

Issue 5 April/May 1998

The passing of the White Easter told me that the newsletter was well behind schedule for which I apologise - not least to BADS, whose springs show I'd hoped to preview but can only now hope you enjoyed.

What this issue **does** contain though is extracts from the Parish Meeting including local reaction to the Syreford quarrying debate. Plans for the

Millennium - your comments are invited and a piece by Thomas Jackson which shows that the Countryside Crisis is not just about foxes but about the viability of the kind of family human-scale farm from which this parish benefits enormously.

Now that most of the parish income is earned not on the land but from a variety of businesses based far and wide, it is important to remember that we live in the village for the bonus of rural life. Without farmers like those locally still farming at the heart of the parish, that quality would be eroded.

Perhaps an extra Millennium idea would be to examine our purchasing power and how we can use it to boost local producers and make sure they are still in situ in the year 2000.

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SYREFORD QUARRY

It will come as no surprise to any one who has travelled out from the parish that "Syreford says no to the quarry". What does Sevenhampton say? Naturally the question was raised at the Parish Meeting.

Although the quarry is within our neighbouring parish Whittington, it was felt that Sevenhampton and Brockhampton would be affected by any quarry re-opening.

Concern was expressed about the size of the operation, the noise from stone crushers and the extraction process, the dust and damage to local routes from lorries. The closeness of the working to homes.

Although some felt quarrying was part of the Cotswolds and that house stone had to come from somewhere, on a vote, it was agreed to strongly support Whittington Parish Council in their opposition to the re-opening.

The Parish Clerk, Lesley Ball, has conveyed this fact to the various authorities, our MP etc. including all members of the North Cotswold Planning Subcommittee.

Appraisal Action Report to Parish Meeting

Leslie Agius reported on the Appraisal Action Committee, which had been set by the Parish Council. The 11 members including 3 parish councillors had been coordinated in the implementation of the Appraisal Recommendations.

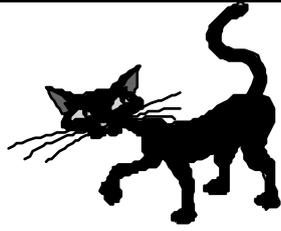
Additional leisure activities had been added to the many well-established ones like BADS, the Produce Show, Carole evening etc.

Under 16s there had enjoyed Tennis, Rounders and the Young Leisure Club had been held on Friday evenings. Over 31 youngsters aged 12 to 17 had participated. Mums and Dads help plus a welcome grant from the Produce Show have kept costs down.

Dads and Lads football had been restarted and will continue. There'll be Rounders and Tennis again and Dads and Lads Cricket. Suggestions welcome.

For adults, there was the possibility of Carpet Bowls as the equipment for this was already available.

Spring With BADS



PARISH MEETING

In their *Celebration of Spring* on April 17/18th, the adult BADS members bravely performed their poems and pieces with humour or pathos, in front of Liz Francis's wonderful "Green Man" backdrop, in the full knowledge they were being upstaged by the kids. The audience would go home saying "Wasn't Mole great? Ratty splendid", "Those Rabbits with their noses!" and raving about Dick Whittington's cat played by Helen Jackson with more style than her Superstar namesake, Michael.

Thanks to all. Looking forward to the Panto.

For Your Diary

ASCENSION DAY Thursday 21st May

0945-1115

COFFEE at Rhodes Memorial Hall
PLANTS, CAKES and PRODUCE stalls
et al.

Then at 1130

Traditional service of Prayer Book Holy
Communion follows at St Andrew's,
Sevenhampton.

COFFEE MORNING FIGHTING CANCER

Saturday 13th June

10a.m. to midday

Mrs Doris Payne (820214) invites you to a
coffee morning at Lower Farm Sevenhampton
Cake/Produce Stall and Raffle

**Support the
Cobalt Unit Appeal Fund**

Colin Rosser chaired the well attended Parish Meeting on March 23rd which gave community members the chance to express views on the issues affecting the villages. He reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had responsibilities for planning applications, environment, transport, education and other community needs. Among the issues covered were the proposed reopening of the S yreford Quarry, the Millennium and its local funding and the possibility of more responsibilities being devolved to Parish Council level.

A time for tributes, Colin thanked John Lan fear for eighteen years of stewardship of the Council and was pleased that in vacating the Chair, John had continued other projects including the Neighbourhood Watch and the Village Design Statement which was hoped would greatly assist the Parish Council in considering the increasing number of local planning applications. Thanks went too to John Jackson for his role of Tree Warden and to the Hall Management Committee for coping with the many demands on the Hall.

Geoff Ball gave a report on the thinking on the Millennium so far. The Council is applying for funding for the permanent memorial to a variety of organisations both civic and charitable. As most external sources look for matching local fund-raising effort, the setting up of the Sevenhampton Parish Millennium Fund was announced at the meeting. The Council has set aside some funds and the Produce Show has made a generous donation. Donations from individuals and organisations will be welcomed.

SEVENHAMPTON PARISH MILLENNIUM FUND



A Fund has been launched to help finance the proposed permanent Millennium memorials and activities.

The Produce Show has made a generous donation to set the ball rolling and increasingly we'll be looking for local donations.

Ready to open the cheque book? Contact *Bob Chandler* at Grange Farm House, Brockhampton. (820629)

The Countryside in Crisis

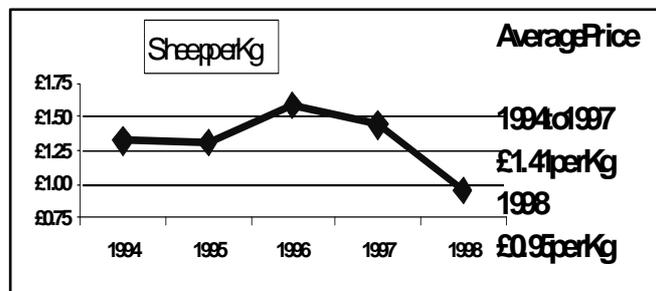
Thomas Jackson asks

Can Family Farming Survive the Squeeze in Prices??

Farmers have been complaining about a drastic fall in income, but just how bad has it been? Here's a look at the figures.

Firstly **sheep**, these are the prices for lambs sold in the last week of March at Andoversford Market (per kilogram live weight).

The chart shows price movement since 1994.

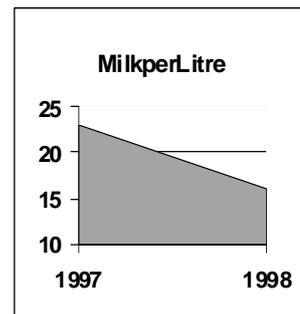
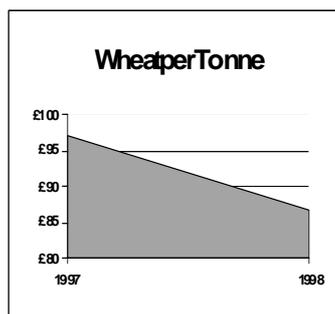
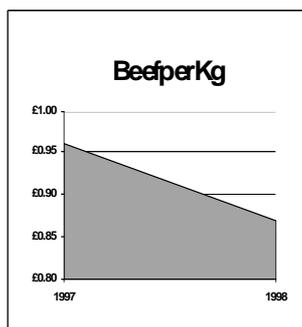


Other farm products have fared no better.

Beef: Already a depressed market in the BSE scare, it fetched 94.6 pence per Kg in 1997, but in 1998 only 86.9 pence per Kg.

Wheat: £97.20 per tonne in 1997, £68.60 now.

Milk: last year 23p/litre, this year 16p/litre.



The above shows the 1997 to 1998 drop in prices paid to farmers of between 11% and 33%. Have you noticed a similar drop in prices in the supermarkets? I haven't which makes you wonder if someone somewhere has increased their profit.

The British farmer produces food to a very high standard and complies with increased and necessary health legislation. Imported products do not comply to these standards, cost less to produce and are shipped in to undercut the home product by retailers only interested in maximising profits.

Farmers usually farm because they enjoy the life for the money, which is perhaps as well. They have to live though and that means making enough money both to live on and to finance the farm. Farmers have borrowed to invest in their farms and improvements are constantly needed. Current price levels make this almost impossible. To keep going, overheads will have to be cut, staff made redundant, maintenance reduced. Money spent on conservation, trees and hedge planting, the upkeep of walls and fences will be lost - to the detriment of the attractive countryside that generations of farmers have created and ween joy today.

Small farmers will be driven from the land and the remaining farms will get bigger, run by agribusiness' who care less for the countryside with only profit as their target.

SUPPORT THE BRITISH FARMERS

&

MILLENNIUM SCHEMES

A Celebration By the Community For the Community

Sub-groups of the Parish Council have been looking at how we might mark and celebrate the Millennium locally and have drawn up some ideas for what we could achieve.

With Events, Permanent Memorials and Activities, We could

Commemorate the Past - Capture the Present - Welcome the Future

The ideas which follow have come from community members and the appraisal:

Most ambitious is the plan to try and create a safe off-road playing area and a car park for Village Hall events. A lasting and useful memorial.

Other Permanent Memorials: -

Enhancement of the Brockhampton Village Post Box. See below
Plus



(Better Square & Without a Knob On?? Etc)

Wall Hanging for the Rhodes Memorial Hall by Brockhampton Quilters
Village Photograph

Exhibitions :-

Exhibition in The Rhodes Memorial Hall.
Depicting
Distant Past
Present Past "In Living Memory"
Future

New Parish Map

Showing Field names and boundaries.

Video

Community history - of Parish People in comes and life - long locals, young and old. Plus record of interesting places in the villages.

Tea Towel

To be designed by Local Children

Activities

BADS Millennium celebration
Summer gathering: Picnic: Games & Music
Bell Ringing
Rhodes Memorial Hall Community Celebration of the Millennium New Year

A Summer Ball?

Opinions would be appreciated about holding a Summer Ball regarding format, venue and cost.

What are your views?

Please let
Colin Rosser
at Sundial Cottage
Geoff Ball at Dial Cottage
or me, Anne Jenkin,
at Grange Farm Studios,
know whether you like any
or all these ideas or
whether you have
new and better ones
for us all to explore.

