

# SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2006

50P  
WHERE SOLD



## *Harvest Festival Time*

*Reverend Julia Dowding from Aley Green Methodist Church in front of just some of the Harvest gifts that were taken along to the Church for Harvest Festival on September 10th. There was a special collection that day for Water Aid and the congregation were told about the difficulties and challenges that countries like Ethiopia face. A collection was taken on the day and Harvest Action raised over £250 towards this very worthy charity.*

# The Parish @ Large

## SCHOOLS

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

## SPORT

*Bowling Club: 412506  
Tennis: 733253  
Darts League: 425323  
Football: 418494  
Cricket: 414157*

## HALLS

*Village Hall: 723109  
Peter Edwards Hall: 455185*

## COMMUNITY

*Brownies: 723109  
Beavers: 725297  
Cubs: 414157  
Fly Tipping (SBDC): 472222  
Friendship Club: 452978  
Slip End Assoc: 414796  
Mother's Union: 738435  
Playgroup: 728865  
Toddler Group 405931  
Allotments: 736892  
FoSELS (PTA):  
*alex.mcpherson@btinternet.com*  
Women's Institute: 421034  
Police: 473412  
Aircraft noise: 395382  
Fly tipping: 01582 474031*

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

*Christine Benson: 456200  
*Christinebenson@bensons-autosupplies.co.uk*  
Stephen Fuell: 417792  
*stevefuell@f2s.com*  
Philip Penman: 455185  
*PhilipPenman@aol.com*  
Geoff Daniel: 424363  
*Geoff@daniel67.freeserve.co.uk*  
Ken Crossett 414168  
*kencrossett@slipend.co.uk*  
Mike McKevitt: 720596  
*mike.mckevitt@mndassociation.org*  
Janet Crawley: 07752 902070  
*crawley\_janet@yahoo.co.uk*  
CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Nikkie West: 402312  
*parishclerk@slipend.co.uk**

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

*Margaret Moran: 01582 731882*

## CHURCHES

### **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  
Monday to Friday 6.30 to 21.00 Saturday 7.00 to 21.00 - Sunday 7.30 to 21.00  
Garage: Slip End Garage, Markyate Road, telephone 456888*

**Website: [slipend.co.uk](http://slipend.co.uk)**

## **GREAT SOUTH RUNNERS ...**

Two locals will be joining thousands of others for Great South Run on 22nd October, Katrina Doubleday, who lives in Pepperstock and Mike McKevitt, a Crawley Close resident.

They are training hard for the 10 mile run in Portsmouth. You may have seen them on training runs around the village. About 18000 take part, some run to beat their personal best time and others for fun and in order to raise money for charity.

Katrina's partner, Phil was treated by the Royal Marsden Hospital (a specialist hospital for treatment of cancer) last year, where treatment, care and facilities are excellent. They are so very grateful to the staff and they want to raise as much money for the hospital as they can.



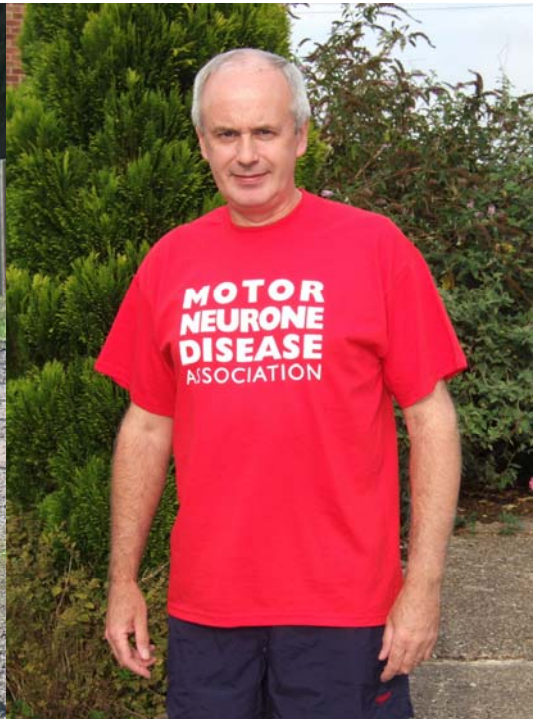
Katrina would be grateful for your sponsorship. Call her on 01582 429106 or 07753 168443 or [hatsbydoo@btinternet.com](mailto:hatsbydoo@btinternet.com).

Mike is running in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and he is seen posing below in a rather more static posture than Katrina, who is seen on a more serious training outing!

Mike, who is employed by the MNDA is running with several of his colleagues and they too are in serious training for the event. If you wish to sponsor him, the best way is to go to his website,

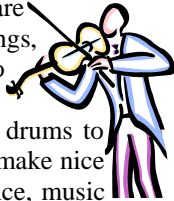
[www.justgiving.com/mikemckevitt](http://www.justgiving.com/mikemckevitt) or call Mike on 01582 720596.

*Parish News wishes them luck and success in their efforts to raise funds for these deserving charities and look forward to their news and pictures about their efforts on 22nd.*



On Saturday October 7th the Dunstable Music Centre is having an Open Day. If you have thought about possibly joining a music group then think no more. Come along and see what is on offer.

We meet from 9:15 a.m. until noon. The morning is split into four sessions with a break in the middle. We promote playing music in groups. If you come along you can wander in and out of rooms seeing a whole range of different instruments and styles. There are things you blow, from recorders to trumpets to saxophones and bigger. There are things with strings, from violins to guitars and even ukuleles. There are things you hit, from drums to cymbals to wooden things that make nice noises. There is also junior dance, music theory, folk music and beginners music.



It will cost you nothing to look round and you may find a new hobby. We are based on the Manshead site where parking is very easy. You can even buy a cup of coffee in our canteen from 10:30 to 11:00.

*Peter Smith*

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Les Rackley, younger brother of Elsie Freeman. Les' funeral was held at Aley Green Church on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> September. The Church was full of people, harvest gifts and flowers – this was very appropriate as Les was a great gardener and always gave us fruit and vegetables to decorate the Church for Harvest.

In July the NCH envelopes left in the Church pews raised over £100. Thank you to everyone who came to our NCH produce stall at the Caddington allotments. £100.20 was raised.

Our Church produce stall at the Houghton Regis Medieval Fayre raised £220 towards our heating fund. We left the Fayre with only two jars of chutney and six jars of jam. Now we must restock! Once again we would like to thank all those kind people who have donated fruit and vegetables to our preserve team. So far this year the preserve sales have raised over £1200 towards the running of our Church. Please keep dropping off jam jars on my door step. The sales of jellies have been going particularly well and we are desperate for small jars, baby food jars are a good size for jellies so mums out there, please help recycle them by leaving them at 45 Manor Road, Caddington.

The Harvest Festival was well attended by adults and children, and the Harvest Action raised £250 for Water Aid.

The Sunday School re-opened after the summer break and we welcomed three new children. Our ecumenical fellowship meetings are ongoing. If you would like to join us please ring Mike Bull for the date on 726630.

The Autumn Fayre this year is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 2.30pm onwards. All the usual stalls plus afternoon teas. Come along and enjoy all the fun of the Fayre. The October coffee evening will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> from 7.30pm. Christmas cards and cards for all occasions will be on sale.

*Ann Meader*

**TABLE TOP SALE**

**Village Hall**  
**Saturday November 11th**  
**10am to 1pm**

Stalls £4 each.

*If you would like one to get rid of all those unwanted things and make some money for yourself, call Gillian on 723109.*



*Claydown Way residents Alison & Mervyn Wilson recently celebrated their Silver Wedding with a Party in the Village Hall. Merv's wedding day expression appears to be reflecting a little nervousness, but the picture (right) indicates that all is well after 25 years!*



*On this month's Harvest Theme, Valerie Church, who lives in Summer Street and is a keen allotment holder, proudly shows off her pumpkins. Sadly, she is no longer allowed to enter the Caddington Fruit & Vegetable show, having been banned after winning all the silver some years ago when rumours about performance enhancing fertilisers and buns payments to the judges were totally unfounded.*

*And another busy Lady! Ann Meader is the Senior Steward at Aley Green Methodist Church, where she assists the Minister, the Reverend Julia Dowding. Harvest is a very busy time down there, as it is at many churches in the area. Just look at all that produce on the front page!*



### ***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 .

Dates appear on the Diary page of Parish News. We dance to a live band, all styles included to suit everyone. Cost is just £5, which includes a plated buffet! B-Y-O drinks for an enjoyable night out at modest cost.

***Call Shirley on 412506 beforehand so that catering arrangements can be made.***



*Two major matters concern us at the moment. The M1 project rankles on, still in its early days and, if that is not enough, some long term schemings are dripping out relating to potentially huge developments in what is left of our countryside once, if ever, the Highways Agency goes away.*

### ***Pepperstock***

Hopes were that the Pepperstock HA/M1 “borrow-pit” workings will conclude soon, but these hopes are now dashed. It is understood that the one year period of the Pepperstock workings approved by local planning authorities has, unbelievably, ***not yet started!***

The Highways Agency tyrants seem able to make up the rules as they go along and it appears that the concrete re-cycling plant, mountains of waste material and debris, all the heavy lorry movements and wanton destruction of our countryside are unsanctioned by the planning authorities. It has become apparent that not a single shovel-full of borrow-pit material has yet been taken out so, according to the HA, the 12 month clock is not yet ticking. This is beautiful logic if you are on the HA side, but a huge problem for local residents. Applying logic biased towards local residents’ viewpoint, Parish News suggests that, if they have not started and the clock is not yet ticking, ***HA are going about their present mayhem unapproved?***

Information is needed from HA and Contractors “Community Relations” “Teams” about when the first extraction is to be made from this pit of despair. It would be cynical to hypothesise that this might not be until 2010 or so, when the second phase, north of J10, might be underway after the anticipated protracted completion of the first phase. And PN would not suspect conspiratorial dealings between the HA and building developer suits, resulting that this area might *never* be returned to agricultural use, with seamless regression leading to building development.

Do not let this issue take our eyes off another “ball”, namely Church Road. Closed for most of the year now, literally the only sign of re-opening is the figure 8 (months, used to be 6) on the road sign at the point of closure. HA track record is that we will not be informed until say December, that Church Road might be re-opened sometime in 2007-ish, perhaps.

### ***Building Developments***

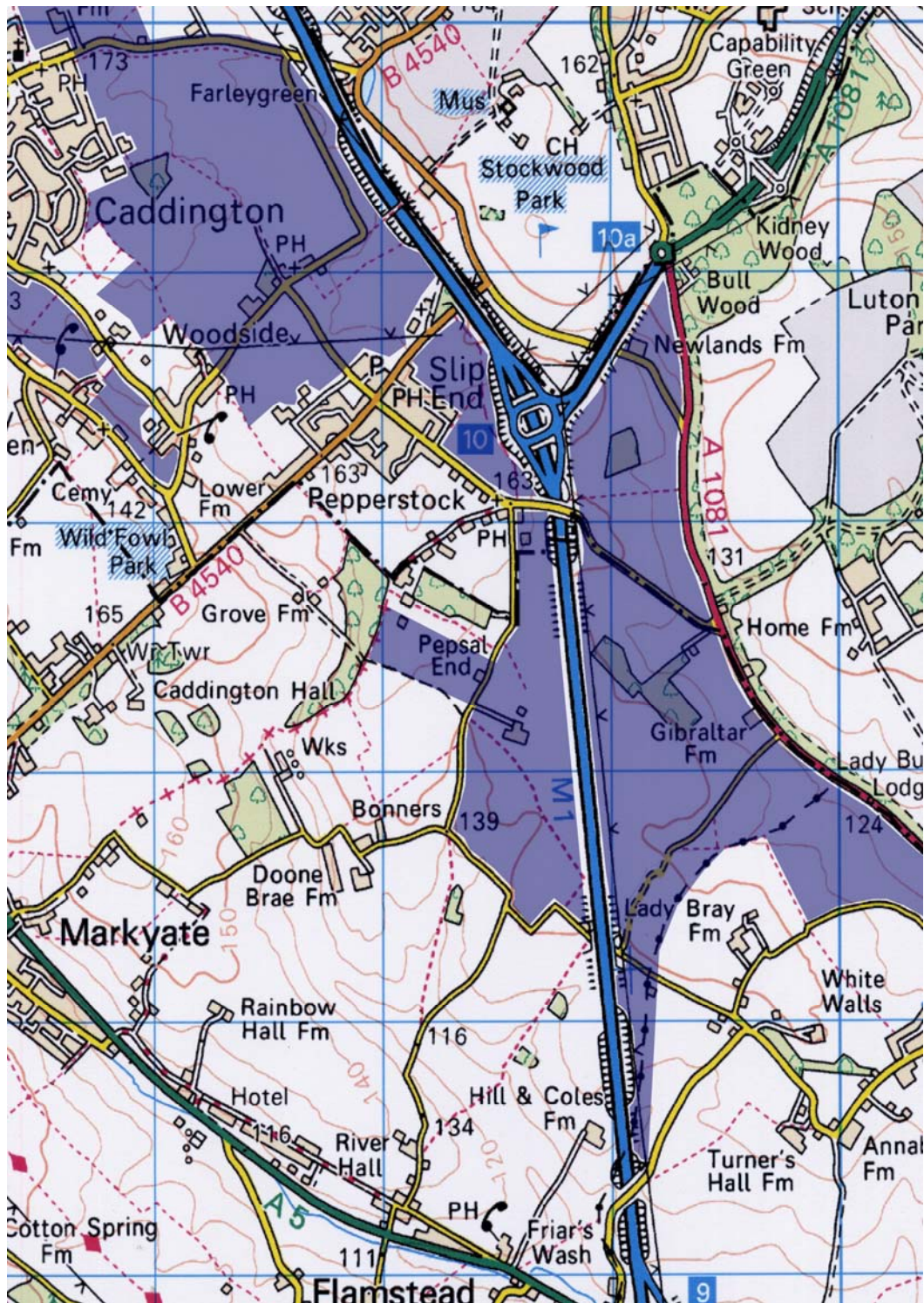
Putting the HA/M1 aside if that is possible, what are all these “development schemings” all about? Government is presently decreeing that many thousands of new homes are needed in the South Midlands, including thousands on our patch. The map opposite shows huge parcels of land have been outlined as possibilities, including many acres in the Slip End area, spreading out to Caddington, Hyde and Kinsbourne Green. What about that then? (NB: Sadly the map is already out of date, but if you imagine the width of the M1 as about double that shown, you will not be too far out.)

At the moment these suggestions are being run up the flagpole and are not yet even “plans”. However, this new does cast many shadows on how thoughts and minds of our governors, might go in the next decade or two. Until specific planning is drafted it is not yet possible to comment in detail but some thoughts may be expressed, you bet.

### ***Green Belt***

For the shaded regions on the map to become areas of building development, there would need to be re-designation of Green Belt land, land which is set aside to protect and maintain countryside and prevent separate communal areas becoming a greater sprawl.

Clearly, if massive developments on the scale suggested here were to go forward, Slip End would become physically joined with Aley Green, Caddington and other areas. So watch out for the Green Belt degradation process swinging into action and oppose if you see fit.



Local discussion has already started and Parish News encourages healthy debate, but we urge some caution. Please keep to the facts as far as they are made known to us, mainly from local councils and central government. As part of this process, it is vital for you get along to council meetings to hear accurate reports and to be as clued up as possible.

Sadly, some mis-informed talk is already going around. Rumour that the Rugby Club is to be moved to the other side of the M1 to allow housing to go up on the present site, are misplaced, at the moment. That is not yet on the agenda. Also, talk of a connection from J10 to Front Street is rubbish! True, as part of the schemings there *might* be an M1 service area or some such, which *might* be accessed from the new J10 roundabout but without connection to Front Street .

### *What's the alternative?*

Fact is that Parish News, along with our local councillors, *is* in favour of reasonable, well planned development, but not on the apocalyptic scale suggested here. For sure, our area could do with much improvement which should come as a result of good planning on a smaller scale which, as time goes on could in fact become quite extensive. Let's face it, our infrastructure is a botched mess at the moment: just to mention a couple of things, we have no doctor's surgery or chemist. And as good and constructive as his recent upgrades are, it would be good to see Anil and Co. set his stall in a modern, purpose built shop.

We at Parish News believe that somewhat smaller areas should be identified well before development and Green Belt re-designated on a progressive rather than wholesale basis. **But be aware that once a Green Belt area is re-designated, there is no going back! Such areas would inevitably be built upon.**

*No doubt all this will run and run: so keep your eyes and ears open to what is going on around you!*



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**SLIP END PARISH COUNCIL.**

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I hope everyone had a nice Summer break. Not a lot has happened during the season. Councillors have decided to set aside 15 minutes at the *start* of Council meetings so that if anyone wants to come to speak on any subject near and dear to them they may do it during that first 15 minutes. If it looks as if it is going to be lengthy, or indeed the subject is already on the Agenda, then it will be dealt with accordingly. This move was done because of a request by residents. It will be tried for 6 months and if there is no interest or takers we will go back to our old system of waiting until the end of the meeting for Agenda item “Matters raised by members of the public”.

### ***Crime Figures***

One can only assume that even the crims have to take a Summer holiday because the crime figures are sparse!

- 3 thefts of motor vehicles
  - 1 theft
  - 1 fraud
  - 1 other crime

### ***Annual Parish Report***

The annual report published in last month’s Parish News went out to every resident in the Parish early in September. Within this report were details of the No Cold Calling Scheme which we have recently signed up to. You may have noticed the signs that have been sited at the entrances to the Parish.

### ***MI Widening***

The Parish Council is arranging for a further meeting with Highways, Balfour Beatty Skanksa and the Dept. of Transport. It may be a meeting held within the Council meeting or it could be another public meeting. Look out for notices.

### ***Police***

The old saying ‘if it works leave it alone’ obviously doesn’t get through to the ‘scrambled egg and gold braid’ fraternity at

Beds Police. Your friendly neighbourhood team is now being resited at Leighton Buzzard. Don’t ask why, only ask whatever they’re on can we have some! Anyway the general idea is: instead of having to schlep back to LB, they, the police are looking for places within the villages that can be utilised. We are looking at a couple of sites and should be contacting the owners of these so that we may pass the request on. However if you know of anywhere that may fit the criteria contact Nikki West.

Hopefully there will be more to report next month.

*Christine Benson  
Chairman, Slip End Parish Council*



*Residents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the Parish Council in the Village Hall, generally on the 1st Monday of each month at 8pm (Although take note that this month the regular date has been re-arranged, see Diary Page.)*

*There are quite a few serious issues at the moment and, if you wish to keep abreast of what is going on or what various authorities have in store for us you can do no better than to attend regularly.*

*The decision to allow local opinions to be voiced at the start of each meeting is welcomed and may encourage those who were put off attending because previously the “forum” was opened towards the end of meetings.*

### *The Vegetable Garden in October*

The white hearts of cauliflowers are liable to be damaged by frost, so look over the bed occasionally and bend some of the outer leaves over any hearts that are forming. This will give them all the protection they need.

Plant as many as possible of spring cabbages, if these were sown from seeds. Lift and store a good supply of turnips if they are of a reasonable size in a frost proof place for the winter; cut the tops off first.

### *Flower & Fruit Garden*

Deciduous shrubs can be planted or shifted to other quarters. New roses can also be planted, as soon as you are able to clear beds of their temporary summer occupants. Lose no time in planting out spring flowers.

At this time it is wise to complete the gathering of all apples and pears: don't let them hang once the weather gets really wintry.

### *General Work*

October is a good time to use such slow acting fertilizers such as basic slag. Gather all leaves and put into a compost bin, burn them or put in your "Green Bin". Turf and repair lawns.

### *A Green Allotment*

***Jo and Glen, a remarkable mother and daughter team, took over one of the vacant Slip End allotments this year and, if you look at it now, you can only wonder at how hard and effectively they have worked.***

Gluttons for punishment, they have now taken on a second allotment which has been neglected for several years.

Unlike some of us, who look for almost anything which will reduce our labour input, these two are seriously 'organic'! Amongst other things, they grow 'love-in-a-mist' next to the carrots to repel carrot fly, spray the brassica seedlings with a garlic solution to keep off the cabbage-white caterpillars and

water on a particularly noxious solution of nettle extract as a fertiliser. The results are impressive! So, if you want to go 'green', there are experts to advise!

### *Harvest Days are here again!*



It has been a fantastic season for tomatoes and Jo and Glen are seen busy picking their crop. To be honest there has been quite a glut, so the ladies are busy in the Kitchen preserving the surplus. Some of Glen's favourite dishes come from Italy where their cuisine has many and wonderful ways with tomatoes!

***If you fancy some healthy exercise with the reward of harvesting your own fresh fruit and vegetables, there are some vacant allotments and we will be glad to have your company. This is a good time of year to start and prepare the ground, so have a word with Derek Worsley (56 Front Street) and he'll sort you out!***

# Brownies

We shall be holding an open evening at the Village Hall on Wednesday October 15th from 6.15- 7.15pm, for any girls who are coming up to 6.5 years of age, to come along and see what we do, and hopefully want to join us.

*Gillian Plummer  
(Brown Owl)*

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## **NOAH - AN UPDATE**

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In the year of our Lord 2006, the Lord came unto Noah, now living in England and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the CAD drawings saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will command a rain deluge lasting 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard, but no Ark.

"Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site even though in my view it is a temporary structure. The Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the

sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it. Getting the wood was a problem. All decent trees have Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls, but no go! When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will, arguing that the accommodation was too restrictive and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space. Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they had conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many BMEs I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons, insisting I use only CSCS accredited workers with Ark-building experience. To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

Forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The Highways Agency and the ODPM beat me to it."



**DIARY:** *If you would like your events included, please contact the Editor*

**October**

- 2nd *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*  
7th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*  
7th *Dunstable Music Centre Open Day 9:15 to 12 noon*  
7th *Aley Green Methodist Church: Autumn Fayre*  
7th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*  
17th *Caddington WI: Talk on Save the Children Fund & Christmas Sale*  
26th *Aley Green Methodist Church: Cake & Produce Stall Houghton Regis Farmers Market*  
28th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

**November**

- 4th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am - 12noon*  
6th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*  
11th *Table Top Sale - Village Hall 10am to 1pm*  
18th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*  
21st *Caddington WI: Glass Jewellery Demonstration - John Smallwood*  
21st **HIGHWAYS AGENCY - CHURCH ROAD RE-OPENING maybe....**  
26th *Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109*

**December**

- 2nd *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*  
4th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*  
2nd *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*  
19th *Caddington WI: Music Night*  
31st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

<p><b>BINGO</b> Village Hall Thursdays at Eight Slip End &amp; District Association</p>
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***If you are a new reader and would like a copy of Parish News each month, please contact Brian Church 2 Summer Street 458443, churchbrn2@aol.com.***

Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holiday adventures, etc? Please contact us, letters and e-mails are very much encouraged. Views expressed by our contributors are not the editors own. **Articles should be sent by the 15th of the month before publication to: Sue Briggs at 83 The Crescent, Caddington, email: parishnews@slipend.co.uk or David Kingston 7 Crawley Close, Slip End, davidgoodmankingston@hotmail.com.**

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01582 861186 (Mon - Fri 9-4)  
01582 414162 (evenings & weekends)  
SteveSueLyons@aol.com

## Our latest 'Married Couples'



Gayle Willson and Ben Storey married on August 5th followed by a blessing at St Andrew's.



Suzie Bolster, daughter of Reverend David & Mary Bolster, married Rob on September 2nd in Preston.



Michael Barker married Georgina Muskett at All Saints Church in Houghton Regis on September 2nd.