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Totteridge and Terriers News

Issue 27

Spring 2014

T & T NEWS



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Early spring flowers. Perhaps this year the words from The Move song "Flowers in the rain" would be appropriate after the wet start to 2014!

See inside for all your community news from Totteridge & Terriers.....

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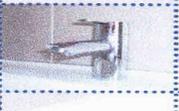
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Soapbox - Lakshan puts the case for reversing changes to School Term-Time Holiday rules

Both as a parent and as adult who enjoyed family holidays I feel very strongly on the rule changes that came into effect last November. I have signed the national petition and now the signatures in support of this have reached over 200,000. The new rules stop students with good attendance from taking a short break up to 10 days with parents in term time with the approval of the head teacher.

These changes will adversely affect many families including military families, who have to fit in holidays around work, training and overseas deployments and those who cannot afford the cost of a holiday in school holidays. Also not all business can allow their staff to be off all at the same time therefore is the department of education now saying that children are not entitled to holidays with their parents anymore? I feel that most MPs in the Government had holidays with their parents when they were young so why do they think they have the power to stop our children's generation from enjoying the same.

All children who have a good attendance record should be allowed the opportunity to enjoy quality time with their parents on an annual holiday of up to 10 days once per year. Who is allowed and not allowed should be left for the headteachers to decide on pre-noted guidelines, with a reasonable appeal process. Good parents or parents that work full time should not be criminalised for wanting to enjoy an affordable annual family holiday. These badly thought out changes will also adversely affect many businesses that rely upon holiday trade. Furthermore the cost of holidays in school holidays will sky rocket as a direct result of these changes. The Government should reverse these amendments immediately. This rule is acceptable to Europe where everything closes down for the summer but not in the UK.

Does this government not think that holidays can be a source of education. We are supposed to live in a Multi cultural country and traveling and holidays are an essential source of learning to children and adults alike. Soon only rich kids will be able to go on holiday and that's unfair on everyone else. In the same light should the government then not control the profit driven holiday companies, striking teachers; Oh that will be against human rights and free trade; so what is this against!! Give power back to the parents to decide with teachers and allow them to choose absence on an individual basis/circumstances. This is a issue I feel strongly about and we should send a clear message to the government that this law is unacceptable.

Please take a minute and log on to the national petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/reverse-the-changes-to-school-term-time-family-holiday-rules> and sign in support also please petition our local MP on this matter.

Totteridge and Terriers News

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We thank all our advertisers and contributors for their support. However T & T News cannot endorse any product or service contain within this magazine. You are advised to check details of all goods and services offered. All contributions are excepted in good faith and opinions expressed are not necessarily that of the editor or T & T News.

That's about it...Join us again in June 2014. In the meantime you can catch up with all the latest news on our web pages at:

www.bucksvoice.net/tandtnews



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WELCOME TO T&T NEWS

Hello,

Welcome to the spring 2014 edition of T & T News.

As we welcome in the new season we hopefully leave behind the wettest winter in living memory for most of us. Perhaps we have been extremely luckily living on the top of the hill that largely we have been unaffected by the floods that have blighted much of the country. This was brought close to home as places including Bourne End and Marlow were added to the areas across the south deluged by overflowing rivers.

This year T & T News is very grateful to a donation of £1000 from the Terriers and Amersham Hill County Councillor, Val Letheren. Val has been very supportive of the magazine and we are very grateful for the grant which will allow us to add 250 additional copies to the print run. Also you will note there are now four extra pages allowing us to include more of your local news.

The extra copies will expand our distribution in Green Hill, Kingshill Grange and Totteridge Road areas.

David Winterburn, Editor



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As I have written before, the club are committed to helping volunteers by subsidising the cost of training on various courses. To this end, I am pleased we have sponsored the training of two individuals. The first, helping towards his BNU sports degree, successfully completed the FA Level 1 certificate. The second, a young lad, will attend a basic referee course during March before gaining 'match' experience with our UNDER 13's. I wish them both every success.

If you've considered taking up a volunteering role in what is a very rewarding environment but are concerned as to whether this is right for you, come along to our training sessions and meet the coaches and players. They will explain how the role works and give you an insight into why they do it, or alternatively, please contact the club secretary for more information.

TV STARS

Out of the blue we received a phone call from a casting director saying they are filming in Totteridge and looking for some young footballers to appear in a TV commercial. WOW!! - fame, fortune and stardom!! until we realised she meant Totteridge in North London!!

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Local News Round Up (1)

Terriers Evening W.I.

Homelessness can happen to anyone through loss of job, break up of relationships etc. At our January meeting we heard about the work of the Wycombe Homeless Connection. A group of Christians realised there was an urgent need to help homeless people, especially during the winter months. The Night Shelter was launched in 2007. It runs from January to March giving people the opportunity of a shower, dry clothes, hot meals and a good nights sleep plus help and advice to move on and hopefully find accommodation. Day Centres are run throughout the year to give further support and recently an Advice Centre has been opened in High Wycombe where vulnerable people can pop in for help.

Similarly The One Can Trust was started as Food Bank to help families struggling to feed themselves in time of crisis. Cans and packets are donated, taken to a central point and distributed by the Trust. The aim is to give a family or single person enough food for a good meal each day for a week This seems to help them on their way and usually they do not need to return to the Trust. Both these organisations only take official referrals.

Our Christmas and birthday party in December turned in to a Do-it-Yourself evening with members providing the entertainment. The Hall looked very festive with tables decorated with crackers etc. plus a delicious buffet provided by the Committee who had worked very hard.

Our speaker in February was a narrow boat enthusiast. Indeed she and her husband had a narrow boat custom built and three generations of the family spend many happy hours navigating the canals. Through her slides we were able to appreciate the complexities of the lock system and the majesty of the Thomas Telford Aqueduct at Pontcysyllte. A peaceful way to spend a holiday but jolly hard work

Future programme

3rd April Battersea Cats and Dogs Home

1st May Resolutions

5th June 100 Years of Farming in the Chilterns

We meet on the first Thursday in the month at Cedar Park School, Cedar Avenue, Hazlemere at 7.45 p.m. We are always please to Welcome new members. For further details contact Margaret Rogers Tel 01494 524947

Local News Round Up (2)

South Bucks Counselling introduce new service

The Bucks based charity which offers affordable counselling to adults in High Wycombe and the surrounding areas is now offering a couples counselling service.

According to Andrew Wilton, Chairman, they were receiving lots of enquiries about couples counselling from people who cannot afford to go to a private counsellor but did not have the capacity in the past. Now they are pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for couples to work through their issues with experienced counsellors, alongside individual counselling sessions.

South Bucks Counselling offers clients from all geographical areas a confidential service to help them deal with issues such as depression or anxiety, which may have been triggered by events such as the break up of a relationship, low income or unemployment. Located in the centre of High Wycombe appointments can be made during the day, evening and on Saturday mornings. They can be contacted on 01494 - 440199.

New dedicated service for reporting hate crime

From the 1st January this year victims of hate crime in Buckinghamshire can report incidences through the Victim Care Unit, a dedicated service within Thames Valley Victim Support. They offer emotional support, information and practical help to victims of crime whether or not the crime has been reported to the police or a third party.

To report hate crime and incidents telephone the support line on **0845 38 99 528** or e-mail shorehamvcu@victimsupport.org.uk. Immediate support to callers is available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. Outside these hours callers can leave a message on the answerphone 24 hours a day.

Hate crime occurs when a person is targeted because of hostility or prejudice towards their disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity.

TOTTERIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB

TOTTERIDGE FC was formed in 1996 to provide football for the local youth in the community. For more information and contact details please visit our web site – tottfc.intheteam.com

RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY !!

With the incessant wet weather we have endured since Christmas, not many games have been played; in fact both our teams have managed just one game apiece. The UNDER 13's were forced to switch to Shelly Road with the Totteridge Recreation ground water bound, but the move suited the team and an exciting 5-5 draw was played out against Crendon Corinthians. A week later the UNDER 8's travelled to take on Thame Youth and Stokenchurch Juniors, under the rules of the competition we are not permitted to publish the results but suffice to say it was a mix bag of score-lines from the 4 mini games as the team continues to establish themselves.

Attending our last home games before Christmas was special guest who paid a flying visit. Having parked his sleigh behind the changing rooms, he handed out chocolate coins to the opposition and selection packs to the Totteridge players. He asked me to pass on - "what a great bunch, even if your UNDER 13's tried to mug meHO, HO, HO!"



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G4S

As soon as the weather relents, the UNDER 8's will take to the field in their new FRANKIE & BENNY'S sponsored kit. We are particularly looking forward to our visit to the restaurant in the Eden shopping centre for the official handover party where we are promised loads of pizza and fizzy pop! - In the last month, we have also taken delivery of a new set of 'mini' goalposts. These are a major expense but necessary to play the mini format and we are grateful to G4S who provided funding through their 'Match-it Scheme', matching our excellent fund raising at the Hazlemere Fete back in August..

Cont....P.25



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Local News Round Up (3)

News from Bucks County Council - Val Letheren updates us on her work.....

I am glad for us all that we have managed to escape the problems of flooding this year experienced by various communities in the County and beyond, but of course the never ending rain has made our roads worse than ever. The contractors cannot get out to do much with all the water around, and they are very behind with the promised work. The Kingshill Road, which is just outside my patch, for instance has to be driven with extreme caution! The Council has recently committed itself to nearly £65 million to be spent on roads and footways. Thank you to those who have made me aware of problem roads, and where they fall outside the division I am responsible for I have passed the message on. At last we have a footway budget allocated and I am mindful they we still need to finish Gerald's Road. If you have a problem please let me know.

I continue with my select Committee work and we have now completed the 'narrowing the gap' enquiry. My thanks to those residents who contributed. This goes to Cabinet on March 17th and then we have just a little more to do on 'young people's readiness for work'. It seems that many schools do not give this nearly enough emphasis, concentrating more on academic achievement. Young people themselves say how they would benefit from being given advice on career paths available. I wonder how many of you landed up in a career more by luck than judgement.

The Council tax will be going up by 1 ½ percent, which represents 31p a week average for the band D Council Tax payer. This follows four years of no rise, and includes coping with sixteen per cent inflation. The County Council has had to make many cuts to manage this, saving £85 million from its gross budget during this time, but continues to make sure its vulnerable members of the community are affected least. There have been many staff reductions over this time to reduce the wages bill, but we are doing all we can to retain efficiency in our service to the public.

It really has been a long and gloomy Winter for us all but the economy seems now to be picking up, unemployment is down and the spring bulbs have started to show.

My very best wishes for a happy, healthy 2014

Valerie Letheren, County Councillor for Terriers and Amersham Hill
01494 528691 and vletheren@buckscc.gov.uk

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Community Youth Centre goes from strength to strength

Three years ago Bucks County Council made the decision to end the provision of a Youth Service. But local residents were determined to keep their centre in East Wycombe open, and the management committee of East Side Youth Centre welcomed new members onto their team to share the challenge.

Together they successfully negotiated a lease and grant with the Council, and set to work catering for the needs of young people in East Wycombe.

Molly Fowler MBE said "There has been a Youth Club on the Hatters Lane School/Highcrest site since the late 1950's, and we continue to look forward to the future of the club with confidence."

Youth leader Mike Howlett said "We have been delighted with the response to our new Friday night session which is buzzing! The young people love the club facilities, and the use of the Highcrest sport hall is really great."

East Side Youth Centre is currently running two youth club sessions per week. They also have a Saturday morning football club for boys and girls at primary school. All sessions are free to attend, but children and young people do need to be registered when they arrive. For more information visit their web site, www.eastsideyouthcentre.org.

At other times the youth centre is used by other community groups and charities. In particular strong partnerships have been developed with groups that cater for children and young people with disabilities.



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Local News Round Up (4)



South Bucks Hospice
Palliative Care & Lymphoedema Clinic

£1.8 million legacy propels new Hospice plans

South Bucks Hospice, which provides expert care for local people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses, has received a staggering £1.8 million legacy from an anonymous benefactor. The fantastic news astounded staff, volunteers and trustees who were overwhelmed to receive such a generous donation.

It means that the vision for the Charity to build a brand new, state-of-the-art Hospice in Kingswood, Totteridge, will now be a reality much sooner than anticipated and a new completion date of winter 2016 set. The original appeal launched in 2011 and the Charity has so far raised over £500,000 with the help of its supporters and volunteers in the community.

The new purpose-built centre will have the capacity to care for up to 60% more patients and will bring together the day care service and Lymphoedema clinic, with staff able to collaborate and share expertise. The current range of activities and therapies will also be expanded, including the vital Lymphoedema service, providing an even higher level of care to local people with serious illnesses.

The donation was awarded as the executors of the benefactor's will were extremely impressed with the vision for the new Hospice and the passion shown by new Chief Executive, Jo Woolf who commented: 'We are not afraid to embrace the true existential aspect of patient and family needs. We've moved away from the assumption that dying can be slotted into a standard care plan. Dying is a profoundly complex personal journey that each individual approaches in their own unique way. The way and where we die is incredibly important'.

The Hospice has also decided to keep Pusey House, which was to be sold in the original fundraising strategy. The site, on Amersham Hill, is where the Hospice began its journey in 1992 and initial plans are for the site to be a focal point for carers. Keep up to date with the new build story at www.sbh.org.uk.



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Sunday 13th April, Palm Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week, the most solemn week of the Christian year. It takes its name from the pilgrims who greeted Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem with waving palm-branches and a "red carpet" made up of their outer garments, laid across the roadway. In commemoration of this, worshippers carry palm branches in a procession from the Church Hall to the Church. In the Church they will listen to the account of Jesus's suffering and death which is given by St Matthew. There will be special services each day this week.

The three days that end this week are very different. On the first of them, Maundy Thursday (17th April), an evening act of worship is framed by a simple meal, recollecting the last supper which Jesus shared with his closest friends. If you would like to share in this meal, please book your place by e-mail at terrierschurch@gmail.com or by telephone at either (01494) 520676 or 462911. The church will be open for prayer until midnight.

Good Friday (18th April) falls into two parts. In the morning "Messy Good Friday" follows the pattern of the monthly Messy Church, but although this event begins in the church hall the story is told in church as the children decorate the Easter Garden and, instead of a meal, hot cross buns are shared. In the afternoon "The Last Hour" takes up the final hour of Jesus' suffering on the cross.

Holy Saturday (19th April) is the day when Christians recall how the corpse of Jesus rested in the tomb where it had been hurriedly laid the evening before. It is a time for reflection and rest, balanced between the suffering and struggle of Good Friday and the amazement and joy of Easter morning. That is why, after sunset, members of the congregation will come together in darkness in the church hall to prepare for Easter, to watch and wait as they hear the story of God's interaction with his people down the ages. There will be silence, and song, and readings from the Bible. The words are accompanied by some powerful pictures.

On the first Easter Day some of the women who had followed Jesus went at first light to the tomb, to complete the burial rites interrupted by the Sabbath. To their amazement they found the entrance to the tomb wide open and the body gone. So on Easter morning (20th April), people will gather before sunrise as the new fire is lit and the Easter candle, the symbol of Jesus' resurrection, is blessed and paraded in triumph through the church building. As it moves through the church, other candles are lit and the darkness of grief and loss is replaced by a growing awareness of new life and hope. The sunrise service is followed by breakfast in the church building and an Easter egg hunt for younger members of the congregation. Later in the morning, at a service for all ages, prayers at the Easter Garden will lead into a celebration of new life and hope for the world.

May the joy and hope of the resurrection be yours this Eastertide.

Tony Dickinson

Spring at St Francis

Spring is in many ways, the busiest season of the year for Christians. There are many special services and other activities as they remember the events that brought the Christian Church into being. At the Parish Church of St Francis, on Amersham Road, the themes of Lent are brought together in a variety of ways.



The prelude to Lent is Shrove Tuesday (4th March). At St Francis, this is marked in traditional manner by a Pancake Party and (less traditionally, perhaps) a Quiz Night in which teams pit their wits against the Churchwardens, Liz Helps and Peter Gee. This popular event will include the launch of the 2014 Terriers Lent Project, supporting SPCK Worldwide through fund-raising and special events. SPCK (the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) is the Church of England's oldest mission agency, founded in 1698. It is best known in the UK as a publisher, but also provides resources for teachers, prisons, football clubs and has a worldwide division. If you would like to enter a team – or just enjoy a soup and pancake supper – please book through terrierschurch@gmail.com or telephone (01494) 520676 or 462911.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday (5th March). Two services mark the beginning of this solemn season, which is a time to reflect and to review our lives in the light of God's boundless love and mercy. A morning service follows the traditional order of the Book of Common Prayer. An evening service includes music and uses contemporary language. Throughout Lent there will be opportunities to reflect on Christian faith and deepen discipleship, through study courses and opportunities for prayer and meditation. For information see: www.terrierschurch.org.uk

The preacher at the Parish Communion on the first Sunday in Lent (9th March) will be Dr Angus Crichton, Manager of SPCK Worldwide. He will talk about their work and the project which the church will be supporting during Lent, to provide a small library of study guides to equip ministers in training in developing countries. The following Sunday (16th March) the service will be led by Bishop John Pritchard of Oxford. He is one of SPCK's best-selling writers and also chairs the Society's board of Trustees.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 29th March, the Church Hall will be given over to an hour of messy play and craft activity for all the family (making cards and gifts in preparation for Mothering Sunday), rounded off with a story, a song and a prayer, and followed by a meal. The Parish Communion the next day is a service for all ages at which children will distribute posies of flowers to the women in church, a reminder of the time when this Sunday was the day of the first visit home for young people who had found employment as domestic servants or farm-hands the previous autumn. The Sunday after (6th April) marks the beginning of Passiontide and an increasing focus on the cross. The 8.00 a.m. Communion service will follow the traditional order of the Book of Common Prayer. The Parish Communion will include Prayer for Healing, with the laying on of hands and anointing for those who request it.



What's Going on in Girlguiding?

The **Big Brownie Birthday** Celebrations are under way. This year Brownies are 100 years old and this is being marked in many ways. Local units will be holding special activities, some have the opportunity to be going on the **Big Brownie Stay Away**, a County PGL holiday in May, and all Brownies will get the opportunity to attend the **Big Brownie Birthday Star quest** activity day in June. At this event, Brownies will star in their own cosmic story, travelling through Past, Present and Future zones to take part in challenges and exciting adventures. A busy and exciting time for both the girls and their leaders.

On 22nd February, Rainbows, Brownies and their leaders joined our new Division for a Thinking Day event. This is a date we keep in Guiding every year and it marks the joint birthdays of Lady Olave Baden Powell and Lord Robert Baden Powell, the founders of Girlguiding and Scouting which are international organisations. On arrival the girls were issued with a passport that transported them throughout the world. They did drawings and dressed up in Saree's from Bangladesh, did dancing from Armenia, took part in music from Benin in the form of percussion and drumming, decorated gingerbread people from St Vincent and the Grenadines and made Pyramids from Egypt. The afternoon was rounded off by a short service to which parents were invited where the girls did readings and show cased the events of the afternoon.

All the age groups in Girlguiding, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in the area have been taking part in a variety of activities since the last newsletter. They all have the opportunity to try new activities, build their confidence and make new friends.

We are actively looking for more adult help, with more adults we can recruit more girls that are on our joining lists. There are lots of roles available, no experience is necessary, just a willingness to get involved and have fun alongside the girls.

If you are interested log onto www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or contact Terrie on 01494 445816 email: terrie-s@tiscali.co.uk



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High Wycombe Society

The High Wycombe Society was founded 40 years ago bringing together people who value the town and wanted to prevent its deterioration in the face of development pressures of the 1960's.

Although the bodies that now manage the town (Wycombe District Council and Bucks County Council) are perhaps now more mindful than their predecessors of heritage the society still has much work to do. They hold five meetings a year, run trips to local places of interest and have fund raising events to continue their work. Members of the society receive a quarterly newsletter of interesting articles and information.

Some of the societies forthcoming events are listed below. For more information visit their web site at www.highwycombesociety.org.uk

Friday 21st March

Quiz Night at West Wycombe Village Hall 7:30pm. Ticket £12 per person to include supper. Teams of six or individuals welcome. For further details and to book contact Eileen Walters on 01494 449902

Tuesday 25th March

Go behind the scenes at Wycombe Air Park. For further details or to book places contact Mary Woodman on 01494 528106

Sunday 27th April

Wycombe Wildlife Group celebrate their 25th Anniversary with some river and woodland walks. Walks will start from Pann Mill at 11:30am and 2:30pm. For the Woodland walk only meet at 12:15pm or 3:15pm.

Friday 9th May

An illustrated talk by Mike Dewey in association with Wycombe Arts Festival "From the Electroscope to the Swan theatre". Trinity United Reformed Church, London Road at 7:30pm.

Sunday 11th May

Open Day for national Mills Weekend and Wycombe Arts Festival. Pann Mill on The Rye 11am to 5pm. The mill will be running and producing stone ground flour.



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Care Quality Commission to inspect Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Hospitals

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be inspecting the trust from 18th - 21st March 2014. There has already been an on-line survey carried out which closed on 28th February.

An further important part of the CQC's inspection work will be input from focus groups. Two of these are being held on the 5th March at Buckingham Park Community Centre, Aylesbury (10 am- 12noon) and The Hub, Easton Street, High Wycombe (2-4pm). The focus groups are designed to enable voluntary and community sector organisations to share experiences of their communities at Stoke Manderville and/or Wycombe Hospital. The information shared at the focus group will allow the inspectors to generate 'key lines of enquiry' and to prioritise their activities during the inspection.

If you would like to know more about the work of the CQC, its role and Functions then visit the web site at www.cqc.org.uk/about-us



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Do you run a club, association or other not-for-profit group?

If the answer is yes then why not tell the readers of T & T News about it! This community magazine is distributed four times a year to nearly 3,750 homes and business in Totteridge on the Hill and Terriers.

Inclusion in the magazine is free of charge for community or not-for-profit groups except for paid recruitment.

So what are you waiting for. Get those new members or volunteers by letting them know about your activities. Contact details are on page 27.

CHAMELEON SINGLES GROUP



We ended 2013 with events very much centred on food, drink and celebration. During December we had a visit to the Rebellion Brewery and then two Christmas dinners, one during the day for those who prefer a lunchtime event and an evening dinner dance at Hazlemere Golf Club. Both were enjoyed by all.

Several of our members are interested in live music and dance. We have recently therefore been going to Dusty's at Holmer Green on a monthly basis and in early February went to a Ceilidh in Haddenham. Other events that have taken place over the last few months include a Quiz Night, Take-Away evening at home, Coffee Morning, Lunch club and Pub night. So as you see there has been a lot going on with several events held each month. All are organised by members acting as hosts and to them all we are very grateful as without organisers there would be no Chameleon!

For spring and summer we will be looking forward to a day trip to the coast and a short break to Liverpool. As the weather hopefully gets better there will be more opportunities to enjoy outside events again including walks and day trips.

Our pub night is a great place to meet up and you would be very welcome to come along and join us for a drink. We currently meet at The Crown, Amersham Road, Hazlemere from 8pm. Next dates are 28th March, 25th April and 30th May. There is food available if you wish to eat. We also have planned a monthly "Meet & Greet" evening where the focus is very much on welcoming newcomers to the group.

Our membership includes a number of local people from Totteridge, Terriers and surrounding areas. If you are single, 40 – 60's, looking for a better social life and new friends then why not give us a try? There are no strangers at Chameleon, just new friends to be made in a social group run by and for its members. To find out more call Heike 01494 – 459246 or Joyce 01494 - 817895 or e-mail: chameleon_bucks@tiscali.co.uk. Visit us on-line at www.bucksvoice.net/chameleon for more information and an events listing.

T & T NEWS NEEDS YOU!

New volunteer distributors are always needed to help deliver T & T News. We have a number of roads in Totteridge and Terriers where help is required so why not join our team? Your help is needed just four times a year to deliver magazines.

If you can help call us on 01494 463107 or you can text 07905 888098. The magazines can be delivered anytime over a 10 day window. We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks! - Distribution Department!

Your local County Councillors

Terriers & Amersham Hill
Val Letheren
E: vletheren@buckscc.gov.uk

Totteridge & Bowerdean -
Chaudrey Ditta
E: cditta@buckscc.gov.uk

For your local District councillors
visit the Wycombe District Council
Web Site at: www.wycombe.gov.uk

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TERRIERS PLAYGROUP

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Redfords Playing Field

Many local residents may well recall back in 1990 a controversial plan to build houses on Redfords Playing Field bounded by Walton Drive, Highworth Close and Freemantle Road.



The field was used for many years as extra space by the Royal Grammar School for Cricket Matches etc and Bucks CC had decided to sell it off retaining about 1/3rd for Highworth School use. This land is next to the Recreation Ground already owned by Wycombe District Council.

As the plans would seriously erode the amount of open space available a group was formed - (Totteridge Resident Action Campaign - TRAC) to challenge the plan. We had a public meeting and formed a committee to fight the plans. All those interested wrote individual letters (not a petition) and sent them to WDC.

Following local planning meetings the plan was rejected but Bucks CC then escalated it to the Environment Minister Chris Patten hoping to succeed. We were elated to learn that the plans were finally rejected and the field was saved!

Our main argument was the loss of green belt land and public open space in an otherwise built up area. RAF aerial pictures provided by a resident to enhance our case were made available (no Goggle earth in those days) and we felt this was a major factor in winning the appeal (I still have the photo hanging in my hall).

The next year Bucks CC passed the field to WDC to extend the recreation ground and further improvements have been made over subsequent years with seats and play equipment being installed. Its still possible to determine where the fields divide by the hedgerow that splits the field.

To mark the success a Horse Chestnut tree was planted near the fenced in pathway to Highworth School by Councillor Kathleen Peatey and two other local councillors who supported our campaign throughout.

Mike Russell, Freemantle Road