

Coopersale Chronicle

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A Guide to What's On in Coopersale
Published by the Coopersale Social Institute

June 2002

AGM

There was a disappointing turnout for the Institute AGM which was held on Wed 8th May. Apart from seven committee members, only **one** member of the general public bothered to turn up. The meeting had been well advertised, with voluntary helpers putting notices through every letter box in the village, and it was very disappointing that so few turned up to comment on achievements and future plans.

The Institute is managed by a small group of volunteers for the benefit of the local community, and some interest in what they do and have planned would be appreciated. Peter Newton, Cliff Tredgett and Dave Keehner were elected to fill three of the four places on the committee. There was no candidate for the fourth vacancy.

The Treasurer reported that the Institute finances were healthy in spite of the extensive restoration work carried out in the last year. This was thanks mainly to the large voluntary effort, Doreen Pavitt's fund raising and continued use of the hall by local residents and organisations, especially Coopersale Pre-school which accounts for about half the total income. However, the hall floor is in need of major repair; this task will be beyond the capability of volunteers and will require funding well beyond the Institute's current reserves.

Clean up Coopersale

Have you noticed how much litter there is around our village these days? Do the people who drop litter, or even throw it over garden walls and hedges do the same in their own homes? Do you set a bad example to others, or do you teach your children to respect the environment and other people's property? Who do they expect to clear up behind them?

We could ask the council to increase litter cleaning services, but this would have to be paid for by higher council tax. Is this what we really want our money spent on? Why should we all pay more tax to make up for the thoughtless activities of a few? It would be cheaper and more effective to prevent the problem by encouraging everyone, adults and children, not to drop litter, but to hang on to their empty drink cans, cigarette packets and crisp bags until they reach a litter bin or can dispose of them at home.

Please make an effort to reverse the trend by asking anyone you see dropping litter to pick it up and dispose of it properly. Remind your children that dropping litter is anti-social and an offence and don't set a bad example. It seems that once a few items of litter are left lying around, it encourages people to drop more. Perhaps if we cleared up items as soon as possible, we would reverse this tendency.

Coopersale House Circa 17th Century

By Fred Brown

There was a building of some substance on this site at the time of Agincourt, which became the property of Simon-de-Bois (Archer). After the war and a shooting contest (archery) at Havering-atte-Bower held on the orders of the king, Henry V commanded de-Bois to change his name.

The Archer family lived at Coopersale House for around 200 years until a marriage with Jacob Houblon brought about the double barrellled name of Archer-Houblon, setting in motion a branch of the family which lasted until 1908 when the estate was sold off.

The house, although never styled a manor was the centre of the largest estates in the parish of Theydon Garnon. After Simon, the most important of the Archers was Henry who on his death in 1616 held a capital messuage (a dwelling house with adjacent buildings and curtilage for use of the household) of the Manor of Hemnalls which was a sub-manor to the then capital manor of Garnish Hall. His son Sir John Archer, a Justice of the Common Pleas, died in 1682. His son John died without issue in 1707 leaving the estate to a William Eyre of Gray's Inn on condition that he changed his name to Archer and married Eleanor Wrottesley, John Archer's niece. She died without issue and William, now William Eyre Archer, married Susannah, daughter of Sir John Newton (Bt). Their son, again John Archer, no blood line with the original Archer family, died in 1800 leaving a daughter Susannah who in 1770 had married Jacob Houblon (D 1783) of Hallingbury Place. On her father's death she came to Coopersale House, which had been unoccupied since her mother's death in 1776. In 1819, Susannah adopted the name of Mrs Houblon Newton. On her death in 1837, the estate passed to her grandson, John Archer-Houblon. In 1838-40 he owned 703 acres in Theydon Garnon and 18 acres in Theydon Mount also 82 acres in Theydon Bois.

After 1837, the Coopersale estate with the house and Hallingbury Place descended in the Archer-Houblon family. A point of interest here, Sir John Houblon founded the Bank of England and his photograph is on a £50 note. John Archer-Houblon died in 1865; his daughter Miss Harriet provided the school in Coopersale Street, St Albans Church and the Vicarage. She died in 1896 and again the house was empty for some years. The contents of the house were sold in 1908 and the estate in 1914. A religious order owned it during the 1st World War. In 1920 it was sold to Mr H E J Camps. From 1936 - 44 to Mr Dudley Ward who sold it to Countess How. In 1946 it was acquired by Major Jocelyn Hambro and subsequently Rupert Murdoch and Mr Gerald Scott OBE.

Today it is undergoing a facelift and no one is resident at present. The lake was probably the work of John Archer between 1739 - 1776. A great frost in 1895 caused many problems, hydrants were frozen up and the lake was frozen over. Miss Archer-Houblon invited skaters to use the lake around which fairy lights and Chinese lanterns were hung, tea and refreshments were provided and an ice carnival held in the evening with a firework display.

If you want anything published in the September issue, please send your items to The Scribe, Coopersale Institute, (e-mail Scribe@coopersale.org.uk) or hand them to any member of the Committee before 24th August.

To receive regular copies by e-mail, send your address to mail@coopersale.org.uk

Little Ark Brilliant

The Coopersale Little Ark Pre-School has been described as "brilliant" by OFSTED following its recent inspection.

For more details about The Little Ark, contact Mrs Lesley Seville on 560672.

Comments Please

If you have any comments on topics in this newsletter, or other items about Coopersale, please drop a note to The Scribe. We may not have room to publish letters, but will publish a summary of comments that we receive.

St Albans Corner

Celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the consecration of St Albans started with a very enjoyable and well-attended concert on 25th May. Jonathon Lawson and Margaret Milne narrated the history of the Church and Coopersale from the 15th Century. The narrative was interspersed with suitable and cleverly adapted songs, which were skilfully rendered by the Tuneful Accord Ensemble. The evening ended with refreshments provided by parishioners during which a display of old photographs was admired, stimulating the memories of many.

The Epping Church Choirs Association will be giving a concert in St Albans Church on Sat 15th June as part of the celebrations. Admission will be free, but programmes will be £2 and there will be a retiring collection for church funds.

Large Print

If you have difficulty reading this newsletter, let us know, we can print limited numbers of the Chronicle in larger print and will deliver them to those that need them.

SCHOOL TO GET NEW HEAD

How quickly the last seven years have passed since Angela Wright became Headteacher of our school. It was my great pleasure to be part of the selection panel when Angela was appointed. How right we were in offering her the job and how right for the school that Angela accepted.

That Angela has a great sense of humour was soon apparent and proved to be a vital ingredient in her leadership of the school. OFSTED struck twice during the seven years and our school was found to be a "good school" – praise indeed from OFSTED. A further classroom has been added to the school as the number of children on role has risen – a sure sign of a successful school.

Angela's direction and vision aided by a dedicated staff, supportive parents and Governing body has taken the school forward. Angela's leadership has created an atmosphere for learning that most children have responded to enthusiastically!

We will miss Angela's sense of fun and fairmindedness and numerous hairstyles and wish Angela a peaceful and blessed future knowing that all she undertakes will be done with style, wit and total commitment.

It is our good fortune that a new headteacher has been appointed to take up headship in September and we prepare to welcome Mrs. Sarah Miller to Coopersale. We wish Mrs. Miller many happy and undoubtedly hard working years as head of our school and look forward to the future confidently knowing that she too will have the support of staff, parents and Governing body.

Margaret Milne

Coopersale Horticultural Society

We meet on the 3rd Monday of every month between March and Dec, a wide range of topics is covered, so you don't need to be a gardener to enjoy our meetings.

The next show will be held on Sat 10th Aug and the Autumn Show will be on 21st Sep. In addition to traditional competitions for the best seasonal flowers and vegetables, there are opportunities for those with culinary skills, craft and flower arranging abilities to demonstrate their talents.

The Trading Hut is open every Sunday (behind the hall) from 11 till 12 o'clock and has a good range of items at discounted prices.

To join the society contact Tina Keehner on 578521, come along to the Trading Hut on a Sunday or come to any of the Monday evening meetings.

HELP

The Chronicle was conceived as a means of letting inhabitants of Coopersale know what was going on in the village. However, so far most of the information has related to activities in the Institute. This is not intentional, but reflects the lack of information provided for publication. If you are involved in any village activity and would like **free** publicity or a place to advertise for support please let us know.

The Chronicle is distributed to over 450 addresses by a small group of volunteers. Their task would be much easier if a few more people were willing to help, even if it's only when one of our regular distributors is ill or away. If you would like to help please ring Chris on 572568

Summer Garden Notes

By Fred Brown

By now flowers and plants should be coming to fruition. A riot of colour can be yours if you follow a few simple jobs. Deadhead spent and faded blooms and remove debris. Feed regularly with a weak balanced solution - Chempak 3 is ideal.

Water during dry periods always in the morning with a rising temperature. Stake any tall plants to avoid wind damage.

Tender plants under glass need shading to avoid sun scorch, give air where possible, damp down to maintain a buoyant atmosphere. Ensure plants do not dry out, keep a sharp look out for pests and spray accordingly using a soap based spray. In the vegetable plot keep the hoe going to suppress weeds, feed plants a little at a time with your favourite feed. Harvest as items ripen and use. Turn over any ground that becomes available and if you can try a catch crop, dig as required early potatoes and enjoy your gardening.

Dates for Your diary

15th Jun Concert in St Albans Church
10th Aug CHS Summer Show
24th Aug Publication deadline for next Issue

Disappointing Response to Jubilee Celebrations

There was so little support for the Family Disco and children's Bar B Q which had been planned for the Jubilee weekend that they had to be cancelled.

This was in spite of previous requests for functions which children could attend. We would like to organise functions for everyone, so please let us know what you would like and support village activities.