

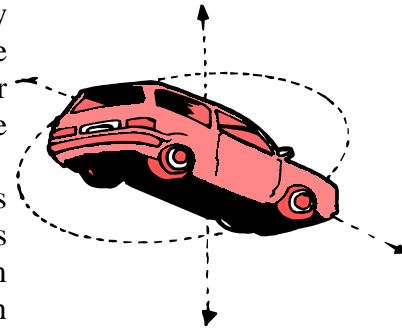
Rural Idyll or Rural Idleness?

David KIRCHHEIMER

Do you want the speed limits increased to 50 mph along both the Amersham-Chesham Road and Copperkins Lane? Do you want them decreased to 20 mph on all other roads in Chesham Bois? Do you want parking prohibited in Bois Lane and North Road?

Well as far as we know, none of these has even been suggested but without your input how are the planners and the local authorities ever going to know what you, the residents actually want? Have you any suggestions as to how to solve traffic speeding, congestion or even the manners of some drivers?

Can you think of any ways to help less mobile residents get to the shops in Chesham Bois? Have you any ideas on how we can help the children get to school? Can you come up with a formula to help ease the traffic flow during school run times?



*Who's driving this thing?
You are, actually...*

The Village Appraisal Transport Working Group wants to hear from you, the residents – whatever your age – as to what you feel should happen in Chesham Bois or indeed anything to do with traffic and transport. Whilst we expect to hear of some problems, we're looking for positive ideas to improve village life. Or is it that you think everything's perfect?

Drop us a line, short or long, by the 20th June 2004, care of the Parish Office, Glebe Way; or contact parishclerk@btconnect.com

Well Connected?

Margrit KENNEDY
Admin Assistant

Young person over 13? Adult? Find it hard or costly getting to:

- Doctor/hospital
- Work/college
- Leisure or social activities
- Food shops
- Bank/post office
- Childcare
- Council offices
- Other important facilities

Is it because:

- you don't have a car
- there's no bus when you need it
- the journey takes too long
- the journey costs too much
- your parents won't give you a lift
- any other transport-related reasons

Bucks County Council (BCC) is conducting a countywide study of the link between residents' transport and social needs. This survey will enable us to plan and provide better local transport and other services.

Request a questionnaire on 01296 382053 or email transportps@buckscc.gov.uk

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Front Lines

Readers of this column will know that praise is hard to squeeze from me. But on *Bois Own's* first anniversary I feel 'twill out. If you have had any input into *Bois Own* over the past year, sincerest thanks. You're all stars!

Since last summer *Bois Own* has followed the fate of the village shop, has been first to publicise the twinning scheme, has won the input of residents for an assortment of groups and has even travelled to three continents! The website has undergone a What-Not-To-Wear-style revamp and is now listed on Yahoo.com Where to now?

If we are appalled by regimes which ban free speech then having it and wasting it must be a sin. Use this space: talk to your community through these pages or risk losing your voice. There, couldn't go the whole way without a gripe...

Editor

The editor can be contact through the Contact Us link on www.cheshambois.com

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

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Where Is Our English Village Shop?

Pam BONAVENTURA

Taormina, Sicily

'A non-resident writing about our village shop – what cheek!' Yes, and I wasn't present (sadly) at the Grand Opening either but that won't stop me voicing what I believe is needed in the village.

During the past 32 years I have been 'commuting' to Chesham Bois and over this period little has changed. Villagers fall into three categories: children and young adolescents, parents (mostly both with careers) and the retired and elderly. The shop should therefore cater for these people.

So, it should be the traditional village shop, selling everything that a normal English family would ever look for - a mini supermarket if you will. Lastly, but not least, a cheerful notice board outside the shop for the local ads – the all-important Village Voice.

Chesham Bois is an English village and this needs to be proclaimed loud and clear. If villagers are proud of their status as such and if their shop reflects this, then they will give it their full support. Which ever you choose to have, may you enjoy it for years to come.

Pam's village shop essentials would include...

- cleaning products and toiletries
- greeting cards, stamps & stationery
- newspapers/magazines
- tinned foods & sandwiches
- fresh fruit and vegetables
- wine & beverages
- pet food
- table sauces & condiments
- biscuits & cakes
- dairy products
- mince pies
- some frozen and ethnic foods
- over the counter medicines



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Diary of a Chesham Bois Schoolgirl

Lola RICHARDS
Kitchener, Ontario

At home, during my early teenage years, I guess I was a real pain in the neck to live with. My parents even considered sending me to Boarding School! One problem was that I loved ballet with all my heart. When I was told that I should give it up as my feet and ankles were too weak I thought my life had come to an end. It took a long time to get over it, with much resentment against my parents. Then my mother introduced me to English Folk Dancing; as long as I could dance, I was happy!



First day at Dr. Chalonner's

In September 1948 came the Big Moment – I started at Dr. Challoner's!! TaDa!! I was proud of my new uniform but pretty scared too! I didn't much like school. In the mornings I dawdled there on my bicycle, and was often late. I was unhappy mainly because I was painfully shy and didn't make friends easily. I sure didn't like boys and the feeling was reciprocated I'm sure!! You would have called me an average student academically but my grades were saved by being good at languages.

We suffered one major crisis during my time at school and there were no counsellors to help us through it. A fellow student of mine, Elizabeth Caudery - a very good student who always took life very seriously - had been in the car with her



Sunday school

father when he had a heart attack and lost control. Elizabeth was killed outright. It took us all a long time to get over the shock of losing her from our midst.

So you can see that today, though life is faster-paced and technology-based, the problems that young people face are much the same as in my day. Life still throws difficulties in one's path, and in learning to deal successfully with them, one grows and matures.

❖ Read much more and contact Lola through her beautiful and enthralling website at: <http://lola.isfoundhere.com>

Get mad here!



Shoot your mouth off at the *Bois Own* stall and get rewarded!

Saturday 12th June
11.30 am – 4.00 pm
On the Common

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Village fete

**Saturday 12th June
11.30 am – 4.30 pm**

Visit the Twinning stand, meet local artists, talk to the Parish Council and the makers of Bois Own...

Conservatory of Art

Flavia ANDREETTA

From Vittorio Veneto in Italy, where I was born and educated I came to England to perfect my English. For a few years I did Life drawing at The Central School of Art. After our son was born I took 'A' Level Art and then completed four years of OCA (Open College of Art affiliated to OU). I loved it but when I was approached to teach, my art had to go on the 'back burner'.

Watercolours and silk are my favourite mediums

I undertook art commissions mainly of local scenes but also of local buildings. I love painting in most mediums but watercolours and silk are my favourites. I now want to form a regular 'get together' on Tuesdays for anyone with the same passion for painting as I have. A minimal charge may be made. If this interests you, please contact me on: flavia@stuartmann.demon.co.uk also www.chilternartsforum.co.uk



Chalfont St. Giles by Flavia

Channel Vision: Twin Bois

David and Sheila ELDRIDGE

Progress is being made with the proposed twinning of Chesham Bois with St Leonard des Bois. Following the winter 2003/4 article in *Bois Own* a steering group was formed and we paid the French village an exploratory visit at Easter, accompanied by Mimi Harker and her family.

A warm welcome awaited us all, both from the Mayor and his Council and from the local residents who provided wonderful hospitality in their homes.



The River Sarthe which runs through St Leonard des Bois

The Harker family stayed with Laurence Leboucher, the World Cyclocross Champion, who took the children fishing in the River Sarthe and then cooked the trout which they'd caught for supper. The two of us were made extremely comfortable in the house of a local artist of some renown whose wife spoke excellent English and cooked equally excellent food. We left feeling that we had made some good new friends

Now we are inviting applications for membership of the Twinning Association from residents of the Parish. Please see the inserts in this edition or visit the stand at the Common Fair on 12th June where we hope you can meet some of our French counterparts. If you want to know more email us on dandseldridge@btopenworld.com

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