



*Morning tea at a working party*

## LOCAL HERITAGE STUDY

### Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Obviously a study such as this can only be successfully accomplished with the help of many people and I would like to thank the following for their work in bringing it to fruition:- Each of the five chairmen of H&CCPS who still live locally and the families of those chairmen who have since died, for their recollections of experiences as chairmen; members of the Committee past and present for their recollections and corrections; Christine Stott for her insights into the role of the Lord of the Manors and for access to Manorial Records; Mike Fletcher for H&CCPS membership records; Caroline Coates for information about interviewing techniques; Steve Clark and Chris Brown for permission to use the local web-site and help in doing so and Chris for permission to include his study of the Cholesbury Fort; Paddy Thomas, Evelyn Money and other members of the Local History Group and Shirley Blomfield and the Millennium Committee for their valuable assistance and for access to the Local History Archives; Les Gomm, Windsor Thomas, David Barnard, Clive Carey and Oliver Parsons for the use of their photographs and Oliver for his patient explanation of the vagaries of computers and painstaking editing; Maureen Newall for her section on horse-riding on the Commons; Edward Newmark for his memoir and much useful information on a variety of topics; Barry Tompson for his recollections of his childhood in Cholesbury; Richard Wyatt for information about the Cricket Club; David Barnard for his sections on walkers and memorials on the Commons and also his work on the maps and on editing; Geoff Larminie, formerly Director of the British Geological Survey, for information about the geology of the Commons; Emily Martin, Environmental Records Officer for help in locating data of flora and fauna found on the Commons and Bucks Environmental Records Centre for permission to use this information; Anna Seton for her work on plant species and Chris San Martin for checking the plant data; Roy Maycock, Bucks County Recorder for the Botanical Society of the British Isles for his encouragement and meticulous attention to detail with the flora and fauna sections; Julia Carey, Bucks Countryside Officer for providing information about the dewpond and suggesting suitable contacts with other

areas of expertise; Dan Merrett, Bucks People and Wildlife Officer of Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) for his report on the ponds and recommendations for their management; Martin Albertini, Bucks County Moth Recorder and Peter Hall for permission to use their data on moths, butterflies and other insects; Clive Carey for information about fungi; Linden Bevan-Pritchard, Sue Fletcher and Jenny Parsons for help with updating the list of birds seen here; friends and neighbours who have made observations of the changes in flora and fauna over time and who have given a great deal of information about the Commons generally; Isobel Clark for help in adjusting the graphs; Robin Ollington and Frank Lee for their patience in the design and production processes; Rod Griffin who contributed the sections on management strategies and considerable help with the flora and fauna as well as many useful suggestions for editing.

I also acknowledge the foundations for such a study which former residents have laid down. In particular we are indebted to George Bunton, author of *Hawridge and Cholesbury Commons - A History*, written for the Commons Preservation Society in 1988 (revised 1992 by Brenda Nicholson); David and Joan Hay, authors of *Hilltop Villages of the Chilterns*; General Money and other founding members of the Local History Group who assiduously collected local records and filed them in the "Black Box" (now the Local History Group Archive) and to various local groups whose publications have proven very useful.

The study includes the written work of many people and I have felt it better to leave them to write in their own style rather than impose uniformity overall. Given the help that I have received, I hope my mistakes will have been eliminated but if this document sparks debate or prompts others to fill in gaps or to write their own reflections then it will also have served its purpose. Many questions remain unanswered and many avenues unexplored.

Lindsay Griffin, Editor December 2002