



Bois *own*

Summer 2003
Number: 1

THE MIGHTY VOICE OF CHESHAM BOIS

JJ's: Going, Going... Villagers' Last Chance

Rebecca. B. DUEÑAS LEÓN

Of the 122 questionnaires returned, it is clear that most share a great affection for *JJ's* highlighted by the number of you willing to run the shop. However this alone will not save it. Here is our last chance to keep it before it goes on the open market. The Village Shop sub-group has been gauging interest for a community shop but with £15,580 pledged this is unworkable. Much research regarding grants (a number are available) and the legal implications has been undertaken and members have liaised with organisations and institutions who might help. So what now?

The most viable option is this: a small group forms a property company which then leases the premises to a village shop association. This could take just 168 individuals investing £1,250 each - the cost of a new PC or television - 84 individuals with £2,500 each or 42 contributing £5,000 each.

Alternatively... it becomes a video shop, off licence, estate agent, double-glazing showroom, carpet showroom, printers, taxi rank, Ann Summers shop...

The shops give identity to the village which in turn serves the community, acts as a meeting place, influences house prices and, let's face it, standing in the region. Do we want to be known as the jewel of the Chilterns or the shame of South Bucks?

◆ *Those willing to invest a more substantial amount in the shop premises with a rental income should contact Alison Naisby in confidence*



Could a hardworking team of estate agents set up shop in the village?

Cash Withdrawal Symptoms

Lilian NASH

The closure of the Post Office has meant the removal of cash and banking facilities in the village. This has had a dire effect on the elderly, disabled, non car driv-

One reason given for the drain on the NHS is the number of elderly living in isolation

ers, small, local businesses and parents with young children. We may be an increasingly cashless society but these people still require cash for everyday use.

It is well known that these groups will grow in the future; such changes (like the PO closure) mean that ever more people will be tempted to move to or stay within the close orbit of urban areas, rather than live in rural or village communities. Cut off from their families and their social contacts, symptoms of depression and ill-health can be aggravated. One reason given for the drain on the NHS is the number of elderly living in isolation.

Surely the Government and Royal Mail realise that these communities are just as essential for the economy, as urban areas. Return or replace this facility!

In this issue...

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Free gift offer ❖ Having it all? _____ p. 3

Young talent _____ p. 4

Front Lines

A gifted friend once wrote: 'You tell me you love me/You tell me you care/Well *show* me you do/Or get out of my hair.' (From *Show Don't Tell*) Talking is easy. We say, 'I'm sorry', 'I won't tell a soul', 'I do...' But do we mean what we say?

We have all been very vocal about the importance of the village and the community.

You want a newsletter? Prove it!

Now *Bois Own* gives Chesham Bois a chance to speak and be heard. But this, like much else in the world, won't exist unaided. You want a newsletter? Prove it! Write articles, make comments, offer suggestions. Feedback is essential - for the cantankerous editor and for money! If it is evident that people really want this newsletter, we have a strong case for funding. So now it's your turn: show, don't tell.

❖ *A huge thank you to each advertiser and contributor in this first issue. We need people like you for every edition.*

Editor
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In Your Hands

Ernest Newhouse, Chairman of Chesham Bois Parish Council, asks who we are, where we've come from and why we're here.

I am very pleased to introduce this inaugural edition of *Bois Own* which was devised by Rebecca León. It sprang from the Village Appraisal process which the Parish Council started last year. Its purpose? To enable the widest possible cross-section of the community to have its say about what it values in the village and how it would like to develop it.

**What
do
you
wish
for
Chesham
Bois?**



To this end, a steering group has been formed with representatives from various interest groups. Although the Council has led the process so far, the Appraisal Group intends to steer its own course and accordingly a constitution has been prepared. Bucks Community Action, with its wide experience, has been our mentor. We are producing a Community Plan for the Parish which, to use

It is open to all and actively invites anyone living or working in Chesham Bois to contribute.

the current jargon, has been developed "bottom up", from the residents and businesses here,

rather than being imposed "top down". So far we are leading the field within Chiltern District. So please email Rebecca at *Bois Own* with your ideas and suggestions about Chesham Bois. It is open to all and actively invites anyone living or working in Chesham Bois to contribute. Alternatively contact June Gossling at the Parish Office. Views which find support from others will help inform our Parish Plan.

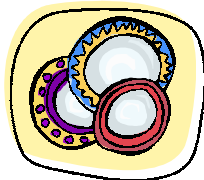
Rap Competition

Fancy yourself as the next JZ or Eve? Write a rap about living here and you could win a £10 music voucher and publication in the next edition. So what's worth shouting about? Your good mates, bad influences, pressures, inspiration, things that need changing? Tell it straight, but keep it clean! Send or email it in with your name, age, address and email/phone number. See back page for details.

**Rapping paper... We'll give you
a tenner for your winning words...**



Retail Therapy



There is something very holiday-ish about At Home Dot Com. Think of those shops abroad which you stumble upon late at night, those permanently open doors to other worlds of gift-buying. Here in Chesham Bois there is a small taste of that delicious experience.

There's always a reason to give

At Home Dot Com opened its doors in 1999 and launched its website a year later. Every space is filled with exquisite things. 'It's almost a mini department store' says Sheila who

was once a gift buyer at Fenwick's. The season's latest addition is a delightful knitwear collection. At Home Dot Com attracts customers from miles around looking for that special something while internet orders arrive from across the UK, the USA and Asia. Some of their best-selling gifts on the internet in 2002 were a ceramic olive dish for £7.50, a backscratcher-shoehorn for £13.95 and sterling silver, sport themed cufflinks still retailing at £49.95. However its three directors agree:



'Surprisingly many local residents have never visited us!' Kate says: 'There's always a reason to give - birthdays, supper parties, weddings. We have gifts for under £2.00 and most range from the classic to the quirky so you're not stuck with ties for him and underwear for her!'

At Home Dot Com sources its gifts from North America, South Africa and Europe, in particular France, Italy and Spain. Amanda adds: 'We also buy some splendid things from the UK which we consider hugely important.' Come and see our new autumn range. Bring along this article and claim your free gift. At Home Dot Com - for gifts so gorgeous, you'll want one too!

To Have and Have Not

Teresa SMITH

When we found our house in Chesham Bois just over a year ago, it had everything we needed, but just as importantly, it felt right. Being close to Amersham was also a bonus but losing the Post Office has challenged the area. The wonderful shop keeps my friends and me supplied with the best tiffin ever and I hope it isn't too late to save it.

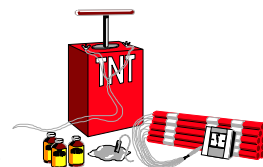
But it has struck me that I hardly know Chesham Bois at all. So next weekend I am taking my family on a tour to "discover" the village we feel so proud of. It is certainly time I paid more attention... because there is so much to be proud of in Chesham Bois.



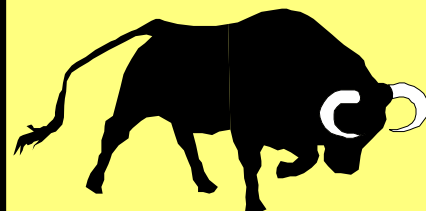
Planning Ahead

Ernest NEWHOUSE

The Parish Council (P.C.) is changing the way it deals with Planning Applications. When applications are published, there is a three-week consultation period before they are determined. The Council has the right to be consulted on all applications within the parish, but power



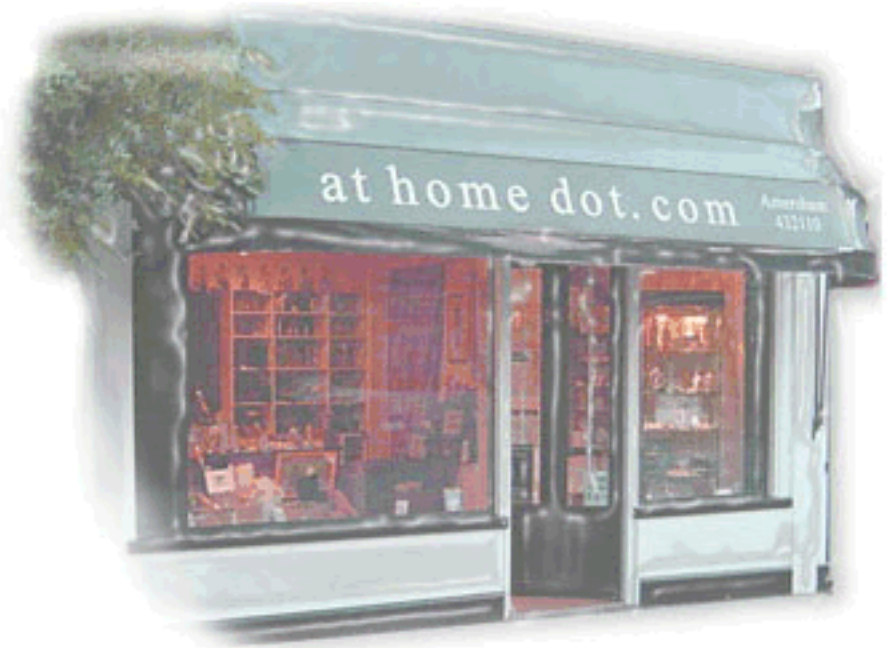
of decision rests with Chiltern District Council. The Planning Committee of the P.C. meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7.15pm at the Parish Council Office to consider current applications. An agenda will be published on the notice-boards and the website. The public may attend, but not address, the meetings.



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Jerusalem of Gold

Allan O'LAOIRE (Aged 14)

Blessed are you our Lord God who keeps us alive to reach each season,

So grant us the strength to create ourselves a nation

To escape a persecution beyond all reason

And stop those who seek to destroy your wondrous creation,

Who would have our people not see another season.

To us their parents our children turn,

Out like a candle their lives go,

But look at their faces

How bright they glow

For us who live you are blessed our Lord God,
Who would lead us through the ashes
Away from the men whose souls to the devil they sold,
Through the lies and deceit to our Jerusalem of Gold



Bois Own



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page on

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