

# 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: 452978  
Slip End Assoc: 414796  
Mother's Union: 738435  
Playgroup: 728865  
Toddler Group 405931  
Allotments: 736892  
FoSELS (PTA):  
Tracey Burgess  
Women's Institute: 421034  
Police: 473412  
Aircraft noise: 395382  
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Christine Benson: 456200  
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Geoff Daniel: 424363  
[geoffdaniel@btinternet.com](mailto:geoffdaniel@btinternet.com)  
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CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Nikkie West: 402312  
[parishclerk@slipend.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@slipend.co.uk)

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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Philip Penman: 455185  
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## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Stay: 724685  
[Richard.Stay@bedscc.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Stay@bedscc.gov.uk)

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Margaret Moran: 01582 731882  
[sultanau@parliament.uk](mailto:sultanau@parliament.uk)

## CHURCHES

### St Andrew's Church

Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363  
Wardens: Tony Willson 482681  
Ken Crossett 414168

### Aley Green Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Julia Dowding 730129  
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668

## SHOPS & SERVICES

**Post Office:** At the Crossroads, telephone 401069  
Monday to Friday 6.30 to 21.00 Saturday 7.00 to 21.00 - Sunday 7.30 to 21.00  
**Garage:** Slip End Garage, Markyate Road, telephone 456888

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

## **HILARY'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**



We had an enjoyable evening at Hilary's Christmas shopping event that was featured in last month's Parish News. There was plenty to eat and drink and lots to look at. Indoor plants in beautiful containers, outdoor baskets of plants, as well as dried flower arrangements and gifts galore.

It was good to be able to do some Christmas shopping in the warm and meet up with old friends. Good idea Hilary.

*Sue Briggs*

## **ALLOTMENTS & GARDEN ASSOCIATION**

Digging and trenching can be done in the vegetable garden throughout the month as the weather allows and the ground is not frozen or too wet. Continue to bend down leaves over the curds of broccoli as they form.

Finish fruit and shrub pruning. Burn all rubbish, clean and repair tools then sit back and look through catalogues for interesting things to grow next year.

We still have a few vacant plots on the allotments.

Call Derrick on  
736892.

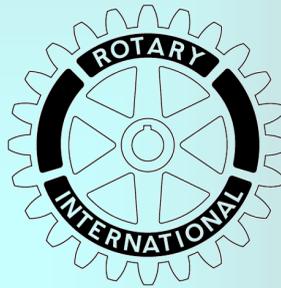


# Brownies

Ten brownies attended the remembrance Service at St Andrew's Church along with other uniformed groups.

We are now making things for Christmas. I am pleased to report that four new girls have joined us and are settling in well.

*Gillian Plummer*



*The Rotary Club of Dunstable shares an international motto of "Service above Self".*

The Club members raise money during the year to put into their Benevolent

Fund and once a year this money is distributed to charities local to Dunstable and the surrounding villages.

To this end an Antiques Fair is held three times a year at the Dunstable Leisure Centre where the majority of the income goes to the Benevolent Fund. The next Fair is on New Year Bank Holiday which is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and is open to the public between 10am and 4pm. Admission is a modest £2 per person.

### ***How can you help?***

By having a stall at the event: Please contact Alan Tarsey on 01582 872673.

By attending the event

By becoming a member of The Rotary Club and helping worthwhile causes in the community.

*More information can be obtained from Roger Sharp on 01582 606405*

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## **ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH**

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*Come let us anew  
Our journey pursue  
Roll round with the year  
And never stand still till the master appear.*

The Autumn Fayre was very well supported by Village and Circuit friends. It was wonderful to welcome people into Aley Green Church and offer them food and refreshments, and to have a chat over a cup of tea. We raised £842 towards the running of the church.

At our Junior Missions for All and Methodist Homes Sunday service last month, lead Jo Prowse and Ann Meader, the children who have been collecting all year for JMA received their rewards. Between them they have raised over £600.

We will also be received and blessed the shoeboxes for Link Romania before they began their long journey in time for Christmas. Coffee and tea was served after the service.

The October Coffee Evening raised £16 for Cancer Research. The November Coffee Evening raised funds for the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust. Hot and cold drinks, homemade cakes and preserves were available and also books and videos.

On Saturday November 10th we joined in the Ecumenical Quiz Night. On Remembrance Sunday the 11th November we joined in with All Saints Church, Caddington at the Remembrance Sunday Service.

**Dates for your Diary:** Wednesday 5th December Coffee Evening. Sunday 9th December 3pm. Sunday School Christmas Concert. Friday 14th December 7pm. Christmas Musical evening with buffet. Proceeds to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.

*The Grace of God has dawned upon the World  
with healing for all Mankind. Psalm 827 v1.*

With love and prayers from all at Aley Green Methodist Church.

*Ann Meader*

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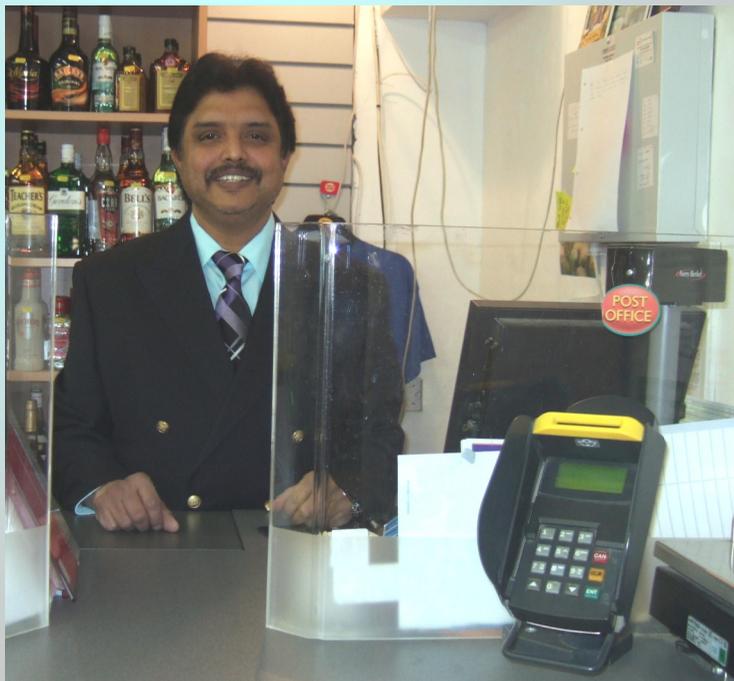
## **SLIP END POST OFFICE**

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*Did you know that Slip End has the only 'open counter Post Office in the area?*

Anil can be seen above behind the counter and how much more friendly is it when you need to speak to someone and don't have to shout across the glass screens to be heard.

As featured on the back page, not only can you send your parcels, use the post office facilities, do your shopping, you can also draw your cash out of the ATM machine without paying commission.



It is with regret that all the dances for the rest of this year have been cancelled due to lack of support. I hope to try again next year and if I get enough people interested we will be able to continue but if not future dances will be in jeopardy. Don't folk enjoy a good dance these days with good company and in the local hall?

Hope to hear some encouraging news from you dancers out there (or even non-dancers willing to give it a go)

*Shirley Knapton*

With the very popular 'Strictly Come Dancing' on the television at the moment, it would be a good opportunity to get to the village hall and practice your quick-step!



### **Editorial Note**

*'What do organisations have to do to get support these days? Years ago if anyone had anything on at the Village Hall it would be packed out with people! (Anon)'*

If anyone has got any suggestions as to how to get people along to events held at the Village Hall perhaps you would like to write in with your ideas.

It is hard for groups to keep going these days without getting support from local families and friends. Please try and help by going along to fund-raising events and encouraging the youth from the Parish.

If we don't use it, we may lose it!



The tree which blew down on the green in Crawley Close last Spring has been rooted up and replaced. Cllr Steve Fuell installed a protective fence around the sapling to protect and help it grow to maturity in the fullness of time. Matt Ogier-Russell was busy too last month, installing a litter bin at Coronation Garden: Thanks Matt.

Here at Parish News we have been encouraged that the Parish Council and others around the village have worked to improve the appearance of the place which had been getting insidiously tatty. Hopes are that further projects will be put in place in the not too distant future.

*Particular word of thanks must go to Pauline Smith and Richard Gurney, who are contracted by the Parish Council to keep areas of the village mown and tidy. We strongly suspect that they put in additional time and enthusiasm for which we are truly grateful.*

*Now, if only we could do something about all those muddy verges....*

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**SLIP END SANTA**

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It was about 28 years ago when Pete Ray, dressed as Santa, first toured the village on the back of Tony Willson's truck. With him was Allison Ray dressed as a Dog and Clare Willson as a Cat. Steven Pantling also joined in the fun and dressed as an Elf another year. Santa and his helpers visited local pubs and clubs, collecting for the local charities.



*Christmas 2005, a triple Santa turn-out: do you recognise them?*

Sleigh drivers in the past have included Tony Willson, Mick Plummer and Pat Nelson. Santa's helpers have included the late Wilf Fleckney, Roy Knapton, Ernie Pantling, Roy Twiching, Norman and Andrew Goad, Alan Hughes, David Stanfield, Sean Childs, Ken Gough, Danny Branon, Roger Thrift, Alan

White (from Florida) and Dudley Crossland (from Singapore).

We would like to thank all the drivers and helpers who have taken part in the last twenty eight years and to all the villagers – please be generous this year when you see the Santa's out collecting on Christmas Eve.

*Pete and Babs Ray.*

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**WINNERS FROM SLIP END**

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The lovely dance group on the front cover and opposite are: from left to right: Charlotte Burgess, Beth Challenger, Louisa Fallon, Ruby Wilson, Lucy Fletcher and Ellie Stanfield from the local school of Irish Dancing in Slip End.

They are proudly showing off medals which they won in competitions recently. Although having taken part in only two competitions, they have won 16 prizes between them, which is quite an achievement. They gained high places in their dances and were invited to take part in a local championship on 1st December. So we wish them all good luck!

If you want to join the lessons to compete, take part in exhibitions, to keep fit or for fun, classes are on Thursday at 4.30pm in Slip End Lower School Hall.

The girls all live in Slip End and ages range from 7 to 11. The younger girls go to school in Slip End and the older girls go to Five Oaks school in Caddington.



Class ages ranges from 5 to under 7's at £2.50, over 7 £3. Adults can also join in or I can arrange a separate class if enough people wish to come along

*Teresa Flaherty*

*Well done girls, you all look lovely in your costumes.*

*Editor*

# SLIP END YOUTH CLUB



DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A FANTASTIC NEW YOUTH CLUB IN SLIP END?

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING  
FROM 7-9PM**

**@ PETER EDWARDS' HALL**

(NEXT TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH)

NINTENDO WII  
POOL TABLE  
TABLE TENNIS  
TABLE FOOTBALL  
AIR HOCKEY  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
VOLLEYBALL

BASKETBALL  
BADMINTON  
PLAY STATIONS  
DVD'S  
DJ / KARAOKE & DANCE MATS  
BOARD GAMES  
CHILL OUT AREA

**ALL FOR JUST £1 A WEEK!!!**

ALSO TRIPS TO...

**XSCAPE SNOWDOME  
LASERQUEST  
SWIMMING**

AND MUCH MUCH MORE....

**TUCK SHOP**

WITH SWEETS, CRISPS, COOKIES AND HOT + COLD DRINKS  
SO DON'T FORGET YOUR POCKET MONEY

SO IF YOU ARE BETWEEN 10 AND 16 YEARS OLD  
THERE'S NO NEED TO BOOK - JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT

And if you're over 16 and interested in becoming a volunteer, come along too and meet us.

# **SLIP END YOUTH CLUB**

*Following initiatives from within the community and with help and encouragement from Slip End Parish Council, Parish News is very pleased to report great news: Slip End Youth Club is up and running!* Janet Crawley and Nikki West have written in with some news and details ....

## ***We're under way!***

*The youth club has made an astounding start and we now have about 30 youngsters who cannot wait to get through the door. It is a successful beginning both from the kids point of view and for the whole community!*

We have had donations from lots of local sources, including Fantastic Fireworks., we have a table tennis table: The St Albans Buffaloes gave us £600 for equipment, which has been spent on an air hockey, pool table and football machine. We had a grant for £1500 from Bedfordshire County Council (thank you Richard Stay for your support): Christine & Howard Benson are providing membership cards: and lots more!

There have been donations from other people for which we are very grateful and some in the Village have volunteered to help. We are looking for anyone who can spare us a few hours. We are planning a programme for the Youth Club with trips and fun things. *One of our important aims is to promote good citizenship, develop life skills and get the youngsters actively involved in the community.*

We would like to send out a warm thank you to everyone who has helped and donated to get us started. We still need donations and volunteers to help us on our way, so please continue to help if you can.

Our children are our future and we need everyone to understand and think on this!

*Janet Crawley*



***The club was launched on 21st November 2007.*** It runs every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 pm (except on 26th December).

It has been set up by Janet Crawley and Nikki West over the last 6 months or so. Tracey Burgess has joined us in the last few weeks as our Youth Worker and she has done an absolutely brilliant job. We have also had a good response from local people who are interested in working as volunteers and we are keen to hear from anyone else who would be interested in helping out, even if they can only support us occasionally.

Initially the club will run for a ten week trial period, as Peter Edwards Hall has kindly been given to us free of charge for that period. Based on an exceptional First Night last month, Janet and I are confident that the club will continue indefinitely.

Funding for the equipment has come from a variety of sources including both County and Parish Councils and donations from local businesses and Round Table groups.

We will include some photos and a more in depth article, but in the meantime here's wishing all Parrish News readers a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Nikki West*

***Services & Events in December & January***

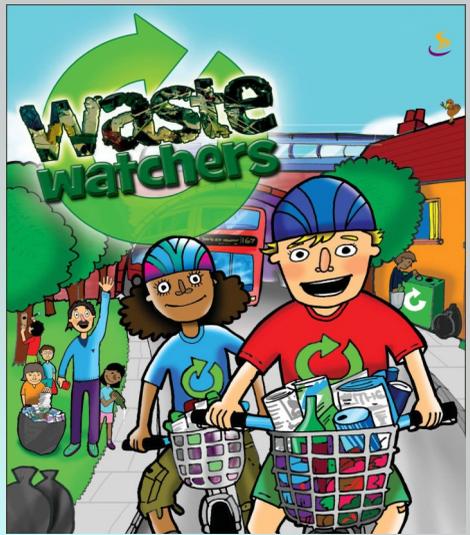
*Midweek Communion services take place monthly at two venues in Slip End, details from Joy.*

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Pram Service meet in the Family Room
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.30pm	Woodside Home Carol Service
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Nativity Service at St Andrews
	2.30pm	East Hyde Carol Service
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Andrews
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15pm	First Communion of Christmas
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Christmas celebration at St Andrews
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise

***January 2008***

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Communion
	6.15pm	3;16 meet in the Family Room
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Alpha Supper at the Vicarage
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Pram Service meet in the Family Room
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Alpha group
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.15pm	3;16 meet in the Family Room
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Alpha Group
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Alpha Group
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room





**WasteWatchers  
Holiday Club  
Scenes**



Too late to appear in the November issue, here are some pictures of goings on at St A's at half term. Alison Dayer of the Scripture Union put on a varied, interesting and often noisy programme for about 40 youngsters. We enjoyed games, study, DVDs, stories and more all on the subject of how we look after our environment. As a result of the work which went in, the churchyard will bloom with colourful bulbs planted by the children and there will be more birdsong with the installation of several nest boxes. We were all interested to hear from a young man from BBSJV, the M1 contractors, who informed us about how that organisation addresses environmental issues associated with work on the M1. *We are very grateful to Alison and the local team who worked so hard to make a memorable time for the children..* ***A great time was had by all!***



### The Bishop

*A variation of mulled wine which includes port and was so called by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century students of Oxford and Cambridge. It can be stored and used as desired.*

- 6 Seville oranges
- 4 oz sugar
- Cloves
- 1½ bottles inexpensive red wine
- 1 bottle ruby port

Bake the oranges in a moderate oven for approx 20 minutes until golden brown and then place in a large warmed bowl with 6 cloves pricked into each fruit.

Add sugar and pour in wine, but not the port. Cover and leave in a warm place for a day. Then squeeze the oranges into the wine and pour through a sieve. (if saving, bottle in sterilised bottles and seal before adding port).

To serve, add the port to the liquid and heat in a pan, but do not boil. Serve in warmed goblets and drink hot. Or pour into bottles and stand in a pan of simmering water; this keeps the drink hot and makes pouring easier.

If Seville oranges are out of season use 5 sweet oranges and 1 yellow grapefruit instead. However, only squeeze in half the grapefruit juice at first and then test for taste. Add remainder if preferred.



### Wassail Punch

Which takes its name from the Anglo Saxon toast 'Waes Hael' or Good Health.

- 4 whole small eating apples with 2 cloves stuck in each.
- 8 oz soft brown sugar.
- 1 pt medium sherry.
- 1 cinnamon stick.
- 4 pts brown ale.

Thinly pared rind of 2 oranges.

Set oven to 350° or Mark 4. put apples in ovenproof dish and put sugar over them. Pour in sherry and add the cinnamon stick and bake for 20 minutes, or until apples are beginning to soften and brown. Do not overcook.

Transfer contents into large saucepan and pour in brown ale with the orange rinds. Heat until it begins to simmer' it is then ready to serve in heatproof glasses.



### Sherry Cobbler

*A delightful Christmas drink*

- 1 measure fresh orange juice.
- 1 measure medium sherry
- Slice of orange
- Little sugar
- 1 tablespoon port

Put sugar into a tumbler with some crushed ice. Add orange juice and sherry and stir. Place on top the slice of orange with two straws through the middle. Pour the port over the orange and serve.



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*Christmas is fast approaching and the teachers and pupils are busy with preparations for the festive season.*

### **Christmas Fair**

As I write, the event is still a little way ahead but I hope you will come along and support our big day at school. This year the fair has been moved a little later in the day and runs from 3 until 5pm. There are lots of fun things to do, lovely food and of course, a visit to Santa's Grotto. This year children will have the added excitement of riding the Santa Express to get there! ***STOP PRESS: We made over £1500, a record! News and pictures in next issue.***

### **Christmas Production**

Work has already started on this year's Christmas play called "It's a Party"! The children and teachers put on a wonderful nativity each year, always with a creative interpretation of the age old story and I'm sure this year will be no different.

### **Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal**

Recently Theresa Willson visited school to talk about the work she does with Samaritan's Purse. Her talk and film were very moving and some children even shed tears at the plight of those in the video. It certainly brought home to them how lucky they are and made them all determined to go home & create a shoebox of gifts for those less fortunate than themselves.

### **Children in Need**

The School Council decided to support Children in Need with a Mufti Day on November 16th. The theme was Characters from Books and children paid £1 to come in costume. There was a superb range of characters including Harry Potter, Horrid

Henry, Flat Stanley plus fairies, princesses and even a Count Dracula!

### **Other School Activities**

Another Christmas classic came to the school in November with a theatre production of the Nutcracker. The children enjoyed the show, which had plenty of comedy moments and opportunities to join in as part of the performance.

### **FoSELS Fundraising**

Apart from our big annual Fairs, FoSELS also runs smaller events to help with fundraising. Recently we've held a car boot sale, plus a Children's Cinema Club which was very popular and included popcorn and drinks as well as the film. We will be sure to run it again, these two events raised over £200.

### **Pumpkin Prizes**

Last month I told you about the school Pumpkin competition. The winners were given a pumpkin to decorate and were entered into the 'Rural Arts in Beds & Herts: Pumpkin Arts Festival 2007' held at Luton Hoo. We are very pleased to say that the following children received awards in their category:

- Luke Schoonbrood (Ruby Class): 1<sup>st</sup> Prize
- Hannah Burgess (Topaz Class) : 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize
- Jack Burgess (Amber Class): 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

All of the children who entered received a certificate so a big congratulations to them all. *(Check out the school website for pumpkin pictures at ([www.slipend.beds.sch.uk](http://www.slipend.beds.sch.uk)).*

***Merry Christmas from the FoSELS team, we look forward to sharing more news with you in the New Year.***

*Sandra Collins*

## **GENERAL CHRISTMAS FACTS**

The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas Carols in England between 1649 and 1660. Cromwell thought that Christmas should be a very solemn day so he banned carols and parties. The only celebration was a sermon and a prayer service.

In 1643, the English Parliament officially abolished the celebration of Christmas.

The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas.

Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be repaired in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time.

St Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas Carols to formal church services.



Telesphorus, the second Bishop of Rome (125-136 AD) declared that public Church services should be held to celebrate "The Nativity of

our Lord and Saviour." In 320 AD, Pope Julius I and other religious leaders specified 25 December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.



26 December was traditionally known as St Stephen's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. This expression came about because money was collected in alms-boxes placed in churches during the festive season. This money was then distributed to the poor and needy after Christmas.



Melbourne, Australia has a sporting Boxing Day tradition. The Melbourne Cricket Ground hosts a Cricket test match. Sometimes this attracts 90,000 spectators. Cricket is Australia's premier Summer sport.

The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We had a hectic time at Kidztime on November 18th which had been designated Shoebox Sunday this year. Lots of children turned up to help make up shoeboxes and make Christmas cards to go in the boxes.

We watched a short DVD about Operation Christmas Child and saw some of the children receiving their boxes last year. Many thanks to all who contributed gifts to go in the boxes and to the ladies who helped with all the mayhem in the Family Room: we managed to make up 14 boxes which was excellent.



*Some of the children watching the DVD*

We have been hard at work at the warehouse in Dunstable and so far have processed over 12,000 boxes. The first lorry is due to arrive in Dunstable to collect boxes which will be going to Kiev in the Ukraine.



Sheila Heaton, district co-ordinator for our area called in at Dunstable to see how our campaign was going and was impressed by the set-up and hard-working volunteers who give up their precious time to check and pack boxes.



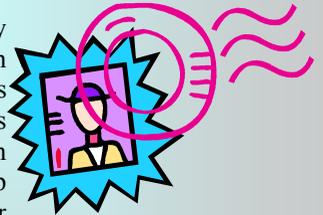
*Packing up the boxes at the warehouse*

Sheila is pictured with Teresa and Tony Willson at the warehouse. Some of you may recognise Sheila who came to St Andrew's Church over five years ago to give a talk on Operation Christmas Child and to make an appeal for someone to run the operation in our area. Little did she realise that Teresa and Tony would accept the challenge and do it so efficiently, encouraging many others to help.

*Sue Briggs*

## USED STAMPS

**Don't** throw away used stamps on letters or cards received this Christmas or in the future. Keep them for



Charities, which include Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Cut them off with a 1 inch border and save until you have a reasonable amount, then post "free" to following address.

Posted!! Stamps for Charities  
Education Distribution Services  
Freepost FPN 772  
Castle Road  
Sittingbourne, ME10 3RL

## CHRISTMAS FAVOURITES

According to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, these are the Top 10 most-performed “Holiday” songs for the first five years of the 21st Century:

1. *The Christmas Song* (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire). Mel Tormé, Robert Wells
2. *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*. Fred Coots, Haven Gillespie
3. *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*. Ralph Blane, Hugh Martin
4. *Winter Wonderland*. Felix Bernard, Richard B. Smith
5. *White Christmas*. Irving Berlin
6. *Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!* Sammy Cahn, Jule Styne
7. *Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer*. Johnny Marks
8. *Jingle Bell Rock*. Joseph Carleton Beal, James Ross Boothe
9. *I'll Be Home For Christmas*. Walter Kent, Kim Gannon, Buck Ram
10. *Little Drummer Boy*. Katherine K. Davis, Henry V. Onorati, Harry Simeone

“Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas” is an editorial favourite. It is poignantly featured (sung by Frank Sinatra) in the film “The Longest Day”, which is about the D-Day Landings in occupied France in World War 2. Catch it if you can.)



## BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

*Bedfordshire Police inform us that telephone calls are going out from a security firm which offers home security checks, selling home security equipment.*



Residents are reminded not to buy goods or services from cold callers, either at the doorstep or over the phone. If you need work undertaking on your home or garden, obtain written quotes from 3 approved companies before you proceed. Ask a friend or neighbour to be with you when the company visits.

Do not pay any money until you are happy that the work has been completed to a good standard. A list of local registered traders, can be obtained from Trading Standards on (01234) 228228 or from their web site [www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/tsapproved](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/tsapproved).

Be vigilant, and report suspicious activity in your area.



# FOIL APPEAL

*In aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind*



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

## **FANCY A NATTER WHILE YOU KNIT?**

**THEN COME TO  
KNIT 'N' NATTER CLUB!**

We will be meeting on December 4th & 18th, 1:30 to 2:45. Open to all regardless of ability: bring along any knitting projects you have on the go, needlework, crochet, etc... Or just drop by for the chat and a cuppa!

Thank you to all who have donated wool: we would be most grateful for more as we will be knitting for the Christmas Child campaign.

**Call Julie on 413912 or e-mail  
duncan.taylor@btinternet.com.**

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### **OPEN GARDENS 2008**

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Slip End hosted their third 'Open Gardens' day in 2006. This proved to be a very popular event and was enjoyed by over 100 visitors.

We are now planning for 2008 when we will be holding Open Gardens on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> July. Put the date in your diary now!

We are already looking for some new gardens, big or small. If you live in the Parish and would be interested in taking part, please contact one of the committee members listed below. This is not a competition and your garden does not have to be anything special. We just want you to be enthusiastic about it.

Val Church	458443
Joan Duncombe	404988
David Kingston	416138
Steve Lyons	414162

Rosemary Wickens	423622
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### **Christingle Birthday Boy!**

St Andrew's Lay Reader, Chris Barnes, celebrated his birthday on St Andrew's Christingle Day, December 2nd. He seen in Fancy Dress, Slip End's only life-sized Christingle: happy birthday Chris!

Here's a big thank you to the Lower School and St Andrew's for the Harvest Festival gift of goodies. I know that I speak on behalf of the recipients who live in the bungalows in Crawley Close, also many others in the parish.



*This is a very kind gesture, God bless you all!*

*Mr & Mrs C. Burgess*

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### **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

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**All of us at Parish News wish our readers a very happy time this Christmas and a peaceful and healthy 2008!**



Parish News takes a break over the festivities so the next issue will probably reach you around late January with the normal monthly pattern recommencing with the March issue.

*Don't forget to send your items in plenty of time for the next issue. Get cracking early in the New Year and send in your items about Christmas goes-on, not forgetting a few pictures.*



## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR!**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Slip End's Liz Higgins (formerly a teacher at Ashton Middle School) received the "Teacher of the Year Award" at a ceremonial dinner organised by a local commercial radio station.

Liz retired from full time teaching in 2006. She was nominated for the award by the parents of children she has taught over recent years at Manshead and Ashton schools.



The Chiltern Radio Pride of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire & Buckinghamshire Awards were held nearby at the Markyate Holiday Inn and Liz was accompanied by her husband, Paddy, who is very proud of her!

As well as the awards Liz and Paddy and all the other guests enjoyed a superb buffet supper and dancing. Entertainment was provided by Beverley who has recently been competing in the television programme, 'The X Factor'.

## **CAR WASH JUST £5!**



Stuart Baird is busy raising funds for his Kenya trip where he will spend some time on Community Projects and enjoy a walk in an elephant reserve! *So if your car needs a wash call Stuart on 738205*

## **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)*



*Cliff & Lynn Wheeler welcome you to the*

## **HARROW INN**

**Lower Woodside**

Phone/Fax: 729816

Mobile: 07763 784677 / 07706 508863

*Opening times*

*Monday - Thursday: Noon to Midnight*

*Friday: Noon to 1am Saturday: 11am to 1am*

*Sunday: Noon to 11pm*

## **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

Some years ago on Christmas Eve I joined the multitudes who were making their way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. It is six miles over rough countryside. Passing the highest point we saw the seat erected in memory of Holman Hunt, whose painting "The Light of the World" hangs in St. Paul's Cathedral. Bethlehem is a white-walled village where the population is mostly Christian with a sprinkling of Moslems. The slopes and terraces lead down to the plains below, on which olive trees, figs and vines grow in profusion. Besides these farming industries, the town supports itself by the manufacture of souvenirs from olive wood and mother of pearl shells.

We made our way to the market square and joined with the crowds in the singing of well-loved carols, led by a Padre, joining the queue waiting at the entrance to the Church of the Nativity. The old Church was erected by Helena, mother of Constantine, to protect the place which is claimed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ. The entrance is very low, so that

only one person can enter at a time, reminding us of years gone by when the Turks used to ride through a huge entrance right into the Church and attack the worshippers. So, bending our heads to get in, we crossed the main body of the Church between beautiful Corinthian columns and descended the stone stairs into the grotto of the Nativity. It is like a cave, illuminated by a large number of lamps. There on the floor, the guide showed us the famous fourteen pointed star of Bethlehem, stating that it was here that Jesus was born. The star itself has a hollow centre, through which the original rock is visible. We next saw the manger where the baby was laid, and then realized that the thoughts of all the world were on that particular place at that time.

Out into the open again, we joined the crowds going by narrow rocky paths to the shepherds' fields where "Shepherds watched their flocks .", then around a bonfire the carols were sung again by Britishers, Arabs and Asiatics, all united because of Bethlehem.

*David Barker*





***Rosemary Wickens and Trish Fuell are having an "Open Day" at 1 Crawley Close, Slip End on Monday 10th December.***

There will be a range of hand knitted scarves, one off design glass bead necklaces, earrings, keyrings, bracelets, as well as Rosemary's exquisite hand made greetings and birthday cards.

Do some last minute Christmas shopping in comfort or get ahead of yourself with next year's birthday cards and presents, meet your neighbours, come along 11am to and 9pm.

*Refreshments will be provided and 10% of all jewellery sales will be donated to British Heart Foundation.*

*Trish Fuell  
01582 417792*



**Need an evening  
Babysitter?**

*Call Philippa on  
01582 452003  
(Registered Childminder)*

*All proceeds to go to the  
Cystic Fibrosis Trust*

Luton Museums offer a range of events both at Wardown Park in Luton and nearby at Stockwood. Too many to list here, take a look at [www.luton.gov.museums](http://www.luton.gov.museums) or call 01582 546852 and they will send you informative leaflets.

Stockwood is undergoing major development at the moment and will re-open next July. As a taster, here is an extract from the "What's on for Families" leaflet. *To see how things are going there, note the Discovery Tours on Sundays 10th February and 30th March.*

## Stockwood Discovery Centre



What's happening? A £6m transformation for Stockwood Park Museum thanks to £3.7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, along with £1.2m from the European Regional Development Fund and funding from other generous external supporters. Plans are now progressing to create the Stockwood Discovery Centre, a free museum and visitor attraction, including:

- a visitor centre with a brand-new shop and cafe
- new gardens including sensory, world and medicinal gardens
- outdoor children's discovery area
- exciting changing exhibitions
- interactive displays about the history of the area
- new corporate entertainment/meeting room facilities for hire

If you would like to be kept up to date with the progress at Stockwood or become part of the Supporters' wall for a small donation, contact us on 01582 54 67 23 or email [museum.gallery@luton.gov.uk](mailto:museum.gallery@luton.gov.uk).

**The museum is currently closed for development work.  
Re-opens July 2008**



### Stockwood Discovery Centre tours

**Sun 10 Feb  
Sun 30 Mar**  
Stockwood Park Museum

Come and find out the latest about the Stockwood Discovery Centre. Meet our staff and enjoy a tour of the site and learn about the plans for the new displays and how you can contribute.

Tours of the site: 12.30, 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30 (40 minutes)



Free, but please book on 01582 73 87 14  
Please give us your views on the Stockwood Discovery Centre by completing the on-line survey at [www.luton.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.luton.gov.uk/consultation)

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

**December**

**1st FoSELS: Christmas Fayre at the School**

1st 10am to noon: Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington

3rd Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm

4th Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home: call 413912

8th Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506

18th Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home: call 413912

**January**

8th Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm

**February**

4th Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm

23rd Tennis Club: Quiz Night at Peter Edwards Hall

**March**

3rd Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm

**April**

7th Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm

**May**

**Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**12th**

**July**

12th OPEN GARDENS DAY

**BINGO**

*at the Village Hall  
Thursdays at Eight*

*Slip End & District Association*

If you are a new reader and would like a copy of Parish News each month, please contact Alan Buttery at 1 Claydown Way on 724527, alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk. Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holiday adventures, etc? Please contact us, letters and e-mails are encouraged. Views expressed by our contributors are not the Editor's own.

**Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to: Sue Briggs at 4 The Oaks, Slip End, cowells83@aol.com or David Kingston 7 Crawley Close, Slip End, davidgoodmankington@gmail.com.**

We suggest pictures and items are sent in immediately after the events rather than leaving it until the deadline.

Parish News is grateful to our advertisers for their contributions. Please support them! For advertising enquiries call Steve on 01582 861186 (Monday to Friday 9-4) or 01582 414162 (evenings & weekends), SteveSueLyons@aol.com

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www.hardyclarke.com*

**BIN DAYS - DECEMBER 2007**

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

**Put out Black Bins only on Fridays highlighted above. On other Fridays, put out Green and Orange Bins, not Black Bins.**