



Issue 28

Summer 2014

***Summer is here and so is the World Cup.*** The English summer officially started on June 1st and the sun has indeed greeted us in the first two weeks of the month. The big news in this issue is that a large part of the proposed housing development to the south west of Hitchin is no-longer identified as a potential site. Sadly the Priory field to the south of the A602 across to Priory Way, Gosmore and Maydencroft is still an option. The Hiz this month summarises the plan, details who is currently responding and the Charlton Neighbourhood Forum strongly encourages readers to write to Hitchin Councillors to ensure that this part of the housing plan does not go ahead.

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***Chris looks tired! See A Runners World : Mud Sweat and Beer***

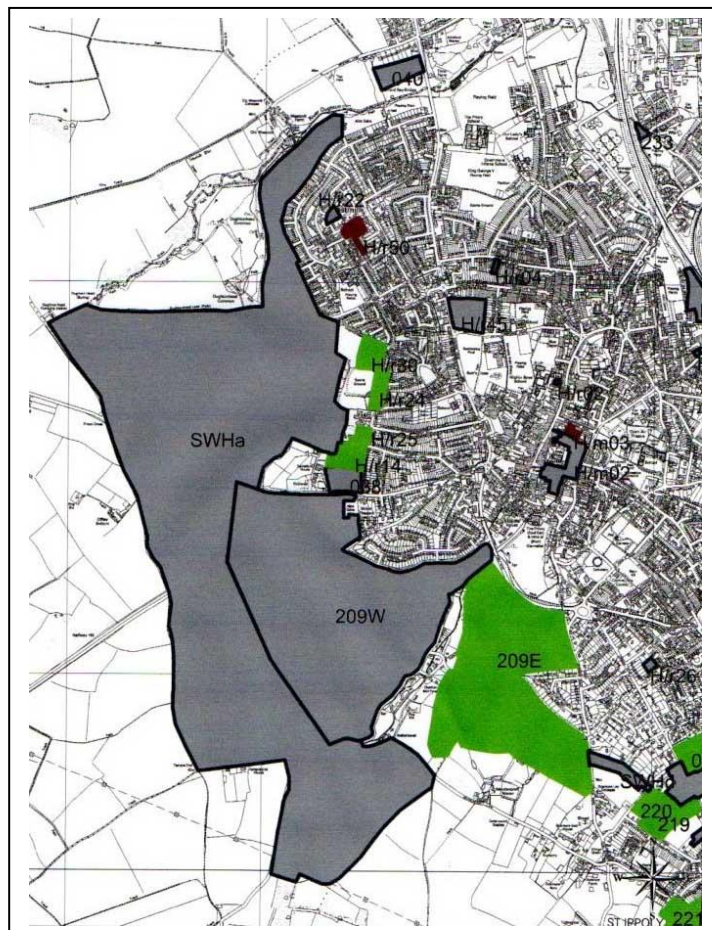
## *Events involving 'Friends':*

- **Offley Farmer's Market** on the first Friday of every month at Offley Village Hall. Stalls £6. Enquiries and booking: Alison Balfour-Lynn Tel 07778-517486 email: info@putteridgebury.com
- **Hitchin British Schools Fair in the Square. Sat 21<sup>st</sup> June 9-2pm.** Join us on Hitchin's historic Market Square to celebrate Midsummer's Day with music, dancing, fun & games + fantastic home-made cakes and preserves, books, jewellery, bric-a-brac, plants and more for sale. [www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk)
- **Ploughstock , Sat 21<sup>st</sup> June.** The annual local music festival at the Plough PH, Ley Green, near Kings Walden. Local bands play through the afternoon and evening, bar and food. All proceeds to charity.
- **CPRE Hertfordshire: Whats New at Lemsford Springs.** Following last August's guided tour around a 'secret' HMWT Nature reserve, members and guests are invited to make a return visit. Find out what's new at the former watercress beds at Lemsford Springs on 26 June from 6pm. Details from the website <http://www.cpreherts.org.uk/>
- **RNLI Hitchin & District** branch will be at the Pirton Fair from 12-30pm on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> July** with souvenirs and water safety demonstration. Details on the village web site <http://www.pirton.org.uk/>
- **RNLI Hitchin & District 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Classic Vehicle Meeting** at Pirton Recreation Ground from 4pm on **Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> August**. Tea and cakes, bar and Bar B Q, classic and vintage cars, motor-bikes and bicycles. Entry free.
- **Hitchin Historical Society Sun 28<sup>th</sup> September.** A guided visit to Hitchin Priory . (Very current given the threat to Priory Park). Details from their web site <http://www.hitchinhistoricals.org.uk/>

## ***Charlton Neighbourhood Forum: Latest housing plans.***

The Charlton Neighbourhood Forum was formed about 18 months ago as an action group to oppose threats to the green belt in and around Charlton. Comprising like minded people from Charlton , Priory Way, Gosmore , St Ipolytes and the Willows estate, letters of objection were sent in opposition to NHDC housing plans.

The good news is that a number of the sites have now been removed from the plans. However, a large area covering the fields to the south of the A602 bypass are still listed ie the whole of Priory Park area 209E on the map.



If you would like to join the Forum to continue to oppose this potential threat then please email John Pearce on [pearcej53@o2.co.uk](mailto:pearcej53@o2.co.uk) and do write to Hitchin Councillors requesting that they also oppose this proposal.

Useful information can also be found on the Hitchin Society website [www.hitchinsociety.org.uk](http://www.hitchinsociety.org.uk) .

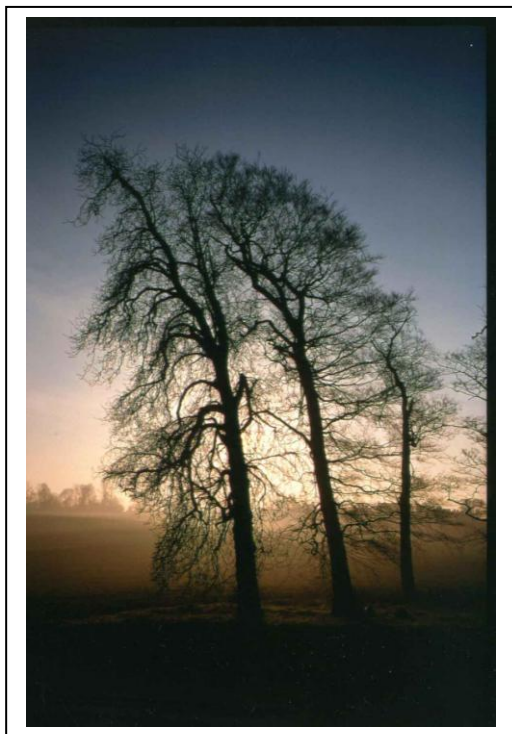
By way of a reminder this is what we had published in the Comet newspaper last year following the previous set of plans for this area. The arguments still hold true.

*Earlier this year NHDC consulted on the “Housing Options Growth Levels and Locations 2011 – 2031” paper. This included a large strategic site to the south west of Hitchin. The Council have now issued a new paper including a further 32 sites part of which details a revision of the site to the south west of Hitchin. The consultation period for this ‘Housing Additional Location Options’ paper will run from Friday 5th July through to Friday 2nd August 2013.*

*It is essential that as many people as possible respond to the consultation as failure to do so may be taken as an indication of acceptance of this revised plan for the south west of Hitchin. In fact the new proposals do nothing to address the many objections that have already been posted regarding impact on traffic congestion in Hitchin, lack of infrastructure including transport, negative environmental impact especially around the flood plain and the water supply from the River Hiz.*

*Others have also highlighted the area as the lungs of Hitchin and the need to retain farmland for food production. Moreover, this is **Green Belt** land including the Conservation area around Charlton, which offers huge recreational opportunities for local people and visitors, especially walking, bird watching and cycling.*

*These points are in addition to the fundamental argument that the whole consultation is seriously flawed in that it is developer driven and not a strategic initiative from NHDC. It is also important to understand that the revised plan for the south west of Hitchin is not a substitute for the original plan and the latter may still be pursued as the preferred option as it includes the promise of a new bypass.*



The sun sets behind a row of trees in Priory Park. The trees have sadly now gone. Let us hope that at least the land can be saved.

Copies of this picture can be obtained from the editor with all donations to the Charlton Neighbourhood Forum Fighting Fund. (Copyright John Pearce)

Tel John on 07545 003 792.

### **Maydencroft: Local company is proud to support employment in Hertfordshire**

Based at Maydencroft Manor, just a stone's throw from Charlton, Tom, son of Robert and Frances Williams, started Maydencroft Limited in 2007 alongside Maydencroft Farm.

Maydencroft is a rural contracting, land management and ecological consultancy that has grown from just 4 people to now having over 40 skilled employees. Maydencroft undertakes a wide range of projects such as landscaping, groundwork, invasive weed control, tree surgery, woodland management, fencing and grounds maintenance and using cattle for conservation grazing.



**Tom Williams at Maydencroft**

Maydencroft is one of, if not the biggest rural employer in Hertfordshire, and Tom is constantly looking for ways to support rural jobs. One of the ways Maydencroft has expanded upon this commitment is by becoming the largest employer for apprentices at nearby Shuttleworth College.

*“There has long been a concern amongst rural employers about a growing skills gap. Here at Maydencroft we believe the solution is to lead by example and train young people. This is why I am proud to employ apprentices from Shuttleworth – young people who are improving their knowledge and skills and should be encouraged in this endeavour as much as possible. Watching their progression is one of the best parts of my job.”*

As well as supporting local employment, Maydencroft recognises the importance of getting involved in the community in other ways. They are regular sponsors of the local Young Farmers Club stand at Herts County Show, and have started supporting the St Ippolyts football clubs by providing their kits. They also recently restored St. Ibbs Park in St. Ippolyts back to its former glory and host educational visits to learn about the traditional use of grazing livestock.

With four divisions, Contracting, Consultancy, Ecology and Farming, Maydencroft is a multi-faceted business that looks to the future by exploring new and innovative ways of managing our countryside, but also maintains important traditions long cherished in rural England. Tom is particularly proud of the Maydencroft herd of Longhorn cattle started by his parents over 30 years ago, a native English breed, which are used locally and nationally to graze land in a natural and sustainable fashion. Chances are, if you see cattle in the village with the distinctive and beautiful elongated horns of the longhorn breed, then they come from the Maydencroft herd!



**Longhorns grazing: a familiar sight near Maydencroft Manor.**

If you would like to find out more about Maydencroft, please visit [www.maydencroft.co.uk](http://www.maydencroft.co.uk)  
If you would like to buy some tasty Maydencroft beef, visit Allinghams Butchers on the Market Place in Hitchin or visit [www.allinghamsbutchers.co.uk](http://www.allinghamsbutchers.co.uk). And finally, for keeping warm this coming winter, visit Maydencroft's sister company, [www.hitchinlogs.co.uk](http://www.hitchinlogs.co.uk).

***Photographic sale***

A number of photographs used in recent exhibitions in Hitchin and the Windmill at Charlton are now being offered for sale. These include local images of buildings and landscapes, some published in Hertfordshire Life. Email John on [pearcej53@o2.co.uk](mailto:pearcej53@o2.co.uk) for details.



In addition the prints used for the Sir Henry Bessemer 200 celebrations are available for purchase (example left) including a print of the original Spy cartoon of Sir Henry.

All prints can be provided unframed or framed . POA.

All profit to local charities.

## ***My first month at the Windmill by Luke Purdy Master CGC, MACF, ABII.***

Following my initial training at Westminster college where I was awarded the prestigious Westminster diploma, one of only seven issued for that year, I moved on to working at a gentlemen's club set in London's Theatre land, The Garrick Club; frequented by many of the world's finest actors. An opportunity to expand my skills came when I started at The Palace of Westminster working as a Chef in their prestigious kitchens cooking for some of the world's highest dignitaries, where I stayed for six years. Progressing on from this I set up my own Limited company Garde Manger UK Ltd, providing banqueting and hospitality services for private functions; always with the intention to take on a permanently based venture of my own.

A country lad at heart, I started looking at pubs last year and after looking at a few, fell in love with The Windmill, an idyllic little village local, steeped in history. Some where I felt I could put my mark on, and maintain it for a further stage in its wonderful life cycle; and run as an exciting new venture. My aim is to provide good quality fresh and home cooked food, simple food and throw in a few specials from my past to make it a bit interesting along the way.

It has been a tough month, cleaning, painting, planting, cleaning.... But we hope the village like the way its coming together. We hope you don't mind also that we have had to take some control of the dogs whilst on the premises. It's lovely to see so many breeds around during the day and they are still very welcome outside, kept under control as there are other animals loose around the place, and I have a duty of care on the premises. We also realised quickly some customers were being intimidated and indeed having their food stolen! (Sacre Blur) We have made the decision that inside of the pub, now has a no dog's policy, so hopefully more people will like to come here and enjoy our food and the new ambience.



1846-1870	James Waller
1870-1878	Ann Waller
1878- 1910	George Morgan
1912-1914	William Cook
1914-1933	Tobias Taylor
1937-1963	Harry Rayner
1963-1964	Norman Wight
1964-1974	Leslie Duke
1974-1975	Derek Hall
1975-1978	John Farestvedt
1978-1999	Timothy Herbert Hunter
1999-2000	Les Jeffreys + Hayley King
2000-2007	Gary Brooks
2007-2009	Ray + Jo Lambe
2009-2010	Lee Armstrong
2010-2013	Michael Hills
2013-2014	Gary Thorpe
2014-	Luke Purdy

**Luke Purdy: new landlord at the Windmill PH.**

**Past landlords 1846-present.**

We will keep tweaking things for a while and look forward to meeting more of the locals and villagers. And once bedded in fully we will be organising some community events of which we will keep you posted . Please do introduce yourselves when you come in, I love hearing the history of the area to which I hope to become a part .

### ***Summer Events at Eric T Moore Books by Alison Fell-Gordon***

**12th June 2014 at 7-15pm**

We are launching our Reading Club. This month's book is Jack Maggs by Peter Carey. Please ask at the shop for details of venue as places are limited.

**5th July 10am-12**

We have a signing with Jean Handley. She has just published a book commemorating the pupils of The British School who fought in the First World War, it is called Remembered with Pride.

**16th July 4pm**

We have a talk given by Paul Ross on the Poets of the First World War. There will also be some readings by Martha Ross-Phillips and Tony Phillips. Entry by ticket only, tickets are free but we will be taking donations in aid of the Hitchin Christmas Lights. Tickets available from the shop or the Hitchin Festival Box Office.

**26th July 10am-12**

We will have local author Pamela Shields signing copies of her new book Harkness Roses. This is a fabulous book which tells the story of the company and also how the roses got their names.



**Some of the many and varied books on offer at Eric T Moore.**

Full details at <http://www.ericmoore.co.uk/> a short walk from Charlton village.

## *In the News*

### *The Chiltern Society Launch of a new circular walking route – North Chiltern Trail*

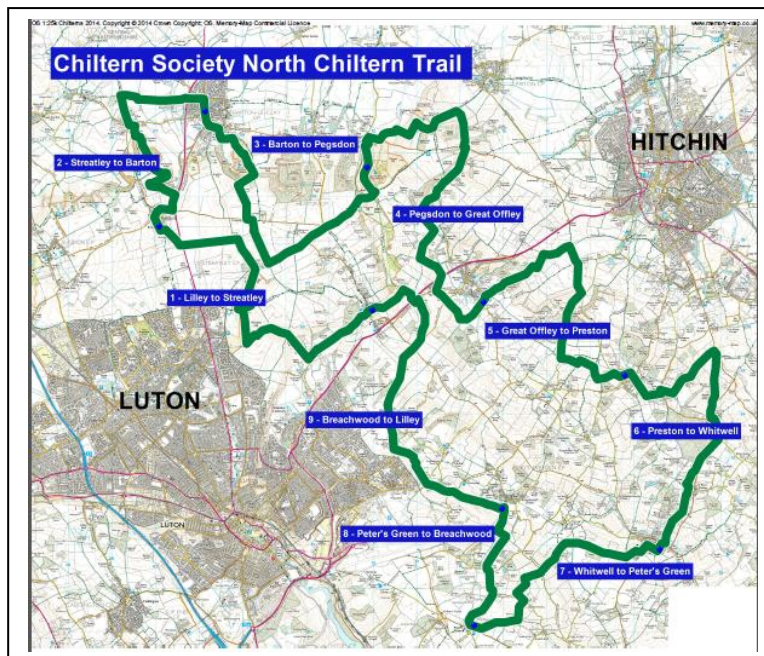
In September the Chiltern Society is launching a new walking route in the north Chilterns called the North Chiltern Trail. <http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/about-NChltnTrail.php>

This circular 42 mile route passes through some lovely countryside and nature reserves in central Bedfordshire and north Hertfordshire visiting attractive villages, pubs and tea rooms en route. To celebrate the launch we will be holding an outdoor activity festival with opportunities to walk the whole Trail, plus map reading courses, cycle rides and horse-riding.

Further details about the route and a map of the North Chiltern Trail, plus details of the walks and activities – the events programme is free of charge, but places are limited and have to be booked in advance can be found via our website.

<http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/activ-events.php#20140621> .

If you would like any further information please email [office@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:office@chilternsociety.org.uk) or call 01494 771250



### **Example walk:**

Sunday 14 September

North Chiltern Trail Stage 1 Barton le Clay to Lilley  
The first of four Sunday walks covering the whole of the North Chiltern Trail. Approximately 10 miles and covering the delightful hills around Barton and Pegsdon. Quite a few hills with some steeper ascents and descents

Meet and Park:

9.45am Lilley car park GR 118263



### **The Run - Mud Sweat and Beer – 7 June 2014**

Away from our Hertfordshire home again, we find ourselves in Northants at Shuckburgh Hall, a privately owned country house, which has been the home of the Shuckburgh family since the 12th century. We are here for the Mud Sweat and Beer 10k run, a fundraiser for the Air Ambulance. Registration information gives a clue to what is coming, saying “there is mud, obstacles and tough natural terrain” and “we do advise you to wear gloves” (in the middle of summer – why?).

There were two options, either a 5k or 10k, with a couple of hundred people starting each. A hill climb soon spread the field, followed by a grassy descent, firstly on foot, then 30m on your back down a wet plastic sheet. The field bunched again at the first “nasty” obstacle – a small pond in a copse, filled with black, smelly liquid, rising waist high, and underfoot, six inches of sludge. All worries about not getting too muddy were now erased.

Now somewhat weighed down we climbed up into the serious woods. The starter was right – this is a balancing trick, not a run! There were few flat sections, with the uphills causing you to slither and struggle for grip, whilst the downs made you wonder how long it would be before you became horizontal. Emerging from the trees with thighs burning, we crawl under a commando net. However the crawl is through six inches of mud, leaving gloves much heavier and my wife’s hair slicked down with a nice layer of clay.

Eventually we arrive at a lake, about 50m across. Slithering down the bank we discover that it is too deep to stand, and realise that the rope is there to pull ourselves across on. The legs are able to rest awhile at last, and as we climb out the other side we realise that we smell much sweeter than we did before the swim. Finally there are obstacles plus steep ups and downs on grassy slopes bringing us to the 5k finish. The bad news was that our team signed up for the 10k, meaning we had to repeat the course all over again, with a few route changes just to make it more difficult!

We survived the second lap, but memories are poor, since all energy was used on getting round. We arrived at the finish line in hot sunshine, feeling the remaining mud bake to our skin. At the medal tent there was beer and cider for swilling down, removing any lingering taste of foul water. However no showers are available, just a farmers water bowser to fill buckets from. At least we could remove the worst of the mud, and then relax for a long time in the warm sunshine.

Would we run it again? After three days the pains have faded, and the photos only show joy, so the answer is quite possibly “yes”.

( **Editors note:** I quite fancy joining you next year..... or I may just go down the Windmill for a pint.)

# Eric T. Moore Books (est.1965)

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Hitchin

Hertfordshire SG51HP

01462 456830

Patricia/Peter Lee Byrne  
Proprietors

### TASTE BUDS

Bancroft , Hitchin.

A great place to stop off for tea, coffee, breakfast & lunches including salads, cakes sandwiches & baps.

Also offering a full range of *Gluten Free* menu items.

### *Final thoughts...*

We hope you have enjoyed this, the 28th edition of Hiz. If, however, you would prefer not to receive future copies by email then just let the editor know by return email and you will be taken off the list. Email [pearcej53@o2.co.uk](mailto:pearcej53@o2.co.uk).

Don't forget you can also join us on our Facebook page '**Friends of Charlton Village**', where you will find news updates as they happen.

### **The aims are:**

- To maintain the village as an attractive place to live, work and enjoy for recreational use by both residents and non-residents.
- To ensure the sustainability of the Windmill PH as the only village amenity ie **The Pub is the Hub**.
- To work alongside other interested bodies eg District and County Councillors, NHDC, The Charlton Society, The Hitchin Historical Society, British Schools Museum in Hitchin, Hitchin Society, KEOLG and Countryside Management for mutual benefit.
- To protect the village from unwelcome and unsympathetic development or erosion of the 'green-belt'.
- To promote the historical legacy of the village with publications and events eg Birth of Bessemer at Charlton House, 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.
- To form a focal point to support local and national charities. This year supporting the British Schools Museum.



Walk along the Hicca Way recently and you may have spotted a new resident in Charlton.

Seems to have settled in very quickly. Anyone spot the rabbit?

### *Coming next month:*

- Latest on the Housing Developments
- Details of upcoming events for the autumn
- All the news from the Windmill PH.
- Local charity roundup.
- The Charlton Book.