

DECEMBER 2006/JANUARY 2007

## School News

### Operation Christmas Child

The School Council, under the leadership of Miss Ball and Miss Emery, organised a superb collection of shoeboxes containing gifts to be sent to Eastern Europe and Africa. We collected a total of 167 boxes. Representatives from the School Council visited the OCC depot in Bowerhill last week.

### School Newspaper Launched

Mr Banton has worked with his class to produce the first edition of our Bowerhill School newspaper. The children have named the publication '365 children' – the number of pupils and one for each day of the year!

Mr Banton intends to help the children produce three editions each year.

### X-Factor Competition

On Thursday, 21st December we held our third X-Factor competition. Our panel of judges consisted of Ray Jones and Bob Whiffing.

The judges selected one act from each of the 14 classes to take part in the final. In the afternoon, the whole school gathered in the hall to see the acts perform. The judges then selected two winning acts (one from each Key Stage – Infants & Juniors). Chloe and Vicky were the winners and received an X-Factor key ring as a prize.

While the judges were deciding the winner, the children were entertained by the teaching staff who danced and sang 'Singing in the Rain'. Our resident elves, Mrs Crabbe and Mrs Cranham, also led some seasonal singing.

### School Website Fully Operational

Visit [www.bowerhill.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.bowerhill.wilts.sch.uk) for information about our school, copies of Newsletters and pictures of children work.

#### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*A bargain is something  
you have to find a use for;  
once you've bought it.*

## Bowerhill Scout Group Events

All of the Group has been extremely busy in the lead up to Christmas starting off with a Bingo which raised £116.41 next came bag packing at Sainsburys, Melksham when £602 was donated by shoppers, half to The Trussell Trust and £116.14 was raised by Christmas Raffle.

The Village Hall was packed for our now renowned annual Group show on the 7th December and hopefully we did not disappoint anyone.

The show was opened by the compere for the evening Scott Finch and the Beaver section were on first performing a sketch about woodland animals. They also sang beautifully 'Land of the Silver Birch'.

Next on were the Cubs and as 2006 was the 90th Birthday for Cub Scouts they performed 9 decades of song and dance. The 1920s started with a selection of Tenderpad tests that Wolf Cubs had to undertake followed by an appearance of Charlie Chaplin (Toby Southgate) and then all the Cubs sang a song from the era 'Does your spearmint lose its flavour on the bedpost over night. The 1930s included Louis Armstrong (Jack House)

and a rendition by the Cubs of 'Whistle while you work'. 1940s, the war years and everyone joined in with 'We'll meet again'. And now we were really rocking with the 1950s, Anne Cranham and Chris Broom jived their way around the stage to Bill Hayley's 'Rock around the Clock' followed by Cliff Richard (Kalum House) singing 'Living Doll' and  
*continued on page 4*

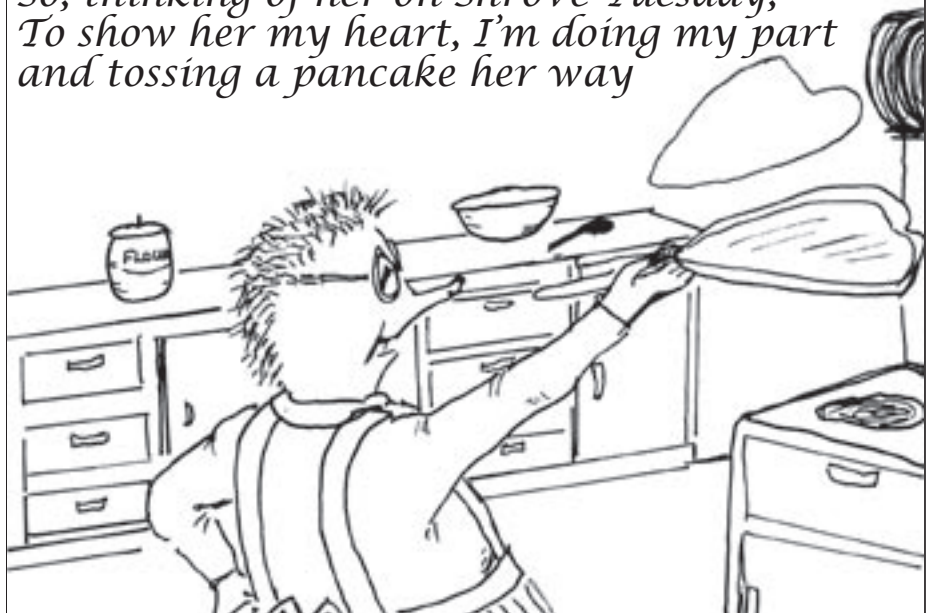
## Craft Chat & Coffee

The launch of the new club, Craft Chat & Coffee, held at the Village Hall, was a resounding success. In excess of 20 people from Bowerhill and surrounding areas arrived on the 12th January, to share their interest with fellow crafters. The chosen crafts included several different needlecrafts, lace making, spinning, patchwork and decoupage. The Bromham Stitchers, from whom the idea of the club had originated, were there to give their support which was very much appreciated. Future meetings will be held every two weeks and anyone who has an interest in craft is welcome.

### The Mole Strip

by Trish Youd

*My love is away on Valentine's Day  
So, thinking of her on Shrove Tuesday,  
To show her my heart, I'm doing my part  
and tossing a pancake her way*



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# Our readers write to us

## Streaker on Bowerhill

Dear Bowerhill Villager,

I can finally say I have seen it all at Bowerhill. On the night of Saturday 28 October, myself and family were kindly given a lift home by a family friend only to be greeted by a young gentleman, casually jogging past wearing nothing but a pair of trainers and a cheeky grin. After a few puzzled looks and a cry from one of the other neighbours, no, we were not dreaming, we had encountered the Bowerhill Streaker.

Who was this man, what was he doing here and why did he run into another neighbour's house?

The simple answer is that while the Cats away the Mice will party wildly until the very very early hours of the morning, making lots of noise and generally annoy the remaining neighbours.

Please, Mums and Dads, when you do leave one of your little darlings in charge of the family home, do you really know what they are planning? Please remind them that there are others to take into consideration. – *name supplied*

## Seating Aid Available

Dear Bowerhill Villager,

I have a virtually new seating aid which is gas powered to enable elderly and infirm people to be able to sit in and rise and rise from an armchair with confidence. It is adjustable to suit the weight of the person and can also be used in a wheelchair. I am looking for someone who cannot afford such an item, but would benefit from its use.

Obviously, I am not looking for any payment. – *name supplied*

## Where's 2007?

Dear Bowerhill Villager,

I bought Bowerhill Yesterday and today calendar 2006 is there going to be a 2007 one and where can I get one? – *name supplied*

*In response: Thank you for your kind letter, which did bring both a smile and a tear. The 2006 calendar was a labour of love and gift to Bowerhill. But it was also to raise funds for the continued production of this community newsletter. And at that endeavour it did not succeed. We had to think of another idea for 2007. This was to be a community cookbook, filled with recipes donated by the residents of Bowerhill. There was not enough response, and we had to abandon that idea as well.*

## RAF Stone Was Not Vandalised

Dear Bowerhill Villager,

In the last edition of the Villager you printed a letter from an ex RAF Melksham serviceman saying that he was disappointed and disgusted that the RAF Stone had been broken and damaged by vandals. The Stone was discovered to have been flattened and broken early one morning and the Melksham Police investigated the incident and determined that the Stone had not been vandalised but had been hit by the tailgate of a lorry that was manoeuvring by Christie Miller Sports Centre. It is possible that the lorry driver was unaware that the damage had been done. The Police have closed the incident report as "damage caused by an unknown vehicle" as they are convinced that the damage was not caused by vandalism.

If authority and agreement is obtained, the stone will be resited outside the ATC building. It is hoped there will also be a service of dedication. – *Mike Mills, Chairman Melksham Without Parish Council*

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*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 at your request, you must include your name, address and phone number. DEADLINE for next issue (March 2007) is Friday, 9 February, 2007, noon. No items considered after this date.*

# Bowerhill Beat *by PC Ann Morris*



Hello one and all and a very Happy New Year to you. I hope that 2007 proves to be happy and healthy for you without too many problems.

“What has been happening in and around Bowerhill?” I hear you cry! As usual I’ve got the crime round up and I’ve written the details below (no change there then!).

A garden bench was stolen from the front garden of a house in Dowding Way between 5pm on the 5th November, 2006 and 8am the following day.

Between the same times and date, a Ford Fiesta car had its paintwork scratched whilst it was parked and unattended at Barnes Wallis Close.

Sometime between 8.30am and 4.45pm on the 8th November, a stainless steel solar light was stolen from a garden at Hornchurch Road.

Between 7pm on the 11th November and 9am the following day, a property in Tangmere Close was attacked where persons had unsuccessfully attempted to jimmy the garage door.

At approximately 10.30pm on the 11th November, a disturbance occurred at Debden Close. The following morning a resident discovered that the front windscreen of her Ford Ka had been smashed.

Sometime between 4pm and 4.20pm on the 20th November, whilst a youngster was walking through Blenheim Park, a white male got out of a car and started swearing at him and pushed him and then got back into his vehicle and drove off.

On the 20th November, between 3 and 3.15pm, some step ladders were stolen from a van whilst it was parked and unattended in Hornchurch Road.

At 7pm on the 22nd November, youngsters were playing ‘Knock Down Ginger’ (knocking on doors and running away) in the Locking Close area to the annoyance of residents.

At 8.15pm on the 25th November, there was a disturbance in Lincoln Grove which resulted in a person being assaulted. One person was arrested as a result.

At 11.36pm on the 27th November at Hurricane Road, an assault occurred where a person received a punch to the nose.

Sometime between 8.45pm on the 30th November and 10am on the 2nd December, a mountain cycle was stolen from a rear garden at Sunderland Close.

On the 4th December, diesel was removed from a parked and unattended tractor whilst it was parked at a nearby farm

premises.

Between 11am on the 7th December and 11.15am on the 24th December, a window was smashed at Hurricane Road.

At The Pilot public house on the 22nd December, a coat containing personal property was stolen.

Sometime between 5.30pm on the 29th December, 2006 and 10am on the 5th January, 2007 a burglary occurred at Hurricane Road where a stereo system was stolen.

Between 8.30am and 9.30am on the 6th January at Wellington Drive, a white Ford Transit Tipper vehicle was entered via the insecure passenger door and a rucksack stolen from inside.

At Dowding Way, between 7pm on the 8th January and 7am the following day, a parked and unattended white Peugeot car had paint thrown over it and the door panel scratched.

Well, that’s the crime round up for this instalment – there’s quite a few – but don’t forget it’s two months worth of reports.

As usual anyone with any information about these or any other incidents please ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or Wiltshire Police on 0845 408 7000 – all calls treated in the strictest confidence.

## **It’s still dark out there**

The nights are certainly beginning to stay lighter a little longer now – ‘New Years tide, cock stride’ as my Gran always says – which means that the days stay lighter for the length of a cockrel’s stride each day until spring is well and truly on its way. However, it is still dark in the mornings and evenings at present so always remember to make sure that you can be seen whether on foot, in a bicycle or in a motor vehicle and keep yourselves safe.

That’s just about it from me, until the next one, BE HAPPY – *PC Ann Morris*

## **Neighbourhood Watch News**

Not much to report at this moment in time just to wish all members a Happy and Healthy 2007 from myself and Ann.

Don’t forget – anyone interested in joining the neighbourhood watch – contact me on 01225 707514 or Mark Abbott on 0845 408 7000 (Community Safety)

– *Sue Horton (NHW area co-ordinator)*

### **Report a crime**

Local ..... 0845 408 7000

Crimestoppers ..... 0800 555111

Elvis Presley (Corey Jackson). Sonny & Cher (Luke & Emily Thomson) sang 'I Got you Babe', The Beatles (Rhys Kemish, Calum Gillespie, Aaron Hall and James Whiffing) sang 'Yellow Submarine' and Cilla Black (Tasmin Cole) sang 'Anyone who had a Heart'. Tom Jones (Corey Jackson) sang 'It's not Unusual'. All the Cubs performed Slade's 'Merry Christmas Everybody' and The Village People's 'YMCA' and Abba and 'The Dancing Queens' Anne Cranham and Chris Broom strutted their stuff. Bucks Fizz (Rachel Slade, Erin Meech, Aaron Hall & Luke Thomson) performed 'Making your Mind Up'. Luke Thomson was Kylie singing 'I should be so Lucky' and Erin Meech as Madonna was certainly 'In the Groove'. Toby Southgate was Michael Jackson with 'Thriller'. Cher (Clare Brown) and singers Adelle Gullis, Victoria Rolph and Rhian Berry gave us the 'Shoop, Shoop Song', Calum Gillespie was Robbie Williams singing 'Millennium' followed by the Spice Girls, Marianne Rossi, Ellen Cann, Rhian Berry, Ellen Cann and Rachel Slade. 'Could it be Magic' from Take That, Ben Amor, Alistair Cole, Rhys Kemish, Dominic Blackmore-Beales and Brandon Kerr. McFly '5 Colours in Her Hair' with Cameron Gerrish, Kalum House and Jack House set the scene, Aaron Hall was Shayne Ward with 'That's my Goal' and everyone accompanied Chico, Jack Chapman with 'It's Chico Time', Victoria Rolph as Britney Spears 'Hit me Baby One More Time' and Girls Aloud, Tasmin Cole, Clare Brown, Rhian Berry, Emily Thomson and Ellen Cann sang 'Something Kinda Oooh'.

The Scouts performed a scene from 'James Bond' with Craig Croucher as 007 and Stacey Jackson as Foxy Loxy and the other Scouts played supporting roles. Next came a scene from 'Big Brother', Charlie Grant played Mrs Christmas and made everyone chuckle.

Our Group goes from strength to strength and the first Explorer Scout Unit has been set up and will meet on a Friday evening in the Village Hall if anyone between 14 and 18 wishes to join please contact a Leader (details under 'regular events') or if you are interested in helping to run this section please pick up the phone.

# Social Housing at Blenheim Park

West Wiltshire District Council have submitted a planning application for eight social houses and 12 parking spaces on three parcels of land around Blenheim Park. This is a much reduced plan from the original as Melksham Without Parish Council have applied to make the rectangle of land opposite The Pilot and the shops to be a Village Green so that area cannot be considered for building whilst the application is being considered. The Bowerhill Residents Association oppose these plans and Chairman Mike Mills has submitted a formal objection. If other residents are against these plans then they should also submit an objection to the address shown below. The more residents who object to the plans then the better are the chances of defeating them.

**The Principal Planning Officer  
West Wiltshire District Council  
Bradley Road  
Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 ORD**

## Add on Tickets

Some people, when using their concessionary bus pass have had difficulty obtaining a through ticket to the Royal United Hospital. The free First Day Add On ticket is available for Wiltshire concession customers travelling to the RUH.

Please remember to ask for your Add On Ticket when you board the bus. Also when you show your pass to the driver, it needs to be opened so that they can see the photograph.

## Ostend and Bruges

Friday, 4th May through Sunday, 6th May. Picking up various points around Melksham and Bowerhill. Travelling via the Euro Tunnel. Two nights bed and breakfast, plus evening meal, all rooms en suite. Hotel has a swimming pool. Close to shops. Beach. Saturday is a free day to explore at your leisure. Sunday we visit Bruges with plenty of time to shop or sightsee. Cost per person in a double or twin room is £145. For more details or information telephone 791554.

**The Pilot**  
Under New Management  
Welcome to  
Eddie & Elvy

# 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**
- **Craft Chat & Coffee**  
Fortnightly Fridays.... 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm  
**Contact Jenny Butcher 353123**
- **Lindsay Howard Academy of Dance**  
Mondays..... 5.15 - 9.00 pm  
Saturdays..... 9.00 am - 12.00 noon
- **Cubs**  
Thursdays..... 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm  
**Contact Chris Broom 704168**
- **Beavers**  
Tuesdays ..... 5.45 pm - 7.00 pm  
**Contact Mike Prime 700382**
- **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**

- **Tumble Tots (Gymbabes)**  
Thursdays  
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

Council Chair Mike Mills visited Bowerhill WI for our November meeting and gave an informative talk on the day-to-day business of the Council. He “called the meeting to order” using a hand made gavel produced from a satin lined box that had been presented to him on his retirement from his full-time job.

Mike described in detail the work that voluntary councillors undertake. He outlined the chain of command from Government down through the various representative councils to the final local

decision making.

Following his talk Mike took questions from the floor involving local interest including the new school site, the future of the Hospital and potential developments.

Mike had also brought with him a scrap book compiled during his many years of council duties which all members found of great interest.

Our President, Marilyn Drake, proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the WI for what had proved to be a most enjoyable morning.

## Local Government contact details

### Melksham Without Parish Council

1st floor, Crown Chambers

7 Market Place, Melksham SN12 6ES

[www.melkshamwithout.co.uk](http://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

159 Woodrow Road

Rolf Brindle ..... 07949 282220

Lanes End, 406A The Spa

Ruth Gillings..... 700278

31 Westlands Lane, Beanacre

Don Millard..... 706761

Hill View, 91 Sandridge Road

Pat Nicol..... 703390

11 Conway Crescent

Stephen Petty ..... 791060

48 Berryfield Park

Mike Sankey ..... 791430

2 Magister Road

Paul Wiltshire..... 703319

23 Lansdown Close