

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

AUGUST 2006

50P
WHERE SOLD



Open Gardens Heroes!

Having spent all day welcoming visitors to their garden in Front Street, Rosemary Wickens (centre) with her team, Marian Miller (left) & Dawn Clark (right) are seen dishing up the sweet at the BBQ later in the evening. With additional help from husband Steve, Rosemary and her team laid all this on for those intrepid souls who had opened their gardens that day.

For endeavour above and beyond the call of Open Garden Duty, Rosemary, Marian & Dawn are awarded the Parish News "Heroes of the Month" award!



The Parish @ Large

SCHOOLS

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

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: 720392
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: 471212
Aircraft noise: 395382

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Christine Benson: 456200
Christinebenson@bensons-autosupplies.co.uk
Stephen Fuell: 417792
stevefuell@j2s.com
Philip Penman: 455185
PhilipPenman@aol.com
Geoff Daniel: 424363
Geoff@daniel67.freerve.co.uk
Ken Crossett 414168
kencrossett@slipend.co.uk
Mike McKevitt: 720596
mike.mckevitt@mndassociation.org

Clerk to the Parish Council - David Haste:
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Davidhaste7@aol.com

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

CHURCHES

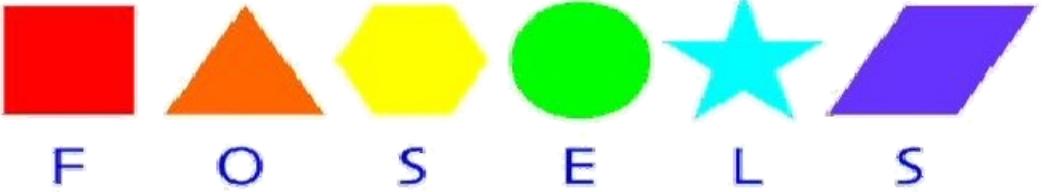
St Andrew's Church
Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363
Wardens: David Kingston 416138
Ken Crossett 414168

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



Bonjour! By the time Parish News hits your doormat, school will have closed for the summer holiday. However the last few weeks of term were busy as ever for the children, teachers and parents...

Le Grand <<Fun>> en France!

The annual Year Four trip to France took place at the end of June when 13 children accompanied by teachers Miss Peppiatt and Mrs Bianchi and volunteer Mrs Peppiatt (Miss Peppiatt's brave Mum!) visited the town of Senlis. The following piece has been kindly provided by Miss Peppiatt.

The group set off at 7am on the Monday, making the 10 hour trip to Senlis, a town in the Picardie region of France - approx 1 hour north of Paris. Accommodation was in dormitory style rooms and the children settled in well for their stay, not so sure the adults felt quite the same about the basic comforts!

Next morning they were off into Senlis to experience French markets and the vast local and fresh produce. After this it was on to a local cathedral to sketch the stained glass windows followed by an afternoon visit to Chantilly Gardens and sketch the beautiful scenery.

Wednesday saw a return to the local town, minus the market, to observe the French shops, learn the names and discuss similarities and differences to English shops. The afternoon took them all to Pierrefonds Chateau where they got the chance to view all the magnificent rooms.

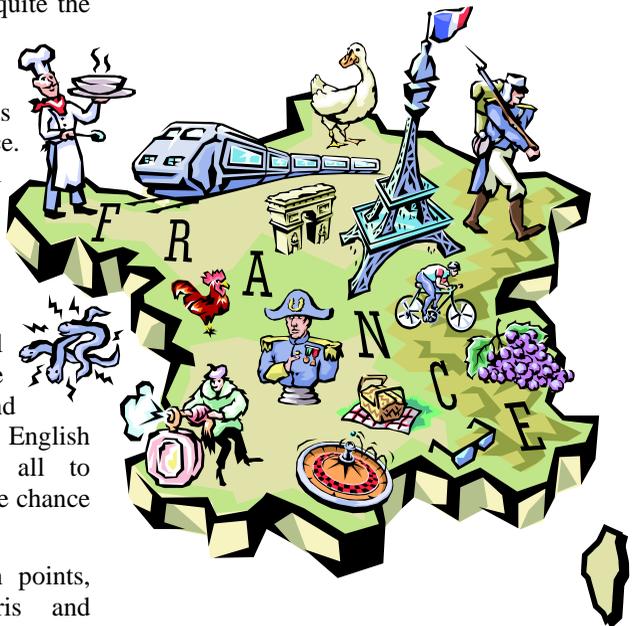
The next day was one of the high points, literally, when they visited Paris and

EVERYONE climbed the 678 steps to second floor of the Eiffel Tower, and then got lift to top to admire the view.

The trip ended with a visit to Vimy Ridge Canadian War Memorial and trenches. Children went in the old German and Canadian trenches and appreciated first hand the close proximity of the two battle lines. Then they wearily travelled home, arriving back at Slip End 7.30 in the evening.

During the trip all <<nos élèves>> developed skills of independence as well as enjoying an great time. For many it was their first time away from home.

It was a pleasure for us adults to watch them flourish in a new environment!



BONNE VACANCES!



Belated Thanks

Last month I thought I had mentioned all the great and good in Slip End who had made donations to the Summer Fair, but unfortunately I did miss a few. So, apologies and a belated thank you to the village shop, Frog and Rhubarb and Social Club for their donations to the event.

Sports Day

Summer sports day is a fixture in the school calendar and this year took on a World Cup flavour. Eleven activity stations were manned by teaching staff and numerous parent/adult helpers who turned up to enjoy the fun. The children were divided into four teams - France, Germany, Italy & Portugal (last 4 teams from the World Cup) and then into eleven groups who worked their way around all the activities.

All children were keen to take part and each activity created healthy competition, whilst being in the comfortable environment of their own peers. There was huge parental support following the progress of their children around the field. Apart from a few minutes drizzle, which thankfully passed, it was a dry afternoon.

Activities included - egg & spoon race, sack race, balance the beanbag on head, hurdles, running race etc. to incorporate all the children's physical skills. In an amazing coincidence, the winning Team was - Italy, and year 4 children from 'Team Italy' paraded trophy around the track.

Mums, Dads and toddlers took part in their own events. Well done and a big Thank You to all who make it possible.

Et finalemnt ...

September will see all the children moving up into their next year, so we wish them all the best and hope they all settle in quickly and enjoy the challenges the new school term will bring.

*Sandra Collins & Emma Peppiatt
Foreign & Sports Correspondents!*



Services & Events in August

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

Saturday 5 th	2.30pm	Wedding in Church, Gayle Willson & Ben Storey
Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 13 th	10.30am 2.30pm	Morning Praise St Andrew's rambblers meet at Church
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23 rd	10.30am	Pram Service - Sports Day & Picnic
Friday 25 th	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 27 th	9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion at East Hyde Morning Praise

Sponsored Walk & Cycle Ride

On Saturday September 9th, a group of us will be walking some 8 miles, to visit churches and chapels in the Luton area. Many churches and chapels will be open that day to welcome those taking part in this "Historic Churches Trust" event day and many will be offering hospitality and refreshments as well as the opportunity to look around and chat to local people.

This annual event is organised to raise funds for repair and restoration of our Historic Churches. There are some wonderful church buildings in the Luton area but it is necessary to step inside and take a look to fully appreciate them. These buildings are an important part of our heritage, whether we are churchgoers or not.

If you would like to join us on the walk, arrange your own walk or cycle ride on that day, or would be pleased to sponsor us per church visited or for the day, please contact me for further information.

*Brian Church
2 Summer Street
☎ 458443*

Pram Service

We will not meet at the regular time from now, until 10.30am on Thursday September 6th, when our normal fortnightly cycle will restart. However, we will be having a morning out at Dunstable Downs, weather permitting (!) on 23rd August. ***If you wish to come along for some fun 'n' fresh air call me on August 22nd for details.***

Mary Barker

Sue and Allan Briggs would like to say a big thank you for all the good wishes, cards and presents they received on their wedding day. "We had a wonderful day and will treasure it always."



The Vegetable Garden in August

When you complete the first early potatoes, make a start on the second early or mid season varieties but only lift a few at a time. Onions sown in January and March will now be approaching ripeness. You can hasten this by bending over the leaves just above the neck of the bulb.

Cover cauliflower heads with leaves to hasten ripening. Make preparations for next year: clear and dig where peas and beans are over, remember to rotate the crops.

Flower & Fruit Garden

Chrysanthemums should now be budded and side shoots rubbed out. Early bulbs for next year should now be planted. Continue to bud fruit and rose stock. Throughout the month remove faded flowers from roses. Pick and summer prune apples and pears.

Back in June we celebrated H.M. the Queen's 80th Birthday. The girls dressed in their finest, Princesses for the evening. Impressively hatted at the back are ladies Gillian Plummer, Sandra Lee-Dell, Barbara Ray and Shirley Knapton. We all enjoyed the party with dancing and lots of good food. We trust Her Majesty enjoyed as fine a time as we had!



Brownies

We have now come to the end of the term and we will be going bowling for the end of term treat. We meet again the first Wednesday in September.

There will be an open evening in October, so that any girl who is coming up to six and a half years old and is interested in joining Brownies, can come along and see what we do.

We shall be losing two girls. Hannah Cross who is going back to Australia. (Hannah's mother Esther is the daughter of Jack Spiers of Newlands Farm). The other girl is Megan Rogers who is going to live in Ireland, we wish them well in their new homes. More girls are welcome to join us, so if you are interested, contact Gillian on 723109 or Barbara on 414796.



More pictures of the Brownies at their HM Queen's Birthday Party. They dressed up in fabulous dresses and sparkly shoes, enjoyed some energetic dancing before tucking into sandwiches, cakes and biscuits.

And below, an earlier "knees-up" in the Village Hall some time ago. The ladies are Thelma Edwards, Shirley Knapton, Floss Mardle, Doris Hogan and Joan Austin.



These two photographs were taken from the same spot although there's about 50 years between them. The M1 has been with us for years and we feel it is here to stay! But we just wonder what the same viewpoint will offer visually in 2056?



PS to Google Earth: how's about pointing your hi-res sat-cam to South Bedfordshire area right now. Word is that, with the Great Wall of China, M1 construction work show as the only other man-made artefact visible from space!

SLIP END TENNIS CLUB

Alison Whittaker and her daughter Hannah are both keen members of Slip End Tennis Club. The Club has an allocation of Wimbledon tickets every year which is an attractive perk of membership. So call Peter Smith on 733253, join the club and get along to Wimbledon next year. Downside is that full reportage is required by PN!



The atmosphere was tense: Nadal's serve. The ball connected on the racquet and landed in the service box. Agassi returned a powerful shot that sent Nadal lunging across the court to get it. But Nadal, just managing to get to the ball, hit a surprisingly long shot that pushed Agassi off court. Agassi moved quickly to get into a good position, but it wasn't enough to stop the ball from landing into the net. Game, set and match! Nadal punched the air in triumph, while Agassi walked up to the net to shake Nadal warmly by the hand. The crowd roared its approval as Agassi and Nadal walked off after being interviewed.

That was to be Agassi's last match at Wimbledon and I will always remember the fact that Agassi got the biggest applause of all the players I saw that day as he is much loved by everyone.

It was a sweltering day so we went and got drinks and cookies from the little stalls they had set up after we had watched Nadal vs Agassi, then went and sat on Henman hill to watch Maria Sharapova play her match. On the way we stopped off at the Wimbledon shop to buy some souvenirs. Then we hurried back to Centre court as we didn't want to miss Andy Murray play his match against Andy Roddick. We sat into our seats just as Maria finished her match.

A couple of minutes later the two Andy's walked on. They started warming up and you could tell all the crowd couldn't wait for them to start playing. As Andy Roddick had won the toss he chose to serve first. He walked to the base line and prepared his serve. WHAM. The ball ricocheted off Roddick's racquet like a bullet from a gun. 142 mph it said on the sign, a smashing serve. Murray was taken aback but soon got to grips with Roddick's almighty serve. The match was tense, but Murray had the upper hand and ended up winning the match. The applause was tremendous. Andy Murray had just beaten the number 3-seeded player. A great achievement.

Overall my day was excellent with one or two gasps and groans along the way but what is tennis without the suspense?

*Hannah Whittaker
Honary PN Tennis Correspondent*



Bedfordshire County Council's Review of the 3 Tier Education System

Sandra Collins has written in expressing her views about the recent debate on the "3 Tier" system

At a meeting of the full Council on Thursday 13th July 2006 Bedfordshire County Council voted by a majority of Councillors to maintain the three tier education system in Bedfordshire. This comes as a great relief to very many parents and residents of this county as we firmly believed a move to the two tier system was not in the best interests of our children. Especially as there is no evidence that actually shows one system produces higher standards than the other.

Although the restructure was proposed to address the issue of improving school performance in the county many of us felt that, although we want to see standards raised, creating massive upheaval by closing Middle schools and changing the system wasn't the way forward. Our education system would have been disrupted for several years and for many of our children, that would mean a huge part of their entire education. Added to this was the massive cost involved and the impact on rural communities where small schools may well have had to close.

The priority now is to look forward and plan how we can raise standards within the classroom and I can only hope that the Council's plans and ideas around this didn't rest with just changing the system. Many good suggestions came out of the public meetings, consultations and discussions with parents and teachers. These included accelerating Key Stage 3 testing, more support for problem pupils and a more pro-active role by the Local Authority in challenging underperformance. I can only hope the Executive Committee and Members Working Party Council will now take on board the views and opinions gathered during the all too brief consultation period and actually listen to what was said. I look forward to seeing what alternatives they have also

looked at, especially as Government funding to improve schools is supposed to be available regardless of the system Bedfordshire adopted.

One thing on which we all agree is that we want our children to have the best education possible. Let's hope we can find a way to make this happen.

Sandra Collins

Please send in your input should you wish to express an opinion regarding this matter, which is vitally important to the future of the local education system.

The Power of One

*One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.*

*One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.*

*One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.*

*One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.*

*One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
Our hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.*

*One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make the difference,
You see, it's up to you!*

Crime figures

The Crime figures for this month are as follows:-

Burglary dwelling	5
Criminal Damage	7
Theft	5
Theft from Motor Vehicles	9
Theft of Motor Vehicles	3

So despite arrests and continued Police presence, the criminals are still out there. Please keep an eye out for wrong doing and please continue to telephone the Police to report crimes.

No Cold Calling Zone

The Parish Council have signed up to the Bedfordshire Bogus Caller Task Force. This means that signs will appear at all the road entrances to the Parish stating that Slip End will be a No Cold Calling Zone. All residents will receive a leaflet explaining what this means and an adhesive label to put in your window. You can expect these leaflets to be delivered by September.

Coronation Gardens

This is due for completion shortly. Due to the hot weather the planting of the flower beds will be put back to the Autumn.

We have noticed recently that more and more untaxed – and probably un-insured and no MOT – cars and vans have been appearing on our streets. As statistics tell us that this type of motor vehicle is possibly being used for criminal purposes we are anxious to rid the Parish of such cars. You are reminded that it is an offence under the Continuous Licensing of Vehicles Act of 2001 not to register your vehicle as the new owner with the DVLA nor to pay Vehicle Excise Duty (Tax Disc). Even if your vehicle is off the road and parked on private property, i.e. your drive or your garden, not the road or grass verges or parking spaces on a road your vehicle must be “SORN’d” Statutory Off Road Notice which can also be applied for at the DVLA. Any untaxed vehicles parked on the public highway can be towed away and scrapped. You do not even have to wait 14 days before reporting such vehicles. You can ring 01582 472222 to report the vehicle: you will need the Reg. No. Make and type and the address of where it is parked.

That’s about it for this month. In September the Parish Report will be incorporated into the Parish News and it will be delivered to every household in the Parish free of charge.

*Christine Benson
Chairman
Slip End Parish Council.*

LAUGHTER

Two drunks staggered past a bus depot and one said, “Let’s steal a bus to get home”. The other peered inside and said, “No, ours is right at the back and we will never get it out!”

A tourist was trying to book a room in a hotel. “Would you like a bath or a shower?” asked the receptionist. Being a bit low with his cash the man asked, “What’s the difference?” The receptionist answered “Well, with a shower you stand up sir!”

At work the secretary received an urgent call from her mother asking her to call her at a public telephone in a supermarket.

Worried that she may have had some kind of an accident, she tried to return the call with no luck. At her wits end she rang the supermarket’s customer service desk and asked them to call her mother via their Tannoy system. “Whatever is the matter?” she asked frantically when her mother arrived at the desk. “Bacon joints,” she replied, “they are half price. Do you want any?”



Here's a brilliant old photograph from Mike Plummer's archive. This happy group, people of all ages from Slip End & Caddington (there about 70 of them) were photographed many years ago while enjoying a day trip to Clacton. This photographer really knew her stuff! The way he managed to arrange this large group, then get tremendous laughs from all (beautiful expressions, there must have been a terrific roar of laughter) then pressed the shutter at exactly the right moment would put our modern telephone-snappers feeble efforts to shame! No legs or heads are chopped, composition and exposure good, the subjects are responding to the photographer's need for a good shot. The print has suffered a little over so many years. Don't you just love these old photographs? Thanks Mike, if there's anymore like this PN would like to see them!

(The note above has been re-generated for PC reasons, yuk!)

NATURE NOTES FROM CRAWLEY CLOSE

Julie Taylor has been in touch, wondering whether anyone else has noticed that there are more birds about? Maybe this is because she had put up a bird feeder in the garden. Mary Barker reckons that it is because the birds have been displaced by M1 work. Also, there was extensive clearance of brambles and bushes in the field between Crawley Close and Pepperstock a couple of months ago. Blue tits have been spotted at Julies bird feeder, the first time she has seen them here! And a woodpecker on the tree outside Mary's house last week.

The RSPB is a good ornithological reference, based at Sandy. They publish a free booklet "Birds in your Garden", crammed with information on how to attract birds to your garden. Send off to the RSPB address below on-line from the RSPB website, itself full of interest.

Lesser-spotted Woodpecker: You can find it in open woods, copses, parkland, gardens and orchards, but it tends to frequent the tops of trees searching for larvae, spiders and wood-boring insects on smaller branches. It is mainly limited to the south with the highest density of population occurring in the south-east of England.



What does it sound like? A soft 'pee pee pee' call. The best time to look for it is in spring when it is active and there are not too many leaves on the trees.

Oh, and there's a fox or two, regular visitors to some of the gardens in Crawley Close!

The RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds
SG19 2DL

Tel: 01767 680551

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Holiday time is here again and the weather has been fine and hot recently, well up to the end of July that is! Use of water hoses is banned. It has to be believed that there is a water shortage, but should there be the need for a ban? As consumers we pay considerably for this essential resource, but expectation is not only one of supply but for reasonable service in return. As shareholders, we expect return on investment. To uphold these principles requires some tricky balancing these days. The water companies are failing us I reckon.

One day just a couple of months ago, one of the major water providers announced to their shareholders record giga-profits: as I recall it was EDF, which stands for <<Electricite de France>>, would you believe, who were trumpeting this good news for us investors.

On that same fine sunny day I was driving up the hill into Kensworth, against a cascading torrent. Traffic was heavy, largely due to the

frantic rushings of water authority vehicles, with yellow lights flashing and divining rods twitching, diligently looking for the source of the giga-leak (water I pay for). Word was that Edlesborough, miles away from Kensworth but downhill as the water flows, was flooded that week by the same BMW.

Co-incidentally that day, our water provider announced, perhaps with some twinges of regret for their consumers, an indefinite ban on the use of hosepipes. Never mind, we'll put up with it, we're British! From a consumer's perspective, would it be unreasonable to expect that rather more of those profits are spent in fixing more leaks?

Postscript: In the last week of July, traffic at the crossroads in Slip End was thrown into yet more chaos (no fault of Highways Authority this time) due to, you've guessed it, a BMW. Yet more of my water was slopping around ... never mind ...

David Kingston



Now here's a fine old house! It was only a few hundred yards from Slip End, who lived there and what was the name of this house?

Saturday 15th July was a beautiful hot day, hand picked for roaming around the area looking around other people's gardens. Around 100 visitors did just that and more! There is a sense of inquisitive intrigue in all of us to just step away from the streets we know so well to glimpse some more personal domains, our back gardens. Visitors were impressed by the sheer size of long established gardens and several on show fell into that category. Carole & John Hazelwood's garden in Woodside, Joan Duncombe's in Summer Street and John & Louise Carman's in Markyate Road, all big but beautifully presented reflecting many hours spent by these people in their dedicated efforts. Results are truly spectacular!

Not all were on such large proportions: the gardens of Christine & Howard Benson and Marian & David Kingston show what can be done in far less space and with, it has to be said, proportionally less effort! Similarly, Susan & Mike McKevitt's garden at the end of Crawley Close included an interesting array of garden furniture biased towards children's activities but including Mike's famous shed!

Rosemary & Steve Wickens garden in Front Steet is very neat and tidy with many spectacular blooms and Rob Sweatman's garden is home to a kind of "macro-community" along Church Road, where fences between neighbouring gardens have been done away with!

Last but not least, "The Old Bakery", the garden of Valerie & Brian Church in Summer Street. With it's nooks, crannies and courtyard, it was as attractive as ever. Cream Teas and a pally welcome from the resident old baker himself completed the scene!

People came from far and wide, not just to see gardens but to chat and sup. And it provided unique opportunity for the less knowledgeable to pick the brains of those who have so many horticultural skills!

Perhaps you missed it? Hard luck, but hopes are that it will happen again as the track record is for this event to be held every couple of years. *And a request: the park home areas in Woodside and Pepperstock have many lovely gardens. Perhaps some of the residents there could find some way to get together and join in the event next time?*

An event like this would not be complete without a panic or ten: let this anecdote, from the old baker's wife suffice as an example ...

"Cast your bread upon the water"

Two days before we opened our garden, with everything almost in good order apart from last minute panics, we had just that! The small water garden, constructed inside half a beer barrel, blew a gasket: the plastic liner split and the water flooded our little courtyard. So the old liner had to be removed, complete with significant 'gunge', and a new liner stapled in, with the planting updated.

The bonus was finding in the 'gunge' a pair of stainless steel kitchen scissors, as good as new, and spectacles which had gone missing for at least 2 years! The latter also perfect for use, the plastic frames having an elegant green fleck which might be seen as a distinct improvement on their pristine state!

Our pondlet has now been stocked with four fish: 'Hide & Seek' and 'Lost & Found'.



Problem with all this gardening is that it gives you such a thirst!

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2:00 - 3:00 BELL RINGING DEMONSTRATION

&

2:30 & 3:30 PUNCH & JUDY SHOW - IN THE CHURCH YARD

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 10:30 - 5:00

**2:30 & 3:30 PM - FOLK DANCING BY ENGLISH MISCELLANY
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Women's
Institute

A big thank you to Sue for another of her yearly mystery trips. This year we visited Chicheley Hall in Milton Keynes, set in 70 acres of beautiful scenery sporting a lake. Sir John and Lady Nutting are the owners and it is open for weddings, outdoor events, etc. On the way

back we stopped at Woughton Village Public house 'The Old Swan' for refreshments.

Mrs Joan Curran stepped in at literally the last minute to be our July speaker. Joan is the secretary of Dunstable History Society and she certainly knew her subject i.e. The Priory House Dunstable means "Market by the Downs". The house was first used as a guesthouse for travellers but in 1545 Robert Crawley, Doctor of Physics bought the deeds. When he died in 1694 he left 'Mansion House'

to his wife and it finished up with his grandson Thomas, also a doctor who was interested in lunacy. He doubled the size of the house and set up an Asylum. On his death in 1752 his cousin, a vicar in Great Parslow inherited it, moving the patients to other hospitals and selling it off. It kept changing hands until the Munt family bought it and turned it into a hat factory. This was demolished in 1907. In 1956 it was occupied as offices by Dunstable Borough and South Beds District Councils, the more recent a private company. The restoration work has made it accessible to local people for the first time since it was built. We held a promotion stall for Women's Institute on Open Gardens day; it was quite nostalgic to thumb through the scrapbook. A big thank you to Lorna and Rita for manning (or ladying) it!

We each meet 3rd Tuesday in the month at Caddington Baptist Hall. 7.30pm. We have a varied and interesting programme, see Diary Page for speakers.

Patricia Crick

MURIEL'S VIEW

Hello once again. I missed last month as I was away so will try to make up for it now. I daresay that you villagers will be going on holiday during the next few weeks with the children who will have their annual main school holidays. How quickly time passes and yes we will be planning for Christmas soon!



Now what can I write of interest this month? I have decided to leave the village lads and young ladies to another writer this time.

We held our monthly Village Hall Management meeting 10th July. The playing fields were empty also the car park and it did in my view look nice and tidy, so it can be done. We discussed having a flag erected at the Hall and I personally liked the idea. I would put Welcome to Slip End the Dead End. But of course that would be my suggestion as

most of you know what I feel about Slip End. Some may ask, "Why do I live here?" Am I moaning again too much? I am trying to think of my words to continue writing or one never knows I may not get past the editor! (*You failed, Mu! Sadly we just could not let some of your views go through*)

Coronation Gardens: It will be a nice addition to the village when completed and give seating to a few weary folks who perhaps stroll around the village. Myself included, although I must admit that I still prefer to drive every where.

Now I must add one more thing if the editor will overlook the extra paragraph. My young granddaughter Molly said to me on Sunday "Nana why do you always mention the village people and not me?" So I said I would write Hello Molly, Sean, and Ricky Allsop. There you are Molly, its done!

Regards to my readers.

Muriel

DIARY

If you would like your event put in the Diary please contact the Editor

August

- 5th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
15th *Caddington WI: "Funny Ladies"*

20th to 22nd: FLAMSTEAD SCARECROW FESTIVAL

- 22nd *St Andrew's Pram Service: Outing to Dunstable Downs*

September

- 2nd *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
4th *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
6th *Brownies resume after the summer break*
6th *St Andrew's - Pram Services restart in the Family Room at 10.30am*
9th *Historic Churches Trust : Sponsored Walk around Luton churches & chapels*
9th *Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109*
19th *Caddington WI: Birthday Meeting, Member's Night,*

October

- 2nd *Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm*
7th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
7th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon*
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*
18th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
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*
31st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

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, davidgoodmankington@hotmail.com.***

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Sue was granted special leave from PN editorial duties and Alan forsook a day's cricket to celebrate their Wedding Day! Sue & Alan Briggs are seen happily married following the service at St Andrew's church last month.



And on that evening, the Parish News Distribution Manager and Junior sub-editor with their spouses, visited the West Wycombe Music Festival. They had been lucky at the School Summer Fayre to win four tickets for this spectacular event. These had been generously donated to the School by our Pepperstock neighbours, "Fantastic Fireworks". The JSE was extremely impressed by the superb pyrotechnics which came at the end of the evening, to the synchronised accompaniment of the orchestra, banging away the 1812 Overture. A truly "Fantastic" evening and highly recommended: for details of next years event, call Fantastic Fireworks on 485555 or www.fantasticfireworks.co.uk.



Back at the School Fete in June, there was a splendid turn-out for the Fancy Dress, which reflected much of hard work by the parents! The children are seen here shortly before parading from the Crawley Playground for walk to the School. Well done, all round!

