

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2006



Sponsored this month by

*Slip End
Parish Council*



Happy Birthday, Ma'am!

Slip End Brownies celebrate in the Village Hall on the occasion of Her Majesty's recent 80th Birthday. Brownies recommence this month so if your daughter wishes to join in the fun, contact Brown Owl (Gil) on 723109.

What is going on?

Parish News has received this from the Highways Agency, Investors in People:

Ongoing Closures to the B4540 Church Road Slip End

The existing closure of the B4540 Church Road at Slip End has now been extended to November 2006. We had originally planned to reopen Church Road at the end of **July 06** to allow work to start on rebuilding the Slip End Lane bridge. It was then planned to have further subsequent closures to complete the works on Church Road.

However, we have now agreed to the contractor rescheduling his programme so that he can complete all the works on Church Road in one go before it is reopened. The total period of time over which Church Road will be closed will remain the same but this will now be over one continuous block rather than over two or more separate periods. Slip End Lane will not be closed until Church Road has been re-opened to traffic.

Project Sponsor: Geoff Bethel,
m1j6a-10widening@highways.gsi.gov.uk,
08457 50 40 30,
Highways Agency C8, 5 Broadway, Birmingham B15 1BL

Contractor contact: Community Relations Team
COMMUNITY.RELATIONS@bbsjv.co.uk
07815 882 591

Junction 8 Site Office, Green Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 4UE

Church Road was planned to be re-opened “**at the end of July 06**”. **Why, AT THE END OF AUGUST, are we told that the planned 4 month closure period has been DOUBLED?** Does this latest statement reflect adequate Project Management and Community Relations, or what? We are at just the start of the **FIRST** phase of M1 upheaval, but if abysmal performance such as this continues, Slip End misery may be prolonged by a decade or two. HA response to detailed questioning by PN were along the lines of, “it ain’t our fault, gov”, citing the miscreants as Beds CC and HA contractors who haven’t moved power transmission pylons yet. If you have any opinions of how we are being treated, you might wish to write to Parish News and/or the contacts above, our elected councillors or Margaret Moran MP.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

And a last thought - for now: do you feel that the devastation of our countryside in the Pepperstock area goes beyond fairly mild planning applications? Are our civic planners monitoring that these extensive works are compliant with approved plans?

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: 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: 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
parishclear@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

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SLIP END

HARVEST SUPPER

SLIP END VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH

£4.50 ADULT

£3.50 CONCESSIONS

£10 FAMILY TICKET (2+2)

£1.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD)

Tickets: Call David Kingston (416138) or Val Church (458443)



*B-Y-O K,F & S
cold drinks, etc.*

*We'll provide Supper,
Tea, Coffee & Squash.*

*PLUS...
SUPER AFTER SUPPER
ENTERTAINMENT!*

ALLOTMENT & GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Garden Rent is due on Friday September 29th from 6.30 to 7.30pm at 9 Markyate Road.

DON'T DELAY - PAY THAT DAY!

Vegetable Garden

A new year will soon be upon us and this season's harvest should be gathered, making the ground ready for winter sweetening. Beet, carrots and potatoes can be lifted and stored, the carrot and beet in boxes of sand or under mounds of earth in the open, potatoes in clamps. Parsnips are better left in, the frost improves them: they can be pulled as required. Cauliflowers should have a leaf put over each head to protect, and if not done earlier, onions bent over from close to the heads. Seedlings of spring cabbage can be planted into growing quarters. Young cauliflowers can go into frames (in pots) for safety during winter.

Flower & Fruit Garden

Cut back raspberry canes to 1ft above the ground, plant new strawberry beds, keep an eye on apples and pears, continue to pick them as soon as they are ripe.

Plant early spring bulbs, transplant shrubs and prune roses of old wood. Hardy annuals may be sown outdoors to stand the winter.

General Work

Keep the ground loose by hoeing; turn over any ground cropped, watch out for insects and their eggs burn rubbish as it accumulates.

Brownies

We start back on Wednesday September 6th, we still have a few spaces for any girl over 6½ years old. I can be contacted on 01582 723109.

I am arranging for the Brownies to take their Cycling Badge, but at the moment not enough girls have signed up to make up a class. There will be a charge of £3 towards the cost of the instructor. If anyone would like to join in and learn how to ride your bike properly and take care of it, contact me on 723109 by September 10th.

*Gillian Plummer
(Brown Owl)*

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Tuesday 8th August, the afternoon countryside trip was very well attended with some 40 members and friends. We took a tour around the countryside stopping at Willington, travelling on to the Green Man in Stanford where we had an afternoon meal.

Then back on coach returning home around 4pm. A good day had been enjoyed by all.

Pam King

Limes Design

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Creating the perfect environment – for Home, Work or Play

Timber Decking Decorating Laminate & Wood Flooring Security Storage & Shelving
2D & 3D CAD planning Bespoke design & build Mobility & Independent Living Energy Saving
Flat Pack Furniture Service: We can Specify, Collect and Build – NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL!

For fast friendly **LOCAL** service and a free initial visit please contact Matt on...
Mobile: **07758 35 35 45** email: **info@limes-design.co.uk** Phone: **01582 732 950**

Once again this event was a huge success with almost £1000 being raised. This money will be divided between the refurbishment of the Coronation Gardens (specifically for a tree) and to St Andrew's church.

The event was reported in sparkling detail on the pages of last month's Parish News, all that's left is for the committee to thank all those who came, those who opened their gardens and also those who helped to make the event such a success in many different ways. *In particular we would like to thank Anil Mittal at Slip End Post Office, for once again allowing us to put our programmes in his shop (despite his own ongoing refurbishments!) and for being so very helpful and enthusiastic throughout.*

*Val Church, Rosemary Wickens, Joan Duncombe,
Steve Lyons, David Kingston*

If you see anybody flytipping or become aware of flytipping in our area, then contact:

Envirocrime Unit
01582 474031

The Unit doesn't operate on Monday to Wednesday nights but will assist when they next come on shift. In addition to flytipping, the Unit will investigate other issues including fly-posting, graffiti, dog fouling, littering, litter and refuse disposed of on land and noise.



KEEP UP WITH THE SLIP END NEWS!

This month 'Parish News' is sponsored for distribution throughout the Parish by the Slip End & District Parish Council.

Do you see the magazine regularly each month?

If not and you would like to have it delivered to your home, please complete the slip below and send it with the £4 annual subscription to Brian Church, 2 Summer Street, Slip End (458443)

If you live outside the village, the subscription for postal delivery (11 issues per year) is at present £6. All other subscriptions through your regular distributor please.

✂

I would like to receive Parish News regularly.
I enclose the annual subscription £4 or £6 for postal delivery.
Please make cheques payable to Slip End & District Parish News

Name

Address



It is surprising just how quickly OCC comes around!

One minute you are in full summer and then next you are thinking of the long winter ahead and the needy children who look forward to receiving their 'love in a box'. I'm sure there can't be many people who haven't heard of this very worthwhile cause and hopefully there may be some of you who would like to help with knitting, checking and packing at the warehouse or just making up your own shoebox.

A quick update to let you know that last year 1.18 million children in Central and Eastern Europe, Mozambique, Swaziland and India all received a shoebox which showed just how much love and concern is shown by the people in the UK. Over 4000 churches participated in OCC along with schools, clubs, societies and individuals. Teresa & Tony Willson, who are the organisers for this area, are already thinking of where their next warehouse will be and if you would like to help this year please contact Teresa on 01582 482681.

Other villagers have already been busy knitting and sewing since last Christmas to make sure that the warehouse has enough stock of hats, scarves, gloves etc to fill out the boxes that don't contain the much needed accessories.



Picture taken at Beryl's annual garden fete (2nd right) alongside other volunteers and Teresa (on left). A wonderful day, which made £200 for OCC

If you would like to help with the knitting and need a pattern Teresa or myself will be able to help you there. If there is anyone with an abundance of wool that could be used please also contact us and we will put it to good use, you can be sure of that.

Operation Christmas Child will again be looking for drop off points so if there is anyone who would like to help with this please contact Teresa. Also if there are any shops, clubs or businesses who would like to give a donation towards the fillers for the boxes, this would be most helpful.

Sue Briggs (Cowell)

A message from Samaritans Purse, the organisation that runs OCC:

- For all the boxes you filled, thank you
 - For every hat or scarf knitted, thank you
 - For every toy so carefully chosen, thank you
 - For every box beautifully wrapped, thank you
 - For every box checked and given, thank you
 - For every heartfelt prayer, thank you
- On behalf of all the children, thank YOU***



Every month over a period of many years, Elsie Conquest has delivered PN on her patch in Lower Woodside. Recently, due to poor health, she has difficulty getting around very well and so has taken a deserved retirement.

Mrs Conquest (as she was known to the youngsters) is well known in the area, as she was teacher at the Lower School for many years. She is thought of warmly by several who were pupils of hers and are now grown up with children of their own at the school!

All of us at Parish News wish her well and we are very thankful to her for all that she has done for PN!

And thanks also to Rosemary Bryn who has taken on the deliveries in that area.

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

Parish News has published correspondence recently on this subject, so important to parents, children and the Bedfordshire school system. Richard Stay, our County Councillor and well-known to us in the Slip End area, has written words to express his point of view:

Bedfordshire County Council has been through a significant process of evaluating the performance of our education system in the County, prompted by a desire to drive up educational standards. To oversee that evaluation it established a Working Group comprising County Councillors from all political parties, Parent Governors, the Learning & Skills Council and representation from both the Anglican and Catholic churches. I sat as a member of this group because I hold the finance portfolio at County Hall.

The Working Group spent 9 months taking evidence from some very senior and experienced educational experts and it published its report in June this year. The key recommendations were very much focused on driving up standards, which we accepted were not as good as they should be in comparison with similar Counties. One of the recommendations was a change from a 3 tier to a 2 tier school system, which would have meant a school structure that had Primary and Secondary schools across the County.

The Working Group report went to the County Council's Executive on 27th June and was approved. The report then went on to full County Council on 13th July where Members did not feel able to support the change in structures. Therefore there will be no change to 2 tier education for the time being. However we still have a number of very significant issues to face in terms of under performing schools where our children are being let down and Councillors are determined to ensure that is where the focus of the LEA will be to drive up standards.

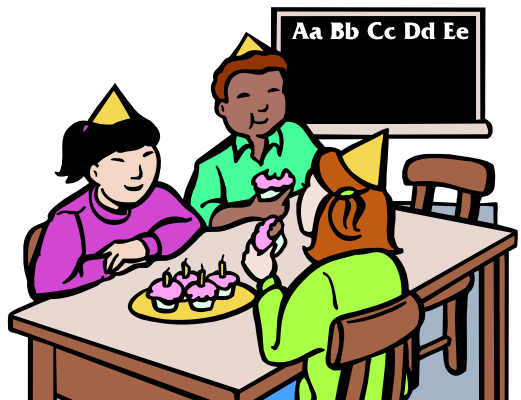
Looking ahead it is difficult to see how Bedfordshire can continue to be 1 of only 3 education authorities in the country that is wholly 3 tier, however that is unfortunately not on the table for discussion for the time being.

I supported a move to 2 tier for some very basic reasons; Bedfordshire schools are underperforming, the Key Stage exams are based on Primary and Secondary Schools and a change would have massively supported our many small rural schools, like Slip End Lower, that would have had two extra years added to them. Bedfordshire does not have a single school in the top 200 performing state schools in the country and at Key Stage 2 and 3 we are barely at national average, let alone on a par with Counties that have a similar socio-economic profile like Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Kent etc.

We are where we are, we clearly did not do enough to win the argument: I accept that, but I think we should all be concerned that the Bedfordshire education system will continue to provide education to our 63,000 students with one hand tied behind its proverbial back.

The one good thing that has come out of this debate is the collective desire to improve the standards to education in our schools; we can all agree on that and we will have to put off the inevitable change to structures for another day.

*Richard Stay
County Councillor for South East Bedfordshire*



Services & Events in September

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

Sunday 3 rd	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday 6 th	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Praise
	2.00pm	St Andrew's rambblers meet at Church
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Thursday 14 th	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 17 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 20 th	10.30am	Pram Service meet in the Family Room
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Morning Praise with Adult Baptisms
	3.00pm	Harvest Festival at East Hyde
	4.30pm	Service of Thanksgiving & Blessing for the gift of a Child
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Thursday 28 th		<i>Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Luton Deanery</i>
	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Friday 29 th	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday Oct 1 st	10.30am	Harvest Festival at St Andrew's
	6.30pm	Confirmation Service at St Mary's
Monday Oct 2 nd		School Harvest Festival
Friday Oct 6 th	7.00pm	Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

*Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
Historic Churches Trust*

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.



You are welcome to join us on the walk or arrange your own walk or cycle ride!

Or sponsor us per church visited or for the day.

Details and sponsorship forms from:
Brian Church
2 Summer Street
Slip End
☎ 458443

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005 - 2006

Introduction

The Parish Council continues to pursue its overall objectives which are (a) to improve the quality of life for the residents of the village and the surrounding hamlets and (b) to provide services in the most efficient and cost effective manner. There are two changes in personnel to report on this occasion, in January our Clerk, David Haste, decided to retire and we have been carrying a vacancy on the Council for over a year. Nikki West, a resident in the village, has been appointed as the new Clerk and will take up her appointment on 1st August 2006. We extend our thanks to David Haste who has provided excellent services for the Parish Council for 5 years, and wish to point out that he remains Clerk to Hyde Parish Council. We would also like to thank him for the support he has given to The Playing Fields Management Committee, on a voluntary basis. Mrs Janet Crawley, of Front Street, will join the six members of the Council who were re-elected this May.

Coronation Gardens

Residents will have notice the works currently in progress. This has been the result of the untiring efforts of Councillor Geoff Daniel and his fellow members of a working group that have not only designed the new gardens but also worked very hard to find additional funding for the project. Thanks are due especially to Airparks Ltd and Slip End Garage for generous donations towards the cost of these works. The Parish Council will be providing about £5,000 for this work and it is hoped that the finished project will be pleasing to the eye and an asset to the village.

Dispute with County Council

The Parish Council has suspended its efforts to pursue the legal route over its dispute with the County Council concerning the Timberlands Travellers' site. Members are now

concentrating on the political route and are grateful for the continuing support of our County Councillor, Richard Stay, and our three District Councillors. While our long-term objective remains the closure of the site, which is not suited for its purpose, our short to medium term goal is to minimise the nuisance emanating from the site and if possible restrict its use to the older members of the travelling community.

Closed Circuit Television

Both systems (the Village Hall and the Playing Field) continue to operate with some degree of success. Both need some improvements, especially that at the field which will have to cater for the new tennis courts. Councillor Steve Fuell leads on these projects.

Crawley Playground

The Council are considering improvements to the playground and have set aside money for this purpose. It is unfortunate that considerable expenditure has been necessary to provide repairs to equipment caused by vandalism as well as fair wear and tear. This is very discouraging and very costly to local residents who end up paying for the work. We are obliged to have the equipment inspected on a regular basis and the recommendations of the Inspectors cannot be ignored. Members are also considering replacing the fence and gate in Markyate Road, another potentially expensive project.

Policing

We were sorry to learn of the departure of PC Carron Thompson, our beat co-ordinator for many years. Her replacement is PC Louise Howard. Our first Police Community Support Officer was also a victim of ill health and her replacement has been appointed. We have also had meetings with the Divisional Commander, our local Inspector, Steve Barrett, and the rural Sergeant, James Kinnear, who attends our meetings on a (fairly) regular basis. We have made known residents' strong views on the lack of policing in these parts which has

sometimes reached crisis proportions. In the view of the Parish Council a merger between Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire would be beneficial, in that we would be a central rather than a peripheral location.

M1 Widening

Residents are beginning to suffer inconvenience from this major project and matters will get worse before there is any real improvement. The Parish Council is working to minimise inconvenience to villagers and to ensure that there are no lasting problems in the form of parcels of land which invite illegal occupation. We have successfully argued for the extension of temporary speed limits in and around the village. Assurances have been given about the restoration of the original plaque commemorating the opening of the M1 more than 50 years ago.

Slip End Playing Field

Although not a direct responsibility of the Parish Council and a charity in its own right, the field is such an obvious benefit to the village that the Council have felt it necessary to offer continuing help to ensure its survival. This takes the form of administrative support through the Clerk, who attends meeting of the Management Committee and financial support when needed. Two of our members, Councillors Philip Penman and Steve Fuell, also take an active role on the Committee. As was said last year, the village needs the playing field but the playing field also needs the support of the residents if it is to survive. Vandalism is still a problem and a call to the police if any such behaviour is witnessed would be greatly appreciated.

Other Matters

The various items mentioned above form only a part of the work of the Parish Council. Members continue to battle to secure minor works and repairs to the fabric of the village, sometimes by the District or County Councils but often by the use of our own limited resources.

Sadly, we do not always get the improvements to the village which we seek; this year we put great effort into trying to obtain extra street lighting, but unfortunately our application was refused.

The Council provides grants for a number of local groups, especially those working with young people, and the playing field. Our Vice Chairman, Ken Crossett, is leading a project to secure a skateboard park for the village and the Council will consider giving support to this project once firm proposals are on the table.

Special Thanks

David Haste our Parish Clerk retired recently having been in post since Slip End Parish gained its own independent council. David has been of great assistance to us during the transition and we wish him well for the future. He will still be keeping his hand in, as he continues as Clerk to Hyde Parish Council. We are pleased to announce that the work begun by David Haste continues with the appointment of Nikkie West, who already makes her presence felt by keeping us councillors in check!

As you will have read, vandalism continues to be an issue, and certain places around the village appear to be a particular target, not least the bus stop at the cross roads. However, we extend our thanks to an unknown member of the public who painted over the graffiti at the bus stop recently. It is certainly heartening to see such community spirit!

Finally: Please don't forget That the Parish Council meets on the first Monday of every month (except August) in the Village Hall. If the first Monday is a bank holiday then we meet on the **second** Monday. Members of the public are welcome and will be given the opportunity to speak.

*Christine Benson
Chairman
Slip End Parish Council*

SLIP END PLAYGROUP



FUN

FUNDRAISING

NIGHT

***JOIN US FOR A GREAT NIGHT AND HELP
US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR PLAYGROUP***

***RACE NIGHT - DISCO
CHICKEN & CHIP SUPPER***



SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

CADDINGTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

DOORS OPEN 7:30 - FIRST RACE 8:00

GET YOUR TICKETS FROM PLAYGROUP NOW OR CONTACT:

MANDY - 07743685014

JENNY - 07918051903

A WALK, BEAUTY & SADNESS ...

As many of you will know I'm an enthusiastic hiker and meet many of you on my travels around the local lanes and footpaths. We have some beautiful countryside around here, for instance the view from the path at the back of Brickhill Caravan Site looking across to Aley Green. Rolling hills provide spectacular scenes no matter what the season. There are miles of footpaths in the Slip End, Markyate and Caddington area; the choice of walks is endless, only capped by our imagination or laziness. I often take my camera with me, looking for the unusual or amusing picture or the one in a million that begs to be framed and hung in the hallway for posterity.

One day last month, a lovely warm sunny day with just a touch of a light breeze, I set off day sack slung nonchalantly over my shoulder and camera to hand. My planned route was down the lane at the end of Half Moon Lane to Markyate (buy a Mars Bar), across Caddington Common to Five Oaks then through the woods past Woodside Park, Grove Road and home, into the Frog to be more accurate!

The walk started well, I met Steve Lyons walking the dog, nattered a bit then went on passed Fantastic Fireworks. I soon came across with my first photo opportunity, then a second, third and fourth until I became absolutely indignant about who it was that was tipping piles of rubbish. I feel so despondent about having to share my living space with people who are prepared to despoil our countryside in such a cavalier fashion with no thought to the affect it has on anyone else.



Onwards to Caddington Common: the Mars Bar had a calming effect, things became cleaner again and I finished my walk virtually litterless until, nearly home, I crossed into

Grove Road to be faced by yet another pile of mess. Yet another BWM excavation this mess, although no better looking than the previous piles, was legal! *My thoughts this time bypassed the indignant and went straight to the murderous as I struggled to understand why it is that nowadays nothing can ever be fixed properly the first time someone tackles it.*

On the face of it a water leak, you would think that a good “team” effort by McAlpines would soon be able to fix the leak and reinstate the highway, job done. But no: they dig it up, put a plastic sleeve on it, it still leaks. They put barriers around it and go away: for how long, no one knows. In the meantime we have a pile of mess and a footpath less and less passable as cars go by, throwing up muddy water.



The moral? Why beat ourselves up over the illegal dumpers who throw their rubbish in the lanes because we'll never catch them and even if we did our impotent authorities wouldn't do anything about it. What we should do is concentrate our efforts on the “legal” trash providers. At least we know who they are and can attempt to do bring some pressure to bear!

Robert Swetman

Some Good News, Rob! PN called McA's two weeks later and after their best issue-ducking efforts, were persuaded to do something about this. They did, turned out and “fixed” it! ***Bad News:*** last time we looked, it seems that it is leaking again. Sorry, there's more Bad News: the leak recently “fixed” at the crossroads has also started leaking, *again*. Perhaps McA/TVW are not yet “Investors in People”. PN thoughts are that if things are fixed second time round, excellence is achieved.....

*Praise God for the harvest of farm and of field
Praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team
the patience of science, the power of machine.*

*Praise God for the harvest that's sent from afar
From market and harbour, from tropical shore
Foods packed and transported and planted and grown
By God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.*

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death in July of Mrs Elsie Freeman. Born in Pipers Lane, she spent her childhood and married life there until moving into a nursing home. Elsie was our longest serving church member and dedicated to keeping our small chapel open for worship. One Sunday morning only the preacher and Elsie on the organ were there, so they dragged the organ outside and held the service there. Elsie said "The people didn't come to us, so we went out to the people." Her last job in the church was as a pastoral visitor and communion steward. Elsie will be much missed, our love and prayers go out to her family.

The Sunday School BBQ found 82 people popping in to eat, drink and relax in the sunshine. Friends from all four denominations from the village churches came, good fun was had by all ages and the bouncy castle went down well with the children. The cake and produce stall at Heathfield raised £74 for church heating fund and in June we raised £36 for Christian Aid and £63 for National Children's Homes.

Normal church services resume on **Sunday, 3rd September at 11am**. The children will return to Sunday School on September 10th at 11am. This will be our Harvest Festival All Age Worship, why not come and join us? The Harvest Auction will be on Monday 11th September at 11.30am onwards, the charity chosen for this year will be Water Aid. The Auction is great fun and finds the church packed with bidders. There will be fresh fruit and vegetables (some from our Church Allotment) as well as tinned and packet foods.

Ann Meader



South Bedfordshire taking pride in our district

Did you see the letter from South Bedfordshire District Council about the Electoral Register? Your response is required and this is very simple.

Just call the South Beds District Council free telephone number 0800 197 5823 and punch in the security codes included in the letter if the details there are correct.

Or fill out the form and post off to the Freepost address.

If you do not have the letter to hand call the help line 01582 474004 for assistance or e-mail maralyne.syratt@southbeds.gov.uk.

***Electoral Register:
0800 197 5823***

***Electoral Registration Office:
South Bedfordshire District Council
Freepost LOL1000
Dunstable LU6 1BR***

Holidays

Now what's the use of holidays
If it rains each blessed day?
And how can you laugh and sing and shout
When the sky is cold and grey?

But you can have a royal time
On holiday from the start
If you don't omit to take a bit
Of merriment in your heart.

Francis Gay



Women's
Institute

Some members from Caddington joined in a group outing to the 'Theatre Royal' Drury Lane on August 10th. The weather was kind and we had a good journey on the motorway. We arrived and had a look around London from the coach before alighting at

Drury Lane. Covent Garden wasn't yet awake so my husband and I had a look around Somerset House and the Law Courts. After lunch we returned to Covent Garden, now in full swing. A time was set for assembling at the Theatre Royal, where an actor and an actress took it in turns to fill us in with the history, dressed for the period about which they were talking. It was truly fantastic and the only disappointment was we weren't allowed in the theatre as a rehearsal was taking place. In all a lovely day out, a big thank you to Lorna our group convenor.

Our speaker in August meeting was Mrs Naylor and her subject was 'Funny Ladies' and No, she wasn't referring to the W.I.! She referred to Elsie and Doris Waters, Hilda Baker, Victoria Wood but went into more details about Nellie Wallace, Joyce Grenfell and Gracie Fields. We had monologues from Joyce Grenfell and songs from Gracie Fields. In all, a very entertaining and different meeting.



Ad for WI markets, 1940s

We meet each 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

What Senior Citizens are Worth

Did you know we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs!

I am seeing six gentlemen every day! As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it is time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley or my other friend who I only know by his initials - PG !

Then comes someone I don't like at all Arthur Itis, he knows he is not welcome, but he insists on being here, and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed [and with Johnny Walker too!!] What a hectic life! Oh yes, I am now flirting with AI Zheimer!

The vicar came to see me the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did all the time. For no matter where I am, the bed room, kitchen, sitting-room or the garden, I ask myself, 'Now what am I here after?'

Well, I'll close now and I hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind!! And watch out for the crafty one Gerry Atric!



It's farewell to David Haste, who had been Clerk to the Parish Council for some years, since the



formation of our own separate Parish Council. David maintains local contact as Clerk for the Hyde Parish Council. And welcome to Nikkie West, who lives in Summer Street. Recently appointed as Parish Clerk, she succeeds David Haste.



And this from Grenville & Dorothy Williams, ex-Slip Enders now living at Sandford in deepest Dorset ..



Alan & Karen Barton seen after their Marriage Blessing at St Andrews church in June.

The weather was excellent and the lovely service was conducted by Rev Joy Daniel, which all helped make it a day to remember. A reception for family and friends was held later at the Mossman Collection in Stockwood Park.

Life continues here at Sandford with quite a bit of variety, but with things that would not be of so much interest to folk at Slip End – and that's my excuse for not sending a 'letter from Dorset' for several months. However, a phone call followed by a visit from Liz Higgens changed all that! We dug out the recent copies of 'Slip End Parish News' to check on latest happenings and had a fine chin-wag over lunch hearing how particularly the younger generation were doing. It probably was Liz's excuse for getting away from the scout camp near Studland for an hour or two. Any way it gives us a good opportunity to send greetings to all our old friends at Slip End and to say that if you are down in this area, do give us a ring.

*With best wishes,
Grenville and Dorothy*

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

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
9th Aley Green Methodist Church: Cake & Produce Stall at Houghton Regis Craft Market
16th Aley Green Methodist Church: Produce Stall at Caddington Village Show
19th Caddington WI: Birthday Meeting, Member's Night,
23rd Aley Green Methodist Church: Coffee Morning

October

- 2nd Slip End Parish Council - Village Hall 8pm
7th Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506
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
18th Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506
21st Caddington WI: Glass Jewere Demonstration—Mr Smallwood
26th Craft Fayre at the Village Hall: Call Gill Plummer on 723109

<p style="text-align: center;">BINGO</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Slip End Village Hall</i> Thursday evenings at Eight Slip End & District Association</p>

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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