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ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL
NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2008



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*Letter from the Chairman – Bron Curley
October 2008*

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2008 ADRA Newsletter. In this issue you'll find as usual the minutes of our Annual General Meeting which was held on April 26 at the Amersham Free Church. Attendance was very good again this year, I'm pleased to note, with over 80 members turning out.

Anthony del Tufo, Chairman of the Amersham Museum gave a presentation entitled "Life in Amersham 1880-1930" which featured images by Amersham photographer George Ward. It was most enjoyable and very well received. As always, participation in the members' forum was lively.

Please help us to represent you by making your views known. Come to a committee meeting if there's something you would like to discuss. They're held the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except August) at 8.15pm in the small Barn Hall at the Community Centre.

Our annual Social Evening will be held on January 21, from 7pm to 9pm in the Large Barn Hall at the Amersham Community Centre. I hope you'll be able to join us, and we all look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,



Bron Curley

Amersham & Districts Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th April 2008 at Amersham Free Church Hall

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members to the 48th Meeting of ADRA.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Michael Andrews-Reading.
Cllr Vera Head

3. Minutes of AGM held on 26th April 2007

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Carolyn Spencer and seconded by Jenny Robinson.

4. Treasurer's Report (Geoff Platts)

As attached.

5. Planning Officer's Report (Bridget Woods)

As attached.

6. Highways Report (Geoff Platts)

As attached.

7. Environmental Officer's Report (Ann Terry)

As attached.

8. Chairman's Report (Bron Curley)

As attached.

Mrs Bridget Woods announced that she had decided to retire in the

Spring and would welcome a volunteer to work alongside her in readiness to take over her duties.

9. Re-election of Committee

Committee members up for re-election: Rosemary Dean, Lyn Josey, Geoff Platts, Pauline West and Bridget Woods. The proposer was Alan Williams and seconder Norman Machin.

10. Re-election of Auditor

Ernest Newhouse had agreed to continue as Auditor. His re-election was proposed by Geoff Sherlock and seconded by Jane Denny.

11. The Chairman introduced Mr Anthony del Tufo, Chairman of Amersham Museum, who gave a talk on "Life in Amersham 1880 - 1930" featuring images by George Ward, a local photographer.

11. Open Forum

The formal business of the meeting having been concluded, the proceedings continued in the manner of an Open Forum.

1 Mrs Janet Rance mentioned there was a Town Council meeting that night which would include discussions on the Barn Meadow project where the Council favour relocating the Town Council offices. This would also include renovation of 61 Club and new facilities to replace existing buildings. Estimates run at around £1.5m. A report was to be produced by the Town Council giving the public plenty of opportunity to present their objections. Mrs Rance raised concerns particularly re parking.

The Chairman responded that ADRA were also advised a document would be available after this evening's meeting summarising implications and financing, including selling property in Station Road, and that there would be chance to voice their objections.

Members were asked for their reaction. Geoff Sherlock said planning permission has to be given by Chiltern District Council. He attended a meeting on 10th March at Market Hall. There was support for change of Youth Club facilities but absolute opposition to other aspects, mainly from Old Town residents. No answers were given to queries raised. Christine Standing said that the Town Council are of the opinion that they carried out a broad consultation period.

It is important that the public respond as individuals to what is contained in the document as a

response from ADRA will only count as one vote.

2 Roz Makins enquired about the piece of land next to Merritts known as the Bury Farm Site in Old Amersham. Bridget referred to the Rural Housing Trust's application for 50 affordable houses on this Green Belt/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty site. The Trust had indicated that they would re-submit their application but nothing had been received to date. The Trust had called a Public Meeting in June 2007 and asked Bridget to speak (ADRA 2007 Annual Newsletter).

Following an enquiry from Anthony del Tufo on the subject of applications for affordable housing in the Green Belt being referred to the Secretary of State and achieving approval, Bridget explained that ADRA were aware but that objections included precedent as well as policy grounds and in our opinion the applicants were unable to provide a substantive special case for an exception to policy for the Bury Farm Site.

References to 2007 Newsletter reproduced for clarity:

Bury Farm Site

The Planning Update of September 2006 mentioned The Rural Housing Trust's application for 50 affordable dwellings on a high density site within the Green Belt

(GB) and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) at Bury Farm in Old Amersham. ADRA letter of objection was detailed and well argued. The letter impressed some of the residents of Chequers Hill who wished to be represented at the CDC Planning Committee meeting. I agreed to their request. Following discussion, the application was refused by the planning committee, although three members voted in favour, thus rejecting both their own CDC Local Plan policies and National policies regarding the GB and AONB!

Planning Update September 2007

In June, I was requested to speak at the public meeting regarding Affordable Housing rearranged by the Rural Housing Trust. I reluctantly agreed to do so. The meeting was moderately well attended. Naturally the Trust presented the advantages for those who might qualify for rent or part ownership of an affordable property built by the Trust. The case for objectors, which I was there to present, relates to Planning Policies, both national and local, which prohibit development in the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Bury Farm site is located in the GB and AONB. As reported at the AGM your Association has objected on those grounds plus the impact on Old Amersham, the precedent that would be set and a

general weakening of policies if a substantial, special case is not presented. To date, no such case has been made.'

3 The poor state of pavement outside Lemoncello and Metro flats, Station Approach was raised. Bridget had been in touch with Bucks County Council Highways and is following up without success at present - the pavement was not reinstated following the development by Michael Shanley. She will continue to pursue.

4 Terry Stone raised concern over Chiltern Rail/Metropolitan Line cutting number of coaches on trains and enquired if there was any way ADRA could get involved on behalf of residents.

The Chairman responded that the trains were built in 1962 yet we are told the condition of the railways is becoming better. Fourteen months ago, alterations to train timetables were objected to and this may have resulted in carriages being reduced now.

5 Communicating with Members: The Chairman informed the meeting ADRA is trying to move away from paper communication and towards e-mail as quickly as possible. Thanks were extended to Stuart Mann for modernising the website and the intention is now to report to members on issues raised at meetings and detail how ADRA is trying to resolve them; however,

someone is required to input information on a regular basis. Once again, volunteers would be welcomed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:12pm.

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References available from ADRA members

AMERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2007

(including for comparison a summary for 2006)

<u>2006</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2007</u>
£		£	£		
1285	Subscriptions	1353-02	125	Printing, stationery	
				postage and telephone	277-70
			203	Hire of Halls	232-80
88	Bank Interest	117-40	33	Affiliation Fee	33-00
			205	Insurance	225-00
	Adverts in		95	Social Evening	130-97
	Newsletters		147	Millennium Garden	49.25
325	2006		-	Hanging Baskets	500-00
	2007	340-00	-	Newsletter 2006*	
	Contribution for		-	Newsletter 2007*	-
	Christmas Lights		-	Bank Charge	4-00
-	from Bucks. C.C.		75	AGM Refreshments	77-63
	Leaders' Fund	400-00	34	Display Board Items	-
			300	Christmas Lights	-
			10	C. Bois Fete Stall	-
			491		1530-35
				(Deficit)/ Surplus	680-07
<u>1718</u>		<u>2210-42</u>	<u>1718</u>		<u>2210-42</u>

*Cost of printing donated by a member of the Association.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007

<u>2006</u>		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>		<u>2007</u>
£		£	£		£
1268	Opening Surplus	1759-16	243-32	Current Account	521-97
491	Surplus / (Deficit)		2367-06	Deposit Account	2954-46
	on year	680-07	36	Cash in Hand	36
1759	Closing Surplus	2439-23	90-00	Debtors (2005)	-
	Subs. paid in		325-00	Debtors (2006)	-
838	advance re: 2007			Debtors (2007)	340-00
428	2008	915-95			
	2009	461-61			
<u>3025</u>		<u>3816-79</u>	<u>3025-74</u>		<u>3816-79</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the above accounts having regard to the matters referred to below. This Association, in common with many others of similar size and organisation, derives a substantial portion of its income from subscriptions, advertisements, etc., which cannot be fully controlled until it is entered in the accounting records and is not therefore susceptible to independent audit verification. In my opinion, subject to the foregoing, the accounts give a true and fair view of the Association's affairs as at 31st December 2007, and of the Income and Expenditure Account for the period then ended.



Ernest G Newhouse, Hon. Auditor
80 Bois Lane, Chesham Bois



Geoff C Platts, HON Treasurer
12 Runrig Hill Chesham Bois

Environment Report for AGM 24th April 2008.

Another year has passed and we continue our efforts to improve the appearance of the town. The signature flowerbeds initiated by the Amersham Action Group have been much appreciated by all. The Town Council has the responsibility for their maintenance and planting.

Our flowerbed outside the Free Church still looks good. We have engaged some help in maintaining it. It would be good to see more places planted, especially as we now re-enter Britain in Bloom.

Footpaths, pavements and verges are still of great concern. This year we will again ask the Town Council about a co-ordinated clear-up after the leaf fall. It would look so much better.

We have asked the Housing Association to consider improving the house boundary to their property between Plantation Road and Raans Road on Woodside Road. The path is used by many children and this would be most welcome.

We keep requesting improvement to the footpath from Woodside Road to Grimsdells Lane. Many residents

use it on the way to work and in wet weather the path is flooded.

Most residents are aware that they are responsible for their boundaries. We have had many positive results to requests.

Litter is always a problem and we have suggested that the council empty the bins more often as we feel it would help. One council employee does a wonderful job but he cannot be everywhere at once.

We do follow up any reports from residents, so please continue to involve us.

Autumn Environment Update

The Britain in Bloom awards have been announced. One of our members, Mr Arthur Foster, won a Highly Commended Award for his front garden. Our congratulations go to him. I feel so much could be done to make our town more attractive. The beds by the library, planted by contractors, are poor this season. The bed at the junction of Sycamore Road and Rickmansworth Road would look so much better if it was better cared for. The big new beds are now looking good. We now have a gardener who will look after

the ADRA Millenium bed in front of the Free Church.

Residents often report areas needing attention and we take these up with the appropriate authorities. One area of complaint is the way the verges are maintained.

The Housing Association managing the property between Plantation Road and Raans Road, backing on to Woodside Road, put up a new fence but failed to clear the vegetation that has now grown through. A Chiltern District Councillor is now looking into the situation. I have been informed the path will be cleared.

The footpath from Grimsdells Lane to Woodside Road is still full of puddles in wet weather. Please residents, keep phoning 0845 230 2882. With your help, it can be dealt with before there's an accident.

2882. One day it may be dealt with before another serious accident.

Tesco recycling facility take plastic food trays and pots and give Clubcard points. I have written to CDC Waste Management asking if such a facility could be made available in top Amersham.

Although we still have no road signs telling us where Amersham-On-The-Hill is, we'll persevere. We must be the only place in the country that is nameless!

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Planning Report AGM 24th April 2008

During the year I have continued as usual to keep a check on planning applications. I research those applications which are of major importance, or with potential to harm neighbouring amenities, or the character of the area.

I respond to contact from members. These responses could be telephone discussion, a visit, ADRA letters of objection and comment – or simply advice. The update usually involves a printout of the design and layout of a proposal, which are obtained via the CDC website. This enables my report and our discussion to be better informed than previously possible.

Development Control

This is the aspect of Planning which is most familiar to us all, concerning application for planning permission of all varieties – including sometimes our own.

Last Year the two applications for flats at Greenways, Chesham Road, Chesham Bois invoked huge local opposition, well reported in the press. Objections concerned both the immediate wholly unacceptable

impact and the precedent. Both applications were soundly refused by Chiltern District Council (CDC).

It is most noticeable that the number of applications for redevelopment of sites of varying sizes has increased in the past year. These applications have included 6 flats and 3 live/work units at 128-130 Station Road; redevelopment of Robendene site, Grimsdells Lane; backland development at the rear of 123 Hundred Acres Lane (refused by CDC), and currently, redevelopment to provide 8 flats at 30 Rickmansworth Road.

Appeals

This year's current and pending appeals relate mainly to the above sites.

Land at 16 Piggott's Orchard (2nd Appeal)

Dismissed following a Local Hearing 29.01.08

128-130 Station Road

Decision awaited following a Local Hearing on 15.04.08

Robenden site, Grimsdells Lane

Awaiting Local hearing, date to be advised

130 and 126-132 Woodside Road

Public Inquiry scheduled for 1st & 2nd May 2008 (two applications)

Raans Field

I am sure that most members are aware of the application submitted by Carla Homes and Kings Church Amersham to build 84 dwellings and new church facilities for FCA on the field which was formerly part of Raans School. The plan and a copy of the ADRA letter are available for your inspection.

Planning Policy

Housing Land Availability

Recently some members have received letters and a questionnaire from CDC asking if they are likely to be prepared to sell land for additional housing or redevelopment. This can be very unsettling. However CDC are required to demonstrate land availability to satisfy future government housing requirement. In Chiltern District there is little open countryside that does not have Green belt or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation both of which

limit development. Therefore, it is the urban areas, particularly Amersham and Chesham, which will need to provide sites for the future. Inability to identify possible sources of land supply could lead to realigning Green Belt boundaries. I am assured there is no anticipation of compulsory purchase. In May/June there will be discussion regarding policy options for future housing growth in the District and an opportunity for all residents to express their views on future policy.

Next year I will have been involved in planning matters on behalf of our community for over 23 years, initially on a local basis followed by 8 years on CDC and 14 years with ADRA. I have now made the decision that I will stand down at next year's AGM. Changes are coming to the planning system both in the decision making process and to the Local Plan which will be replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is already being worked on so it is a highly appropriate time for me to hand over to a new Planning Officer for ADRA – ideally we could work together over the coming year.

Bridget Woods

Autumn Planning Update

Since our AGM in April, new planning applications have included:

A revised application at 123 and land to the rear of 121 Hundred Acres Lane

ADRA again objected and this application was also refused permission.

A revised application for 5 starter office units with parking at the Robendene Building, Grimsdells Lane

Conditional permission granted.

Raans Field

The application for 84 dwellings and new church facilities for Kings Church, Amersham was refused by Chiltern District Council. Detailed information is available on the CDC website under Application No. CH/2008/0068

Appeals Update

128-130 Station Road

Appeal dismissed

Robendene site, Grimsdells Lane

8 flats at 30 Rickmansworth Road

Appeal lodged against refusal is ongoing

Planning Policy

CDC Local Development Framework consultation on policy options for future housing growth in the District; your committee discussed fully the CDC Strategic Options paper June 2008. I submitted the ADRA Response Form stating the Association's support for Option 4; Dispersed Pattern. ADRA's detailed response can be seen on the CDC website. If any member wishes to discuss the response, please contact me.

Bridget Woods



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Highways Report

Your Committee, during the past year, has pursued many matters relating to highways in the locality and one relating to skyways! Three of the most important of these are dealt with in greater detail.

The first is aircraft noise. There are proposals to change the flight paths of aircraft using Heathrow and other airports in the south east. We have considered these – they are available on the Internet – and conclude that the changes as at present proposed will not affect Amersham, however we have written to The National Air Traffic authority and asked to be kept informed if there are changes to the current proposals.

The story in respect of pot holes is much the same as last year. I've made many complaints by telephone – the contact is 'Highways on Call' Tel: 0845 230 2882 and to be fair I have to say they do seem to respond – albeit not always promptly. They always request the diameter and depth of potholes, so if you're complaining be ready to supply this information. Perhaps surprisingly they still seem to work in inches which suits me as I was brought up on imperial units – maybe if they think they are talking to a younger person they ask for metric dimensions! Pot holes deeper than 6" are regarded as being in need of urgent attention by the Council's

contractors, who are advised directly. Other potholes are first identified and inspected by CDC

technicians and marked for attention. I've suggested that surely the man with the load of tarmac could be trained to decide which potholes need attention but CDC say this isn't possible. I believe Bucks CC has allocated £3.7m for repair of potholes, but exactly what area this covers, I do not know.

Lets turn now to parking in Amersham. Parking in Amersham was de-criminalised some time ago, which means that parking is monitored and controlled by CDC, not the police. However by Government edict, such schemes have to be self financing after three years. Your Committee feels that parking arrangements have not been effectively controlled, and a representative of CDC told me that although parking attendants had performed better than expected, the income from fines was insufficient to make the scheme self financing. I interpret this as an admission that from day one it was known that extra income would be required. The original proposals to do this were to make limited time free parking places and in the case of King George V Road, to make the limited time parking spaces into 'Permit Only' parking places – thus King George V Road effectively becomes an extension of the multi story car

park, with all day parking. Your Committee has written to CDC saying we believe limited time parking should be retained in King George V Road as people want to park to visit CDC offices, the Health Centre, where the parking spaces are frequently all taken up, and for parents and children visiting King George V Field and its recreational facilities. The latest proposals appear to be to proceed with permit parking in King George V Road and to put short term parking meters or pay and display spaces on those parts of King George V Road which currently have a yellow line; that is, where it is currently considered dangerous to park, now becomes safe parking!

I understand the idea for parking meters in other parts of Amersham have been abandoned.

Your committee has also been pressing CDC to get on with the provision of the extra car parking spaces in the main car park off Rickmansworth Road, behind the Iceland Store. They say legal problems are the reason for the slow progress.

In conclusion if you're not satisfied with the proposed parking arrangements, please write expressing your views to Chiltern District Council – although your Association has about 1500 members, our letters apparently only have the weight of a single letter!

Geoff Platts

— elle —

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Chairman's Report

Good evening. Thank you for coming out this evening for the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Amersham and District Residents Association. Your committee members have just summarised what they've been working on for the past year and as you've heard, we've been busy.

Before I go on let me share with you the happy news that we've had no changes to the committee this year, at least not negative ones. All of your officers have maintained their portfolios and no resignations were tendered. Indeed we've actually seen a few new faces which is excellent news. More on that later.

If I were to summarise in five words or less the areas where we've had the most concern this year, the words might include:-

Post Office, Tesco's, potholes and Christmas lights and perhaps flight paths too. Some of these are rather beyond our control but we do what we can to meet our objectives, which you remember include encouraging action to improve the quality of life in our community, and establishing more effective communication between residents and local district councils.

Overall, I'm feeling rather optimistic. Optimistic about our organisation and about the town.

That's a view that perhaps isn't universal so let me expand on it. As far as the ADRA is concerned, I think we're making progress as an organisation. We've discussed the subject of member communication before and it's still a big one for us. You received a questionnaire with your invitations asking you to provide us with an email address if you have one. So far, we're up to over 60. Alan Smith has stepped up to the challenge of driving this one and it's working. We'll not stop the Newsletter production but the more email access we have, the easier and cheaper it will be for us to communicate. We rely, as you know on a dedicated band of helpers to deliver and collect, and their members aren't growing. We're all too busy so eventually we must prepare for the possibility that we simply won't be able to rely on this. We need immediate help by the way in the old town, for Amersham Road, Great Bois Wood and Manor Drive, Elm Close and Grimsdells Lane, Shortways and Tall Oaks, collecting subscriptions, delivering Newsletters and AGM notices and recruiting.

Another reason I'm optimistic is that our finances are in good shape. We have the capacity to actually support some initiatives if we want to, and to continue to provide the services we do. The cost of our newsletter production is donated and ad revenues help. Please support our advertisers and tell them you're doing so:-

The Financial Management Group, Mayo Bros Butchers, Maurices Pet Shop, Robsons, Heath Motors and Cartridge World.

They are loyal supporters who we shouldn't take for granted. There are other groups asking for their help too.

We've seen this year a number of new faces occasionally at Committee meetings, people who've come forward and offered to help. Even if they're not able to commit to serving on the committee, their help is most welcome. Yvonne Konieczna has volunteered to help Rosemary with membership. Stuart Mann volunteered to update the website, which was rather overdue. Mike Armstrong attended the March meeting, and Linda Flett came in April as did Yvonne and has also expressed an interest in getting involved again.

I'm also encouraged by some changes I'm seeing in Amersham. We're all aware, painfully so, of what isn't right, and of the frustrations experienced wading through the masses of apparently baffling and unfathomable

jurisdictional divides between Bucks County Council, Chiltern District Council and Amersham Town Council but I think we should stop for a minute and take a "half full" rather than a "half empty" look. Apart from the third world condition of the roads, I think the town is looking better. The signature beds are a welcome improvement, and like these things always seem to be, they were a collaborative effort.

I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but Amersham Town Council has been awarded "Quality Council" status. The Dept of Community and Local Governments (Westminster) sets the standards for this recognition, based on 30+ criteria of services provided, resources available etc. The Bucks Association of Local Councils does the accreditation in this county and in December made the award to Amersham Town Council. What this actually means is that it is now in a position to negotiate authority and funding for areas such as verges, graffiti on public property, trees, fly posting and so on. Local control and increased funding are exactly what we need. These discussions started six weeks ago. Verges for instance are Bucks County Council, and their policy is to cut 3 times a year. Chiltern County Council has negotiated responsibility for these and for some has contracted out 9 times a year cutting, perhaps by a man on a machine who lives in Watford and won't be the one who does it next month so isn't that

careful about what he knocks over. ATC control would mean the town now could do it, and even send a man with a strimmer to do the bits around the bricks.

Ann Terry's endless calls to Bucks County Council about trees overhanging pavements could be made to the town council who could respond quickly.

Another point of optimism for me is the ATC acceptance of responsibility for Christmas lights as well as hanging baskets. 50 baskets have been ordered this spring, and the council has established separate, ring fenced, audited, transparent cost centres within its budgets for these and Christmas lights. (These budgets will be carry forward items).

An appeal has been launched for £15,000 to match Town Council funding for the lights, and £4,000 has been pledged by two local businesses already. The mayor and town councillors I'm told have agreed to approach local businesses and groups like ours for support in this effort. They point out that ATC gets no funding from business rates or other taxes, only £1.35 per household plus fees from sports and recreation facilities.

An initiative I'd like to talk briefly about before I close is "Amersham in Bloom". Last year Amersham was awarded a silver and not surprisingly has entered again for this year. One of the areas where we fell a bit short

last year was community involvement, not surprisingly when you consider the entire effort was mounted in six weeks.

The regional judging will be mid July but there will be local competitions in 4 categories in the lead up. These include front gardens and hanging baskets, best allotment,

and best business. Prizes will be presented at the Carnival, July 12th. Prizes last year were £100.

The organiser, Sue Hinckley, who some of you met at the January social, wants our / your help. This need not involve digging or topiary. It could be volunteering for the judging committee, helping with presentations and booklet preparation, entertaining the regional judges and showing them around town. Or maybe suggesting a design for planting the Station Road and Woodside Road signature beds to be planted late May.

If you have a project in mind, like the flower tower in Chesham, there is money available. It would also be helpful (and count as community involvement) to be eyes and ears, graffiti spotting, litter spotting, pointing out things like piles of fag ends outside the pub. The ATC has a 6-man crew that will respond to calls received.

I'm optimistic but there is still a lot we can do. We'll continue to act for

you and to be committed to improving our community, but we really can't do it without you. Please give us your support as we go forward.

Thank you very much.

Bron Curley

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CHESHAM BOIS SENDS PARCELS FOR SOLDIERS IN TWO CENTURIES

In August this year members of Chesham Bois Women's Institute spent a happy evening packing 'Boxes for the Boys'. Over 50 shoeboxes were filled with games, playing cards, T-shirts, sweets, books, packet soups, soft toys, toiletries and sunhats for onward despatch to British troops – much appreciated reminders of home. There had been requests for shoelaces, flip-flops, sun-cream and underwear - all of which were also supplied. It was pointed out to members that when personnel were brought to the medical stations they

very often had nothing - so some underwear was a good starting point!

We were overwhelmed by the response from our members and many others in making a contribution. Local company, Sara Lee, very generously donated a huge amount of toiletries. Clarks of Amersham kindly supplied a massive pile of shoeboxes that made the job of packing the right amount a lot easier. The boxes had to weigh less than two kilos in order to be sent free of charge.



The picture shows (left to right) Helen Heydon, Pat Poole and Carole Robinson enjoying a lighter moment during the packing.

Nearly 100 years ago, 'Parcels for Soldiers' was also high on the local agenda. It is fascinating to learn this from the 1st Chesham Bois Scouts Centenary History. Quoting from Elizabeth Porter, the Hon Sec and Treasurer at the time

“A fixed proportion of Troop Funds is being regularly set aside to help with the cost of parcels for Scouts on active service Half the weekly Troop subscriptions of both Scouts and Cubs go towards this object, the amount averages £5-£6 per month. I send parcels to all the old Scouts I have been able to keep in touch with.

By degrees one learns what are the things most required under various conditions and in different climates.

I find, however, they don't take much notice of my prudent advice to cook the tinned salmon, and not have toffee, sardines, dates, and lemon cheese all spread on the same biscuit Here is a list of the things sent quite recently in what was, I think, an average parcel to a soldier in a line regiment in France.

Contents of parcel

- * air pillow
- * pair of hand-knitted woollen socks
- * khaki pocket handkerchiefs
- * Writing pad

- * Vaseline
- * Chocolate
- * Cocoa and milk tablets
- * Sardines

- * Candles
- * Soup squares

We are grateful to the Group Chairman and Group Scout Leader of 1st Chesham Bois Scouts for permission to use the above extracts from their Centenary Book.



Pictured above, ADRA Member Arthur Foster in his garden which was Highly Commended in the Amersham in Bloom 2008 Competition.

1st Chesham Bois Scouts Reaches 100 Years

100 years is a long time, and in Chesham Bois that is how long the local Scout Group, 1st Chesham Bois, has been in existence. As one of the oldest Scout Groups in the world, it can trace its roots back to 1908 and a group of boys who met initially under the Punch Tree that used to stand on the corner of Sycamore Rd and South Rd. Over the many years since then a huge number of people have been involved in the Group, as Scouts, parents, leaders and friends – and a

sequence of events over the summer have celebrated their contribution and the important role that the Scout Group has played in the heart of our community.

Relevant in today's world

Scouting remains as relevant today as it was in 1908, when 1st Chesham Bois was born – and in many ways in the globally connected society of

2008, even more so. The Scouting movement has as its essence 'Adventure', and it offers challenge to young people in a way that will enrich their lives. As the most recent in a long line of Chairmen (and women), as well as a parent of two children in the Group, I have been privileged on many occasions to watch the Scout motto of 'Be Prepared' in action. Amongst many cherished memories are the look of pride on the faces of the young people after they emerged safely from the physical and mental challenge of a cave in the Mendips, and a memorable evening being entertained by 12-year-olds round a campfire in the pouring rain in Northumberland – including an excellent braised rabbit stew cooked entirely without adult intervention. I am struck by the statistic that of the 12 humans who have walked on the moon, 11 had been members of the Scout movement in their youth.



There are many challenges that the world faces today that are as daunting as this– and I believe that for some it will be the experience of Scouting that will give them the confidence to find the solutions.

The Pioneer Hall

'Home' for 1st Chesham Bois is the Pioneer Hall in Bois Lane, and there has been a huge effort over recent years to refurbish the premises. Rebuilt in 1932, the hall contains a large central meeting area (71 ft by 27 ft), kitchen and storage areas – ideal for activities on winter evenings and rainy days. We are hugely indebted to the King family, and Peter King in particular, who are the owners of the land – and who have been strong supporters of the Group.

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For the refurbishment of the Pioneer Hall, our original estimate of the total cost was nearly £200,000. Against this we still have a long way to go, but I hope that we will be able to keep the momentum of what has already been achieved. However the primary focus of the Group is in providing Scouting activity that promotes the development of young people – and on this front we continue to have the support of a strong team of Leaders and Helpers. There are currently over 140 young people in the Group benefitting from their dedication and voluntary effort, across an age range that stretches from 7 to 25 – and many of our Group have returned in the past to take on a Leadership position themselves. With the support of so

many, and the important role of the Group in the community, I am hopeful that 1st Chesham Bois will continue to thrive for many years to come.

If you would like to know more about 1st Chesham Bois Scouts, or purchase a copy of their centenary booklet (84 pages, £5.00) – please contact the Group Chairman, Donald Campbell Brown (Tel: 01494 433 308 Email: adam@punchtree.fsnet.co.uk) or the Group Scout Leader, Emma Spikings (Tel: 01494 785 733 Email: Kalhotky@hotmail.com).

Amersham Photographic Society

The society, which has met locally for over fifty years, has over the last ten years managed to reach the level to represent the Chilterns Association of Camera Clubs at National (UK) level. For the last five years we have finished in the top four clubs at that level, which entitles the Society to entry to the National Finals, without qualification, in competitions for both prints and slides.

This year we were organised by the North Wales.



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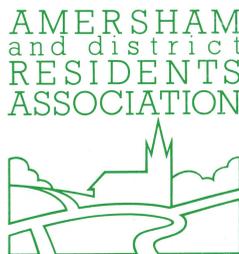
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Pauline West 52 Copperkins Lane, Chesham Bois HP6 5QR
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Calendar of Events

Date	Function	Committee Member Attending
01-Nov-07	Amersham Action Group Meeting – r.e Christmas Lights	Christine & Alan
06-Nov-07	Application r.e Tesco Express licensing	Geoff
29-Nov-07	Amersham & District Community Association Meeting	Bridget
06-Dec-07	Tesco application Hearing	Geoff Platts
10-Jan-08	Amersham Action Group	Alan
13-Jan-08	Amersham Action Group: Amersham Community Vision Presentation	Alan, Christine & Geoff

16-Jan-08	ADRA Social	Alan, Bridget, Bron Christine, Geoff, Rosemary
29-Jan-08	Planning Appeal Hearing r.e Piggotts Orchard	Bridget
21-Feb-08	Amersham & District Community Association Committee Meeting	Bridget
05-Mar-08	Neighbourhood Action Group Meeting	Ann
03-Apr-08	Amersham Action Group meeting	Christine & Alan
05-May-08	Mayor's Presentation of Citizens of Year Awards	Christine
15-May-08	CDC SPA Meeting	Christine & Geoff
22-May-08	Amersham Action Group	Alan
22-May-08	Community Association Meeting	Bridget
14-Jun-08	Chesham Bois Fete	Christine, Lyn, Bron, Pauline, Bridget & Brian
25-Jun-08	Community Policing	Christine
26-Jun-08	Amersham Action group Meeting	Alan & Christine
26-Jun-08	Public Exhibition of Potential designs for Barn Meadow	Alan & Christine
27-Jun-08	Amersham College Public Consultation	Bridget
28-Jun-08	Amersham College Public Consultation	Ann
02-Jul-08	Barn Meadow Exhibition	Bridget
12-Jul-08	Amersham Carnival	Alan & Christine
04-Sept-08	Amersham Action Group	Alan & Christine



Amersham & District Residents Association was formed in 1960. The committee meets monthly to discuss and act upon a variety of local issues, including Planning, Environmental and Traffic matters, whilst working within the framework of the Association's aims which are:

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