

Meeting

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Chearsley  
Village  
Historical  
Society



# Chearsley over the years.....

In the early years of the 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium a 'Roman Road' (from Dorchester to Alconbury) ran through our village

Chronicles from the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> century, report that 'Cerdic the Saxon' defeated the Britons in a major battle near our village??

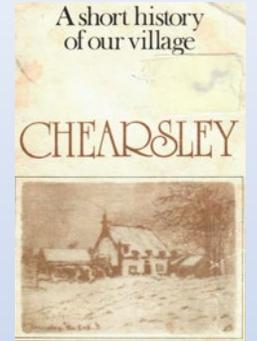
Our village (Cerdeslai) is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086)

Until the arrival of the Black Death in the mid-1300s, the community of our village was located in the fields below St Nicholas Church??

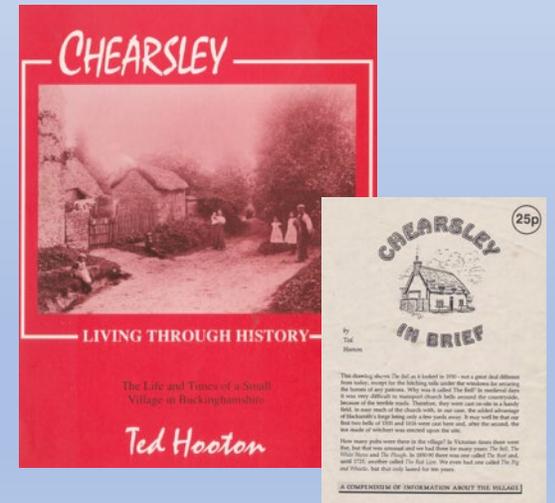
In 1538, our village church formed part of the 'gift' of the parsonage of Notley Abbey to Christ Church Oxford at the time of the Reformation.

In the early 1800s there were still seven farms (and five pubs) within the village.

From the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the population of our village has more than doubled to well over 500 residents.



**Dennis Lane**  
**Published 1977**



**Ted Hooton**  
**Published 1994**

# Celebrating our heritage – 2018 to date



## The Great War Centenary 2014 – 18

**Chearsley remembers....**

An opportunity for the community of Chearsley to share memories, photographs, letters and other memorabilia from The Great War.

**at Chearsley Village Hall**  
**Sunday 11th November 11.30 – 14.00**  
*(following the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial)*

Refreshments available

Free entrance – during the event, a collection will be made for the 'The Not Forgotten Association' [www.nfassociation.org](http://www.nfassociation.org)

For those wishing to bring along their memorabilia, tables and display boards will be available.

For more information, please contact:  
John Howard 07970 651326 or [jnh@dbmc.co.uk](mailto:jnh@dbmc.co.uk)



November 2018



Come and learn about an initiative which aims to explore the fascinating heritage of our village and reconnect our community with its past.

## Sunday 2nd June

### Chearsley Village Hall

11.00 – 16.00 Historic Chearsley Exhibition  
13.00 – 14.00 Refreshments during which a presentation of the plans for The Historic Chearsley Project will take place.

The exhibition will display a number of fascinating resources, many of which have not been seen for many years. Please bring your own photos, family memorabilia and reminiscences to share with our community.

Our guest of honour will be Ann Hoaton, wife of Ted Hoaton, author of Chearsley – Living Through History a wonderful account of the history of our village.

June 2019



## St Nicholas' Church HISTORY DAY

Sunday 20th March  
2.00 ~ 4.00 pm

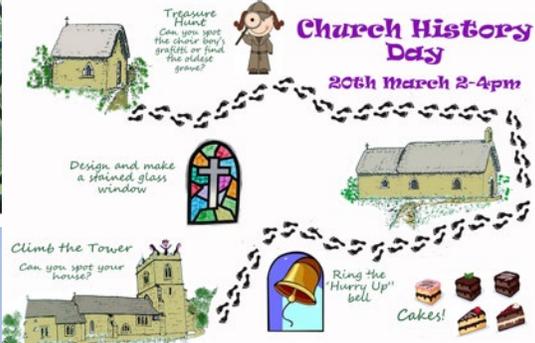
- Our church is named after St Nicholas, the patron saint of children.
- It was originally a tiny Anglo Saxon chapel dating back to the 11th century.
- There used to be a 'Devil's Door' behind the font for evil spirits to fly out during baptisms.
- Our Communion chalice is Elizabethan – over 300 years old.

Discover all of this and much more....

View Chearsley from the top of the church tower. Visit the bell-ringing room, and ring the Sanctus Bell. Discover entries in our church records, with Baptisms dating back to 1800. Enjoy afternoon tea in our beautiful churchyard, with family crafts and a treasure hunt.

It's free and there's no need to book.  
For more information contact:  
Sharon Sampson [sharon@cloverdale.biz](mailto:sharon@cloverdale.biz)  
Alicia Howard [alicia@greatbarn.net](mailto:alicia@greatbarn.net)  
Sara Turnbull [sj3456@gmail.com](mailto:sj3456@gmail.com)

### All Welcome



## Church History Day

20th March 2-4pm

Treasure Hunt  
Can you spot the choir boy's gravestone or find the oldest grave?

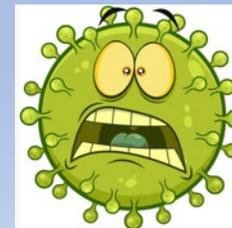
Design and make a stained glass window

Climb the Tower  
Can you spot your house?

Ring the 'Hurry Up!' bell

Cakes!

March 2022



# The Stockwell Restoration Project

*“...in 1538 ‘Cherdeley Well’ was mentioned in a gift of the parsonage to Christ Church, Oxford....”*

**‘Holy Wells of Buckinghamshire’ (2003)**

**James Rattue**

**Autumn 2021**

Extensive restoration and landscaping works commenced, including the pond and adjacent drainage system

**Current:**

Remaining works include:

- Further landscaping
- Kerbing works
- Restoration of ‘original’ pump
- Completion of historical research

c.1900



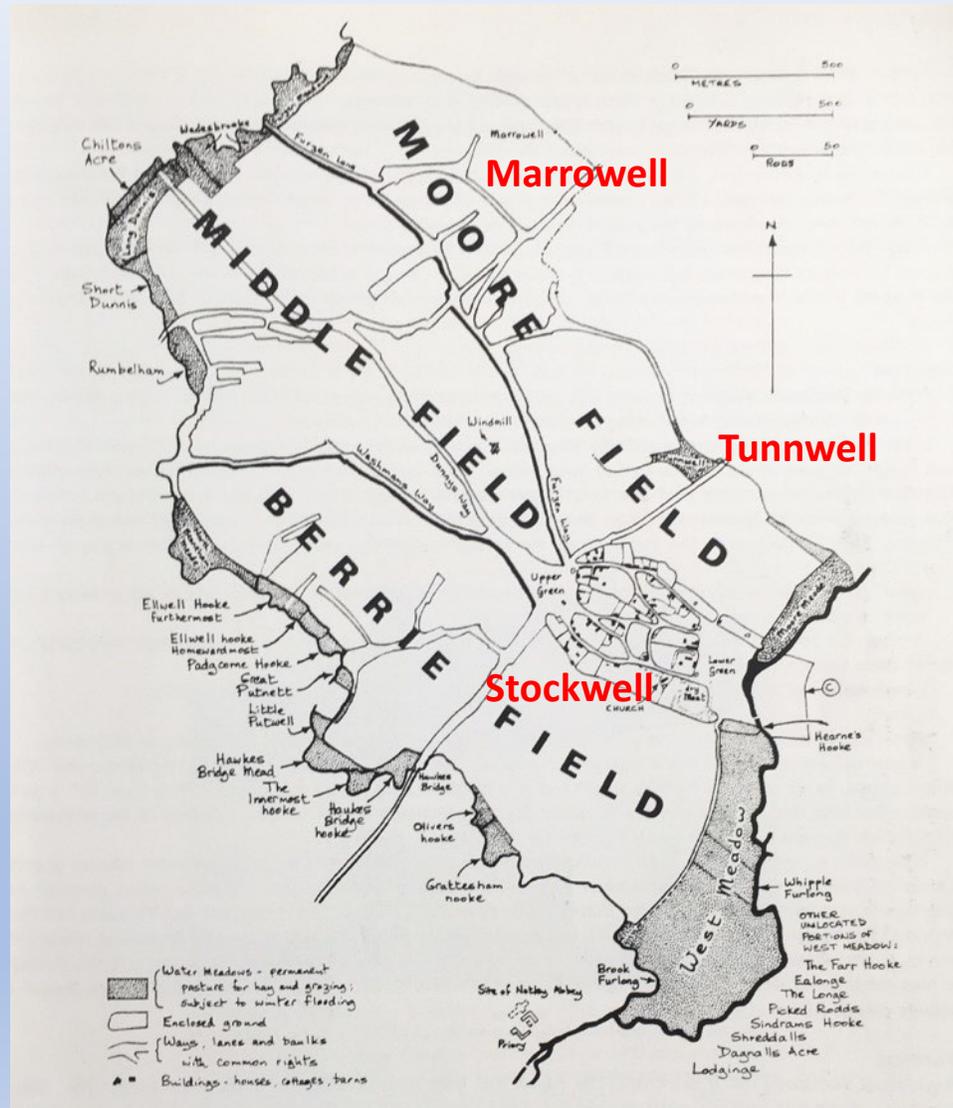
January 2021



January 2022



# Holy Wells – within Chearsley Parish boundary

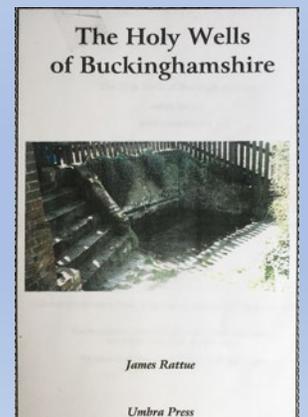


## Sources:

Map of Chearsley Parish (1624) drawn by Ted Hooton, based on a number of historical sources.

Published in 'Chearsley – Living Through History (1994)

'Holy Wells of Buckinghamshire' (2003)  
James Rattue



# Chearsley Village Heritage Trail.....some ideas

- Traditional sign on Village Green
- Interpretation boards at key sites  
e.g. St Nicholas Church, The Stockwell, Village Green
- Traditional 'fingerpoint' signs to replace current 'public footpath' signage
- Plaques (inc. QR Code linking to an audio commentary) located at key sites of 'historical interest' within village 'conservation area':
  - former village school and village pond
  - former village shops
  - houses where traditional crafts were undertaken
  - former village pubs
  - current 'listed buildings'\*
  - other sites?



\* <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/search/?q=Chearsley>

# Example of village sign – Marsworth Village



NEWS

COMMUNITY

## Village unveils its new sign

BY NEIL SHEPHERD  
neil.shepherd@press.co.uk  
01296 619731

A new sign designed to showcase the defining features of one of the Vale's prettiest villages has been unveiled.

Marsworth's new village sign, which can be found on Lower Icknield Way near to the Millennium Hall, was unveiled by Buckinghamshire High Sheriff Peter Kara.

Project co-ordinator Sandra Costello said: "I was at a parish council meeting when the idea was first suggested. "I said I was interested in pursuing it so I picked up the ball and ran with it. "I got a team together and we held meetings and it went from there."

The new sign cost £4,400 and despite initial concerns over where the money would come from, donations soon came pouring in from villagers and village groups including the Women's Institute, All Saints Church, Millennium Hall, Marsworth Charity and Marsworth Steam Rally.

The group also successfully applied for funding from Aylesbury Vale District Council's community chest for the project.

Sandra added: "We were put in touch with Signs of the Times, who are signwriters, and we worked hard on the design. "We sat down and thought about what things best encompass village life."

The final design includes the canal, a bridge, a lock, the church and an angler at the reservoir.

It also contains the word 'Missevorde', the village's original name when it was recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086.

After the High Sheriff unveiled the sign, those present were invited to the Village Hall for refreshments and to view a special exhibition about the history of the village.

In a speech during the unveiling, Elaine Standen, part of the project team said: "Thanks go to the many residents who contributed to the cost, proving that you all believe, as we do, that 'Marsworth is worth it'. "All who contributed can feel special pride in seeing it here today."

High Sheriff Mr Kara said in his unveiling speech 'a village sign is one of the things that help to define a village identity' and added he was honoured to conduct the unveiling.

Marsworth's new village sign is unveiled

Bucks Herald June 2017





# 'A walk about old Chearsley....' (Dennis Lane 1977)

## Walk No.1

The Bell – down Church Lane, passing....

'The Old Post Office', 'Sunrise' ('The Long House'), 2 cottages - '*West End Cottage*' & '*The Cottage*' - 'Manor Farmhouse', 'The White House' ('The Old Bakery') 'The Stockwell', 'St Nicholas Church' 'Chearsley House'.

## Walk No. 2

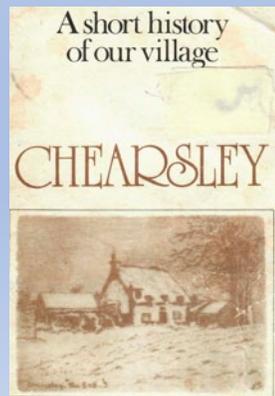
The Bell – down Shupps Lane to Watts Green and top of Dark Lane, passing...

3 cottages – '*Lynton Cottage*' ('Needlemakers'), '*Farthing Cottage*', '*Regency Cottage*' – 'The Boot', 'Michaelmas Cottage', 'Walnut Orchard'.

## Walk No. 3

The Bell – along The Green, down School Lane and Lower Green Lane, back up Dark Lane, passing....

'The Old Farmhouse', 'Village Pond', 3 barns – '*Great Barn*', '*The Caveings*', '*Hideaway*' – 'The Old Plough' 'The Forge', 'Furze Farmhouse', 'The Old House', 5 cottages – '*The Thatches*', '*Knoll Cottage*', 'No. 7', 'No. 9', '*Arden Cottage*' – 'Lammas Cottage', 1 cottage - '*Old Sawpit Cottage*', 'Rose Cottage' ('Mead House'), 'Elder Tree Cottage' ('Lacemakers'), 'Lower Green Farm', 'The Close', 'Vine Cottage', 'Hicks Cottage', 'Merrifield', 'The Rosaries'.



# Chearsley Village Historical Society – key areas?

- Agree role of new CVHS organisation
- Set up 'project groups' to manage village 'events' and 'initiatives'
- Organise meetings with invited speakers
- Liaise with Bucks 'heritage' organisations
- Carry out research, including contact with local history 'experts'
- Recorded interviews with 'longstanding' Chearsley residents
- Create and maintain 'archive' of historical records, including digital library
- Seek external funding from relevant organisations e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Other areas....?



# Bucks 'Heritage' Resources



Buckinghamshire  
Council

Buckinghamshire's Heritage Portal

<https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/globalsearch/index?q=chearsley&em=true>

<https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/theme/tbc744>



[https://archives.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/search/all:records/0\\_50/all/score\\_desc/Chearsley](https://archives.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/search/all:records/0_50/all/score_desc/Chearsley)

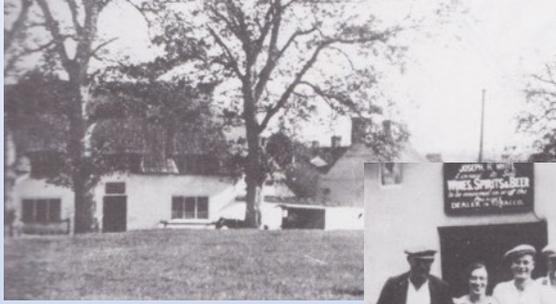
## Bucks Archaeological Society

A key source for architecture, history and heritage across the historic county of Buckinghamshire.



<http://www.bucksas.org.uk/list.php>

# Chearsley Pubs



The Bell



The Plough  
(The Old Plough)



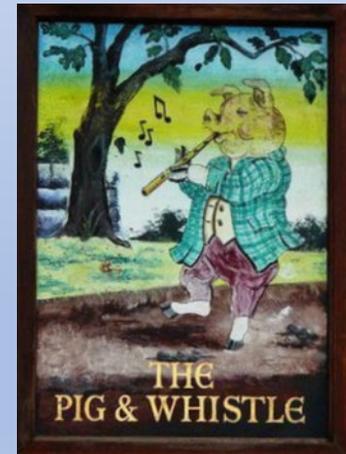
The White Horse  
(The Old Bakery)



The Boot

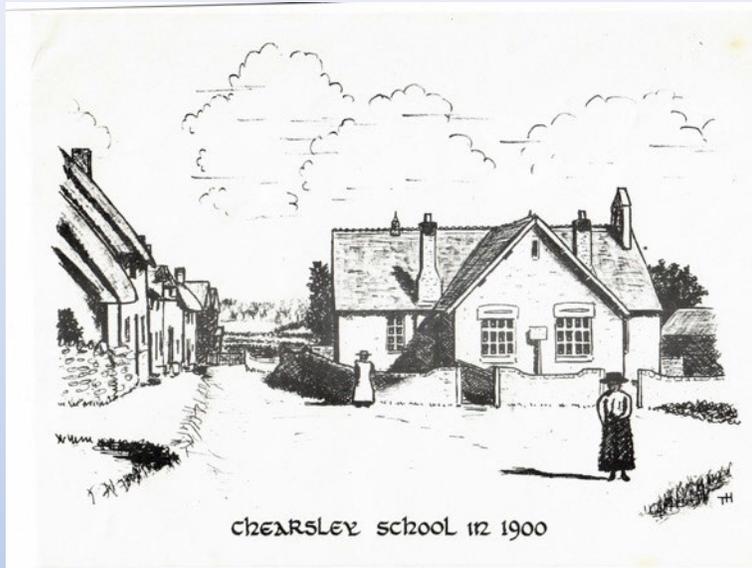


The Red Lion  
(Cloverdale)



The Pig & Whistle  
(Merrifield – The Mansion)

# School Reunion



1900



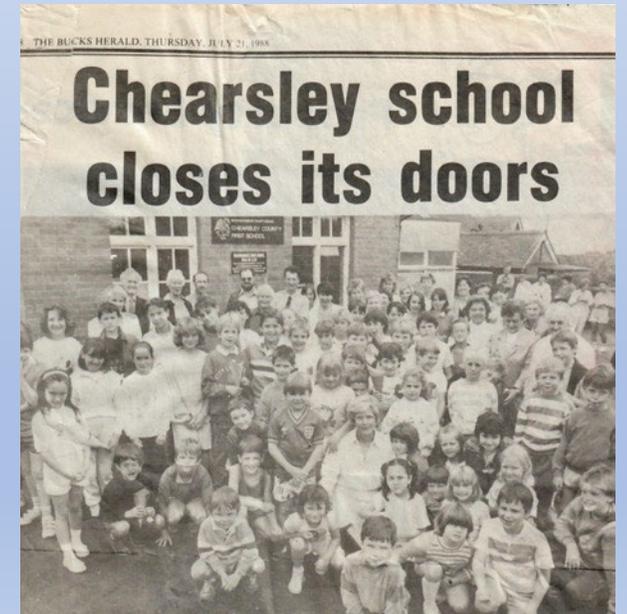
1931



1959

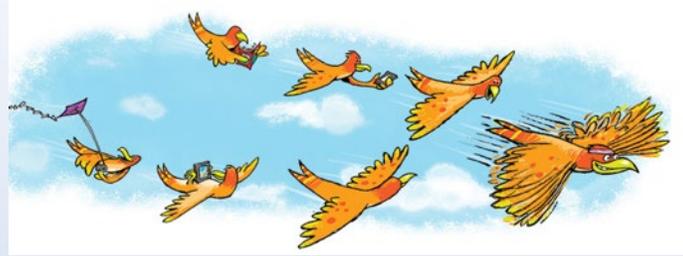


Centenary Pageant 1980



1988

Bird's-eye view.....



**Junction of Aylesbury Road/Canon Hill**



**Field below St Nicholas Church**

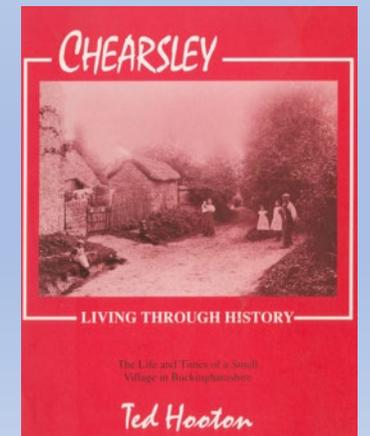
The CVHS  
needs  
you.....!!!



*“So we come to the end of more than a thousand years of village history which, except for the last three decades, have revolved around the parish as a farming community. As we have seen, the decade of the 1960s really was a watershed, a time in which the village changed forever.*

*By 1993 the population had grown to over 500, and the ‘long-term’ residents (living here for 25 years or more) only constituted a sixth of the electorate, compared with a third only thirty years earlier. Most of the modern population is more mobile and transitory than it ever was before.....”*

**Ted Hooton ‘Chearsley – living through history’ 1993**



*“What is the future of Chearsley?”*

*We have in this year of 1977 celebrated the Queen’s Silver Jubilee and all the many exciting events leading up to and during Jubilee week itself seem to have drawn all sections of the village together in a wonderful way.*

*Let us hope that the communal functions and the ensuing spirit of goodwill will continue and that the present and future generations of Chearsley inhabitants will remember with pride their past heritage.”*

**Dennis Lane ‘A short history of our village – Chearsley’ 1977**

