cancellations for our next one, which also happened to be the last game of the year.

But in between we had a lot of individual performances improving game by game. We discovered a new opening bowling partnership in Reg Hickman and Andy Carter and they really set the standard for all the other bowlers to follow. We also had an injection of youth mid-season with Jack Eccles and Tom Fitzgerald proving to be major parts of the team. Ross Matthews was unlucky not to reach his first 50 for the club, when he decided on 48 to finally use his feet and ended up getting stumped, this was just after I rang his mum to get her to come down and take pictures!

As it was my first season as captain it was also a learning curve, and one that had its ups and downs. I did however have a great Exec behind me who have done a lot of work behind the scenes, so my thanks to them. I just want to add that we had lots of comments about how good the pitch was playing, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew for all the effort he has put in over the season.

Adam Arscott, Ewelme Cricket Club Captain

Easing in

We seem to have had little room for any quizzes lately, so this is now being rectified! Did you know that E is the most common letter in the English language? All the Es have been removed from these words – can you put them in to identify the original words?

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. ACM | 2. AGL |
| 3. AON | 4. ATN |
| 5. ARI | 6. BAU |
| 7. CHO | 8. CHS |
| 9. GNI | 10. GNR |
| 11. IDR | 12. ISL |
| 13. LAS | 14. LVN |
| 15. MR Y | 16. NSU |
| 17. OBS | 18. ONC |
| 19. RUP | 20. RVR |
| 21. SCD | 22. SIV |
| 23. SPR | 24. SRN |
| 25. STH | 26. STM |

27. STT 28. VNU
29. XCD 30. YLT

Supplid by Barbara Prriton

Ewelme Church invites everyone

to a performance of

Handel's MESSIAH

conducted by Dr Will Orr

in Ewelme Church

on Sunday 7 December at 6:30 pm

Choir, soloists, orchestra

Majestic, dramatic and uplifting music and words

Mince pies and mulled wine in interval

**Admission and refreshments free, but
donations to Ewelme Church welcome**

**Anyone wishing to sing with the choir should
attend the rehearsal at 2 pm**

**Ewelme Watercress
Beds Local Nature
Reserve**



We care for the Chilterns

Guided Walks

First Sunday each month

**Please meet at the Watercress
Centre at 10:30 am**



7 December, 4 January

1 February, 1 March, 5 April

DVD of old watercress industry, photo, and historic tools display followed by guided walk through the upper and lower sites of the nature reserve.

Coffee available afterwards

Adults £2 accompanied children free

- Friends of the Watercress Beds free entry -

No dogs allowed, except guide dogs

Stout footwear advisable

Watercress Beds Centre, High St, Ewelme
Further information telephone Ann on (01491) 835173

Village Diary

All events are in Ewelme Village Hall unless informed otherwise.

- 22 Nov Race Night, doors open at 6:30 pm
- 28 Nov Watercress Beds first Annual Village Meeting at 8:00 pm
- 30 Nov Advent Service at Brightwell Baldwin starting at 10 am
 - 7 Dec Watercress Beds guided walk at the Watercress Centre from 10:30 am
 - Handel's 'MESSIAH' in Ewelme Church at 6:30 pm
- 10 Dec Preschool Nativity performance
 - Parish Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- 20 Dec 'A Christmas Special' for the Kenya Water Project starting at 7:00 pm
- 4 Jan Watercress Beds guided walk at the Watercress Centre from 10:30 am
- 7 Jan Licensing of the Revd Jonathan Meyer at Ewelme Church in the evening
- 14 Jan Parish Council meeting at 7:30 pm
- 24 Jan The Friends' Annual Quiz starting at 7:00 pm

Final copy date 2 January 2009

By email to pjlemaire@aol.com or to Firethorn Cottage

The cover picture is of two Sumach trees in the garden at Suffolk House
planted by Iris Grace twenty six years ago.