

Slip End & District

Parish News

December 2006

50P
WHERE SOLD



Pepperstock Bridge (Mk I) bites the Dust!

Dramatic scenes during the night of 25th November saw the removal of the bridge at Pepperstock. Noisy and dusty it may have been, but those who went down to take a look took away with them some very spectacular memories after an impressive show of civil engineering prowess. We hope it is all worth it in the long run



Proud parents Charlotte and Russell Kelly with their dear little baby Danielle Leigh, born on August 24th weighing 7lb 9oz. Charlotte is a member of the orchestra at St Andrew's.



On Remembrance day last month our youngsters joined many members of our Community around the War Memorials to remember those, particularly from our village area, who gave their lives in two World wars.



Some of St Andrew's ZJB children with Jill and Andrea show off their shoeboxes, covered and filled on Shoebox Sunday. The first lorry leaves the warehouse on 2nd December for Ukraine and we hope the children who receive our boxes there will enjoy them.



**Wishing you
all a very
happy
Holiday
Christmas!**

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

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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

M1 WIDENING

The Parish Council meeting was a very lively affair last month! The Council had invited representatives from the Highways Agency and Balfour Beatty to report on M1 progress and to hear views expressed by the Parish Council and local residents, who turned out in large numbers. Questions had been prepared beforehand to set the ball rolling and responses were made before local views were fed back from the floor and our councillors.

Parish News is not reporting detail here, as many of our readers were there to hear for themselves. At the time, we were waiting speculatively to see if Church Road was to be re-opened on the (albeit delayed) date. To their credit, the contractors made it: Church Road re-opened and Half Moon lane was closed at the end of November.

Answers to a couple of issues remain cloudy. The Pepperstock “borrow-pit” timescale was sidestepped and the intriguing “water-divining” activities in Crawley Close and Claydown Way were revealed as a mystery to the contractors, who requested local intelligence to investigate and feed back.

All in all, a good if somewhat vocal meeting, under the firm control of our lady chairman. The contractors promised to attend Parish Council meetings on a more regular basis, to provide timely reporting and receive local feedback.

Perhaps the most worthwhile outcome of the meeting were impressions no doubt taken away by the contractors of our strength of feelings on what we are being subjected to right now.

David Kingston



Not a scene from “War of the Worlds” or “Doctor Who”, this was the midnight view looking over the M1 at Pepperstock the other evening. Ironically, this bridge was closed for a period some years ago to *raise* the roadway! It took a few years to decide that we had gone the wrong way, so down it came in November 2006. *Perhaps history will show that we have been going the wrong way all along on transport policy, where it exists ...*



Brownies

Thank you to those who supported our Table-Top Sale last month, although not many people came from the village.

Can you help us?

We are collecting shoes, boots, etc. for the Blue Peter Show-Biz Appeal. These must be in good condition, children's or adult's sizes. They can be given to any of our Brownies or taken to 9 Markyate Road or 60 Summer Street.

Please give us your support!

ALLOTMENTS & GARDEN ASSOCIATION

General Work

Continue to spray vacant ground, although it is not wise to do this when the ground is frosty or very wet. December is the best month in which to sterilise infected soil as not much will be in growth. Also now is the time to have the lawnmower and other machines serviced and to clean and repair the garden tools. Get your feet up indoors, get out the catalogues and make plans for next year!

Flower & Fruit Garden

Finish off any remaining fruit and shrub pruning.



FANCY A TWIRL?

THEN COME ALONG TO THE VILLAGE HALL ON NEW YEAR'S EVE!

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 music.

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.

County Councillor's Surgery

at Heathfield School, Caddington

Meet Richard Stay to discuss local matters which are of your concern or interest.

*First Saturday of each month,
10am to 12 noon
(see Diary Page)*

FOIL APPEAL

***In aid of Guide Dogs
for the Blind***

*Please leave at
67 Five Oaks, Caddington
or call 480107 to arrange collection.*



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With the Christmas season getting under way, FoSELS are gearing up for another busy month. Good news for Slip End Lower School is that due to Chairperson Alexa's determined recruitment drive there now are many more FOSELS sharing the load of fund raising for the school. Nikki West is stepping down as Treasurer after a long and dedicated stint so a very big thank you to her for all her hard work and welcome to Penny Waistell who has bravely stepped forward to take over the role.

Welcome to all the new "volunteers" and thank you for joining in.

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair takes place on 2nd December at the school from 11am to 1pm. By the time this issue arrives on your doormat this may have already taken place but if not please do come along and support the school. Next month I'll give a run down on the event and money raised but at this moment in time the usual sponsors look as if they have come up trumps again. A big thank you to Town & Country for advertising the event on their boards for us in the run up. I'm sure there will be many other names to add to the list by the time I come to write January's piece.

School Disco

Another date for the children's diary is the 18th December when we will be running a disco for the children after school. This is an opportunity for the kids to have a lot of fun and burn off a bit of festive energy.

Even More Christmas Fun

Every year the children put on a lovely show for the parents and families with plenty of great singing and acting. This year performances will take place on Thursday 14th

December at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Hopefully we will be able to have some photos for the next edition of Parish News.

In addition they will also have a Christmas skills day where they enjoy making decorations and Christmas fun things. Finally before the end of term each class will enjoy a class party on the 19th December the day before they break up.

Where the money goes

Followers of this column will know that over the year FoSELS run a number of events and activities to raise funds to help the school. The money goes on subsidising school trips and paying for items on the school's equipment and activities "wish list". Just some of the things we have managed to help with have been:

- New CD players for each of the 5 classrooms
- A new digital camera for each class to use
- Support for additional professional sports tuition
- Games tables for the playground
- Masks for the new drama club

All of which are things the children get direct benefit from and enjoy.

So as you can see there is plenty going on in the run up to Christmas, some of it for fun and some of it to raise much needed funding for the school. Next month I'll let you know how successful we've been.



Sandra Collins



**New housing developments
in our Parish?**

Many of you will have read the informative article in the October Parish News and will have viewed the map beside it with some dismay.

We thought this would be a good opportunity to update you all on what your Parish Council is doing about the very serious matter of local land development.

As the Parish News item said, the proposals, whilst alarming, are just proposals at this stage. In the summer, South Beds District Council formally invited all local landowners to submit a joint planning application. The purpose of this was to raise awareness at a fixed point in time of all the *possible* developments there could be, rather than having plans drift in endlessly over the next few years.

As many of you are aware 43,000 homes must be provided in the area by 2031. But this area includes much land to the north and east of Luton and around Houghton Regis which is generally considered to be more suitable for such large scale development. The suitability of much of this land is dependant on the proposed building of the Dunstable Northern Bypass. Although national government recognises the need for the necessary infrastructure to be in place for the proposed growth, including roads, they have removed the promised funding for this important transport link.

Slip End Parish is not promoted as an area for growth in the spatial strategy and large-scale development in our immediate vicinity does not appear likely at this point in time. However, we are not complacent and do accept that the total number of homes that must be built may not all be accommodated in the areas detailed above. It is at this point that land development in our area may be considered.

As a Parish Council it is our view that a small amount of local development could enhance and revitalise our neighbourhood and as such we would give consideration to any small and sympathetic proposals. But we would actively fight any developments that would destroy our village identity or lead to us merging with other villages.

The first major step we have taken is to join forces with the Parish Councils of Hyde and Caddington in order that we can work together for the benefit of all. We have budgeted carefully over a number of years now in order to have the funds to employ the very best professional help to robustly reject any proposals which we would view as detrimental to our parishes.

Our Councillors are attending meetings and conferences on all related subjects such as Green Belt development, in order that we can be well informed and stay ahead of the game. We are also attending meetings set up by lobbying and advisory groups such as the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

Proposals to develop land in our area will remain a standing item on our agenda for the coming months at Slip End Parish Council. We will do whatever is within our power to ensure that any development is sustainable, beneficial and limited. We value the beauty of the surrounding countryside and our village life.

Your comments and support at our Parish Council meetings would be very welcome. We are currently opening our meetings to the public at the beginning, just after 8pm. There is a meeting on the first Monday of every month and an agenda is posted on the noticeboards at Slip End Post Office, Pepperstock bus shelter and in Woodside at the corner of Manor Road and Elaine Gardens.

We hope to see you there.

Slip End Parish Council

Despite atrocious weather an impressive 11,633 runners finished the UK's leading 10-mile running event, the 16th BUPA Great South Run!

The elite athletes set off from Clarence Esplanade and were soon followed by the celebrities, club runners, and thousands of charity runners, all of whom made their way past the many landmarks along the route, including the Historic Dockyard at Victory Gate and the South Parade Pier on the seafront.

The Great South Run has continued to go from strength to strength since making its debut in 1991 which prompted organisers to increase the entry limit this year from 16,500 to 18,000.

Amongst the runners this year were locals Katrina Doubleday, who lives in Pepperstock and Mike McKeivitt, from Crawley Close. Katrina ran in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital and Mike for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Katrina is happy to announce that her effort raised £1100, much more than she had hoped for and reflecting people's generosity.

And Mike's effort raised £500 towards his charity.

Well done to them both!



Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2006

Once again it was my extreme privilege and pleasure to attend the above Service on your behalf. Although it is a sombre occasion, it is important that people attend to remember the sacrifice made by others in order that we may live in peace and freedom. My Grandmother whose first husband died in WWI and who also lost several nephews in WWII once said to me that if we forgot we would be doomed to repeat such horrors.

Balfour Beatty Skanska & Highways Agency

This meeting preceded the normal Parish Council meeting on 6th November was extremely well attended by members of the Public. The meeting was held as a Question and Answer session with the questions being provided in advance by members of the public and answered by various representatives of the above body.

Whilst it got a bit noisy at times we did learn that Church Road will be open again in late November and that the Pepperstock bridge will be dismantled at the same time. Drivers are asked to carefully check the road signs.

Crime Figures

There have been 11 crimes in total. 3 thefts from motor vehicles, 4 violence against person, 2 criminal damage and 2 thefts.

Christmas gifts for the elderly

These will be distributed during December by Parish Councillors.

It only remains for me to wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Christine Benson
Chairman, Slip End Parish Council*

Services & Events in December & January

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

Saturday 2nd 2.00pm Marriage of Trevor Roberts and Kelly Symonds

Sunday 3rd 10.30am Christingle Service and Informal Communion
6.15pm 3;16 meet in the Family Room

Sunday 10th 10.30am Morning Praise
3.00pm Carol Service for the Bereaved

Wednesday 13th 10.30am Pram Service in the Family Room

Thursday 14th 8.00pm Footsteps Meet in the Family Room

Sunday 17th 10.30am Nativity Play
2.30pm Carol Service at East Hyde
6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday 22nd 2.30pm Woodside Home Carol Service

Sunday 24th 9.15am Christmas Communion at East Hyde
11.15pm Christmas Communion at St Andrew's

Christmas Day 10.30am Christmas Celebration at St Andrew's

Sunday 31st 10.30am Morning Praise

January 2007

Thursday 4th 8.00pm Footsteps meet in the Family room

Sunday 7th 10.30am Family Communion
6.15pm 3;16 meet in the Family room

Wednesday 10th 10.30am Pram Service in the Family room

Sunday 14th 10.30am Morning Praise

Sunday 21st 10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm Thanksgiving service for operation Christmas Child
6.15pm 3;16 meet in the Family room

Wednesday 24th 10.30am Pram Service in the Family room

Friday 26th 2.30pm Woodside Home Service

Sunday 28th 9.15am Holy Communion at East Hyde
10.30am Morning Praise

On Sunday 10th December St Andrew's will be holding our annual Carol Service for the Bereaved at 3.00pm, followed by Tea and Cakes. Free literature and someone to chat to will also be available. I will send a personal invitation to those I have had contact with during the last year, although the service is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Rev'd Joy Daniel

St Andrew's News

Hot on the heels of Harvest goings on, we had a couple of special events last month, one a brand new venture, the other a sombre event which comes round every year.

November 5th

Bonfire Night, Guy Fawkes and all that: well no, Health & Safety rule out the former and PC precludes the burning of effigies these days. None the less, enjoyment was undeterred as the Vicarage Garden was open for Fireworks & Food. We were blessed with good weather and an excellent selection of hot food before the Fireworks.

Thanks to Gary Wedlake from Crawley Close who helped us with fireworks (www.ted.unet.com/fireworks). It was particularly good to welcome youngsters from our youth groups, their parents and leaders.

November 11th

On a more serious level, on Sunday 12th local ex-servicemen, representatives from the community and youth groups and members of the public gathered, to remember those who gave their lives in the service of our country, around the War Memorials in St Andrew's.

Remembrance Day never fails to move us as we think on the tragedies of war, but in a slightly lighter and on a personal vein, it was good to see Mr Baldock (sorry, I cannot recall his first name!) who lived in the village years ago, later the butcher in Markyate, who retired to Norfolk some years ago. He reminisced about his times at St Andrew's and Slip End. One of his family members, Edward Baldock was only 24 when he died at Anzio in WWII.

With many Italian connections and having visited Anzio, I relate to the shame of death and destruction in such a beautiful country. Co-incidentally, I had just read Alan Whickers book "Whicker's War" which details his wartime experiences including Anzio and this is a recommended read: you may have seen his television series? In his book, Whicker

manages to describe his horrific experiences in a very interesting and readable way.

And another recommendation: an Internet search for "War Graves Slip End" will link to details about the people listed on the War Memorials here and might add some background insite for you. Several family names on the memorials are with us today: take a look.

David Kingston



*Death and destruction at
Cisterna near Anzio in 1944.*





Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and others marched from the Village to St Andrew's for the annual Remembrance Service. Leading the march was our resident Piper, Alex from Woodside. The weather was kind to us that day, chilly but dry. Alex's playing, a little later at the end of the two minutes silence, somehow strikes the right note. (Picture by Matt Ogier)

The Tree in the Window



In the little window stands a tinselled
 Christmas tree,
 Gay with candles, red and gold, a lovely
 thing to see.
 Lighting up the grim surroundings for the
 passer-by
 With a glow that warms the spirit and
 delights the eye.
 To the ugly street there comes the hint of
 holy things,
 A flash of glory in the gloom, a rush of
 angel wings.
 The heart is touched by something that is
 strange and mystical,
 And faith returns, the faith of childhood,
 new and wonderful.
 This is what we need today, so shine out
 little tree!
 Give us back what we have lost:
 faith, hope, simplicity.

The Stable Door

They came that night to Bethlehem
 The simple and the wise,
 the shepherds and the magi saw
 the glory in the skies
 and sought the Holy manger bed,
 that place of mystery
 where God Himself had broken in upon humanity.
 The greatest men who walk the earth
 can offer us today
 no diviner revelation,
 this, then, is The Way.
 Though to knowledge high and vast
 the human mind may roar,
 every man must come at last unto the stable door.

by Helen Steiner Rice

Over £100 was raised by the Bedfordshire Senior Citizens Association on behalf of SCARF (*Schools and Community Arts Resource Facility?*) at a Concert held in the Lansdowne Club on November 4th.

The Luton male Voice Choir, under Director of Music Ken Hone, provided a programme of music clearly enjoyed by the audience. Among the many popular numbers from shows a series of Perry Como 'hits' that clearly brought back many a memory among the older members of the audience. Accompanist Tony Heathcote played a number of Piano Solos while Neil Whittle and Peter Raven were the vocal soloists. John Hawley member of the Bedfordshire S C (?) Committee proposed the vote of thanks to the choir, the soloists and the audience for their support.

On Saturday 11th November we gave a concert for Residents at Maples Court, Hitchin completing a busy period.

The choir now begin preparations for an equally hectic Christmas Carol Concert season including a Concert at the South Bedfordshire Golf Club, where their annual dinner and presentations take place on 15th December.

(We are at a loss to interpret many abbreviations, perhaps known to the writer but not to the rest of us. Would contributors please avoid using abbreviations! Editor.)





We have been busy in the warehouse collecting, sorting and packing of shoeboxes (over 10,000 at the time of writing). We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the schools, churches, clubs and individuals who have given up their time to help with this very worthy cause. On Saturday 2nd December the first lorry will arrive at the Woodside Estate to take the first consignment of boxes to Eastern Europe and we hope the children who receive them will enjoy their love in a box.



Don't forget that Teresa will be going to the Ukraine at the beginning of January to help one of the teams going out there and we hope she will bring back some interesting photos and tales to tell. If you wish to sponsor Teresa on her trip please contact Parish News Teresa on 01582 482681.



Teresa, pointing out where she will be visiting.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The 12 days cover Christmas Day to the eve of Epiphany. The Twelve Days of Christmas dates back to English origins in the XVI century although the music is probably French.

- 1 True Love: refers to God
- 2 Turtle Doves: the Old New Testaments
- 3 French Hens: Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds: the Four Gospels or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Gold Rings: the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying: the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking: the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing: the Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

The cost of the 12 days of Christmas

- One Partridge a Pear Tree: £52 (£7 Partridge, £45 Pear Tree)
Two Turtle Doves: £20 (£10 each)
Three French Hens: £22.50 (£7.50 each)
Four Calling Birds: £200 (£50 each)
Five Gold Rings: £165.00 (£35 each)
Six Geese-a-Laying: £150.00 (£25 each)
Seven Swans: £2100 (£300 each)
Eight Maids: £40 (£5 each)
Nine Ladies: £2570 (£275 each)
Ten Lords: £2000 (£200 each)
Eleven Pipers: £1045 (£95 each)
Twelve Drummers: £1140 (£95 each)

Total Christmas Price Index: £9504.50
"Core" index, excluding swans: approx £7500
Cost of Christmas in song: approx £35000
(including 364 total gifts)

CADDINGTON W.I.

After jam and Jerusalem and yes, we did have jam on offer thanks to Maureen and Andy, made from a lovely selection of fresh fruits, yummee! Eat your heart out Hartleys! Back to business, after Jerusalem the minutes were read and signed and then came our speaker Mr Smallwood, accompanied by his wife. He was apprenticed for six years as a glass blower and what he didn't know about glass doesn't seem worth knowing. His wife shares his interest as she makes jewellery from glass, which she had brought along displaying her talent. How it came to be called glass would make a good quiz question. I will put you out of your misery. Gas, aluminium, sand and soda are in the make-up therefore GLASS. One member asked why her Pyrex casserole had exploded in the oven. Answer – it only takes tiny scratches to the base to leave it open to do this. When we slide the dish onto the oven shelf a small scratch will result. Over time more scratches – Bang.

Those of us that went to Kings Langley to attend their 50th Anniversary show had a really enjoyable evening, even if we did have to travel through flooded roads. In December, we are having a Musical Entertainment and the competition is a home decorated Christmas Cracker.

We meet monthly on each 3rd Tuesday at 7.30pm in Caddington Baptist Church Hall.

It would be lovely to welcome you, how about a New Years resolution. Come and see what we are all about.

Patricia Crick.



With Remembrance Day just gone by, here are a couple of pictures illustrating some Women's Institute activities during world war II.



Lady Denman receiving a mobile canning machine donated by the USA British War Relief Society.



Women's Institute members selling cabbages at their stall at Storrington Market in the 1940's



ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

A Christmas Blessing

*God bless the master of this house
The mistress also,
And all the little children
That round the table go;
And all your kin and kinsfolk,
That dwell both far and near:
I wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year*

Romanian Shoe Box Appeal 2006

This year we were able to send 52 shoeboxes to Romania and all of the £104 postage was paid. This was nine boxes more than last year, so a big thank you to everyone who helped us.

Spud 'n Pud & Coffee Evenings

To try out our new jacket potato machine we asked people to tell us what they thought of the potatoes, fillings, puds etc, as a trial for our 'Charitree' lunches. There was no charge for this supper but we asked for a donation towards the food. We ended up with an extra £25 so we sent that to the Methodist Homes for the Aged. The pew envelopes for the same charity raised a further £45.

Our November Coffee evening was well attended and raised £89 for leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust.

Christmas & New Year dates

Friday 1st Dec 7.30pm: Ecumenical 'Santa Drive' at the Baptist Church Caddington

Sunday Dec 3rd 3pm: Ecumenical service at the Catholic Church Manor Road, Caddington

Friday Dec 8th 5.30-8pm: Aley Green Charitree Festival begins. Coffee, mince pies and cakes will be served though the evening. We will also be open on Saturday 9th December 11am to 6pm, lunches served from mid-day to 2.30pm. On Sunday 10th we will be open from 2 to 5.30pm, concluding with 6pm evening service. The Sunday School children will be taking part and all ages are welcome to join us.

Entry is free to the festival but you are asked to make a donation to one of our charities. Please vote for your favourite tree because the tree that wins will get a cash prize from Urban & Rural towards their favourite charity. The person that decorates the winning tree will get a cup.

Wednesday Dec 13th 7.30pm onwards: Aley Green coffee evening.

Thursday Dec 14th 7pm Ecumenical carol singing on the Village Green, Caddington

Sunday Dec 17th 3pm: Sunday School Christmas service, collection to Keech Cottage. This will be followed by a children's tea and a visit from Father Christmas.

Tuesday Dec 19th 7.30pm: Candlelight Carol Service collection for N.C.H. Hot drinks, mince pies and cakes after the service.

Christmas Eve 11am: Service and Sunday School. The Travelling Crib will arrive at Aley Green for this service.

Christmas Day: Service at 10am. Collection for the Pasque Hospice

Monday Jan 8th 7.45pm: Ecumenical Fellowship Meeting at Aley Green Church

Sunday Jan 14th 11a.m.: Aley Green Covenant service and Sunday School

Wednesday Jan 17th 7.30pm: Coffee Evening at church

Sunday 21st January Ecumenical Service at the Baptist Church Caddington

Wednesday 31st January 7.30 p.m. New Years Eve Roast Dinner at Aley Green Church

We hope you will be able to join in some of these events and help us to put Christ back into the Centre of Christmas. We wish you all Peace, Joy and God's blessings this Christmas and through out the New Year.

Ann Meader.

Christmas, a time when hopes turn towards Peace and Goodwill! Many Charities strive at this season to raise awareness and funds and nearly all of them are deserving of our charitable giving: the decision of which we choose to support is difficult. There's Children in Need, Operation Christmas Child and dozens of others and many of us spread our funds and time in support of these. Parish News suggests that some of us might think about a local Charity, indeed you might be supporting it in some way already. Noah Enterprise is an organisation based in Luton and we offer no apologies in informing you a little of what Noah is all about.

NOAH Enterprise is a charity which seeks, out of Christian conviction, to help the most disadvantaged in the local community.

Our Mission: To help the most disadvantaged in the local community, particularly focussing on providing a practical, empowering and caring service to homeless, marginalised and socially excluded people.

Some Facts & Figures

NOAH Enterprise's Welfare Centre is open every single day of the year.

During 2005 we provided:

19,000 lunches
5,000 breakfasts
more than 35,000 cups of tea

In addition, clients benefited from:

1,000 medicals
11,000 items of clothing
9,000 appointments for advice

People from the local community volunteered a massive 13,000 hours in support of Furniture Link's work, some helping just a few hours a month, others for weeks at a time. Volunteers helped in our charity shop, with fundraising, in the kitchen, and in many different ways. Furniture Link has enabled 4,000 items of furniture and electrical goods to be reused in just the last six months (as of August 2006).

We do seek help and support, depending on donations in several different forms, as follows.



Donations - Goods

Have a clear out - and help NOAH too.
Bring us your unwanted ...

second-hand clothes,
household bric-a-brac
office equipment
home furniture
office furniture

fridges, freezers, cookers, microwave ovens.

We'll refurbish and recycle as many items as possible, before selling them to the general public. In many cases, we are able to repair white goods, and if not, we dispose of them in accordance with the latest W.E.E. (Waste of Electrical Equipment) Regulations. Donating to NOAH not only contributes funds towards our work, but also provides a valuable source of second-hand goods at affordable prices for the local community, and helps protect the environment by reducing landfill. The more funds we have, the more support we can give to more people. Please ensure all items are clean and in good condition. Otherwise, we are unable to sell or even give them away, which means they could actually cost NOAH money to dispose of!

Donations - Money

Cheques should be made payable to NOAH Enterprise and sent to 141 Park Street, Luton, LU1 3HG. If you are a taxpayer in the UK, we can claim an extra 28p for every £1 you donate, but only if you Gift Aid your donation. Please request a Gift Aid form by telephoning 01582 728416 or info@noahenterprise.org. To donate using a debit or credit card, please call 01582 728416.

FARLEY HILL METHODIST CHURCH

The Ecumenical path taken by Farley Hill Methodist and St John's Anglican churches in Farley Hill, moved on step at a joint meeting of in



November. The meeting was chaired by Mr David Davies. In attendance Rev. David Vale Superintendent Minister Luton Methodist Circuit, Rev. Ian Gordon representing the County Ecumenical Office and Rev Raymond Garfoot FHM and David Sears Methodist Circuit Steward. Following discussion of the issues involved a Steering Committee of five nominees from each Church was formed and would hold their meeting in January 2007.

On November 12th, we visited St. John's for a Remembrance Day Service, continuing the series of Joint Services.

The Jumble Sale held on Saturday 10th raised £130 and we supported the Farley Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 18th.

The Community Christmas Lunch will be held at FHM on Wednesday 13th December (12.15 for 1pm). A full traditional lunch will be served at the cost of £3.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our last meeting will be on 14th December we will re- open on the 11th of January which will be fortnightly 25th January, 8th February, 22nd February, then weekly from March 1st

On behalf of all of the committee I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

If any new members wish to join us we would be only too glad to see you and I am sure made very welcome. We have bingo, a cup of tea, a raffle and of course a good old chat. Look forward to seeing you.

Pam King

LAUGHTER

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

“How about some perfume?” he asked the cosmetics assistant.

She showed him a bottle costing £50. “that’s a bit much” said Tom, so she returned with a bottle costing £20.

“That’s still quite a bit,” Tom grouched.

Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny £10 bottle. Tom grew agitated, “What I mean,” he said, “is I’d like to see something really cheap.”

So the assistant handed him a mirror.

PARISH NEWS

In this, our last issue of 2006, we wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year!

The Parish News team takes a bit of a breather over the new year period, but we are planning another issue to appear in the middle of January, followed by an issue at the beginning of March. We ask our contributors to get their copy to us by 7th(-ish) of January please. There are many goings on in the next month are so, so may we especially request you send in your pictures to add a bit of colour (and b&w) in the mid-January issue. (There is a slightly ulterior underlying motive. Pictures are adaptable and fill available space which makes the editorial job easier which is especially important post Christmas and New Year!)



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

December

Of course, this season is a very busy time for the Christian churches and services and events are too many to list here! However, they appear in detail elsewhere in this issue, so please refer to the churches articles for information.

2nd County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington 10am-12noon

2nd Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506

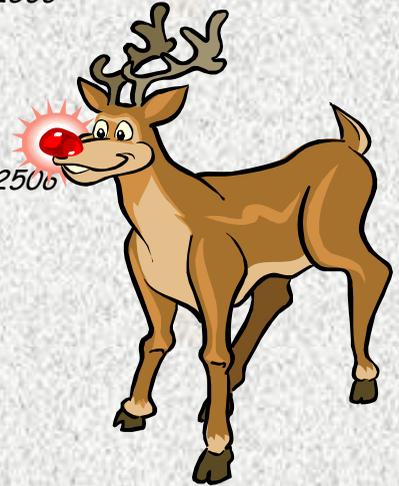
4th Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm

18th FoSELS: Disco after School

19th Caddington WI: Music Night

20th Slip End Lower School break up

31st Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506



BINGO

*at the Village Hall
Thursdays at*

Slip End & District Association

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 7th of January to: Sue Briggs at 83 The Crescent, Caddington, email: cowells83@aol.com or David Kingston 7 Crawley Close, Slip End, davidgoodmankington@hotmail.com.***

May we suggest that pictures and items are sent in just after the events rather than leaving it until the deadline, especially now in December and January.

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