

APRIL 1ST 2008

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

50P
WHERE SOLD



Last month this Council operative was spotted by the ever-vigilant PN roving reporter as he conducted checks on wheelie bins. Information was that "Wheeled refuse bins left standing on the Highway are required to conform to Road Traffic Act (1968 revised, para 116(d), clause 1874) where regulations relate to tyre tread depth." It appears that newer green and orange lidded bin tyre depths are within legal limits but due to higher mileages, the older black bins do not now generally meet requirements. "Residents will be given until noon on the first day of April to resolve these problems. Thereafter prosecutions under the terms of the act will be served upon offenders."

SPRINGTIME



Stan Coker's daffodils in Front Street took a bit of punishment from the wind last month and new residents moved onto the field between Crawley Close and Pepperstock. Ten sheep arrived but in March numbers increased as new lambs appeared.

What welcome springtime sights these are!



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 07767731187
Women's Institute: 421034
Police: 473412
Aircraft noise: 395382
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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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: 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

THE WORLD'S OLDEST METHODIST CHAPEL

If you get a chance to visit Bristol make sure you visit the Methodist Chapel opened by John Wesley in 1739 in the heart of the shopping area. Visitors are welcome to look around the Chapel and Preachers rooms upstairs which accommodate the museum. Wesley built the chapel when he started preaching outdoors to the poor of Bristol and it can be seen today almost as it was in the 18th Century. His brother Charles, the great Hymn writer would visit his brother John and stay in the rooms upstairs.

In 2007 the New Room as the Chapel is now called, was filled with services, concerts, a Flower Festival and other events to mark the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley and the 200th Anniversary of the Bill to Abolish the Slave Trade. These illustrated the significance, which the New Room has in the history of Bristol and Christian witness.

The picture shows the entrance of the Chapel and stable, which was used for John's horse.



Inside, Wesley preached from the upper Pulpit and weekday services usually started at 5am before the start of the working day. On March 3rd 1788, just over 220 years ago, John Wesley preached here against slavery and during that service an unexplainable

violent storm arose which lasted for about six minutes terrorising the congregation. The Bible was read and prayers were led from the Lower Pulpit.



For us at Caddington Women's Institute our March meeting is a 'Members Night' by tradition. This year no-one volunteered to step into President Sue's shoes for the evening, so it was business as usual for Sue. Sally and Linda kindly took over refreshments and very nice it was too. Thank you

ladies. Sheila also acted as secretary as usual. In all the years I have been a member I cannot recall a March meeting when the committee did not to have this one night off to sit back to a surprise agenda.

The speaker for the evening kindly stepped in at the last minute due to these circumstances. Those of you fortunate enough to have met her will understand when I say the story of her life so far raised quite a few giggles from the Rev Jane Gilpin!

After the talk and refreshments we all enjoyed a game of 'Beetle'. I know ladies don't usually like you to know their age but this once I will risk it. We gave Betty Prior some flowers for her 90th birthday and although we were a few days after the event also gave her all our good wishes for now and the future.

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Baptist Hall in Caddington. Our forthcoming dates are listed on the Diary page in this issue of Parish News. We would be pleased to welcome you!

Patricia Crick

The first form was having a party but Dopey David didn't want to go. His teacher asked him why not "Well, Miss" he replied, "the invitation said from four to six and I am seven."



Book & Music Lovers



Ever tried to find a book that's out of print, something from a favourite author, an old movie or piece of music?



Listed on www.Alibris.co.uk are over 60 million second-hand, new and out-of-print books. It's an amazing site with lots of interesting books. There is also a special section for music lovers, which allows you to search by composer, musician, orchestra or piece. Postage seems quite reasonable and the more you buy the cheaper it is.

If you have Internet access, take a look. If not ask someone who has to look for you or perhaps take a trip to the library where there is internet access and a willing body only too pleased to help you.

Disappearing e-mail address

Are you fed up with giving out your real e-mail address when you want to register for a particular website, especially if you only want to look at it as a one off?



Visit www.guerrillamail.com to be issued with an e-mail address that is live for just 15 minutes. This will give you enough time to receive your password and log on before it evaporates into the great big cyber hole.

SLIP END FOOTBALL CLUB

Possibly unknown to many Slip End villagers is the fact that we have our very own football team. They play most Sunday mornings, come wind, rain or shine, at the Playing Field in Slip End or elsewhere in the Luton area.

Last season, things didn't go quite as they had hoped. Despite playing most of the season short of players, the team defied the odds and staved off relegation. Manager Vincent Brodie was left with a difficult decision, fold the team

or ask for demotion and attempt to rebuild a depleted side. He went with the latter.

This year has seen a remarkable change in fortunes. Some impressive signings have added to a side that managed to win the relegation dog fight and as a result, victory has been obtained in all but two league games this season. Currently they are nine points clear at the top of the table with a game in hand on some of the teams.

In addition, the side are also in the semi finals of the league cup. Recently results have been of the highest standard. Victories in all three of last months fixtures has left the side with just a handful of games standing between them and a league and cup double. If you would like to come and watch Slip End United play, contact Vincent Brodie on the number provided at the front of the magazine and he will be able to tell you when and where. If not, find out how Slip End United get on in the next Slip End and District Parish News.

Ian Brodie

VILLAGE HALL DANCES

Trying to suit most tastes, we have a variety of different dances, our next one being on April 26th. Tickets are available now so call me on 01582 412506.

Shirley Knapton

If you fancy some healthy exercise with the reward of harvesting your own fresh fruit & 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!



SAMARITANS

We are available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. We speak to people by telephone, email or face to face and it has been shown that these confidential contacts are of great benefit, allowing callers to speak freely of their worries.

Our support aims to give them strength to cope with their distress, make sense of their feelings and the decision to carry on with their lives remains ultimately theirs.

Local Samaritans can be contacted on 08457 909090 & by email to jo@samaritans.org

Some 100 Volunteers here in Luton, South Bedfordshire and Harpenden put in about 5 hours a week. Many Volunteers also undertake additional responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of the Branch.

All Volunteers are fully trained with ongoing annual training, so that we remain at the forefront of modern thinking and best practice in our work. We provide speakers on request, attend Festivals, Carnivals and other outside events and welcome suggestions to any events where we could be of help. The age of our Volunteers ranges from 18 to 85 and we always want new Volunteers to man our local branch or help with fundraising.

We are an unaided charity dependent entirely on voluntary contributions, legacies, street collections and any other ideas our Volunteers and Friends can think of to raise funds. Fundraising requires much work to ensure we remain solvent and maintain our service to the public in our area. *Could you help us with a house-to-house collection in your area?*

We are indebted to a group known as the Friends of Samaritans who provide valuable assistance by organising and helping with fundraising and publicity. If you would like to join our group, you would be very welcome.

If you are interested in becoming a listening Volunteer or Friend, please contact us at 33 Cardiff Road, Luton, LU1 1PP (01582 720666) or e-mail us, luton.publicity@samaritanseast.org.uk. Contact us for information on our next Introduction Day will be held on Sunday 27th April at 10am.

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.

CRAFT FAYRE & BAZAAR

**SLIP END VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY APRIL 12th
10am to 2pm**

For a stall ring 01582723109

In aid of Charities



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Friends of Slip End Lower School

The Spring Term this year, although a very short term, has been a very busy one for the school.

Farewell to the Freeths

In early January everyone was sad to say goodbye to the Freeth family, who emigrated to Canada. Evan was in Year 1 and India had just moved up to Five Oaks. Michelle was an enthusiastic and active member of FoSELS and her help will be sorely missed. We wish them well in their new lives.

Books & Story Telling

Also in January the children enjoyed 'Gripping Yarns'. This was a storytelling project called 'Outside the Circle'. It addressed name-calling and differences. This enabled the children to reflect on these issues and consider positive responses to diversity.

The children had an opportunity to buy half price books at the beginning of February from the Book Fair. This event took place after school and was well attended.

Gardening

The 'Slip End Lower School Gardening Club' started up at lunchtimes and already there are some lovely daffodils outside the Nursery door. The children will also be working in the school garden and with plants to take home and grow. *Any unused tools / gardening equipment / bulbs / seeds etc will certainly be put to good use – if you have anything you can donate, please bring along to the school*

office or let us know if there is anything we can collect.

As we always say, if anyone has any ideas or can spare any time to help (perhaps grandparents could pass on their gardening knowledge for an hour in the school garden at lunchtime), please email Tracey Burgess (tracey_burgess88@hotmail.com).

Music, Dance & Theatricals

During February the children enjoyed a Peculiar Productions music and dance workshop. Each class listened to a different style of music and learned an appropriate dance. Ruby Class (Reception) performed an Indian dance and Topaz Class did American line dancing!

Diamonds Class learnt a Brazilian Samba and Amber Class enjoyed African dancing! The children had a fantastic time learning the dances and demonstrated good dancing skills.

Also in February 'The Magic Theatre Company' came to school and raised the children's awareness of healthy lifestyles. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the hilarious show!

Save those Vouchers!

And lastly, vouchers are now being issued by Sainsbury's for sports equipment and Tesco will be shortly giving out Computer vouchers.

We are collecting both, so if you have any vouchers please drop them into the school office.

Thank you.!

Vegetable Garden

If weather is good and soil works well, plant second early and late potatoes. Allow at least 3 feet between rows and 15 inches between tubers. Keep a close watch on early potato shoots, which will need protecting.

All kinds of winter greens should now be sown, the simplest and most economical method is to sow broadcast as thinly as possible on a finely prepared seedbed and cover with fine soil. Greens do well on our ground, to the appreciation of the local pigeons and rabbits, so do whatever you can to keep the blighters off!

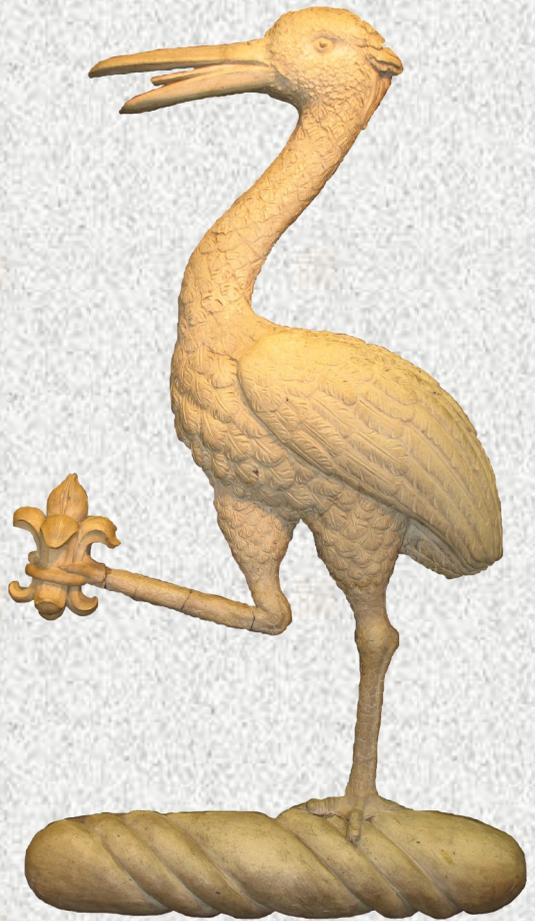
Make sowings of carrots and dwarf beans and keep the hoe going between the plants.

Flowers & Fruit

Plant out late blooming lilies. New roses must be planted no later than the first half of the month. Hardy annuals can be sown in open borders where you want them to remain, thinning out later. Prune all flowering shrubs and the more delicate tea roses, cutting back more severely than for hybrids. Give your roses a dressing of fertilizer.

Main Work

Lawn mowing can start now, or grass will get too long for easy work, you can use a roller on the lawn, at intervals, any lawn turfing should be done no later than the middle of the month.



Crawley Family Crest



Services & Events in April

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

Wednesday 2 nd	10.30am	Little Stars in the Family Room
Sunday 6 th	10.30am	Family Communion
	12.00noon	St Andrews Annual Church Meeting (APCM)
Wednesday 9 th	10.30am	Little Stars in the Family Room
Thursday 10 th	8.00pm	Footsteps in the Family Room
Sunday 13 th	10.30am	Morning Praise with Thanksgiving & Blessing
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Tuesday 15 th	3.00pm	East Hyde APCM at Holy Trinity
Wednesday 16 th	10.30am	Little Stars in the Family Room
Saturday 19 th	10.30am	Celebration of Christian Healing in St Albans Abbey
Sunday 20 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23 rd	10.30am	Little Stars in the Family Room
Thursday 24 th	8.00pm	Footsteps at Quasar
Friday 25 th	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 27 th	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Morning Praise
	2.00-5.00pm	Church open for afternoon of prayer
	6.15pm	3:16 Visit to L.C.E.T. in Luton
Wednesday 30 th	10.30am	Little Stars in the Family Room

***Sick? Anxious? Discouraged?
Concerned for the future?***

St Andrew's Church will be open for private prayer on Sunday afternoon 27th April between 2 and 5pm. Everyone welcome, drop in anytime for as long as you need, and either bring your own concerns to God or follow the suggestions on the sheet provided. People will be available to pray with you if requested.

***Nothing is too big for God to handle,
and nothing too small for His care:
God hears and answers prayer.***



THE UNLOCK LONDON WALK NO.25



Unlocking real life stories of urban people
Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ
Releasing life changing skills & confidence

**SATURDAY 19th APRIL 2008 9AM to 5PM
Chelsea, the Thames, East Fulham & Battersea**

A couple of years ago, Steve Lyons is seen paying the parking fee before setting off on the "Unlock". Another Slip Ender paid likewise, 10 yards up the road, to discover on return later in the day that a 50 quid fine had been slapped, the other side of a sneaky yellow line. Thanks Ken.....

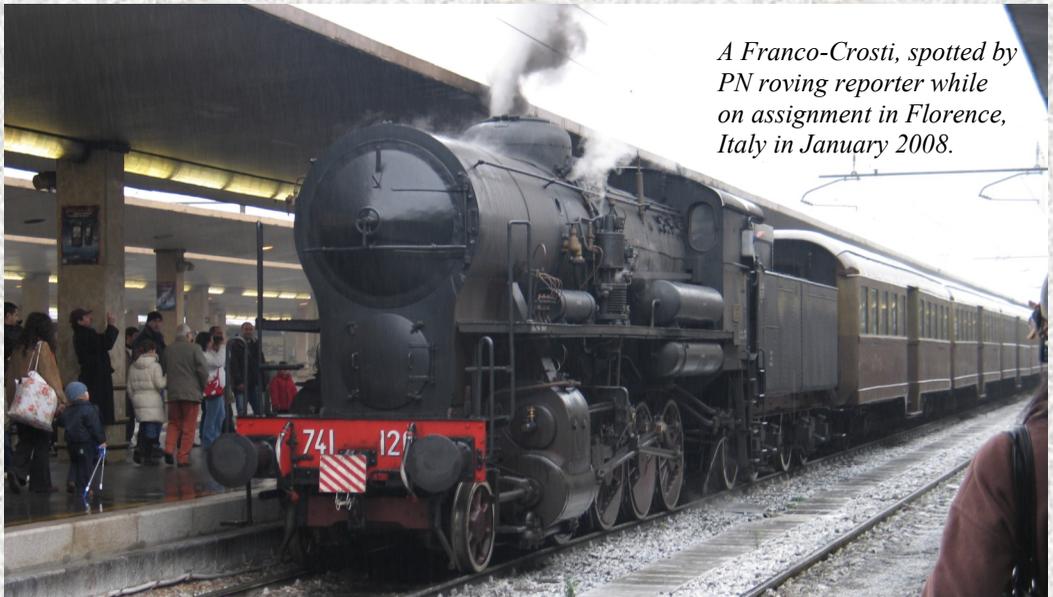




Pictures of Easter:

Good Friday was a quiet and sombre day as we remembered Christ's suffering and death on the cross, redeeming our sins. As a mark of witness we carried a wooden cross around the streets of Slip End, pausing from time to time to offer some prayers here and there. We came back to a bare church with none of the usual flowers, for a quiet service around mid-day.

Easter dawned and what a difference in several ways: not least, it was more like Christmas. Joy Daniel is seen trudging through the snow with snow lying outside! But inside a warm church all was changed, spring flowers bloomed, the cross was no longer bare: Christ is risen!



A Franco-Crosti, spotted by PN roving reporter while on assignment in Florence, Italy in January 2008.

Ten things which Men consider to be important and Women don't

1. *The route you took to get somewhere.*

Whether he's your father, your uncle, your brother-in-law or a total stranger, the man you're talking to after arriving at a place will be inordinately fascinated by how you got there. (Note: This especially applies if your route involved any sort of motorway; but applies less if you live next door).

2. *David Beckham's football career.*

The word on the street is that David Beckham kicks a ball around a pitch or something. Quite where, how and when he does this is of interest only to males. We females are far more concerned with his more important aspects, namely what he's wearing, and how good he looks.

3. *Spending time alone in the toilet.*

Surely there can't be that much reading material in Men's Health? Or do they all have Irritable Bowel Syndrome? Whatever the reason, don't question it, girls. The toilet is like a TARDIS, with time spent in there flying by to the man inside, when in reality, it's been approximately an hour.

4. *Who's managing a football team*

Apparently it's very important to know who does this - even though their identity is actually unimportant, given that your boyfriend/husband/father/brother can do a better job than him. (Note: If the man doesn't like football, this can alternatively be titled 'Who went to the Moon').

5. *How good-looking their partner is .*

Because frankly, we don't really care too much if our partner looks like Yoda (just ask Debbie McGee). As long as he's good, and kind, and treats us well, we'll probably still fancy him. Most men still put a lot of store by how closely

their partner resembles Eva Longoria/Jessica Alba/Kylie, however. At least when they first meet them across a crowded cattle market. I mean: dance floor.

6. *The vehicle you use to get from A to B.*

Not unlike mobile phones, it's not enough for a man to simply be transported safely from A to B. It has to be done with style, or at least power-steering. And probably speed. And air-bags. And a nice hi-fi system. And so on.

7. *What your phone can do.*

You can make calls and can send texts with it. Brilliant. It's a mobile phone. End of... unless you're a man! In which case he'll be asking you what model and make it is, and whether you can fry an egg with it. Or something.

8. *Using one's 'initiative'.*

Why follow instructions when doing it your own way will take longer and be far more stressful?! A man's reliance on his own 'initiative' takes many forms, most notably in his refusal to read maps, ask for directions, follow recipes and put together an Ikea flatpack according to the step-by-step instructions.

9. *The intricacies of Doctor Who.*

Because let's face it, all we're interested in is watching David Tennant. Who cares which enemy he's facing for the umpteenth time? Or about all the wibbly-wobbly, timey-wimey stuff? Or who was the best Doctor? (Actually, we do care about the latter: but only in the sense that the answer is clearly 'David Tennant'.)

10. *Having a cold.*

And by 'a cold' we do, of course, mean 'the flu'. A mere unimportant sniffle to a woman is, in the hands - or rather, nose - of a man the end of the universe and the Most Severe And Debilitating Illness Ever Endured. But don't worry, ladies - he'll somehow soldier on, the brave trooper!

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Markyate Surgery is situated in Hicks Road and serves the medical needs of residents of Markyate and surrounding communities who choose to register with it. It is a rural practice with Drs Sepai, Gancke, and Karoshi.

All National Health Service practices in the UK are encouraged to set up PPG to convey the views and needs of patients both to the practice itself and to the National Health Service through the local Primary Care Trust.

Local medical services are subject to constant change in response to central government legislation, which in turn attempts to reflect the changing needs of the nation. The recent government trend is to provide the health needs of the community more locally in the setting of a medical practice.

It is a fact of life that communities who make their needs known to authorities generally gain greater benefits than those who do not. It is with this in mind that a Markyate PPG has been set up. It is currently constituted to represent the varied needs of the communities who use the practice, taking advantage of experience of people with knowledge of the workings of the health service and representing the communities in other ways.

Anneke Kuiper on 01582 418878 is the Slip End representative for this group. There is room, within reason, to accommodate more people of goodwill who would like to join us. The Group will attempt to keep patients informed of changes and initiatives going on in the practice and we also look forward to receiving suggestions from interested parties, whether patients or not.

Please let us know where you feel there is room for improvement in the services provided by contacting your local representative or writing to us using the surgery address. If you use email please contact us on msppgroup@googlemail.com.

When It's April by *Patience Strong*

What could be more lovely
than to wander up and down
A street of quaint old houses
in a quiet country town;
Where Time has stained the mossy roofs
to russet gold and brown...
In England, when it's April?

What could be more beautiful
than watching sunlight fall
On little cottage lattices,
oak, stone and weathered wall?
There's a sort of magic
in the beauty of it all
In England when it's April.



Fresh Air by *Patience Strong*

The finest tonic in the world
The cheapest and the best,
Put the pills and drugs aside
And put this to the test
Take a walk and fill your lungs
With air that's fresh and clean.
Even in a city
you can find a patch of green.

When you feel run down
And out of tune with everyone,
Get out in the open
In the rain or in the sun
Breathe the air that blows from heaven
Deeply, thankfully.
It is Nature's medicine.
It's wonderful. It's free.

The Lord is my shepherd

A Sunday School Teacher wanted her class to memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the class a month to learn the verse. Jamie was excited about the task - but, he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that he was to recite Psalm 23 Jamie was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, to the entire congregation, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know."

POLICE FILE

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my colleague to you. I am your Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO) and Claire Young is your Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).



We work on the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for Caddington & District which consists of two neighbourhoods, Hyde, Slip End and Caddington and the other Whipsnade, Studham and Kensworth. Our work includes collaborative problem solving with other agencies such as County Council, South Beds District Council, Social Services, Youth Team, Mental Health Team and Education. Problem solving groups work together to provide solutions to issues, which are raised by members of the community.

Whilst on patrol around the area, we regularly attend and deal with incidents. These may include road traffic collisions, crimes in progress, and all other crime related incidents. Relevant paperwork must then be completed and if necessary offenders arrested and processed. We adapt our working hours in order to provide high visibility patrols, as and when required i.e, evenings and weekends when local youths are likely to be out and about.

We give presentations to groups in villages informing them of priorities and other issues and attend various meetings including the Parish Council. During the summer months a considerable amount of our time is spent attending local fetes and village days. Crime prevention advice is provided to residential and industrial premises on a regular basis.

When reporting an incident, you can do this in a number of ways. In an emergency please do not hesitate to dial 999. If the incident is more of a routine issue you can contact us on 01582 401212. This is a county-wide number which directs your call to our call handling centre. The operator will then decide if this is an incident which an officer needs to attend or if it something which can be brought to the attention of the NPO when they are next on duty. The information you provide is then given a unique reference number (URN). Please make a note of this for future reference.

If you are calling to provide us with information of something you have witnessed, please provide as much detail as possible as this will enable us to build intelligence and assist us to reduce crime.

This information should include *Who, What, Where* and *When*. When identifying a person please include colour, age, sex, build, height, hair, facial features, clothing and anything distinctive such as missing teeth, piercings, tattoos. When identifying a vehicle please include registration number, make, model, colour, anything distinctive (e.g. ladders on roof, GB badge etc).

If you wish to speak to either of us in person, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01582 473642, mobile 07747 006 707 or e-mail SNT.Caddington&District@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Your information and co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Here are the crime figures for January and February in the En Parish:

Theft:	2
Theft from motor vehical:	3
Criminal damage:	3
Burglary:	1
Interefreance with motor vehicle:	1



This, from a new resident in the Parish ...

While carrying out a routine maintenance on my black wheelie bin, I was horrified to discover that the tyres are completely bald. On checking the tread depths of the green and orange bins they measure 1.6 and 1mm respectively. My records show that when the bins were new the tread depth was 2mm.

The wear differential between the green and orange bins is understandable as I am not a keen gardener, so the green bin makes less journeys. However, I am at a loss to understand the cause of excessive wear and wonder if fellow readers have experienced similar problems and how they resolved them. Does anyone know where I can get a good deal on wheelie bin wheels? This whole thing is becoming a nightmare, as live in fear of aquaplaning down the road next time I have to put my black bin out in the rain.

Adbullah Bin h'Waheelr

PN has been asked by the Department of Trapsort to publicise latest EC regulations in respect of H&S requirements particularly relating to Wheelie Bin tyre tread depth, where the bin is used *for any purpose* on the public highway. We understand that with the present collection arrangement, bins are often left overnight on the pavements then wheeled by operatives onto the highway for vehicular deposition, H&S matters and tread depth in particular are of the essence.

The Department, sensitive to the needs of householders with regard to these matters have helpfully suggested that regulations ***will not apply where a bin is lifted bodily by the householder and carried to the refuse vehicle*** i.e. the wheels of the wheelie never come into contact with the highway.

We share your concern regarding these important issues and we will append your personal comments to the PN item we are preparing for the April 1 issue.

Services & Diary dates for April

Sunday 6th 11am: Sunday School, Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Julia Dowding

Saturday 12th 12 noon: Spring Fayre

Sunday 13th 11am: Sunday School: Morning service led by Greg Obong-Oshotse

Wednesday 16th 7.30pm: Coffee Evening in aid of Methodist Homes for the Aged

Sunday 20th 11am: Sunday School, Morning Service led by Colin Quine

Wed. 23rd 7pm: St. George's Day Roast

Sunday 27th 11am: Sunday School: Morning Service led by Bob Squires

We joined All Saints and Caddington Baptist churches for ecumenical meetings during Lent when we studied 'Life Calling' by Robert Warren & Kate Bruce. We plan to meet after Easter for a fellowship meal to enjoy food and company together.

The January Coffee Evening raised £67 for National Children's Homes, February £57 for Methodist Homes for the Aged and March £19 for Junior Missions for All.

We have our Spring Fayre on Saturday 12th April from noon with all the usual stalls plus plants and, of course, lunches and teas. Do pop along and join the fun. If you would like to come to the St George's Day meal, please phone Lorna on 412556 to book your place. The menu; Soup, Roast Beef with all the trimmings, followed by Apple pie and custard. (Vegetarian option available)

Advanced dates for your diary Saturday 17th May 12noon - Good as New Sale with a Bread & Soup lunch for Christian Aid and a Coffee Evening on Wednesday 21st 7.30pm again supporting Christian Aid.

**God has no hands but our hands
to help his people**

*God bless you all from all at
Aley Green Methodist Church.*

Ann Meader

DID YOU KNOW?

Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). The date of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar. Based on this information, Easter can actually be one day earlier, March 22, but that is rare.

This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see! Only the most elderly have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above). And none of us have ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!

The next time Easter will be so early will be 220 years from now, in 2228. The last time it was this early was 1913, so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that.

The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in 2285, 277 years from now. The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than this year 2008.



FANCY A NATTER WHILE YOU KNIT?

THEN COME TO
KNIT 'N' NATTER CLUB!

We will be meeting on April 15th & 29th, 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.

Contact me, Julie Taylor,
on 413912 or e-mail
duncan.taylor@btinternet.com.



SLIP END TENNIS CLUB

Our new courts are progressing well and are waiting to be painted with their final colours. The old courts have become quite slippery during the cold wet weather so we have delayed our last Winter matches until this month, when we hope to use the new courts.

Sally Parry intends to start this season's coaching on Friday 11th April, which we hope will be on the new courts. Once again, there will be two one-hour sessions. Beginners at 5 pm. and Improvers at 6 pm.

A.G.M.
Monday 7th April
8pm at the Peter
Edwards Hall



REDEVELOPMENT OF STOCKWOOD MUSEUM

Have you noticed that Stockwood Park Museum, which houses amongst other artefacts, the Mossman Carriage Collection, has been closed to the public since the October 2007? The Museum is undergoing a £6M redevelopment to transform the current provision into the new Stockwood Discovery Centre based on a "hands on experience" for both young and old alike. The development has only been able to go ahead following the award of a £3.7M grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund plus a £1.2M grant from the European Regional Development Fund as well as funding from other generous external supporters.

The development work is well under way and the anticipated opening date is the 11th July 2008. The Museum area has changed very little over the past few years with the main change being that of the introduction of the Mossman Carriage Collection.

The transformed Stockwood Discovery Centre, which will continue to be free to visitors will include:-

A new visitor centre with a brand new shop and café.

Interactive displays about the history of the area including the former Stockwood House.

Exhibition area for a variety of changing exhibitors.

New corporate entertaining/meeting room facilities.

An Outdoor Children's Discovery area.

New gardens to complement the existing period gardens which will include sensory, world and medical gardens.

The new gardens are being formed from the former Nursery Gardens which were not open to the public but which were previously used for raising all the plants used by Luton Borough Council in their parks and roundabouts etc.

The Mossman Collection which will be displayed in a much more vibrant and exciting way.

At the present time access to the Museum area is from the car park at the end of the park drive from Farley Hill. However, this access is to be closed and the entrance to the new Discovery Centre will be adjacent to the new car park that is being formed. This is accessed from London Road and through the Stockwood Golf Course car park. Parking will still be available in the existing parking area next to the previous entrance but will mean a short walk round to the new entrance.

The Museum service has been offering free tours of the development enabling people to find out more about what is happening. A group of St. Andrew's Ramblers joined about 30 members of public one sunny Sunday in February for a very informative afternoon guided walk around the development site. Our guide was the Museum Manager, Maggie Appleton who was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable and welcomed questions as we walked. We would certainly recommend anyone interested to join any of the free tours available. The next scheduled tour is on the 30th March (which may be too late for this edition of the Parish News). However a further tour has been arranged for Sunday 25th May at 1.30, 2.30, or 3.30. Anyone interested should ring 01582 738714 to book an appropriate tour.

The Museum service is also looking for people to get involved in this development. If anyone would like to follow the progress or find out more about events you can ring the Museum service direct on 01582 546723, or e-mail at museum.gallery@luton.gov.uk.

Alan Buttery





Parish News Subscriptions

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WHEN THEY CALL.**

MANY THANKS





THE GROVE THEATRE, DUNSTABLE

I have been lucky enough to visit the Grove Theatre several times since its opening and am very impressed by this excellent local asset. It provides a large variety of exciting programmes, vis-à-vis Musicals, Plays, Dance, Popular Music, Comedy and Pantomime. I have seen The Nutcracker Suite Ballet, the Blood Brothers musical, Godspell and last month saw The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde.

On entry, calming music pervades and there are plenty of staff in the Bar area and Box office. Inside, the theatre is modern and spacious, ergo-metrically designed to give a feeling of informality in the seating arrangements. Tasteful colours provide a soothing ambience for the eclectic mix of people that you might meet there.

The Importance of Being Earnest was a very professional performance and the characters that appeared in the play held the stage extremely well with their word-perfect presentation. The costumes were true to character and it was a most enjoyable evening. It was a treat to see some familiar actors from the world of television, namely Tony Britton (singled out in reviews for his brilliant performance), Tom Butcher (The Bill, Doctors), Corrinne Wicks (Doctors), Zoie Kennedy (The Royal) and Jim Alexander (The Bill, London's Burning). Congratulations are due to the Middle Ground Theatre Company

for a most endearing and resplendent masterpiece.

There is plenty more to appeal to all ages in the future with music from Slade, Meat Loaf, Todd Miller & Joe Loss Orchestra; a one day event from Henry Blofeld (cricket commentator); Strangers on a Train thriller; Abba Mania and Colin Fry, Medium.

Theatre Education for all ages and abilities is for anyone willing to take part, and the Theatre will be offering show related workshops and projects in the future.

For more information check out their website on www.grovetheatre.co.uk or ring 01582 602080. If you haven't been able to get along to the Theatre as yet, why not book a night out as a special treat, I am sure you wont be disappointed.

Editor Sue Briggs

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***

Brownies

It is the end of the new leaders' first term 'in office'. They have worked very hard and have managed to attain 3 badges: Hostess, Craft and Disability Awareness. It has been a very busy term, hectic but enjoyable.

The Disability Awareness badge was really interesting and resulted in the Brownies learning what it feels like to spend time in, and pushing, a wheelchair. Mrs Gouch from Chantry school came to visit to teach the Brownies

how it feels to be blind or partially sighted and brought a Braille typewriter to try. Mandy and Jenny from Slip End Playgroup also visited and taught the Brownies the finger spelling alphabet and they are now able to sign their own names.

As part of the craft badge the Brownies made cards for Mothering Sunday and Easter. Along with these they decorated some cakes for their mums' and made edible Easter Bonnets (yummy!).

February 24th saw us at Stopsley Baptist Church celebrating World Thinking Day. 3 of our Brownies carried and escorted our flag and 4 others took part in a presentation on Water and its use in the world today.

This term also saw Brown Owl's first Enrolment ceremony, which was lovely and now Lauren is a fully fledged Brownie.

Brown Owl, Tawny Owl and Snowy Owl all went on an Indoor Camp Training day and we hope to be able to take the girls away fairly soon.



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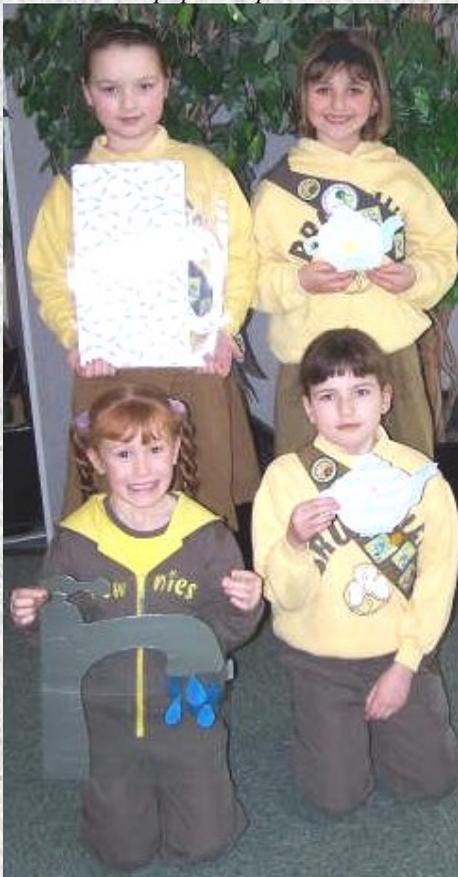
CALLING ALL GIRLS!

Are you aged between 6½ and 10?
Do you want to come & join us having
fun on a Wednesday evening? Then
come and have a look at what we get
up to - visitors welcome!
6pm to 7:30 pm

- games -
- crafts - cooking -
- outings - sports - camping -
call Paula 07813616462
or Philippa 07961958404
or Verity 07963630878



*Willow, Courtney & Millie with the flag.
Chloe, Georgia, Madison & Zoe with paper teapots.*



*Beth typing on the Braille typewriter
while Ellie reads a Braille book.*

Brownies

Lauren's enrollment



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

April

- 7th *Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm*
7th *Tennis Club: Annual General Meeting*
11th *Tennis Club: Coaching Sessions commence*
12th *Charity Craft Fayre & Bazaar at the Village Hall*
12th *Aley Green Methodist Church: Spring Fayre*
15th *Women's Institute: Baptist Hall, Caddington: "Scams", Major Gilmore*
15th *Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home in Crawley Close*
19th *London "Unlock" Walk*
26th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
27th *Samaritans: Information Day (call 01582 720666)*
27th *St Andrew's: Church open for private prayer, 2 to 5pm*
29th *Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home in Crawley Close*
May

BINGO
at the Village Hall
Thursdays at Eight
Slip End & District Association

Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm
Annual General Meeting

12th

20th *Women's Institute: at Baptist Hall, Caddington: Annual Meeting*

June

17th *Women's Institute: at Baptist Hall, Caddington: Donkey Sanctuary*

FoSELS:

21st

SUMMER FAYRE at the School

If you 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: parishnews@slipend.co.uk or to Sue Briggs at 4 The Oaks, Slip End, or David Kingston at 7 Crawley Close.

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

BIN DAYS - April 2008

	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

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