



<< **UNDER-18 WINNER**  
Rachel Melly

**OVER-18 WINNER >>**  
Mr Goodwin



### Grazing update

We are continuing to seek your views on the proposals to graze areas of Chorleywood common. Information and a survey from the West Herts Grazing Project are available via the Chorleywood Parish Council web page or at <http://enquire.hertscc.gov.uk/cms/grazing>. The closing date for this consultation is 31st December. The results of all the consultations will be evaluated and formal consultation based on the results will be sent to all households within the parish in 2008. The Parish Council will continue to update parishioners accordingly.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The prizes for the Council's first Photographic Competition were awarded by the Chairman at this year's Village Day. The under-18 section was won by Rachel Melly, aged 16, from Berks Hill, with a photograph of Phillips Hill Woods, and Mr Goodwin of Chalfont Lane fought off heavy competition to be named the over-18's winner with a photograph of Top Common Pond. Both received a cash prize of £50; however, Mr Goodwin generously donated his prize to the Peace Hospice. The Parish Council would like to thank all those who entered.

Many people commented on the quality of the photos from this year's competition and it was suggested that a calendar should be produced from the entries. With this in mind, the Council propose to hold another competition, entitled "My Chorleywood". It will be open to all age groups and should show seasonal pictures of the Parish. The winner and runners up will each receive a cash prize and a Chorleywood Calendar for 2009 will be produced from the entries. For more information and an entry form, please contact the office or our web site.

- Stalls • Funfair • Music • Refreshments • Santa's Grotto •
- Family Atmosphere • Mince Pies & Mulled Wine •

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Late night shopping in Chorleywood

Friday 7 December • 5pm – 9pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_

Hand into the Parish Stand during the Evening

Free Prize Draw  
Win a £50  
Budgens' Hamper

**Chorleywood Parish Council** would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a **Happy Christmas** and all the best for 2008.

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# Chorleywood Matters



Issue No 10 Autumn 2007

News & views from Chorleywood Parish Council

The Parish Council is launching a new, improved web site on [www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk](http://www.chorleywood-pc.gov.uk)

### A NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE!

Due to circumstances beyond our control it became impossible to update our original site. The new site is owned by the Parish Council and will be operated by the Council staff, who will ensure that all the information is kept fully up to date. It will consist of various pages and indexes with simple navigation around the site. The contents will include Councillor contact details; a map of the wards; a Calendar of meetings; agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings; a list of services offered by the Council. The date of the official launch will appear in the local press and you will also be given the opportunity to feedback any comments to your Parish Councillors. We hope you will find the new site attractive, informative and easy to use.

## We Greate Chorleywoode Fluddes

In a year when half the country has been underwater, it seems appropriate to remember that, ten years ago, Chorleywood suffered its second great flood of the decade.

Set in a steep-sided valley without a natural watercourse, the town has always flooded, the earliest record being in 1936. More roads, development and hard standing increased the run-off, which inevitably ended up down in Lower Road and Chorleywood Bottom, where all the drains fed into soakaways. We had all been appealing to Thames Water and County Highways for some years to take action but to no avail, as each body laid the responsibility at the other's door. Then, suddenly, the situation reached disaster level. **Continued inside...**



## Ye Greate Chorleywoode Fluddes cont.d

On June 1st 1992 Chorleywood was hit by a violent and very localised storm. The immensely heavy rainfall continued non-stop through the night and, as the weather had been hot and dry for several weeks previously, the ground was baked hard and the run-off was massive.

The water poured off the Common down to the railway bridge and over Shepherd's Bridge into Chorleywood Bottom. Filled to capacity, the edge of Darvell's Pond collapsed and sent a tsunami down into The Kennels and Homefield Road to join the water pouring down the hills into Lower Road and Chorleywood Bottom, where it rose above the windowsills. The damage to property was enormous. Something had to be done!

The District and Parish Councils acted first and by 1993 plans were developed to control flooding from the Common. These went ahead in the summer of 1994. A high, firm bund was built to support Darvell's Pond and ditches along Common Road channelled water through a huge pipe into the Gun Dell. Shepherd's Bridge parking area was re-graded to divert water from the track on to the Common and banking created to control water flowing out through the cattle creep. Finally, "training ditches" were built from Darvell's Pond to the Common Road gullies to guide any overflow water sideways into the Gun Dell.

Meanwhile Thames Water and Highways continued to argue over "whose water it was". Preliminary proposals to allow flood water to accumulate in an open lake opposite Clements Road were strongly opposed by local residents, and other schemes were still on the table, when on 19th August 1997 another "once in a 100 years" storm, this time centred on the western side of the town, delivered 4 1/2 inches of rain in 2 hours. The water piled up in the woods and overflowed,



running in torrents through the houses. It joined with the water pouring down the other roads and formed an enormous lake at the Shire Lane crossroads and back through the shops and houses on both sides. Cars were afloat at the back of Sheraton House and the basement of the doctors' surgery was completely submerged and all their computer equipment ruined.

This time Thames Water moved. In the summer of 1998 a huge tunnel was driven from Chorleywood Bottom deep under the Common to a point opposite The Old Shepherd, where it then turned under the road into the triangle of land between Commongate Road and Clements Road. This area was hollowed out three storeys deep and then covered with a roof supported on massive pillars, like a huge hypocaust. The soil was replaced and the area re-seeded – and now you would never know it is there. The soakaways were replaced with proper drains but it took another year of intense pressure by the Parish Council to get Thames and the County to agree to extend the drainage system from South Road to the Shire Lane junction. Floodwater now flows through this system and gathers in the vault, to drain away slowly into the chalk.

Next summer it will be ten years since the work was done and we would like to do a special display for Village Day. If you have any photos of the flooding or the drainage works which you would be willing to let us copy for this, would you please contact the Parish Office.

organisation funded by Herts County and Three Rivers District Council offer a free security and fire alarm check: offering advise on how to secure your property. Free smoke alarms and security locks are available to the vulnerable: that includes the elderly, women living alone, single parents and people with disabilities. WHAC also has a number of handymen who can carry out small jobs in and around your home that you are unable to carry out yourself, to get more information, please call 01923 801138.

## Crime Figures Down?

The overall crime figures continue to fall within our parish; however disturbing information is that for the first time in a number of years, the number of burglaries from dwellings has sharply increased. It would appear that the majority of burglars gain entry from the rear of the property using ladders, which have been left in gardens or by sheds. Please do not make it easy for them! Western Herts against Crime (WHAC) an

## NO MORE TICKETS FOR CHORLEYWOOD

Transport for London (TFL) have announced proposals to close the booking office at Chorleywood Station. They undertake to keep the station manned during opening hours but staff will only be there to assist, not to issue tickets.

As TFL is part of the Mayor of London's office, we in the outer boroughs do not have any say in this. TFL is relying on the Oyster Card to take over from

ticket offices but (surprise!) these will not be issued at the station but at local shops. Travellers in Hertfordshire do not receive Freedom Passes and would need to purchase an Oyster card or use an automatic ticket machine. These, however, cannot issue National Rail tickets, which would have to be obtained from a mainline station, adding time and cost to a journey across country.

It seems illogical that both TFL and the Government are trying to persuade the travelling public to use public transport and yet are putting obstacles in the way of achieving this.



## Cut and Lift

In September, the promised "cut and lift" of the acid grass on the Common took place. After cutting, the grass was turned by a rotary tedder, which brought up all the accumulated thatch from previous cuts, and then baled and removed. This operation should help improve the quality of our valuable grassland but is costly, as we not only have to bring in a contractor for the job but, because the grass is contaminated by dog faeces, it has to be taken to a special waste site. Could we once again ask those who still do not clear up after their dogs to please make use of the dog bins provided around the Common.

## Village Day 2007

The sun shone for us when Village Day was held on the Common in July. Because the usual site was due for a "cut and lift", the event was moved to the first fire ride, which proved, according to majority of those who attended, to be a popular choice, with better access, parking and shelter from the elements. Concerns that the change in location might create problems for the Horticultural Society and the Arts Centre proved groundless, as more people attending these events could now use the parking area opposite the Memorial Hall.

Highlights were the ever popular dog show, the return of the longhorns and the introduction of ferret racing. Many local groups were represented and the day was judged a great success by the hundreds who attended.

A few lessons were learned about layout and signage, but the Council consider that the fire ride is a better location and we shall hold Village Day there again next year.



## Allotment Prizes

On September 8th the Horticultural Society held its Autumn Show in the War Memorial Hall. At the Society's request, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Rodney Kipps, presented the Society's prizes and Cllr. Mrs. Jarrett presented the Parish Council's prizes for the best

allotments. We were greatly impressed with the high standard of all the entries at the show but must offer our special congratulations to allotment holder Mr. P. McCarthy, who not only won the prize for best novice and 1st prize for Dog Kennel Lane, but also took the overall prize for the best allotment.