

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2007



**Diamond Wedding
Congratulations
to
Tom & Dot Reid**

**Many Happy
Returns
to
Connie Watson!**

more inside ...



The winning Charitree



Children from St Andrew's Church perform their Christmas Nativity story. Well done to them all and their teachers!

Aley Green Sunday School Concert: the children perform their Christmas Nativity Play at Aley Green Church. Well done to them all!



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

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PhilipPenman@aol.com
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PhilipPenman@aol.com
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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sultanau@parliament.uk

CHURCHES

St Andrew's Church

Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363
Wardens: David Kingston 416138
Ken Crossett 414168

Aley Green Methodist Church

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

SHOPS & SERVICES

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

Website: slipend.co.uk

We would like to thank everyone from the villages and Luton Circuit who supported our Christmas events.

The biggest of these was our “Charitree Festival”. Those who came along, were asked to vote for which one of the 14 trees they liked most. The winner with 38 votes was the Breast Cancer Research Tree, so they received the Urban and Rural Cup and £50 towards their charity. The Sunday School came second with 29 votes. Over £400 was raised and this was spread over a number of deserving charities: Cancer Research, Keech Cottage Children’s Hospice, our Junior Church, Caddington Hedgehogs, Noah, World Vision, Chums, Lifeboat Association, National Children’s Homes

Other events

The December Coffee Evening raised £18 for Noah, the Christmas Cake raffle raised £53 for MHA (Mental Health Association?) and the Candle Light Carol Service took £108 for National Children’s Homes. A collection taken at the Nativity play raised £82 for Keech Cottage. Our Aley Green Christmas Card raised £32 for the Bible Society and the Christmas Day collection £47 for the Pasque Hospice.

This year, as well as our monthly coffee evenings it is hoped to have evening meals once every couple of months or so: watch this space for details.. We are starting with a roast beef dinner (with all the trimmings and a vegetarian option), on Wed 31st Jan 7:30pm. All money raised will go to Keech Cottage.

The February Coffee Evening will be on Wednesday 21st. Everyone is welcome.

You are invited to join our Ecumenical Lent course, which will be held in Aley Green Church starting from Monday 26th February at 8pm. This group was well attended last year, four different faiths taking part, so don’t be shy, come along and prepare yourselves for Easter. This can be a very moving and spiritual time to explore your faith and feelings.

Our Flower Festival titled ‘Favourite Things’ takes place over the weekend of 16th to 18th March. If you would like to enter a flower arrangement, please ring Barbara Horton on 737647

It was wonderful to welcome so many people into our Church over the Christmas Festival and share our faith with them. Please pop back again. Thank you for your generous gifts of money and love.

Ann Meader



*“Charitrees”
The Sunday School tree entry (left) with photos of the children on it.*

The winning entry entered on behalf of the National Children’s Homes. (below)



All the trees looked beautiful. What a wonderful way to decorate your church at Christmas (Editor).

General Work

When the ground is frozen (although there's not much sign of frost this winter, so far!) so hard that it cannot be dug, put manure around in handy heaps in handy places for digging in when conditions improve. It is not wise to dig immediately after a thaw now when snow (remember that?) is on the ground.

Get hold of the seed catalogues and compile your list for springtime sowing. Our friends at the Stockwood allotments have their shop open normally on Saturday mornings. Prices are very competitive and those boys are always up for a chat!

Burn all rubbish and vegetable stumps to prevent pests. This mild winter might bring us problems later on, as pests which are normally frozen out of existence, might survive. Then we'll be doing battle with them, as well as the wretched rabbits and pigeons! Mug up on how ladybirds and other beneficial allies can be encouraged to help us keep the pests down.

Vegetable Garden

Protect artichokes from frost, if it occurs, put in a few broad beans for an early crop (an editor's favorite), they should get away well so long as the ground is not too cold and claggy. Plant out earliest cabbages and protect broccoli curds as they form.

Flower & Fruit Garden

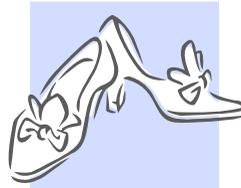
Prune the fruit trees and top dress round about them. If weather is favorable, spray all

outdoor fruit trees, especially pears, plums and gooseberries. The best protection for small bush varieties is a fruit cage and plum and pear trees can be protected by passing black thread from twig to twig or buy "Scaraweb" which will distigrate in 4 to 6 weeks.



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

Brownies



Thank you to all those who donated shoes for the Blue Peter Showbiz appeal. A total of 260 shoes (130 pairs) were taken to the Three Counties Radio collection point.

*Gillian Plummer
Brown Owl*

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.*

Farley Hill Methodists and St. John Baptist (Farley Hill) arranged a continuation of joint Services for the first half of 2007 in addition to a lively social programme at a meeting of the Steering Committee on Wed. 10th January.

The Luncheon Club, now well into its second year, will meet next on Wednesday 14th February 12.30. The Club dines on the second Wednesday each month. A Coffee Morning with stalls takes place on Saturday 17th February starting at 11 am. The annual Concert Season begins on Saturday April 21st with the Luton Male Voice Choir in Concert the Bedfordshire Police Choir performing on Saturday 9th June.

Tea Dances are being introduced on the last Wednesday each month commencing 25th April, 2pm to 4pm.

Details of above events and other activities, Services etc. are available from Ken Cameron Tel. 07960257218

“Walk the famous London Bridges to help promote awareness of kidney disease and fund research to save lives”

London Bridges Walk - 24th June 2007

Want a walk with a difference? Fancy seeing sights of London, while raising money for charity? See London's spectacular sights while raising awareness of kidney disease and support research to save lives by walking eight of London's bridges on Sunday 24th June 2007. The Walk starts and finishes at Potters Fields near Tower Bridge, and walkers will snake across eight bridges, including Tower, London, Millennium and Blackfriars bridges. Registration is £7.50 per walker and there is no minimum sponsorship requirement but walkers are encouraged to raise sponsorship. Proceeds will be used for the work of Kidney Research UK to improve lives of people with kidney disease.

38 members of the club attended the Christmas meal at the Five Bells Henlow and we were not disappointed great service and food piping hot first class don't know how they do it.?

The father Christmases gave a kind donation of £50 thank you very much indeed this year there were 4 of them.

Happy New Year everyone!

Pam King



Despite his busy December workload, Father Christmas found time to drop in at the Village to give presents and toys to the Mums 'n children's groups. Father C has his feet up in January, taking a breather after the Christmas rush.

But he'll soon be out on his allotment as he grows all his own reindeer fodder (a little known fact.)

Kidney Research UK is the leading charity funding research to save lives. Cutting edge research focuses on the prevention, treatment and management of kidney disease. The charity also dedicates its work to patient care and educational initiatives. Currently in the UK, 2.5 million people are suffering chronic kidney disease. This figure is set to rise to 12.5 million people over the next 10 years, so we need to act now!!!

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The walk is a wonderful opportunity to view the many historical sites along the Thames, and the route offers great views of the London. The atmosphere on the day is second to none and it is open to anyone who wants to help make a difference.”

For more information or to take part in the London Bridges Walk please call Kidney Research UK on 08456 121226 or visit www.kidneyresearchuk.org

TOM & DOT REID

Thomas and Doris Reid of Markyate Road celebrated 60 years of marriage last November. They were married at St. Mary's, Luton, on 23 November 1946. The couple met whilst working at Commer Cars in Biscot Road during WWII and were at work the day a German rocket destroyed the canteen.

This photograph was taken at their recent anniversary celebration with family and friends, including their two children, Cynthia and Robert, four grandchildren, Nicola, Michelle, Tom and Vicki, and three great-grandchildren, Ashlei, Cameron and Caitlyn. The celebrations are particularly poignant following Thomas' serious head injury, after falling through his garage roof in June 2003, and subsequent brain surgery, from which he has made a miraculous recovery.



*Many congratulations Dot and Tom from all
your friends in Slip End and from
St Andrew's Church!*

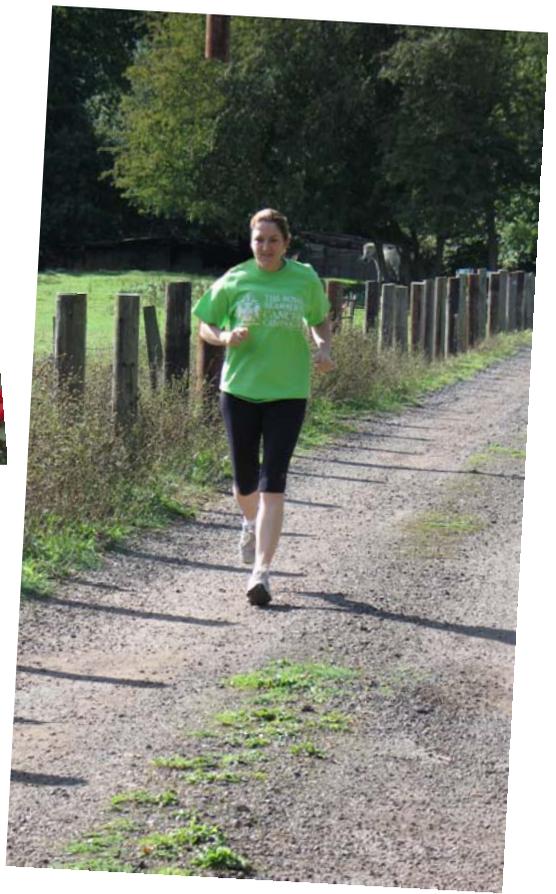


1944. With the tide of war turning in the Allies' favour, Luton still could not avoid Nazi terror. On November 6 1944, a V2 rocket hit the Commer-Karrier plant in Biscot Road, killing 19 people and injuring 196.

Some 2006 Retrospectives

Here are a few local scenes and some personalities. Some are not with us any more: the Fotheringham Family moved across the World to New Zealand and Wilf Fleckney died last spring. In a happier vein Alan & Sue Briggs were married in the summer and Katrina Doubleday trained for the Great South Run. Michael Withey, one time vicar at St Andrew's was a welcome visitor and the Inkermen, Chris & Mark worked at Coronation Garden. The M1 widening project hit us and so did a number of BWM's and other floodings and seepages. What does 2007 hold in store for us?





Services & Events in February

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

Thursday 1 st	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family room
Sunday 4 th	10.30am	Family Communion
	6.15pm	3;16 meet in the Family Room
Tuesday 6 th	7.30pm	Open meeting of East Hyde parishioners
Wednesday 7 th	10.30am	Pram Service in the Family Room
	7.30pm	Alpha Session 3
Saturday 10 th	10.30am	Celebration of Christian Healing in St Albans Abbey
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Morning Praise
	2.00pm	St Andrew's Ramblers set off from the church
Wednesday 14 th	7.30pm	Alpha Session 4
Thursday 15 th	-----	No Footsteps meeting
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 21 st	10.30am	Pram service in the Family room
	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
	8.00pm	Alpha Session 5
Friday 23 rd	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 25 th	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Morning Praise
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family room



St Andrew's Church Electoral Roll Revision

In 2007 we have to renew St Andrew's Electoral Roll. If you are already on it you will receive a renewal form. If you are not and you would like to be, please take a form from the back of the church, or contact Val Church on 458443.

Forms must be returned **no later than Sunday, 18th February, 2007** to St Andrew's church or to 2 Summer Street, Slip End.

To be eligible you must have been baptised, be 16 years or over and either be resident in the Parish or a regular worshiper at St Andrew's church.

Being on the roll allows you to vote on church matters. It is not obligatory. It has no political connotations.

*Val Church,
Electoral Roll Officer*

A Happy New year to one and all!

Plans were to produce this issue in mid January, but we slipped a bit! Work commitments by the junior sub-editor led to a weeks delay, although you may be interested to learn that much of the content in this issue was compiled in the middle of the South China Sea, where work duties placed him at the beginning of January! Next issue will come out at the beginning of March, then we will be back to our monthly schedule after our slight breather (excluding those of us swanning around South China) over the New Year period.

Thank you to all our readers and their (generally) kind comments and encouragement! In 2006 we decided to produce colour cover issues every month which comes at significantly increased costs. However, thanks to our readers who pay their subscriptions so promptly and to our Parish Council advertisers who also support us, we came through the year in a good financial state and colour has become a permanent fixture. Long terms hopes are to increase colour content, but not just yet.

Editorial content has improved and increased and we thank all contributors for putting in items of local interest. If as a group or individual, you have new items you wish to share, get in touch, we need to hear from you.

David Kingston



The TV programme "Flogit" will be holding a valuation day in our locality:

**4th February
Vauxhall Recreation Centre
Gypsy Lane, Luton**

What the day involves

If you're interested in coming along to take part in the show, this is what you do:

Bring along one or two antiques from home for our experts to assess at our valuation. Everyone is promised a valuation, however please bear in mind these valuation days are very popular and you may have to queue. We would especially like it if your antique is one you would consider selling. If our experts feel that your item is particularly interesting and you'd like to sell it, we may take it to auction a couple of weeks after the valuation day.

Admission to the valuation events is free, and filming for the series will be taking place throughout the day (9.30am to 4pm). To ensure everyone gets a chance to meet the experts, there is a limit of three items per person (unless it is a collection).

We cannot promise that everyone will be filmed.

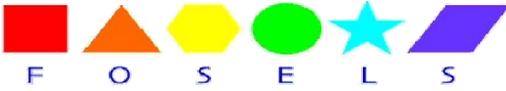
From the BBC



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Let me start by wishing everyone in Slip End a Happy New Year from Friends of Slip End Lower School.

An Exciting End of Term

December was a frantic month at school for a number of reasons. On top of all the rehearsals and performances of the school nativity, there were class parties, a mufti day, a school disco and end of term assembly. All of which were great fun and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

However, while this was happening the school also had their latest Ofsted inspection. The extra work, preparation and stress on the school staff was huge at an already busy time. I am delighted to say the school passed the inspection with a wonderful report. Next month I will share more information about the results with you but for now I would like to quote a few lines written by the inspector.

“This is a good school. It is providing pupils with an effective education and preparing them well for the future. It provides good value for money. Parents are rightly happy with the school and they particularly praise the care for those children who are vulnerable or have particular needs.”

While the media is full of doom and gloom about our education system, it is heartening to report a success story right in the middle of our community, doing a great job for our children. We all owe Mrs Smith and her dedicated team a huge thank you and our gratitude.

Fund Raising Success at Christmas Fair

I have a lot of “Thank You’s” to do to all the local businesses that supported our wonderful Christmas Fair. This is of course, in addition to all of you who turned up on the day and parted with your hard earned cash to make it all such a success. In total we raised over £1600 during the 2 hours and everyone had a good time into the bargain.

The children enjoyed visiting Santa in his grotto and there were lots of fun games for them to spend their pocket money on. We had nice stalls selling Christmas goodies and the refreshments team did a grand job flipping burgers, making tea and coffee and selling cakes. A special mention for the mulled wine (made to Tracey Burgess’s secret recipe), which sold out quickly! More please for next year I think!

Thank you to Town and Country who sponsored the banners and boards advertising the event. Our two biggest sponsors, the Citroen Garage and Airparks who always donate a sizable amount of cash to the school both Summer and Christmas, again we thank you for your generosity.

In addition are a host of businesses who give us goods and services for our raffle including, Dale Evans Beauty, Go Bowling, Fantastic Fireworks, the Namco Station, Cineworld, Tesco, Asda, The Harrow, Frog & Rhubarb, Shendish Manor and Stockwood Park Golf Clubs, Greenacres Equestrian, Lunatic Fringe and Stan’s Carpet Cleaning.

We couldn’t do it without your support, thank you.

**And another thank you to our friends at Fantastic Fireworks who also gave the school two 17 inch colour computer monitors which were gratefully received.*

Christmas Performance

This year’s Christmas performance was wonderful and I hope many of you got to see the show. A big well done to all the children for working so hard to learn their lines, and the songs. Also to the staff and helpers who managed the staging, rehearsals and costumes. It really does make it feel like Christmas when you see the children taking part in a nativity play.

Best wishes for the coming year.

Sandra Collins



A couple of pictures taken at the School Nativity Play, reminding us all what Christmas is all about. The scenery and costumes reflect obvious hard work by parents and teachers!



CHILDREN'S VALENTINES PARTY

Saturday 10th Feb from 4pm to 5.30pm

Games, music, activities and refreshments for children age 4 to 9 years old. The party will take place at St Andrew's Church and tickets will be £1 per child which will be available from Mary on 738435 or Jill on 452539 in advance.



December scenes in Slip End, pictures taken at Christmas Fayre at Slip End Lower School and a shot of the St Andrew's youngsters performing the Christmas Nativity story.



Connie Watson

Parish News extends warmest congratulations to Connie, Slip End's most senior resident, as she celebrates her 95th Birthday in February.

Connie welcomed PN's junior sub-editor, who was dispatched recently to chat to Connie about her life and times in the village.

As a child of 4, she and the rest of her family was bombed out of London during the war, *WWI that is!* Well, not so much bombed as torpedoed: torpedoes were dropped on an unsuspecting populace from German Zeppelin airships in those wartime days. The Liddles arrived in Slip End with all their possessions loaded on a horse drawn cart, the journey from London having taken over a day! The family took up residence in Summer Street.

Connie grew up in Slip End and recalls enjoying with other youngsters, the weekly dances held on Saturday evenings in the Village Hall. She is pictured here, splendid in



her dance dress, proudly showing off a beautiful new pair of shoes.

The village boys, supported by the younger female elements, were keen on sports, football and tennis being popular favorites. Every year there was a Summer Fete and a Marathon, well a little short, only 20 miles!

Connie was to marry Frank and they moved into Summer Street, later moving to Front Street, where she has lived for almost 70 years, bringing up their family. Connie's daughter has recently moved back to the area.

Connie produced some interesting photographs, taken yesteryear in the village.



The lads above are enjoying libations at the Royal Exchange pub (now the F & R). Behind those smiles are age-old concerns about the price of a pint. "Gone up to 2d. Ridiculous, where will it end!" Connie identifies these chaps as (left to right) Syd Witman, Bill Tatton, Tommy Chambers, Charley Harris, "Sprat" Edwards, ? and James Liddle, Connies dad.

Two pictures, shown on the next page and photographed much later (post WWII) illustrate the great interest in Darts in those days. The diners at the Village Hall include Connie and Frank and yes, surely that's Edie and Cyril Hamm and doesn't that trifle look good? Red wine had not yet been invented, so beer is the choice, with 2d deposit on the bottles. Slip End had its own Darts League with teams, both men's and women's, drawn from the area and into Luton. Every year there was a week-long Darts Tournament in the Village Hall.



The Slip End Ladies Darts Team were League Champions one year (at least) and here they are (below) looking very smart outside the Village Hall being presented with the cup. (That shed has long gone ..)

Left to right: Eric Cullis (who organised the league), Doll Cullis, Connie, Ada Perry, Nellie Doggerall (whose husband, "Cheddar" had an upholstered settee on his allotment. Long, if sometimes slightly damp chats with Cheddar were enjoyed by anyone passing by), Mr Punter, Hilda Keens, Ann Robinson (?), Elsie Waters and an unidentified gent.

Thank you Connie, for taking time to talk about things in days gone by!



Another interesting picture, this one from the Edwards family archives. Can you spot the location of this photograph in Summer Street?

There's just one car, a polished Ford, probably new. It is attracting some considerable interest from this group of Edwards ladies. How times have changed since those days way back. Now, every evening all available space is occupied by dozens of cars. As space saturation is approached, we wonder what the future holds and what the picture will look like in the not-too-distant future? These days there is not enough space between cars and wheelie bins (to become more profligate in 2007) to contain the Edwards group on the pavement!



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

February

- 3rd 10am to noon: Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington
5th 7:30pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
4th Friendship Club, Lions Party outing
4th 9:30am-4:00pm "Flogit" Valuation Day, Vauxhall Recreation Club, Gypsy Lane
11th 2:00pm: St Andrew's Ramblers meet at the church
14th 12:30pm: Farley Hill Methodist Church Luncheon Club
17th 12:30pm: Farley Hill Methodist Coffee Morning
25th 2:00pm Farley Hill Methodist Church Luncheon Club

March

- 3rd 10am to noon: Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington
5th 7:30pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
16th - 18th Aley Green Methodist Church Flower Festival

April

- 2nd 7:30pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
7th 10am to noon: Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington
24th London Churches "Unlock" Walk

May

- 5th 10am to noon: Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington
7th 7:30pm Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
19th 10am to 1pm: St Andrew's "Plant People" Plant Sale at 2 Summer Street

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

*Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holiday adventures, etc? Please contact us, letters and e-mails are very much encouraged. Views expressed by our contributors are not the editors own. **Articles should be sent by the 7th of February for the March issue to: Sue Briggs at 83 The Crescent, Caddington, email: cowells83@aol.com or David Kingston 7 Crawley Close, Slip End, davidgoodmankingston@hotmail.com.***

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

Parish News is grateful to our advertisers for their contributions.

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