



### Swings and Roundabouts - Everyone's Gain

Teresa SMITH

I cannot be the only person following the progress of the new village shop with great interest, peering (subtly!) in the windows every time I walk past. No matter how we feel about the changes and developments of what was our post office, I find it



hard not to feel optimistic about something new in our village. Change can be difficult, but good things can come out of it.

The Chesham Bois Village Appraisal Group is discussing another possible development in the village: recreational facilities for children. As a mother of two pre-school children I am unequivocally in favour of this. While it is lovely to walk to Bricky Pond and seek out its two or three ducks, for more comprehensive entertainment we must walk to the park and library in Amersham. I don't suggest that Chesham Bois try to

develop a play area to compare with King George V park, but it would be lovely to have a few

swings, something specifically for the children. Chesham Bois is full of families – it would be well used. Many small villages have playgrounds made of materials appropriate to the surroundings - like huge logs bolted together – which look quite nice (Sydenham in Oxfordshire is my evidence on this one!) Really, the question should not be, “Should we have a recreation area?” but, “Where shall we put it?”

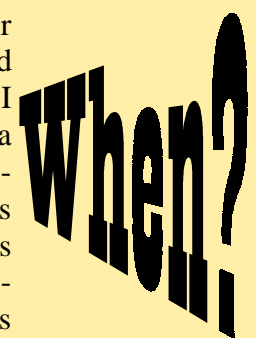
*Non-violent, non-co-operation... “No school until we get a play area!”*

*The question should not be, “Should we have a recreation area?” but “Where shall we put it?”*

### So Close You Can Taste It...

Months of waiting are about to conclude when Chesham Bois Village Store and brasserie open. A grand re-opening is planned for 9.00 am on Saturday 3rd April.

Tiled floors, plain, wooden shelving, moveable spotlights and food displayed in baskets will give the premises a clean, rustic feel. There will be designated areas for Italian and French foods. ‘I want it to have a village shop appearance’ states Chris Mellor. His partner, Francesco Rocca has supervised much of the interior décor and will be in charge of stock and staff training. A customer suggestion box will help the owners continually improve service and monitor customer needs. Initially it will be closed on Sundays except possibly in summer; this will also be led by customer demand.



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## Front Lines

**K**now what I want? I want either to spell this place 'Bois' and pronounce it 'Bwa' or write 'Boyes' and say it the same. I want a village clock and a tended garden with a bench and a fountain. Then I want gorgons in their outsized vehicles to abide by both written and unwritten law. Speeding is a clear, written law; road etiquette is an integral part of our culture; it moves society along in its pursuit of 'civilisation'. Breaking either rule constitutes anti-social behaviour.

Those present at the January Transport meeting had much to say about local traffic issues. Much needs doing. It is improbable that we can make changes on our own: human society functions in groups. But in small units we can find solutions to anything from local traffic and transport problems to getting a play area for our children (see front page).

We complain about being marginalised yet we are the greatest threat to ourselves: ignoring our needs and wants only precipitates our own decline. Unified action is vital.

Some of the most fascinating, witty and attractive personalities are already involved in little local, campaigns. Why not be one of them?

*Editor*

☐ For reminders about local events contact [parishclerk@btconnect.com](mailto:parishclerk@btconnect.com)

## In Living Memory

Sylvia DOLLEMORE

**W**e tend to take pictures of places we visit rather than familiar, everyday surroundings but over the years surely some spots around Chesham Bois have been captured. We already have a beautiful map of Chesham Bois and a fascinating book on its history. Couldn't we follow this up with an exhibition of photographs of the area in the past? If such photographs came to light perhaps the Parish Council would mount an exhibition.

There must also have been some interesting 'characters' in days gone by. In the 1950's for example I remember an old woman who lived in a shack in the woods opposite the cemetery. We thought she was a witch, of course! I also remember the roadmen who spoke in rich Buckinghamshire dialect who would hand mow the grass verges and tidy up. We had a dog which they referred to as a 'lil ol' cockle spanal'. For many years our letters were delivered by the same 'post lady', and our newspapers by Mr Wells, who had a tiny shop opposite the Boot and Slipper.

I am sure there must be others whose memory goes back a long way, and who would contribute, perhaps for these pages or for the website. Over to you!

◆ *'Everyone is a historian of his or her own lifetime...whose contribution is essential.'* (Eric Hobsbawm, *'The Age of Empire'*) Perhaps a local historian could record an oral history of the village too. What about a short film... Editor.



*There was an old woman who lived in the woods...*

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## Residents Ignore Survey - A Good Result?

Sam GALVIN and Mike VERYARD

- ▶ Returned questionnaires: 47 (4.7%)
- ▶ Need for one, two and three-bedroomed properties identified
- ▶ Finding a site for new build difficult (needs to be large enough; likely to be expensive and out of reach of Housing Association's budget).
- ▶ Response to bringing empty properties back into use and encouraging letting extremely poor
- ▶ Conclusion: unlikely that Chesham Bois could accommodate affordable housing scheme. Surrounding towns will have to provide for need portrayed in survey
- ▶ Further information call Sam Galvin (01296 421036) or Mike Veryard on 01494 732200
- ▶ Full, unedited version of this report can be viewed on [www.cheshambois.com](http://www.cheshambois.com) under 'Documents'.

# Bowling For Bois

Rob KENDALL

Chairman, Chesham Bois Cricket Club

**D**id you know that Chesham Bois Cricket Club has been playing on the common since 1880? We have three sides, one league side on Saturdays and two 'friendly' sides on Sundays. As a club we try and do our bit for the community. We prepare the pitch for various local schools and keep the common mown



throughout the year with no financial assistance. This year we are again hosting the Chiltern District Council Cricket Challenge for girls aged 11-14.

However things are not all rosy. With

house prices rising rapidly, it is very hard for people to afford to live in our community and still have the time to play cricket! We really need more players; you can be any age, size, sex or level of fitness, as long as you enjoy playing cricket. We have started practice nets at Chesham Leisure Centre and we would love to see some new faces. We also have a busy social scene, with Race Nights, comedy nights and BBQs throughout the year, more details can be found on our website. Please do get in touch.

*Come along to the ground this summer, I can assure you of a warm welcome*

If watching and supporting are more to your liking, please do come along to the ground this summer, I can assure you of a warm welcome.

Tel: 01494 864464

Mobile: 07901 555621

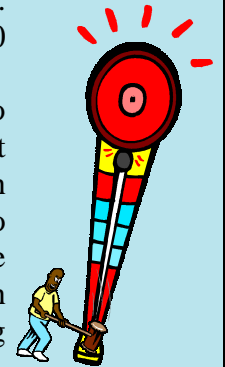
[www.cheshamboiscc.org.uk](http://www.cheshamboiscc.org.uk)

# Village Summer Fete

June GOSSLING

**S**talls at the village summer Fete can be reserved by contacting June Gossling on [parishclerk@btconnect.com](mailto:parishclerk@btconnect.com) or 01494 432585. They are just £10 each.

The only proviso is that we don't want too much duplication and no Tombolas please as the Parish Council runs a big one.



## Chesham Bois Village Store incorporating The Bois Club



Grand opening 3rd April at 9.00 am

Delicatessen, brasserie, Continental and modern foods with essential delights.

Open Mon to Sat 8.30 to 20.30  
Still some staff vacancies. Call Chris Mellor on 01494 434555

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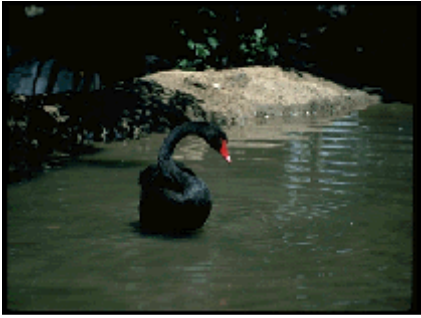
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[www.sportsnutritioniq.com](http://www.sportsnutritioniq.com)



## Please *Do* Feed The Birds

Geoffrey BENDEL

Some time ago, walking past the pond I was delighted to see a duck and drake afloat on the water. I hoped they would stay and raise a family. Alas, next time I passed they had departed. But today they were back.



I have noted with envy that the pond in Chesham is overpopulated with ducks, swans and Canadian geese. Has anyone got any good ideas to encourage a few of them to migrate in our direction? Perhaps some of our very young residents could feed the ones at Brickly Pond bread on a regular basis to encourage them to stay.

My dream is that one day a splendid white swan will alight on our pond to all our delight. Well, one can only dream!

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## Crime Scenes—Few And Far Between

R. B. DUEÑAS LEÓN

Blackmail, domestic violence, obtaining property by deception, indecent exposure... Just four of the crimes committed in Chesham Bois between April and December 2003. The nature of these particular crimes suggests that they all require a curious element of forced consent. It illustrates a surprising feature of life here



*These are a few of my favourite things...* but does not paint the whole picture. The most common crimes committed in Chesham Bois are against property, not people. Theft, criminal damage and burglary also featured in these figures. Out of the 49 crimes committed during this period (down by a fifth from the preceding year), 33 were against property, most commonly auto crime.

The overall picture is refreshing though. Protect your valuables and they're less likely to get pinched or damaged. But people - you and your loved ones - are safe. What else matters?

◆ *Sincere thanks to Andrew West, Inspector, Amersham & Chesham Sector, who supplied all figures and untiring replies to email inquires.*

## Local Talent

[www.orchardhouseart.co.uk](http://www.orchardhouseart.co.uk)

Anyone looking for a unique gift or home accessory will be increasingly disappointed by poor quality, mass-produced items. Something hand-made by a local craftsman must be a rare pleasure then.



Peter Hart lives in Chesham Bois. He turns wooden bowls made from locally sourced timber. "I like the craft because it's tactile" he states and handling one of his bowls is a delight - smooth, flawless and with its own identity. He sells through craft fairs and through his internet site at: [www.justbowls.com](http://www.justbowls.com)

Around the corner from Peter is Ann Brooks, a weaver. She prefers to weave silk and her speciality are scarves. "I use colours carefully" she states adding that her designs

are subtle and all original. To register interest in her work, call her on 01494 726189.

*Orchard House Art*

These craftspeople and more can be found on the Orchard House Art website at:

[www.orchardhouseart.co.uk](http://www.orchardhouseart.co.uk), This marvellous showcase of local artists was created by art-lover Alison Bailey. "Galleries can be off-putting" she says. Here you can view an array of artists, sculptors, jewellery-makers and potters demonstrating that Chesham Bois has talent of huge importance which is well worth exploring. 

Contact the editor via the Contact Us page on

[www.cheshambois.com](http://www.cheshambois.com)

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor.

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