

COPAG CHRONICLE

**The magazine of the Chesham *Over 50's Positive Action Group*
Volume 15, Issue 4; December 2018**

**COPAG
Over 50's Action!**

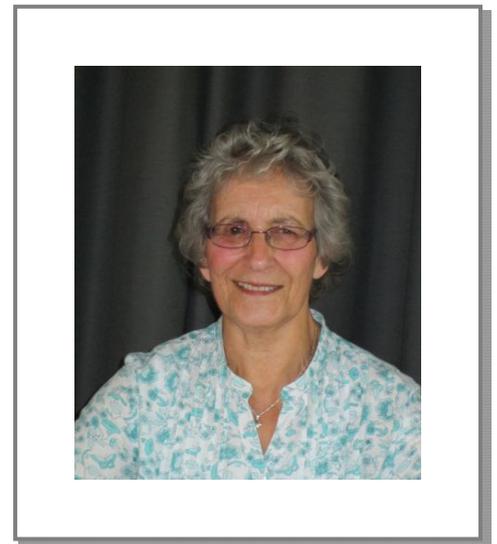
Hello everyone,

'Scuse me while I shake the icicles off my nose while I'm typing this report! I hope you are all keeping your heating up and also maintained each year. Nothing worse than a boiler that gives up the ghost at the coldest time of the year. Its happened to me in the past, and 'brrr' it's no fun!!

Talking of the past and remembering; I must have put this to the very back of my mind, and can't think why I suddenly thought of it. Maybe it was all the talk about how fast cars seem to go on our roads these days. Remember the adverts on TV a few years back advising drivers that to drive at 30 mph in a built up zone would probably save a life if someone were knocked down? Well, that happened to me! I was waiting to cross a busy road to get to work. It was dark as I did night work at that time. I stepped out into the road thinking there was a gap, and as I hadn't looked both ways!!! I got knocked down! In fact, I was told afterwards that I went flying, but thankfully I don't remember that. And as you can see, I am here to tell the tale. I found out that the driver was doing 20-30 mph and was deeply shocked by what had happened.

I had massive bruising and a fractured fibula, but more important, I had my life!! So, to my mind, I agree wholeheartedly for the lower speeds in built-up areas. And I thank that driver too.

On a happier note, I think we are all looking forward to our Christmas lunch on the 14th. I know I am. And lets hope that the weather is kind to us on that day.



**We pass on the sad news that our past member, committee member and dear friend Mary Dixon has died.
May she rest in peace**

Keep warm and cosy, and see you all then, if not before.

Warmest wishes,

Barbara

Future Speakers for 2019:

Jan 18: 50 plus Handyman, Feb 15: Deb Hunt - The Samaritans, Mar 15: Banjovi Revival,
Apr 12: Chris Ward – Birds, May 17: AGM - Speaker tbc

Editorial

in this issue you will hear all about me your editor as I'm afraid I have not had any luck finding anybody else to contribute to the Chronicle so please if you know anybody who could write an article for me let me know. **Ed**

In this issue

Pg.2 Spotlight Profile, Pgs. 3/4 Uncle Phil's Corner, Pgs. 4/5 Monthly Meeting Reports, Pgs. 6/7 Me and Amateur Radio and Pgs. 7/8 Quiz Answers and Coffee Time

Spotlight Profile for Christopher Boulter (your Chronicle Editor)

How long have you lived in Chesham?

Since 1952

What were your earliest/first impressions of the town?

Very busy town having moved here from the countryside

What kind of shop would you like to see in Chesham, that it doesn't already have?

Bespoke tailors

If you had £1 million to spend on any aspect of improving Chesham, what would you spend it on?

Completely repair the paved area in the High Street

What aspect of Chesham do you like the least?

Bad car driving

If you could demolish one building in Chesham, which would it be?

Cannot think of one

What is your favourite part of the world, and why?

Australia – completely different from England

What is your favourite biscuit/chocolate/crisp choice?

Praline chocolates

What is your favourite place to eat out (doesn't have to be local)?

Rumbles Kitchen and Brazil's Kitchen (cannot choose between them)

What is your favourite TV programme?

Brokenwood Mysteries

What item of technology confuses or frustrates you?

Smart Mobile Telephones

If you had one celebrity to pick as a companion for a long car journey, who would it be?

Sir David Attenborough

Chris Boulter



Uncle Phil's Corner



Continued: Born in 40's remembering the 50's

By 1954 we were fully established living in The Meads, on the Watling Housing estate. The Estate was one of twelve estates built around London between the wars by London County Council. Watling estate went up in 1927, and came under the Hendon Borough Council, until 1965 when the Greater London Council was formed and the parish became part of Barnet. It spread from the east side of the Edgware Road (Watling Street) to Bunns Lane, Mill Hill, and southwards to Colindale. Jack Cohen opened the first Tesco store in Burnt Oak, Edgware, north London in 1931. The store sold dry goods and the first ever branded product, which, unsurprisingly, was Tesco Tea.

We had a three-bedroom corner house with front garden, side garden and a back garden with two tall elm trees. Allotments in front of us with a trickle of a stream running through it called silk stream. In later years it was piped. I lived in that house till 1982. We went to The Meads School a few houses from us but to get to the school entrance, we had to walk around the allotments secured by a very threatening rusty metal spiked fence. The school was made up of two wooden buildings; Infants and Juniors. In the 1960s it was burnt down, a friend of mine's younger brother set fire to it, he didn't like school! I watched it burn that night. It went up like a tinder box. The Meads was two big squares of houses bordering the allotments. Within a minute's walk was Deansbrook Road shops, and the 52-bus route to London Victoria, and a bus (cannot remember the bus number) that stopped outside Burnt Oak tube station (northern Line into London.) Mum and Dad must have thought they were in heaven, although the first thing dad did was to decorate the house, as with most council houses the décor was a dull brown and green.

My mother's mum, my nan, was 80 years old and was living with her son John and his wife Rose in Cricklewood. My mum was the only product of nan's second marriage. Though mum was born in 1913, it was found later that her parents didn't marry until 1927. Mum was concerned that gran wasn't liking living with John and Rose and it was arranged that she came and lived with us at The Meads. At around that time I was a very sickly child, colds, eye infections and the worst was earache! Nan kept me company, she was a nice lady. Had a hard life bringing up 3 children from her first marriage. In the workhouse she worked in service, two of her children died young. A girl committed suicide and her younger son had an incurable illness. My grandad was a cabinet maker and got her out of the workhouse. He had two sons by his first marriage; Harry and Steve. Grandad died when I was very young. It was a very complicated family.

The last months of 1954 dad and mum decided to buy or hire (not sure which) a TV, on the pretence it was for nan, to keep her company. Sadly, nan passed away that December (aged 81) before the TV was installed. I went to school on the day of the funeral. I could see the hearse outside the house from the school playground, and Dave stayed with a neighbour. It wasn't the thing in those days for young children to attend funerals, well not in our family.

My life has been full of coincidences; such as, our neighbours living in the cu-de-sac next to us in The Meads were Mr and Mrs Chesham. Outside their house was a large oak tree easy to climb which I did, but it was not so easy to get down. Mrs Chesham guided me down the tree step by step! The Head Mistress of the Meads school - Mrs Cross, she had the right name- always made us enter assembly with the voice of Kathleen Ferrier booming out. (I married Kate (Kathleen) and Kate's mum was a fan of Kathleen Ferrier and so is Kate, and she was probably named after her.) On holiday in Hemsby a gypsy knocked on our chalet door (mum didn't like turning gypsies away) and the woman went about telling our future. I was to marry a girl from Scotland, what rubbish I thought, I had been to Scotland once. I had a bad time and swore never to return!

My Brother Dave and I had great fun in our new surroundings making new friends, Dave was 21 months younger than me, he was born on my mum's birthday in 1949. Now we had a fair-sized garden to play in dad made a pond from foundations of an air raid shelter in the garden, dad also kept budgerigars in cages strapped to the Elm trees. I was given a very small piece of the garden. The only plant that grew in it was mint! We had a Lawn, and both mum and dad liked roses so there were lots of rose bushes in the front and back gardens, and being a corner house we had land at the side which dad grew vegetables in.

Dad was a plumber, and worked away from home sometimes. Memories of mum waiting for the postman to arrive with a registered letter with dad's wages in. Dave and I used to wait for a different package being delivered by the postman. Aunt Nina who lived in Islington used to wrap up the weekly comics when her sons had finished with them and send them to us. The Eagle was my favourite, also had the Dandy and Beano and others.

Although Dave and I never missed out on anything, Dad and Mum must have had a hard time making things meet in the 1950's. Mum did housework for a Jewish family in Edgware. Dad was good at building things, and later so was Dave, I was useless. Mum was a real housekeeper, done all the paperwork, dealt with the money, only later did I find out that dad had difficulties in reading and writing, which explains why dad was a plumber's labourer, and the only book in our house was a Bible.

How time Flies

Last November I stood with my wife, and with over 1000 others in Chesham Broadway, I'm sure many of you were in that crowd to commemorate the ending of THE GREAT WAR exactly 100 hundred years ago.

In the Broadway sitting near the War Memorial was a Poppy Man – pictured here

Whilst the service and the wreath laying were on my mind, it took me back to 2014. Seemed like only yesterday that a group of us from COPAG, with the then Mayor, Mo Fayyaz and the head boy and girl from Chesham Grammar, took a coach trip to The National Arboretum, Litchfield in Staffordshire, to lay a wreath and plaque at the tree that commemorates the OXON and BUCKS Regiment.



There was a great piece in the Bucks Advertiser (Nov 15th.) Pupils honoured the armed forces. Chesham Grammar School Marked Remembrance Day on the 9th November at assemblies, which 1300 students attended addressed by the head teacher and head girl who reminded the students that youths of their own age lost their lives in battle.

Uncle Phil

COPAG monthly meeting reports

COPAG Monthly meeting report for September 2018

For this month's talk we had Lisa, who is a volunteer with Bucks Vision. Lisa gave us a potted history of Bucks Vision which was initially set up in 1911 and in those days had 280 members and today they have over 3000 with many meeting areas throughout the county.

Lisa then went on to show us a good number of things that make living for impaired vision users more helpful. These included things like talking thermometers, braille watches, large print diaries and liquid level indicators.

Of course, nowadays with everything being digital a lot of apparatus have become available to help those folks who are sight impaired.

Chris Boulter

COPAG Monthly meeting report for October 2018

At this meeting we had a talk given to us by Fi Bingham who is a steward of the museum. The talk was about the history of Chesham.

Here below are a few things of interest which Fi told us about Chesham.

- In the 1200s the Market Square was laid out and permission was given to hold 3 fairs a year.
- In the Town Hall farmers hired workers.
- The Town Hall had been rebuilt 3 times.
- Charolais cattle were introduced to Chesham by the Harmans.
- Red Lion Street was called gods acre because there were 3 Baptist churches there.
- In the 1960s there was a trap door folk club in Frances yard at which Simon & Garfunkel performed!
- There was handmade straw plaiting which was sent to Luton - but this got replaced by machinery
- Before straw plaiting, lace making was the preference. [Lace-making is still popular in the town.]
- The River Chess is culverted along the length of the town

- There was a strong co-operative presence in Chesham, this started in the shop where Oxfam is now – at one time 120 people were employed at the Co-op.

Fi mentioned many other interesting things about Chesham but I have just given you a taster of a very interesting talk.

Chris Boulter

COPAG Monthly meeting report for November 2018.

For this month's meeting we had 2 talks - 1 from CAB and one given to us by Margaret Drinkwater about her work at the Amersham Crematorium.

For the CAB talk I am printing a handout given to us at our meeting by Max.



The second talk was given by Margaret Drinkwater who had worked at Amersham Crematorium for a good number of years and is now retired.

As I have done with the previous talk I will give you bullet points of interest that Margaret told us:

- The day Margaret started was
- the 7th deserted and 5 the day of the London bombing
- There are 2 chapels and behind these chapels are committal rooms, and also a music room.
- She had 2 sets of clothing; casual and official.
- Margaret's job was that of chapel attendant and made sure that the chapels were in a fit state to carry out a service.
- There is a good system called Wesley media which can cater for almost any audio required for the service.
- The main thing is getting things ready on time.
- The coffin details must match the records sent to them.
- They have cremated many famous people, and also seen many famous people in the congregation.
- Apart from the religious funerals there are humanist, and also, at one time, a pagan service, at which Druids were in attendance.

Margaret turned such a sad occasion as a Cremation into a very interesting talk.

Chris Boulter

ME and AMATEUR RADIO

You all know me as Christopher Boulter, member of COPAG and editor of the Chronicle, what you may not know is that one of my hobbies is amateur radio. So I will try to explain why this hobby has become an interest of mine and elucidate a bit on amateur radio.

Radio waves were first discovered in 1887 by Heinrich Rudolph Hertz, and Guglielmo Marconi was the first person to transmit radio waves, first on land then across water (the English Channel) and finally across the Atlantic. I may add that all these experiments were carried out in England.

This created a lot of interest and a group of people tried copying Marconi successfully in transmitting radio waves. This group of people then became known as radio amateurs, the American radio relay league (ARRL) was formed in about 1915. A corresponding Society had been set up in the UK in 1913 and was finally called the Radio Society of Great Britain.

There were many such organisations formed in many countries across the world which catered for Radio Amateurs now so-called.

As you can imagine with the discovery of this technology there was a great demand on the frequencies allowed for use, certainly in the commercial world, that as there was such a strong amateur radio presence across the world certain frequencies were allocated for amateur radio use.

In order to be able to use these frequencies as an amateur a theory test has to be passed and when I was first licensed, also a Morse code test –not needed since 2002

The licensing of amateur radio is strictly controlled by these societies which had been set up in the early part of the 20th century.

When I was first licensed one had to pass the Radio Amateur's Examination (RAE) for what was known as a class B license, (strictly controlled transmission frequencies) and then one can get a Class A License having passed a Morse code test, which I subsequently did. This allowed me to transmit on all amateur radio frequencies.

When I was first licensed the RAE took the form of an essay type examination, today this has been replaced by a much simpler form of test.

There are many frequencies which can be used by radio amateurs, I will just go into a few.

Starting with the shortwave frequencies these are ones which are used to transmit via atmospheric conditions, these can be greatly enhanced by an active sunspot episode. This is a cyclical process which the sun goes through of about 11 years when sunspots activity is at its highest the enhancement of the shortwave frequencies is at its greatest.

May I say at the moment there is very low sunspot activity giving very bad transmitting conditions on these shortwave bands.

So far I have tried to explain why radio amateurs have become very important in the history of radio frequencies.

With more recent discoveries, since the early days, different parts of the radio spectrum were discovered and able to be used, for simplicity's sake I will divide these into 3 sections those being higher frequencies (known as HF this corresponds to shortwave in my original text), very high frequency (VHF) and ultrahigh frequencies (UHF).

The HF frequencies are known as shortwaves and are just above the long wave and medium wave radio frequencies you probably all know. VHF are higher frequencies than shortwave and for example FM transmissions from the BBC used this sort of frequency. UHF; these are frequencies higher than VHF, in this frequency band digital TV signals are transmitted such as Free View. If we still go higher in frequency we will be coming into the microwave section of the radio spectrum in which things like RADAR is prevalent

I will now fast forward and hopefully bring you with me to explain how I first became interested in amateur radio and then successfully was able to take part.

Each country issues call signs to licensed amateurs so when receiving transmissions one is able immediately to discern which country of origin the Radio Amateur is transmitting from.

My first introduction to amateur radio was with Arthur Pruden who ran a television business in Market Square and was a very keen radio amateur – his call sign was G2CZM. I used to travel with him to Rutland where he put up a weather balloon with an aerial and transmitted on 160 m (known as top band to radio amateurs) – why to Rutland you may say? This was in order to give fellow radio amateurs a chance of collecting and transmission from Rutland so they could then claim an award which would have been for contacting all counties in the UK.

Arthur Pruden made all his amateur radio equipment which is done by a large number of radio amateurs, although this is not necessary to become a radio amateur as commercial equipment is available.

I sat the theory test (RAE) in 1966 when I was doing my degree at Woolwich Polytechnic. As earlier stated I got a class B license G8 ITK which enabled me to transmit on some restricted frequencies. I then

sat and passed a Morse code test in 1983 and became G4UXY. In those days you could sit such an exam at the Coastguard Station and I chose Mablethorpe!

In the early 1980s the Chesham radio club was in a pigeon loft along Pednor Road, at this club I was the events Secretary and organised talks given to the club on a monthly basis.

One of the things that radio amateurs take part in are several contests, you simply transmit over certain frequencies in a prescribed period of time to see how many other radio amateur stations you can contact. This I have done several times with the radio club and also just by myself.

Using any of the frequencies that have been allocated to radio amateurs and one is licensed on, the general thing is to put out what is known as a CQ call, this is to see if there is anybody on that frequency who might be interested in replying to you. Of course you yourself can also do the same and answer a CQ call in that frequency.

I can only liken putting out a CQ call to going fishing as when having cast your line you do not know what you are going to catch – a similar thing applies to putting out a CQ call.

From about 1990 onwards I stopped transmitting as a radio amateur, but now I have moved to where I am now I have taken up the hobby again.

In the 30 years I have not transmitted, things have really moved on apace, with the introduction of digital and the Internet things are completely different – this has only widened the scope for which amateur radio can be of interest to folks.

2 websites which might be of interest to you:

American Radio Relay League: <http://www.arrl.org/>

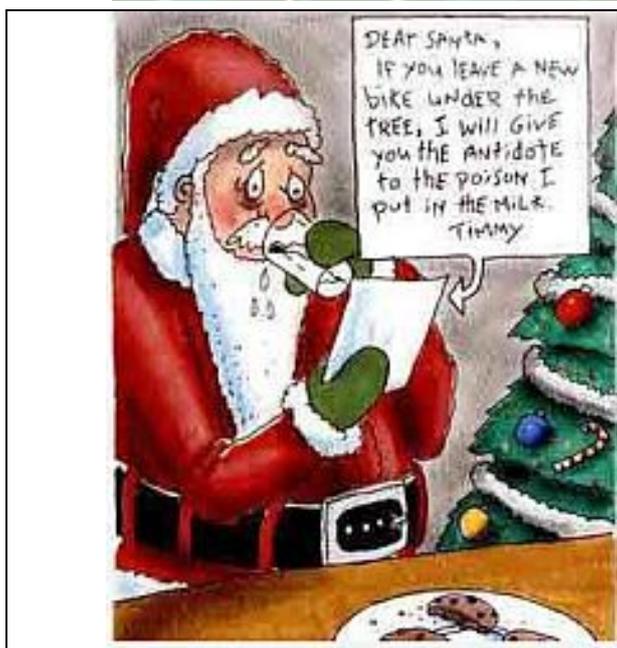
Radio Society of Great Britain: <https://rsgb.org/>

This is by no means a complete picture of amateur radio and if anybody requires any further explanation please see me at COPAG and I will try to answer any questions you have.

Chris Boulter G4UXY

ANSWERS TO “ZEDS” QUIZ.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Nozzle | 8. Embezzler | 15. Swizzle |
| 2. Mizzen | 9. Fizzle | 16. Bedazzle |
| 3. Blizzard | 10. Muzzle | 17. Nuzzle |
| 4. Dazzle | 11. Razzle | 18. Drizzle |
| 5. Dizziness | 12. Sizzles | 19. Snazzy |
| 6. Frizzle | 13. Guzzled | 20. Puzzling |
| 7. Grizzly | 14. Frazzle | |

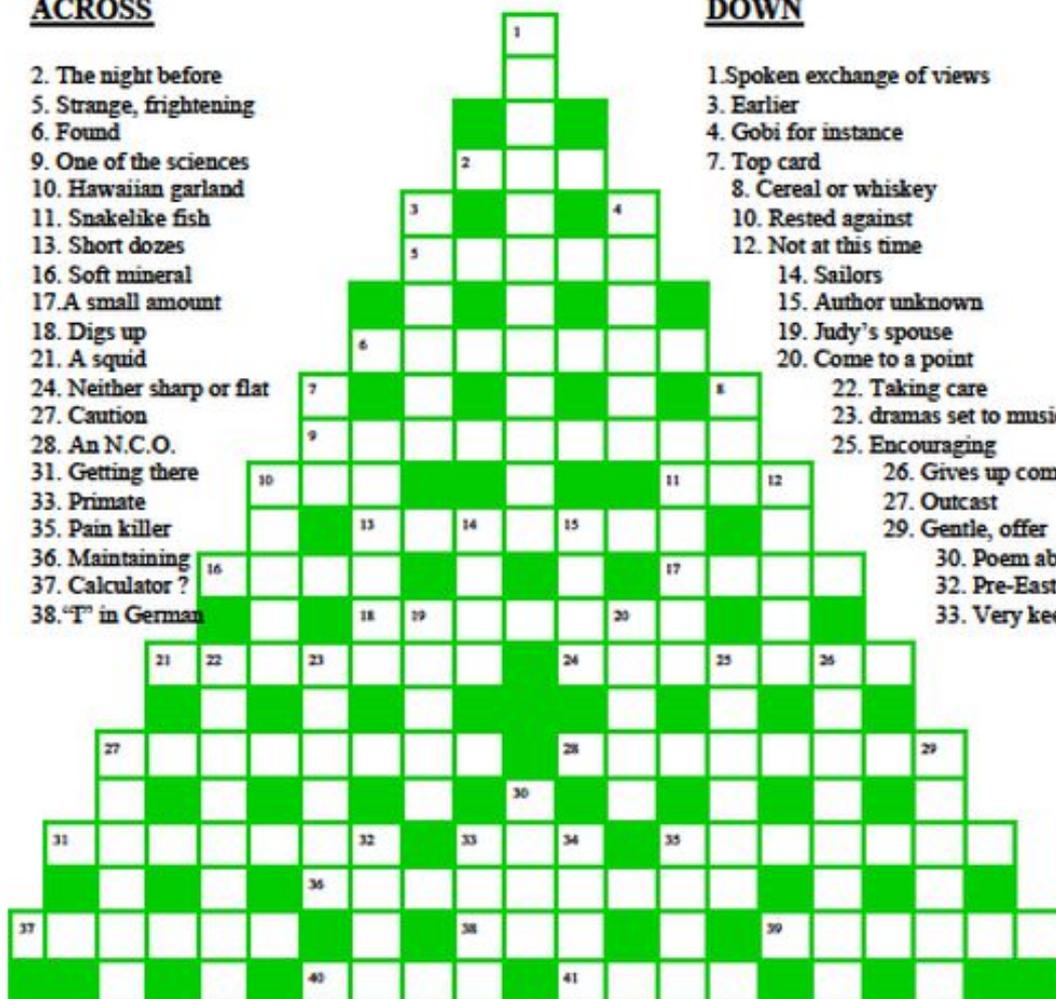


PUZZLE PAGE

A crossword in the shape of a Christmas tree this time. No cryptic clues, just straightforward definitions of the answers, according to the Oxford Concise Dictionary. Good Luck.

ACROSS

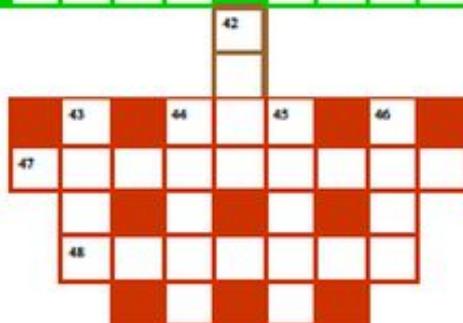
2. The night before
5. Strange, frightening
6. Found
9. One of the sciences
10. Hawaiian garland
11. Snakelike fish
13. Short dozes
16. Soft mineral
17. A small amount
18. Digs up
21. A squid
24. Neither sharp or flat
27. Caution
28. An N.C.O.
31. Getting there
33. Primate
35. Pain killer
36. Maintaining
37. Calculator ?
38. "T" in German



DOWN

1. Spoken exchange of views
3. Earlier
4. Gobi for instance
7. Top card
8. Cereal or whiskey
10. Rested against
12. Not at this time
14. Sailors
15. Author unknown
19. Judy's spouse
20. Come to a point
22. Taking care
23. dramas set to music
25. Encouraging
26. Gives up completely
27. Outcast
29. Gentle, offer
30. Poem about heroes
32. Pre-Easter period
33. Very keen

39. Riles
40. Stallion on call
41. Hop drying house
44. Lettuce
47. Christian feast
48. Mind made up



34. Resonate.
35. Social insect.
42. Greek Cupid.
43. Garden structure.
44. Easy task.
45. Examine closely
46. Hairless

Dusty

COPAG Chronicle is the magazine for Chesham Over 50's Positive Action Group. Meetings are held at 10.15am on the third Friday of each month in the Community Hall, Chesham Town Hall, HP5 1DS -; usually there are two speakers at these monthly meetings. For further details please contact the Chairman on 01494 786576. The Chronicle has an e-mail address which is copagchronicle@talktalk.net and COPAG has a website at; www.cheshamopag.org.uk