

SLIP- END & DISTRICT

PARISH NEWS

DECEMBER 2005



This happy group of children belong to ZJB, the Sunday School at St Andrew's Church. On Shoebox Sunday last month we heard the story of the Good Samaritan then covered and filled the shoeboxes and made cards. We made up 12 boxes with thanks to all the children and parents who contributed the gifts.

The Parish @ Large

SCHOOLS

*Slip End Lower: 720152
Five Oaks: 726058
Streetfield: 613421
Ashton: 663511
Manshead: 608641*

HALLS

*Village Hall: 723109
Recreation Hall: 455185*

SPORT

*Bowling Club: 412506
Tennis: 733253
Darts League: 425323
Football: 733156
Cricket: 414157*

COMMUNITY

*Brownies: 723109
Beavers: 725297
Cubs: 414168
Fly Tipping (SBDC): 472222
Friendship Club: 720392
Slip End Assoc: 414796
Mother's Union: 738435
Playgroup: 728865
Toddler Group 405931
Allotments: 736892
PTA: 720152
Women's Institute: 421034
Police: 471212
Aircraft noise: 395382*

PARISH COUNCILLORS

*Christine Benson: 456200
Christinebenson@bensons-autosupplies.co.uk
Stephen Fuell: 417792 stevefuell@f2s.com
Philip Penman: 455185 PhilipPenman@aol.com
Geoff Daniel: 424363Geoff@daniel67.freemove.co.uk
Ken Crossett 414168 kencrossett@slipend.co.uk
Mike McKeivitt: 720596
mike.mckeivitt@mndassociation.org*

*Clerk to the Parish Council - David Haste:
10 Highwood Grove, Mill Hill, NW7 3LY
Davidhaste7@aol.com*

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

*Anne Spencer 713267 anne@connorspencer.com
Philip Penman: 455185 PhilipPenman@aol.com
Ruth Gammons 738398 fairgreen@bopenworld.com*

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Stay: 724685 Richard.Stay@bedscc.gov.uk

CHURCHES

***New Life Christian Fellowship**
Sunday Main Celebration: 10.45
Minister: Rev James Fotheringham 414648
(jfoth@tesco.net)
Administrator & Information:
Alasdair Tompson 737039 (nlcf@trustpro.co.uk)*

***St Andrew's Church**
Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363
Wardens: David Kingston 416138
Ken Crossett 414168*

***Aley Green Methodist Church**
Minister: Rev Julia Dowding 730129
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668*

SHOPS & SERVICES

***Post Office:** At the Crossroads, telephone 401069
Mon-Fri 6.30 to 21.00
Sat-Sun 7/7.30 to 21.00*

***Garage:** Slip End Garage, Markyate Road, telephone 456888*

Website: slipend.co.uk

Mobile Library

A protracted campaign to keep our mobile library on the days and times (more or less) that we want them, lead to reconsideration by BCC Library services, resulting in leaving our schedule alone. From December 2nd the first stop, in Crawley Close, will be 10.20 instead of the usual 10.00. For further information as to times, please ask at the library when next it calls.

October Crime Figures

- Criminal Damage to vehicles: 2
- Domestic dispute: 2
- Theft from Automatic Machines/Meters: 1
- Theft from Motor Vehicle: 3
- Common assault: 2
- Burglary with intent: 2
- Theft from shops and stalls: 1
- To have article with blade in public place: 1
- Other miscellaneous thefts: 1

So ends the mini crime wave for October. Assaults and actual bodily harm seem to be on the rise, and they are all in similar spots in the village. It is a worrying situation.

Christmas Gifts for the Elderly

Father Christmas has already delivered the above gifts. So, if you are on our list, you should be receiving yours before Christmas.

Vandalism

The bus shelters around the parish have been covered in graffiti yet again and will be repainted. The "Burma Bridge" in the Crawley Playground has to be replaced: cost is £1720. The struts were unscrewed by people who think this is great fun. New fences and gates are going to cost around £2,000. Goodness knows what the bill for the litter bins that keep getting uprooted is going to come to. I ask parents: we like to think that when our kids are out, they are behaving themselves and I am sure in the majority of cases this is true. Why not explain to your children that when public property gets trashed, it needs to be fixed quickly for safety reasons. The cost will be borne by you, their

Mums and Dads. This money could have been used for the public good, like funding some traffic calming or more generous with help for say, the hoped for Skateboard Park. Vandalism is so bad now that Councillors are considering upping the Parish Precept to cover these costs. It can't go on: if you see anyone doing something they shouldn't, if you are not prepared to confront them, they are after all only kids, if you know them, try to speak to someone about it.

Airport Expansion

This may not get to you before the beginning of December, so if you miss the exhibition at Cadlington Sports and Social Club on the 28 November, try to get to the one in Harpenden on the 2nd December. Your input is important. You should have received (with the Thursday free paper, I believe) another Newsletter from the Airport. Please complete and return it. The future of the airport affects us all.

Football Stadium

Boy, are we glad to read that Luton Town FC are thinking of going up to Junction 12! The downside is the possible expansion of the airport. It's true, if you sit around long enough waiting for something to happen, it usually doesn't! Ten years ago we were concerned about the Kohlerdome and what it may have done to ua. We fought a battle, sat back and watched what happened. I'm up for a further battle over the airport: 2030 is a long way off.

That's all for now except to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an equally prosperous and hopeful New Year. For the politically correct amongst us I shall wish you a Wintertime festival that makes you happy and window of opportunity at the beginning of January whereupon you can enjoy yourselves. I think I prefer the first greeting!!

Keep warm, keep safe, keep your eye out for the elderly and infirm, the bereaved and each other. That is what Christmas is about.

*Christine Benson
Chairman, Slip End Parish Council*



In November, Mrs Parrot came to show us how sugar craft should be done. Her flowers were a delight. Whoever said, "Patience is a virtue" certainly knew what they were talking about.

We are brining our next meeting forward to Dec 13th as the next week is rather near Christmas.

Just to be sure, we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year from all the W.I. ladies at Caddington!

Patricia Crick

Laughter

Crumbs of comfort!

Sitting in a café a taxi driver was feeling very proud because she had given up smoking. She ordered coffee and put all thoughts of a cigarette out of her mind. Just then a stranger walked up to her and said "How long is it since you stopped smoking?" She answered One week, but how did you know?" The stranger answered "Because you just stubbed out a biscuit in the ashtray!"

Jones went to see his supervisor at work. "Boss," he said, "we're doing some heavy housework at home tomorrow and my wife needs me to help in the attic and the garage, moving and lifting stuff." "We're short-staffed Jones," the supervisor replied, "I can't give you the day off." "Thanks boss", said Jones, "I knew I could count on you!"

Walking into an army surplus store, a man asked if they had any camouflage jackets. "Yes, we have," came the reply, "but we can't find them!"





Having now settled in to their new permanent home in Slip End, Chris Barker's parents have a number of 'surplus' items that might be useful to other people

in the village, old but still working (the items - not the people!)

Please telephone Chris on 01582 738435 if you are interested in anything. It is all free, but buyer collects and donations to St Andrew's Parish Church funds encouraged.

- Automatic washing machine
- Bathroom laundry box
- Dishwasher
- Double bed
- Double divan bed
- Golf clubs and golf bag
- Lounge carpet & underlay
- Microwave oven
- Pine dining table & two chairs
- Stool for ladies' dressing table
- Soft suitcase
- Top-loading spin drier
- Two electric fires
- White hat box
- Small breakfast/kitchen table, folding leaves
- Wooden tea tray with fold-down legs

WATCH OUT!

Following a spate of Theft from Vehicle incidents in areas of the county, Bedfordshire Police are warning all members to be extra careful whenever you leave your vehicle unattended.



Offenders appear to be targeting vehicles where satellite navigation computer systems have been left on the Dashboard of vehicles. In other cases tell tale signs have pointed to such a device having been used in the vehicle - resulting in the offender breaking in and searching the vehicle in case the owner has hidden it in the vehicle.

Bedfordshire Police advise all members to remove all items of value from your vehicle. This include the foresaid satellite navigation systems, facias of removable Radio/CD stereo units, All type of Electronic equipment, Laptop Computers, Golf Clubs... Coats, bags (even if empty), Purse, Wallets and Mobile phones.

With the run up to Christmas offenders will be particularly eager to be watching out for unwary vehicle owners leaving expensive presents in vehicles while out shopping. We would urge you to be extra vigilant at all times but particularly at such times. Place items of value in the boot - Out Of Sight - of potential offenders or take them with you if possible. When travelling you may also want to place large items in the boot *before* starting out or even stop safely at some distance from places like shopping centres or car parks and place recently acquired or non required items in the boot at that point before continuing to your final destination. Any offenders lurking at your destination are less likely to target your vehicle if they don't witness you hiding items.

For further advice on Home and Property Security please contact your local Beat Manager or the Police Crime Reduction Officer.

SLIP END LOWER SCHOOL

WANTED

Mid-day Supervisory Assistant

The school is seeking a Midday Supervisory Assistant to supervise the children during the lunch break, 70 minutes per day Monday to Friday term time only.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact the school.

If you have driven north along the M1 to reach Junction 9 lately you must have noticed an amount of activity that has taken place alongside the main carriage-way. The widening of the motorway has started. By the time you read this month's Parish News the Highways Agency may have fenced off part of the Playing Field in preparation for the new longer slip road at Junction 10. We are losing a small strip of the Playing Field which will include one corner of the tennis courts for the new boundary fence. Fortunately we will not need to play on a funny shaped court as the Highways Agency will be paying for two new courts and have promised that they will be finished before the present ones lose the corner.

It is surprising how small a large field becomes when you try to put a new/replacement facility on it. Hopefully, we shall end up with a satisfactory outcome that keeps the Playing Field as good or better than it is at the moment.

Meanwhile the Winter season has started and we have a match on most weeks until the end of March. We have been very lucky with the weather this year with no matches rained off. We even played in the sunshine at the start of November! However, the frost has now arrived and some say that this will be a very cold winter. I don't think the new courts will have underground heating so it's back to playing in lots of layers and gloves.

Peter Smith



Our All Age Service last month was well supported which was nice for the children, as they received their JMA certificates, medals and bars. Our JMA collectors raised £295 between them. The Methodist homes envelopes raised over £50.

Thank you to everyone who came to our November Coffee Evening, £57 was raised in aid of the 'Leaders of Worship & Preachers trust'.

On December 5th we are holding our Christmas Fellowship supper at 7pm. On the 11th we have our Sunday School Christmas service at 3pm, lead by the teachers and children. Hot and cold drinks, mince pies and cakes served afterwards.

On Wednesday 14th our Coffee Evening is at 7:30pm.

On Saturday 18th at 11am we will be holding Christmas All Age Worship led by Mr Hooper. Pop along and hear the Christmas story.

Tuesday 20th at 7:30pm is the time for our Candlelight carol service, lead by Rev Julia Dowding in aid of National Children's Homes.

Our giving over the Christmas period this year will be towards several charities including NOAH, Keech Cottage Children's Hospice, National Children's Homes, Cooper Charitable trust for India and the Pasque Hospice.

Our Christmas Day service will be at 10:30am lead by Rev Jenny Spouge. Our Covenant Service with Communion will be lead by Rev Julia Dowding on January 15th at 11am.

Our first coffee evening for 2006 will be on Wednesday 18th Jan 7:30 onwards. Pop in for a friendly natter.

Lots of Sunday School children and church members will be off to see the live circuit players panto, Peter Pan on 29th Jan.

May Peace and Joy and happiness be with you this Christmas, and a very Happy New Year from all at Aley Green Methodist Church. Yours in Christ,

Ann Meader

Slip End Lower School
Rossway, Slip End



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER

1PM to 3PM

**RAFFLE WITH GREAT PRIZES
INCLUDING £100 CASH!**

TOMBOLA
SPIN THE BOTTLE
SCALETRIX- a layout for children of all ages

CHRISTMAS CAFE WITH ROAST CHESTNUTS, MULLED WINE, HOME MADE
CAKES, HOT DOGS AND MUCH MORE



FACE PAINTING
LOTS OF GAMES WITH GREAT PRIZES
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN TO MAKE

MANY VISITING CRAFT, GIFT & TOY STALLS



VISIT SANTA IN HIS GROTTO FOR A LOVELY GIFT (if you've been good!)
SPECIAL GIFT SHOP FOR CHILDREN - NO GROWN-UPS ALLOWED!

COME AND JOIN US FOR SOME FESTIVE FUN!

All proceeds to Friends of Slip End Lower School (Registered Charity Number 1027097)



Friend of Slip End Lower School, FoSELS is kept going with the support of parents and friends who work to raise extra funds and add some fun and entertainment for the children. This year we have held an Auction of Promises, the Summer Family Fun Day and are busy planning the Christmas Fayre. All of these take lots of organising and the job of chairing the group is an important one, which has been held by James Fotheringham for the past year.

Both James and his wife Rachel have been huge supporters of FoSELS and the school, as James is also a school governor, and it's very sad news for us that they will shortly be leaving to start a new life in New Zealand. It is also typical of the Fotheringham's generosity that they are donating 10% from their house contents sale to FoSELS to benefit the school. I'm sure both the school and parents will join me in thanking them for this incredibly generous offer, as well as the valuable contribution they have made to Slip End Lower School. We wish them every happiness and success for the future.

We are also pleased to announce that Alexa McPherson is stepping into the role of chairperson for FoSELS. This is very good news for FoSELS and we look forward to a new year with Alexa at the helm. This does leave us with reduced numbers and we could use some fresh faces and support for FoSELS in 2006. If you feel you could get involved and help with the 3 or 4 events we organise annually then please let us know. Catch Alexa or another FoSEL in the playground or look out for details of our next meeting.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre takes place on 10th December in the school hall. There will be plenty of stalls plus face painting, Santa's Grotto and refreshments to enjoy. If you would

like to donate a raffle prize then please pop it in at the office or if you can spare some time to help with set up, man a stall or tidy up after then please let us know. The fun starts at 1pm and goes on until 3pm, so come along and support the school, as well as have some fun.

Supermarket Vouchers

A big thank you to everyone who collected Tesco and Sainsbury vouchers this year, especially those of you who don't have children at the school but made sure we got your vouchers just the same.

We received lots of vouchers which were exchanged for sports equipment and computer software. This makes a big difference, as using vouchers for these items means we can spend money from fund raising on other things the school needs.

Miss Peppiatt ordered lots of new sports equipment including balance boards, croquet sets, hoops, lots of different balls for games, bean bags, ankle skips, swimming floats and a water basketball goal. The list goes on but this gives you an idea of some of the great new items the children will get to enjoy.

Tesco vouchers were exchanged for a selection of software that will help the children with Maths and English, as well as some stories and games to play. All the children benefit from these schemes, so please do keep collecting whenever there is a schools promotion at your supermarket and thanks again for your generosity.

End of Term

20th December is the last day of term but the children have a lot happening this month as they'll be enjoying their class Christmas parties on the 19th, as well as the school Christmas play and a theatre group performance during the month as well. We look forward to sharing more news with you in the New Year, so Merry Christmas to you all and see you at the Christmas Fayre!

Sandra Collins

Services & Events in December

Midweek Communion take place monthly at two venues in Slip End, details from Joy.

Sunday 4 th	10:30am	Christingle Service
	6:15pm	3:16 meet in the Family room
Thursday 8 th	8.00pm	Footsteps meet
Saturday 10 th	1.00pm	School Christmas Fayre
Sunday 11 th	10:30am	Advent Morning Praise
	3.00pm	Carol Service for the Bereaved
Wed 14 th	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family room
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Nativity Play
	2.00pm	St Andrew's Ramblers meet at the church, 2.00 pm
	3.00pm	Carol Service at East Hyde
	6.00pm	Carols by candlelight
Thursday 22nd	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family room
Friday 23 rd	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Saturday 24 th	11.15pm	First Communion of Christmas
Sunday 25 th	9.15am	Christmas Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Christmas Celebration



Then later in the month it was great to have the Right Reverend Richard Inward, Bishop of Bedford. Bishop Richard is fairly new in the job and is visiting all the parishes on his patch. He is seen in the picture below as he chats with Mary Barker about her work with the youngsters in the Parish.

During November we were pleased to welcome some distinguished visitors: on Remembrance Sunday we gathered with our local councillors, friends and neighbours around the War memorials in church to solemnly remember the local men who fell during two world wars. Wreaths were laid at the Memorials on behalf of our Parish Council and St Andrew's. Many of our youngsters paraded in uniform, with their flags and it was good to learn a few details about the individuals listed on the Memorials. If you wish to know more take a look at www.bfhs.org.



Services & Events in January

Midweek Communion take place monthly at two venues in Slip End, details from Joy.

Sunday 1 st	10:30 am	New Year Family Communion
Thursday 5 th	8.00 pm	<i>Footsteps</i> meet in the Family Room
Sunday 8 th	10.30 am	Morning Praise
	6.15 pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Tuesday 10 th	7.30 pm	Alpha course at the Vicarage
Wednesday 11 th	10.30 am	Pram service in the Family room
Sunday 15 th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
	2.00 pm	St Andrews ramblers meet at the church, 2.00pm.
Tuesday 17 th	7.30 pm	Alpha course at the Vicarage
Thursday 19 th	8.00 pm	<i>Footsteps</i> meet
Sunday 22 nd	9:15 am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, East Hyde
	10:30 am	Morning Praise
	6.15 pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Tuesday 24 th	7.30 pm	Alpha course at the Vicarage
Wednesday 25 th	10.30 am	Pram service in the Family room
Friday 27 th	2:30 pm	Woodside Home service
Sunday 29 th	10:30 am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 31 st	7.30 pm	Alpha course at the Vicarage

Christmas Tree Festival

*All Saints Church Caddington
Friday 9th, Saturday 10th
& Sunday 11th December*

The theme for our tree is "**Homemade**". We especially want the children to participate although everyone will be welcome to help. After the Festival our tree will be put up at St Andrews. *Everyone* at St Andrews is kindly asked to contribute, perhaps by sponsorship (any surplus funds will go towards the church roof fund).

Mary Barker

Pram Service

Our Christmas Pram Service is on Wednesday 14th December at 10.30 in the Family Room (warm & cosy!) at St Andrew's.

All Mums and Tots are welcome to join us for a fun time.

Family Service get-togethers restart after Christmas on Wednesday 11th January.

Carol Service for the Bereaved

On Sunday December 11th at 3.00pm in St Andrew's, we will be holding a Carol Service for the bereaved.

All are welcome, but it is especially appropriate for those who wish to remember a lost loved one before Christmas. There will be a time of remembrance when names will be read out in the service, (all names on paper in advance to Joy please). Refreshments will be served afterwards and there will be literature available. There will also be people to talk and pray with after the service.



WINTER WARMERS

WINTER FUEL payments for 2005 for those who qualify will be £200 per household and an extra £100 where someone is over 80.

For this year only, two additional Age-Related Payments are available. One is aimed at subsidising Council Tax in households with someone over the age of 65, and the other is a £50 one-off payment to the over 70's.

A guide explaining the payments and eligibility can be picked up from your local Pension Service Office.

HOW TO BEAT THE TELEPHONE CHEATS

TV Licences are free for homes where someone over 75 is resident. If you qualify you will receive a form asking you to call an 0845 number. Renewal notices are liberally sprinkled with 0870 numbers. If you use either of these numbers, you will be charged 3p a minute (daytime) on 0845 and 7.5p a minute for 0870. These charges escalate if you call from a mobile or use a cable service!

Most of us will know that the national call rate was abolished several years ago, so 0870 are charged at premium rate! There is a website called www.saynoto0870.com which is devoted to beating premium rate rip off merchants at their own game. If you want to call any company that is hiding behind one of these not-so-free numbers, all you have to do is type the company name in the website's search box and up come any available alternative 0800 telephone numbers which are truly free.

To get the free numbers for TV licences, type "TV licensing" in the search box. For anybody without internet access, the alternative free numbers for TV Licensing are: 0800 551 550 (for 0870 242 4567) and 0800 328 2020 (for 0870 241 6468 or 0845 603 6999) You may have to hang on and listen to the music until an advisor is free, but that might be a price worth paying.

FANCY A TWIRL?



Did you know that regular Dances are held in the Village Hall? On Saturdays, once a month there's a lively session including a live band .

The dates for 2005 appear in the Diary section at the back of Parish News. We dance to a live band, all dance styles included to suit everyone. Cost is just £5, *which includes a plated buffet!* B-Y-O dinks for an enjoyable night out at modest cost. Call Shirley Knapton on 412506 beforehand so that catering arrangements can be made.

And on New Year's Eve we are holding our ...

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Just £10 for this extra-special event!
Call Shirley on 412506

SBDC PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Any Comments on these applications should be sent to South Beds District Council planning department by Monday, 5 December, 2005.

Reference TP/05/1157

Erection of new single story dwelling.
Foxbury Stables
Woodside Road
Ms S. D. Rattenbury

Reference TP/05/1133

Erection of replacement storage barn.
Builders Yard
90 Front Street
Slip End
Paul Lambert & Associates Limited

I would like to thank all our members for their support throughout the year and not forgetting our committee for all their hard work.

Our Christmas Dinner is on 12th December. Our last meeting in 2005 is on 8th December then we restart in the New Year on Thursday 12th January, meeting every other week for a while on 26th January, February 9th and 23rd before resuming our regular weekly get-togethers.

Fun Day Out in February!

Not one of the brightest, most active of months but this year we are planning to go to a special event to help clear those mid-winter blues.

This is the annual Senior Citizen's Celebration in Harrow to be held on Sunday 5th February. We have not been to this event before, which is organized by the Lions International organization in this area.



By all accounts this is a very popular afternoon out and 1000 guests are expected! We are promised three hours of fun: there will be a band, an Olde-Tyme Music Hall, Comedy and Songs, plus Bingo, food and refreshments.

The Grace Cook Trust has kindly donated funds for a coach to get us there, so if you want a seat speak to Viv Porter. All Senior Citizens are welcome, whether or not Friendship Club members. So call Viv on 720392 asap as coach space will be limited.

Best Wishes to you all

Finally, may I wish you all a very merry and happy Christmas and a happy New Year!

Pam King

It has been a while since we have contributed to the Parish Magazine and I hope this will be the start of regular reports. The Group is growing steadily and there is a lot going on which may interest readers.

Our Beaver Colony have been very busy, attending some exciting and stimulating activities away from their usual Friday evening meetings.



In October, they visited Lea Scout Group in Luton for a drumming workshop., where they played drums, shakers and even didgeridoos. By all accounts it was incredibly noisy! In September they visited Dunstable Downs Activity Centre for a guided walk and “bug hunt”. Many species of bugs, spiders, slugs and snails were collected in jars provided by the centre. Staff at The Centre explained how many of the creepy-crawlies were special to the Down’s chalky environment.

Well done to Alex Neeson and Sam Perry who, with leaders and parents, raised £180 in a sponsored walk in the grounds of Woburn Abbey. The money is destined for a local hospice charity.

Things have been a bit quieter in Cubs this term after a busy summer. Activities included a visit to Greenwich Maritime Museum, a weekend at Tolmers Campsite and the annual Lea Valley District Fun Day, which was held at Slip End Playing Field this year. This brought together Cubs and Beavers from all

the District's groups and they were entertained with rope bridges, orienteering, campfire cooking and lots of craft activities. The undoubted highlight was the portable climbing tower, which had a queue of eager climbers for most of the day.

The Cub pack, which is once again thriving, already has girls in its section and more would be welcome in both Beavers and Cubs. It is now national policy to welcome girls into scouting.

The Group's aim is to re-establish a viable Scout section. In my experience, boys having reached cub leaving age, would welcome the opportunity to continue their scouting. If anyone is out there with scouting experience or a parent who would like to give it a go, there is excellent training available. On the subject of training, we have to thank Air Parks who have made a generous donation to assist in the training costs of our leaders and helpers.

For more information about scouting in Slip End, please contact me at the numbers below.

Mike Hockey
Group Scout Leader
0158214157 mhp@nildram.co.uk

Slip End Scout Group is a Member of the Lea Valley district of Bedfordshire Scouts



Editor's note: Thanks for the item, Mike, it is great to hear that the Scout Group is thriving! We look forward to including their news and exploits in future issues. Our pages are open for contributions from local groups and individuals, so you have something to say or have any items which would be of local interest, do not hesitate to get in touch: contacts are listed on page 22.



House to Let in Slip End

2 double bedrooms, lounge-diner, kitchen, conservatory, parking. The house is tastefully decorated and is very close to the M1 junction 9 and close to train station.

£675 per calendar month

Unfurnished - Available Now

Call Laura Moxham on 07932078816

AMELIA & LORRAINE'S FINAL TRAVELS

After leaving Australia Amelia & Lorraine have now visited Bali, Lombok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangkok, Dubai, and many more places beside. From Dubai they travelled to Nairobi and joined an Overland Safari tour through Masai villages, the Serengeti National Park, Zanzibar, Dar Es Salaam, then onto Zambia and finishing at the Victoria Falls.

They have seen some wonderful sights and will, no doubt have many tales to tell for years to come. By reading the postcards and emails they have loved all the new adventures; learning to dive in the Perhetian Islands; feeding elephants at a sanctuary in Kuala Lumpur; visiting the devastation caused by the Tsunami and writing their names on bricks to be used in the rebuilding of the Big Buddha on Samui. Amelia and Lorraine have travelled by tuk tuk to Lumpini Park in Bangkok to watch Tai Chi being performed and visited the Grand Palace, Chinatown and up and down the Khao San Road. Dubai was very expensive when you are travelling on a budget and they certainly couldn't afford the only 7* hotel in the world called Burj Al Arab, set on an island and which can be seen from Space! In Africa they saw the amazing Masai Mara people and watched as they performed their amazing high jumps from standstill and befriended the little children.

At the Etosha National Park they saw lots of rhinos, elephants, giraffes and lions and watched all the animals going to the huge wa-



tering hole beside their camp at sunset. They have played with three tame cheetahs and fed wild ones from the back of a truck.



They have loved it all and made many new friends, even some from Luton! What will they do when they get back to compete with their wonderful experiences? The girls are now staying in Cape Town for their final few weeks. They have been whale watching and to the Cape of Good Hope with its towering green mountains and stunning long winding roads beside the sea. Just over one week to go and what a shame it has to end, but I am sure they will always remember their fantastic journey around the globe!

Sue Cowell



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The shoebox campaign will be almost finished by the time this report goes out and with our prayers being answered with the loan of a warehouse in Dunstable we were able to commence work on November 14th.

We were not sure how many people would turn up on the first day but we were blessed with a wonderful group of volunteers who arrived smiling and cheerful and prepared to help check and seal the boxes and get them ready for the lorry to collect them. Our first boxes are going to be flown to Kiev in the Ukraine, where there is still great poverty and hardship. Then providing we get enough boxes, the second lorry will be taking shoeboxes to the Crimea and hopefully the boxes will arrive in time to give the needy children something to smile about this Christmas.



It has been hard work but very rewarding. Some of the volunteers were able to meet up with friends they had made the previous year and catch up with news.

I have lost count of the number of certificates that have been written and Tony and Teresa have worked tirelessly sorting the collections, deliveries and the warehouse. We have had visitors from churches, schools and just individuals wanting to see the warehouse in action.



The children especially have been very interested in some of the photos around the unit showing where the previous shoeboxes have gone and the delight in the faces of the children who receive them. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and given up their time and to anyone who has donated a shoebox. We hope the children who receive them will know they are thought of, and enjoy their 'love in a box' this Christmas.

Sue Cowell

December

- 3rd *Christmas Bazaar at Caddington Hall*
- 3rd *Dance at the Village Hall*
- 5th *Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall at 8pm*
- 10th *Slip End School: Christmas Fayre, 1 to 3pm*
- 13th *Women's Institute: "Close Harmony", Choral Entertainment*
- 14th *Brownies: last session before the Christmas break*
- 19th *Slip End School: Class Christmas Parties*
- 20th *End of Term, Slip End School*
- 31st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*



January

- 4th *Brownies resume after the Christmas break*
- 21st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

February

- 5th *Lions International: Senior Citizens Celebration*
- 11th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

March

- 11th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
- 25th *Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109*

April

- 1st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

May

- 6th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

June

- 10th *Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109*
- 24th *Open Gardens Day: 11am to 5pm*

The Parish News team look forward to a breather over the Christmas & New Year and in previous years we have resumed publication in February, which makes a long gap. Plans are to publish Parish News in mid January 2006, then resuming normal the normal monthly cycle in March. **So would contributors please send in items to PN for the January issue during the first week or so of that month.**

If you have something interesting to report about village activities, photos, holiday adventures, etc..., please contact us. Articles should be sent by the 15th of the month before publication to: Sue Cowell 83 The Crescent, Caddington; parishnews@slipend.co.uk or David Kingston 7 Crawley Close, Slip End davidgoodmankington@hotmail.com. Delivery enquiries to Brian Church 2 Summer Street on 458443. Advertising enquiries to Steve Lyons, on 414162 SteveSueLyons@aol.com

Our youngsters are again looking forward to Father Christmas' visit this month.



New arrival: I am pleased to announce the safe arrival of Thomas Bernard Cowell, my first grandson, born on November 17th a month early, weighing in at 5lbs 8oz. At home now with Helen and Daniel after a few early problems, wishing them all every happiness.

Sue Cowell

