

BOWERHILL Villager

1 APRIL 2006

INFORMING BOWERHILL SINCE 1983

VOL 23 NO 3

Our hat's off to you if you can...

E	L	P	M	I	W	T	A	Y
A	Y	B	R	E	D	A	R	R
T	E	N	N	O	B	R	O	E
C	R	O	W	N	A	B	D	T
I	E	S	O	G	I	O	E	A
P	D	T	N	E	K	O	F	O
E	O	E	C	Y	B	S	U	B
K	L	T	G	H	I	H	O	L
G	M	S	E	H	C	O	L	C

Answers:

1. Glengarry, 2. Fedora, 3. Stetson, 4. Crown, 5. Tarboosh, 6. Cloche, 7. Busby, 8. Bomber, 9. Derby, 10. Wimple, 11. Kept, 12. Bouter

Find 12 items of headgear in the puzzle shown left. The clues are below, but if you really get stumped, the answers are upside down below the puzzle.

1. Highland cap
2. Spanish hat
3. For cowboys
4. The Queen
5. Fez
6. For strawberry growing
7. Regimental headgear
8. Something for Easter
9. Famous horse race
10. With the habit of a lifetime
11. French military peaked cap
12. Messing about on the river



April Litter attack

Volunteers of all ages (although not too young) needed for the next litter pick around the estate on Saturday, April 29th.

Please meet at the Village Hall at 9.45 am for a 10 am start. Finish is at noon. Bags will be provided.

Please ring 704679 for further information.

BOWERHILL VILLAGE HALL TRUST, BOWERHILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

All welcome to both AGMs

May is the time for Annual General Meetings. The AGM for the Bowerhill Village Hall Trust will be on Tuesday 9 May at 7.30 pm in the Bowerhill Village Hall.

The AGM for the Bowerhill Residents Association and the Bowerhill Action Group will be held on Wednesday 17 May at 7.30 in the Bowerhill Village Hall.

All Bowerhill residents are welcome to attend both meetings.

Both the Village Hall and the Residents

Association Committees have members who will be standing down at this year's AGMs so if you can spare some time to help either organisation please come along and volunteer to join the Committees.

Further information will be shown in next month's Villager.

Can you deliver?

Volunteers are urgently wanted to deliver copies of the Bowerhill Villager to:

- Hornchurch Road (2-48 and 1-31)
- Hastings Rd
- Kenley Close
- Wyvern Rd
- Shackleton Close
- Kittyhawk Close

If anyone is interested, please contact Brenda on 704862.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The passage of time depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on.

The Mole Strip

by Trish Youd

Can you find where I've hid my eggs?



Bowerhill Villager Easter Egg Hunt

Find 7 Easter eggs in the picture above and colour them. Send the picture, your name, age, address and phone number to The Bowerhill Villager (contact details on page 5). A drawing will be held and the winner will receive a chocolate Easter egg! **Deadline: noon, 14 April, 2006.**

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Survey results

The Melksham Without housing needs survey was reported back to the Parish Council on 27th February by Carol Southall the Rural Housing Enabler from Community First.

Such surveys investigate the affordable housing need for local people in order to assist officers in identifying those areas with the greatest housing problems so that scarce financial resources can be put to best use.

The survey was well received with a response rate of over 24% which provides confidence in the reliability of the data.

The survey was split into the different villages of Beanacre, Berryfield, Bowerhill and Shaw and Whitley with an additional report for the rest of the households that did not fit into these villages.

There were 2 respondents from Beanacre, 4 from Berryfield, 36 from Bowerhill, 17 from Shaw and Whitley and 4 others who indicated that they would have a housing need in the next five years.

Carol then looked at the existing affordable properties that are in the parish and the turnover of these vacancies to see what properties become available for the applicants on the District Council housing register. This together with the results of the survey has been used to work out a recommendation for the minimum need over the next three years for affordable housing development in the Melksham Without Parish. The rest do not have the immediate need for independent accommodation, or can afford to buy property for themselves.

Social rented housing

- Single person - flat/house x 8
- Three bed house x 3

Shared/Low cost home ownership

- Single person/couple – flat/house x 8
- Two/three bed house x 6

Do you know your Stranger Danger rules?

NEVER...go with a stranger

NEVER...get in a car with a stranger

NEVER...take things from a stranger

NEVER...go off on your own.
Always play with other children

NEVER...be afraid to say No.

Say No. Never Go!

Bowerhill Beat by PC Ann Morris



Greetings one and all. The time has come once again to see what has been happening in and around Bowerhill over the past few weeks.

This is the spot where I would normally do my crime round up but I'm pleased to report that I have nothing of any significance to write this month.

Just a word of caution though, there has been a spate of vehicle thefts, and thefts from vehicles, recently in the town area so please make sure that your vehicles are secure and all valuables removed from them.

This month I thought it would be nice to appeal to the younger generation and do an article on "Stranger Danger" as, with the lighter evenings, more youngsters will be out and about later, and it is always nice to have some pointers on how to keep yourselves safe.

A stranger is someone that we don't know and have never met before. Not all strangers are bad or dangerous. The first time you meet a police officer or your teacher, they are strangers but they are people that you can trust and who will look after you.

When you are out shopping, always stay close to whoever is looking after you and don't wander off on your own.

When you are out playing, stay close to your house and always let whoever is looking after you know where you are and what you are doing.

If a stranger should approach you, there are three simple rules to keep yourselves safe:

1. RUN – If a stranger approaches you and asks you to go away with them you should RUN away as fast as you can and get to a safe place.

2. YELL – Yell as loud as you can and make as much noise as possible – this

will help to scare the stranger off.

3. TELL – When you get home or to school Tell someone that you trust what has happened.

"Who can I trust?" I hear you cry.

You can trust a police officer, a security guard in a shopping centre, a shopkeeper and someone you know.

REMEMBER THESE RULES AND YOU WILL KEEP YOURSELVES AND OTHERS SAFE.

Well, that's about it for this month. It's nice to see that the lighter evenings and mornings are upon us and spring is just around the corner; so, until the next instalment, Keep smiling. – *Pc Ann Morris*

Neighbourhood Watch News

Thanks to Park Road and Dakota Close for the great turn – out on the 27th – it was lovely to see so many of you there.

Kay, the street co-ordinator for Belvedere Close is looking for someone to take over the scheme as soon as possible as she is moving to pastures new.

Any interested parties can contact me, Sue Horton, on 01225 707514. I do hope that somebody will come forward as it will be a shame to see the NHW on that street fold. There is very little work to do being a street co-ordinator; you just have to pass information, as and when you get any, on to your members.

Well, that's it from me. Best wishes.

Sue Horton

Report a crime

Local
..... 0845 408 7000
Crimestoppers
..... 0800 555111

Local Government contact details

Melksham Without Parish Council

1st floor, Crown Chambers

7 Market Place, Melksham SN12 6ES

www.melkshamwithout.co.uk

Clerk and Office:

Mrs M Jarvis 705700

Hours: Mondays 9.30 am - 1.00 pm;

Tues & Thurs 9.30 am - 2.00 pm

Bowerhill and Beanacre Ward

Council Chair:

Mike Mills..... 708600

Council Vice Chair:

John Glover..... 705798

Council Members:

Alan Baines..... 704916

Rolf Brindle07949 282220

Ruth Gillings..... 700278

Don Millard..... 706761

Pat Nicol..... 703390

Stephen Petty 791060

Mike Sankey 791430

Paul Wiltshire..... 703319

Bowerhill Scout Group News

The Colony have been busy so far this term with their theme 'Animals', this includes a visit to a pet shop, an evening with a local Police dog handler and his dog and a visit from an Australian Naval Officer. The Beavers had a fabulous time at the recent District Beaver Party enjoying the food and entertainment. This section is so popular and they certainly are true to their motto of 'Fun and Friends'. There is however one problem: the Beaver Leader is leaving in May and we need to find a replacement or the section will have to consider closing.

The Cubs started off the term with a party where they cooked their own burgers and sausages followed by ice-cream and rounded off with games. They enjoyed a Burns Night trying haggis, neaps and tatties and taking part in traditional Scottish games together with a quick highland fling! Fifteen Cubs gained a staged swimming badge when they took part in the District Swimming Badge Event and we paid a visit to the Melksham Comedy Club pantomime Robin Hood and had a brilliant evening with plenty of hissing and booing. Pancakes, of course, were the order of the day leading to Pancake Day.

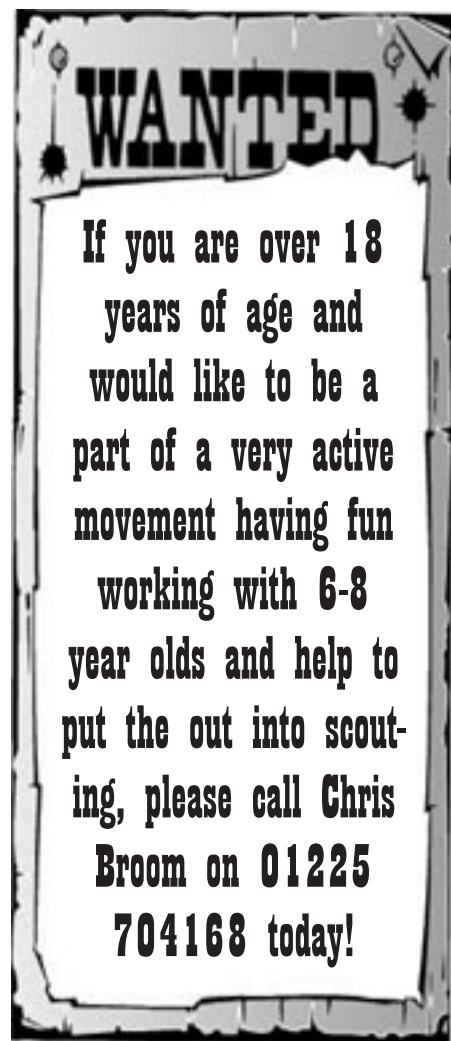
They have done their Home Safety Activity Badge and taken part in the District Challenge. There are lots more activities planned and a camp to look forward to over the Mayday weekend.

The Scout Troop are going from strength to strength and their Friday night

activities are covering a range of Scouting skills, pioneering, knotting and orienteering to name a few.

On Sunday 5th February a team of four Scouts Daniel Slade, Lucie Finch, Nathaniel Johnston and Stephanie Grant represented the Troop at the District Cooking Competition and they WON!!! Their menu started with vegetable soup, a main course of chicken and mushroom tagliatelle followed by pancakes with banana and chocolate sauce for dessert. They worked as a team in a professional manner and their efforts paid off, they now go forward to represent the District at the County competition.

Fifteen Scouts and four Leaders spent a weekend at camp 17-19 February sleeping indoors. The Scouts started off the weekend with a night hike and on Saturday they did activities to gain their Orienteering and Pioneering badges. The day was rounded off with a Group camp fire with over 60 people attending. Several Scouts concluded activities to gain their Circus Skills badge and completed their Creative Challenge badge. On the Sunday they prepared and cooked a full Sunday lunch for their families with over 50 of us enjoying either roast pork or chicken with all the trimmings followed by apple crumble or treacle sponge pudding with custard. Everyone had a great time and are now looking forward to putting the "out" into Scouting and spending their next camp under canvas.



WI enjoy talk on woodlands

Once again the members of the Bowerhill WI were pleased to see each other at their monthly meeting on February 13th. Their visitor was Richard Slingsby and his talk was about the Woodland Trust. None of the attendees had been aware of the tremendous amount of work done by the Woodland Trust in their aim to preserve and care for woodland areas. He explained the essential benefits woodland provides in helping to clean the air, trap dust, reduce storm water run off, reduce noise and pollution and also to help reduce asthma levels. They could relate to many of these benefits. The Trust now has 183 woods in their care and they provide free access to new and established woodland throughout the UK for quiet informal recreation.

New WI members are always welcome to meetings on the second Monday morning in the month at 10am in the Village Hall in Halifax Road. Please join if you would like some company for a morning when you would otherwise have spent the time on your own.

Our readers write to us

Community Minibus Service

Dear Bowerhill Villager,

We are writing to let you know about a local door-to-door community minibus that may be able to help your clients who live in Melksham and surrounding villages to do their shopping.

Melksham Council of Community Service is currently running 3 shopper services each week to Chippenham (£4 RTN), Melksham (£2 - £3 RTN) and Devizes (£4 RTN) and the services will usually run on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday subject to demand.

Anyone of any age living in or around Melksham can use the services as long as they cannot easily access public transport and do not have the use of a car.

New passengers will also get their 1st shopper journey half price!!

All passengers need to do is register and book (before 11am the day before travel) by calling the Melksham Tourist Information Centre on (01225) 707424

The minibus has 14 seats, is fully wheelchair accessible and is also available for use with a driver to community groups.

Liam Tatton-Bennett

Community Transport Project Officer

Tel: (01380) 722475

ltatton-bennett@communityfirst.org.uk

trying to hold on to their independence need to be encouraged to stay that way, not punished and humiliated by the authorities who claim that they are managing our services. Please! Please! THINK AGAIN.

Irate User

(name and address supplied)

The Bowerhill Villager is published 10 times per year by volunteers who live in the area, enabled by submissions from its readers.

Send letters to the Bowerhill Villager or submissions for a story to:

bowerhillvillager@blueyonder.co.uk

Or drop them at either Village Hall or Bowerhill Post Office.

Or ring Digger on: 700487.

Though we can withhold your identity if you request, you must include your name, address and phone number.

DEADLINE for next issue (May 2006) is Friday, 14 April, 2006, noon.

No items considered after this date.

The Hopper Bus

Dear Bowerhill Villager,

Shame! And shame again to the District Council who intend dispensing with the services of the Hopper Bus.

There must be a great many elderly and immobile people who are very dismayed by the highhanded attitude of the council who are cancelling this service.

Were those people who use the bus consulted for greater funds to keep it going? No!

Have the council asked for donations from charities to ensure that the needy people of Bowerhill, Melksham and the surrounding areas would not be disadvantaged?

Do they care?!!

This service has been a godsend to those who need it. Some people have problems even getting to the local bus stop to catch the bus to Bath, let alone having to cross a busy road, in order to get another bus for the RUH. After attending the hospital for one to two hours there will be the journey home to be faced.

The physically impaired folk who are

Regular Events in the Village Hall

Enquiries: Viv Feltham 01225 702189

• **Bowerhill Ladies Group**

3rd Tuesday 7.45 pm

Contact Gill Ellis 704252

• **Bowerhill Toddler Group**

Wednesdays..... 10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Contact Karen Parkin 01225 700041

• **Bowerhill Women's Institute**

Every 2nd Monday of the month in the committee rooms 10.00 am - 11.45 am

• **Legs, Bums & Tums**

Wednesdays 7.15 pm - 8.15 pm

Contact Lisa 01225 358248

• **Lindsay Howard Academy of Dance**

Mondays..... 4.00 - 9.00 pm

Wednesdays..... 4.00 - 6.30 pm

Saturdays..... 9.00 - 10.30 am

• **Cubs**

Thursdays..... 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

Contact Chris Broom 704168

• **Beavers**

Tuesdays 5.45 pm - 7.00 pm

Contact Robert House 358165

• **Scouts**

Fridays 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Contact John Finch 790484

• **Melksham Lacemakers**

Tuesdays 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Contact Sally Wadsworth

01380 859052

• **PHAB Club**

Fortnightly Wednesdays..... 7.30 pm

Contact Val Akers 704632

Contact Wendy Scott

wendy.boatmansrest@virgin.net

• **Tumble Tots (Gymbabes)**

6 mths - walking..... 9.40 am - 10.20 am

walking-2 yrs 10.35 am - 11.20 am

2-3 years..... 11.35 am - 12.20 pm

3+ years..... 12.45 pm - 1.30 pm

(opening numbers permitting)

Contact Vikki Matcham 811579

• **Weight Watchers**

Thursdays..... 9.30 am - 10.30 am

Contact Linda Argyle 776713

• **Village Hall committee**

1st Tuesday 7.30 pm