

DECEMBER
2008

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

50P
WHERE SOLD



“Wear it Pink Day” at Slip End Garage

Two of the ladies at Slip End Garage have undergone breast cancer treatment and they were supported by their friends and colleagues (more inside). October 21st was the big day, here are some of the ladies who dressed the part!

*Back row, left to right: Frances, Susan, Kim, Geraldine & Rosie
Front row: Kerry, Jan & Lynn*

Slip End Garage Ltd.

Markyate Road

Slip End

AT YOUR SERVICE!!



ISO 9001 (2000 revision)
Certificate Number 424



*Nora, Geoff & Dennis Flitton
join all the staff in wishing
friends and neighbours in the
Parish a very Happy
Christmas and New Year!
(Next year I'll get both eyes pink ...)*



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Water, water, everywhere!

Woodside Road continues to flood when there is prolonged heavy rain and it takes a while to drain away. Hopes are that work will resume before too long to clear blocked drainage. The Highways authority demonstrate what can be done, given the vast budget of centrally funded motorway project and the construction tools. When the M1 team have done with their kit and with perhaps some of those concrete sections to spare the Beds CC lads could apply some of that in Upper Woodside!





Just a few of the OCC Volunteers at work in the warehouse (freely provided again by Woodside Estate). Monika Muehlberger, from Summer Street in shoebox inspection dept, Lyn Bartlett and Sandra Collins, from Caddington in the box enhancement division and Steve Cooke from West Street Baptist Church, packing cartons. Around Steve is some of the paraphernalia such as stillages, the box van and fork

PN Personality of the Month in November was Jill Acton from the children's groups who meet every week in the Village Hall. Lily is presenting her with a cheque for over £150, which was generously raised at the Halloween Party at the Rising Sun.



The Parish @ Large

SCHOOLS

Slip End Lower: 720152
Caddington Village School: 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: 473462
Aircraft noise: 395382
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Stephen Fuell: 417792
stevefuell@f2s.com
Philip Penman: 455185
PhilipPenman@aol.com
Geoff Daniel: 424363
geoffdaniel@btinternet.com
Ken Crossett 414168
kencrossett@slipend.co.uk
Janet Crawley: 07752 902070
crawley_janet@yahoo.co.uk

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Nikki West: 402312 (9am to noon weekdays)
parishclerk@slipend.co.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Sallyann Hills: 721343
shills@capitalmanor.co.uk
Philip Penman: 455185
PhilipPenman@aol.com
Ruth Gammons 738398
fairgreen@btopenworld.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Stay: 724685
Richard.Stay@bedscc.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Margaret Moran: 01582 731882
info@margaretmoran.org

CHURCHES

St Andrew's Church
Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363
Warden: Tony Willson 482681
Aley Green Methodist Church
Minister: Rev Philip Horner
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668

SHOPS & SERVICES

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

TRIM YOUR HEATING BILLS

In July 2008 the UK's largest domestic energy supplier warned that gas bills could rise by up to 35% in 2008. This continues the upward trend in household gas and electricity costs since 2005.

Can we do anything to slow down these rising energy costs? As space and water heating account for around 60% of the energy used in the average home, this is a good place to start. Follow these 5 tips to trim your heating bills:

Use your programmer to switch heating and hot water on and off and set your thermostat at between 18 and 21° C. Every 1°C above this increases your heating bill by 10%.

Avoid using the immersion heater to heat water. The relatively high unit cost of electricity makes it more cost effective to use your gas boiler for this.

Switch supplier or switch tariff. If you have Economy 7, time your washing machine and dish washer to exploit the cheaper night-time electricity tariff.

Make the most of each use of a given appliance. Wash clothes and dishes when you have a full load ready to go. Switch things off when not in use.

Insulate your home. Energy Saving Trust now estimates annual savings of £160 from installing cavity wall insulation. This is currently free to over 70s. For advice on insulating your home, call Cocoon on 0800 8048 777. This is a free, council-supported service.

This article was produced by United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA). This organisation was created by the merger of Milton Keynes Energy Agency & Thames Valley Energy Centre in May 2008.



THE OLD CHAPEL AT PEPPERSTOCK

Steve Wickens who lives in Front Street has written to the Parish News:

A planning application has been put in from Felix McDaid to clean up this site and convert the chapel to offices. I understand that the Parish Council have no objections, and as far as I am aware, local residents also have no objections, so why is this site being left to become derelict and an eyesore? As the chapel has already had a change of use from a place of worship to a day care centre, I cannot understand the reason to refuse it for use as offices.

Cannot common sense prevail and get this site up and running and add something to Pepperstock rather than the eyesore it is at the moment?

Steve Wickens

Here at PN we have been aware of Felix McDade's planning application for the redevelopment of the old chapel. Like Steve, we were also dismayed that the application had been rejected by the planning authority and have taken up the matter with the Parish Council.

Those who live adjoining his field have become aware of his good neighbourliness' during the past year or so and wish to see the rejection rescinded as soon as possible.



DAVID BARKER

David and Joyce Barker came to live in Claydown Way, Slip End a few short years ago to be close to Chris, Mary and the rest of the Barker family here. Following long illness, David died last month.

We talk about “fighting” illness and there is no doubt David did that, but the struggle did not beat him down. Until the latter stages of illness, he was seen around the village, walking slowly and stooping, to the Post Office for his morning newspaper or down to St Andrew’s Church to attend services on Sunday mornings. In his short time here, he became well known and well loved, having a word and a smile for everyone he met.

During World War II, David served with the 5th Parachute Brigade and, at this time of Remembrance, it is appropriate to think about his military service. Chris Barker wrote this about him:

During the Second World War from shortly after D-Day, Dad served in a postal unit attached to the 5th Parachute Brigade. His unit later provided postal services to Field Marshal Montgomery’s Headquarters. Dad’s unit was present at Lunenburg Heath on Friday May 4th 1945 when the officers of the German High Command came to formally surrender to ‘Monty’. Dad was always proud to have served alongside the ‘Paras’; this is why we included the Airborne Forces’ prayer and their slow march, Elgar’s Pomp & Circumstance March No 4.

David’s other son Stephen, in the eulogy he delivered at the Thanksgiving Service, said this about his father.

Dad was a steadfast and faithful man, caring and generous, he laughed and sang with gusto, in church and at home. Dad was energetic and industrious, welcoming and anxious to put others at ease. He enjoyed life, treasured Joyce as his wife, enjoyed his family and friends, and held fast to his God.



It was particularly poignant to see David’s grandson Jon, on parade at St Andrew’s with his Cub Pack on Remembrance Day, proudly wearing his grandfather’s campaign medals.

David Arthur Barker was born on 26th September 1924 and he died on 4th November 2008. Our condolences are extended to David’s widow, Joyce and all the Barker family at this sad time.

Those of us privileged to come into contact with David Barker hold memories dear about this gentleman with a twinkle in his eye.

David Kingston



*Coming up,
there are some Seasonal Spectaculars
on offer at the local hostelrys!*

Both the Rising Sun and the Frog and Rhubarb are already decked out with lights shining, lots of holly, discreet bits of mistletoe, Santas, Snowmen, Reindeer, the works. Is Christmas really on its way?

Both pubs are offering special menus leading up to the big days later in the month. As well, the RS has a Christmas Eve Disco and, at the restaurant at the F&R, a Christmas Day gourmet menu is on offer: book quickly as spaces are rapidly filling!

Special events are also planned for New Years Eve with a Gentlemen & Tiara Party at the RS and a Masquerade Ball (with optional dinner) at the F&R.

As far as charity efforts go, the donation to local Toddler Groups by Lily at the RS is featured on the colour pages of this issue. Quiz Nights at the F&R continue to raise funds for the McMillan Cancer Support Charity and more than £2000 has been raised over recent months. Weekly Quiz Nights will resume after Christmas on Wednesdays, eyes down at 8.30.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB



*Ladies:
Get Fit in 2008 & 2009 at ...*

**DEBORAH'S
AEROBICS**

*Thursdays at 8pm
Peter Edwards Hall.*

Only £3

*For information call Deborah
01582 767916*

Our last outing of the season was a trip to Thame for the market and the weather, once again was kind to us. In the afternoon we went on to a Garden Centre at Haddenham hoping to get a meal, which some members did and some didn't as they just could not cope with the numbers, but luckily it did not spoil their day.

Last date for December will be Thursday 18th and we will restart on January 8th with meetings on January 22nd, February 5th, February 19th and then back to weekly meetings on March 5th.

Finally, it is time once again to wish everybody a very lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all.

Pam King



**SLIP END PLAYGROUP
& TODDLER GROUP**

*November 2008
Activities and News*

The children made firework pictures during November month and have been making some Christmas crafts for sale at our Christmas bazaar on Tuesday 2nd December in the afternoon at Toddler Group in the Village Hall, we hope you will be able to join us.

A few thank you's now. Firstly to the Rising Sun for raising £151 from their Halloween party for playgroup, it is much appreciated and helps us to continue during our very quiet period at the moment.

Also, thank you to everyone who came to our Nearly New Sale on 22nd November and to people who filled their blue sacks with unwanted clothes, shoes and soft toys. The sacks all get weighed and we receive a donation based on the total weight. We hope to bring you more news on this next month.



October Meeting

Jerusalem was sung to start our meeting, then Mrs Lorna Kalisz was thanked in her absence for her arrangement in the Church's Flower Festival entitled Jam & Jerusalem.

Mr Airton was the speaker for the evening, his subject being 'East Anglia Air

Ambulance'. It started in 1985 with a crowded road accident in Cornwall when it took an ambulance two hours to get there through the holiday traffic, to reach a hospital three and a half hours later. It was too late to save the young boy patient. His distraught mother probably thought of the flying doctor in Australia since 1920 because within four months she presented them with a helicopter. Funds to run it rely on charity. Costs are about £3 million for the pilot, medical staff, and equipment. There is no lottery help or government funding. East Anglia Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire had it for one day weekly in 2000, in July 2001 it was seven days.

East Anglia now has two Air Ambulances and flew 6,000 missions. The night-time is a no/go area as lights and landing facilities are non-existent. We were told the Round Table countrywide give Air Ambulance their full support.

The information left me speechless as I had taken it all for granted innocently, thinking it was government run. Mr Airton gave a magnificent talk full of information we all need to be aware of, and with such a serious subject was able to infuse humour.

November Meeting

Madame President Sue Martin represented us by laying a wreath at Caddington War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Those of us not able to attend the Crazy Bag Whist evening were told we missed a very enjoyable time with lots of laughs.

Sue and I attended the Federation Meeting at Bedford Corn Exchange; the speaker was Dr. Paul Whittaker OBE. I can honestly say I have never been so amazed at a speaker before. Numerous Universities had turned him down, Oxford not being one of them. He is a gifted musician and was on Songs of Praise earlier this year. Young children have benefited from his teaching and have reached choir and orchestra standards. He is a gifted speaker with a hilarious turn of phrase and, here comes the point, he has been deaf since birth and the children I mentioned are all deaf as well. When he was awarded an OBE by Her Majesty, by bowing his head he was able to see if she spoke to him or not. As I write this, I still can't believe how he manages all this and has never heard a sound!

At our monthly meeting our demonstrator on Flower Arranging was Madame President, Sue. I only wish I had her gift; it all seemed so effortless. Sue made several displays using fresh and dried material - no doubt we will all be making Christmas pieces for our shelves and tables.

We will be going for our Christmas dinner to the Highwayman on December 3rd. Sue closed the meeting early and during our usual cuppa and cake we were able to have a good browse at Christine's stall in aid of Save the Children fund.

Come and join us.

Patricia Crick



MP visits Slip End

Our MP, Margaret Moran, visited Slip End for a walk about to meet parents and carers at the School last month. Cllr Steve Fuell and I also had the opportunity to speak to her as she wanted to know the issues affecting the Parish. As we met outside the shop, that seemed a good place to start and we outlined the problems caused by the closure of the Post Office and the resultant withdrawal of the free cash machine.

She was not aware that, as a consequence, pensioners and those claiming benefit now have to pay £1.50 to access cash and of the impracticalities of visiting neighbouring Post Offices in respect of public transport and queuing times. Margaret said she would look into this.

We discussed Policing and in particular the poor response times to non emergency calls, speeding, anti social behaviour, car crime and the Council's general frustration with the level of Police coverage.

On the positive side, we were able to say that, after making policing of the Village Hall and play ground area a priority for this quarter, a big improvement had been seen. Margaret said she was meeting the Chief Constable the following day and that she will raise these issues.

The increase in Fly Tipping was mentioned and a suggestion made to relax the charging structure for small commercial vehicles at Luton Tidy Tip. Margaret said she would follow this up with Luton Borough Council.

Margaret's report of how she has been able to progress these issues had not been received at the time of going to press. However, I will let you know her response next month.



For some time now, the Council has received many complaints from residents about illegal parking on street corners. This is prevalent throughout the Parish causing a danger to vehicles turning because of the restricted visibility caused. Some of the hot spots are the junctions of Grove and Woodside Road, Front Street with New Street, Crawley Close and Old School Walk, Summer Street and Church Road. *The Highway Code states that vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres, thirty two feet, of a corner.*

Because of the volume of complaints and the inherent dangers there appears to be only two courses of action which the Council could take. Firstly, and following on from the success of the Police Priority system, we could ask for this to be a priority over the next quarter with all offences being robustly prosecuted. In the case of the Grove Road and Woodside Road junction we could install countryside kerbing similar to that at the shop which would cost £6000 out of Parish funds. I hope that having read this, motorists become more considerate with their parking. *The Parish Council would welcome your views and suggestions on the parking issue.*

Roads & Pathways

Nick Carofalo from Bedfordshire Highways visited the Parish to review various roads and pavements. We visited the notorious Woodside Road bend two days after the heavy rainfall and discussed the water level in the ditch and concerns over safety. Nick is considering a scheme which will drain the water from the ditch relatively quickly and the installation of safety rails. We also discussed the flooding in Grove Road and he will improve the drainage when funds become available in the next financial year.

I am pleased to announce three new appointments; Sarah Minnighan has joined the Council, Karen Bracey been appointed Projects Manager for the new Community Projects Group and Shirley Garner will

head the Youth Club. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all well.

Speaking of the Projects Group, we have been working with Lily at the Rising Sun. On 16th December she will be opening the pub on Tuesday afternoons to our senior citizens as a warm place to meet for a chat with tea coffee and a sandwich.

There will be a short break over the Christmas period after which the weekly meetings will resume. There will be a range of activities from guest speakers to the provision of legal or consumer information or anything else our senior folk would like.

To launch these senior citizen afternoons Lily is providing a free Christmas Lunch for 20 senior citizens who will be nominated by the local clubs and resident associations where they will hear a little more of our plans and then be able to pass this on when they are chatting to their friends and other residents.

Be Careful!

Please remember too, as we are all busy doing our shopping for Christmas so are the burglars. Their shopping spree tends to be in our cars and homes.

Please remember to make sure all your windows and doors are properly locked during the day as well as at night especially PVC doors which are easily popped if not properly locked. Nothing should be on display in cars even, the marks on windscreens left by sat nav brackets.

Happy Christmas!

Finally, all of us at the Council would like to wish everyone in the Parish a very Happy Christmas. In keeping with previous years; we are looking forward to meeting those senior citizens who have lived in the Parish for more than five years presenting them with a small gift.

*Ken Crossett
Acting Chairman*

CHRISTINE BENSON



Following her departure from the Parish Council a few months ago and Clive Gresswell's item printed by Beds on Sunday in August, Christine has written to Parish News. In her letter she writes, "I need it stated quite clearly that I resigned because of irreconcilable differences with the Parish Councillors."

Christine worked tirelessly for many years as Parish Councillor on the Caddington & Slip End Parish Council and was instrumental in that council's separation some time ago. Since then and until this summer she sat as chairman on the Parish Council.

In passing seasonal greetings, Parish News wishes her and Howard all the best for the future!

David Kingston

Slip End & District Association Senior Citizens Outing June 2009



The Christmas Draw in aid of this event will take place on Thursday December 18th. For tickets, please contact Gillian on 723109 or Barbara on 414796.

Services & Events in December & January

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

Wednesday 3 rd December	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Sunday 7 th	10.30am	Christingle Service
	3.00pm	Carol Service for the Bereaved
Wednesday 10 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Sunday 14 th	10.30am	Advent Morning Praise with Thanksgiving & Blessing
	12.30pm	St Andrews Christmas Dinner at Peter Edwards Hall
	6.15pm	3:16 Christmas Party at LCET
Friday 19 th	2.00pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 21 st	10.30am	St Andrews Nativity Play
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 24 th	11.15pm	First Communion of Christmas
Thursday 25 th	10.30am	Christmas Family celebration & Informal Communion
Sunday 28 th	10.30am	All age Service with Informal Communion
Sunday 4 th January	10.30am	New Year Morning Praise
Wednesday 7 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 8 th	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Morning Praise with Thanksgiving & Blessing Service
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 14 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Friday 16 th	24 hours	Prayer for Luton at St Pauls Church
Saturday 17 th	24 hours	Prayer for Luton at St Pauls Church
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 21 st	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 22 nd	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Morning Praise
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 28 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Friday 30 th	2.00pm	Woodside Home Service

"BASIN STREET TO THE BEATLES"

In the warmth inside St Andrew's church, the audience were treated to a variety of musical styles from Slip End's own Peter Scrivener, one chilly evening last month.

Assisted by Marc Watson on the tech-side, Peter played a variety of instruments and this critic was particularly struck by the acoustic tones of a variety of saxophones which he played. At just £6 a head, which included cheese & wine during the interval, not only did this represent great entertainment and value for money but £175 was raised for the Church Roof Fund!

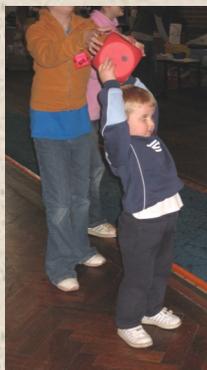


All at St Andrew's are grateful once again to Peter for putting on a splendid evening!

Children's Holiday Club

At the end of October the church was thrown open again for the half term Holiday Club. This comprises two days of fun & games, learning & crafts under a programme put together by the Scripture Union. Months of preparation had gone in, including contingency planning in the event of sickness amongst the leaders. Well planned, as Alison Dayer from the SU was unwell and was not able to attend, so Mary Barker reshuffled "the Team", roles were hastily changed and things ran like slightly less than well-oiled clockwork! The result was a terrific couple of days for the children, similarly for the leaders with a slight exhaustion thrown in!

At the end of the event it was good to welcome so many parents and carers who saw some of the results of their children's efforts. Here's a few pictures which illustrate some of what went on ...



On Shoebox Sunday, 16th November, I took Kidztime at St Andrew's where we watched a DVD made last year, when the boxes were distributed.



The Kidz covered and made up about 20 shoeboxes and made cards to go in the boxes for the children. We had a lovely happy time with the young children and then blessed all the shoeboxes at the Church. So far, we have there has been nearly 100 boxes from the village and Church, which is excellent news, especially in the current hard financial times.

Sue Briggs

**WEAR IT PINK DAY
AT SLIP END GARAGE**

Wear it Pink Day on the 31st October was a great success as the girls from Slip End Garage donned pink wigs and hit the streets of Slip End to encourage people to part with their change towards such a good cause. Many thanks to the customers of the Rising Sun and also the Frog and Rhubarb and everyone at Woodside Wild Fowl Park. Not forgetting the male staff at Slip End Garage who were enticed to have their hair sprayed Pink and were wearing pink ties and shirts.

When Susan Wiltshire and Jan Flitton were both diagnosed with Breast cancer, their workmates at Slip End Garage decided they would give them all the support and care they possibly could over the months of treatment they would have to endure. They shared the workload so they could work when they felt well and when they felt poorly they could stay at home in bed. Some days they just felt low and being able to work and be with friends was the best tonic they could have. Everyone was so supportive and positive it enabled both of them to work through chemotherapy and radiotherapy. When Susan lost all of her hair the girls brought in hats for her to wear and Jan's wigs proved great fun for everyone.

When Jan was in hospital having surgery, the girls, including Susan, took part in the Breast Cancer Walk raising hundreds of pounds for the charity.

Both Susan and Jan are both fit and well now and they are both full of praise for their very special friends at work. Without them their ordeal would have been much harder.



ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

December in the Vegetable Garden

Dig and trench vacant ground as conditions allow, never when the soil is frozen. Sterilise all infested soil leaving the ground unused for at least a month. The wise gardener will have already taken note of repeated warnings and protect broccoli curds from frost. Those not so wise will be rueing damage caused by recent frosts!

Flower & Fruit Garden and Hedges

Finish off pruning fruit bushes and shrubs during the month. Cut back chrysanthemums as soon as flowers are finished. If there are gaps in your privet hedges, take cuttings of about 8 to 12 inches in length from below a joint and insert them deeply in stirred earth until wanted.

General Work

Clean and repair all tools and now is a good time to have motorised equipment serviced. Burn all rubbish on the allotment or put it in the green bin at home..

Make out the rotation plan for vegetables for next year. Sit back, look through the catalogues and internet for new things to grow.

Want an Allotment?

Contact Derek Worsley 0n 736892, there are 5, 10, 15 and 20 pole plots available. (NB: 1 pole (same as rod or perch) is 16.5 feet or about 5 metres.)

ROBERT BRAY,
THE HANDY STORES,
SLIP END — LUTON.

*Provides a regular weekly delivery
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GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.*



Reduce waste that goes into landfill
by offering it to your local community for free!

Post your unwanted items on
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleLuton/>
and an email is sent to all members
who then make contact to
arrange collection.

Everything *must be free*,
preferably local although some things can be posted.

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*



FANCY A NATTER WHILE YOU KNIT?

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

We will be meeting in December
on 4th & 18th, 1:30 to 2:45.

Open to all regardless of ability:
bring along any knitting projects
you have on the go, 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 SOCIAL CLUB

New Street, Slip End
☎ 415804

Live Sky Sports on the Big Screen * Pool * Darts * Crib * Dominoes
Saturday Night Entertainment every fortnight

Golf Society

Opening times:

Weekdays: 4.00 to 11pm

Saturdays: 12 noon to 12 midnight

Sundays: 12 noon to 11pm

*Be social
make it
your local!*

*New members
& their families
welcome!*

Usual Club prices!



A number of vehicles were broken into at a commercial yard, in Slip End, overnight on the 20th to the 21st of November.

The offender has gained access to the secure yard and forced entry to 4 vehicles. It appears that no property was taken, but a number of windows were smashed. Bedfordshire Police remind vehicle owners to remove all property from vehicles when parked.

Remember to remove the holder for any Satellite Navigation Systems, or Mobile phones, and clean away any marks left on the windscreen or dashboard. Leaving the empty glove box open will also discourage an offender breaking into the vehicle.

Shopping Safely and Sensible

Be aware of your belongings when you're in a crowd - there may be pickpockets around.

Put your purse or wallet away before leaving the till, don't let staff or other customers rush you. Take care at the ATM, be wary of people standing too close and use an ATM inside the bank where possible.

If you shop online, check out the site's payment methods and the security they offer. Many sites can take orders over the phone.

Using the Car

Park in a busy and well-lit area.

Leave personal and valuable items at home. If you must have them in the car, store them in the boot *before* you leave.

Don't store your bought goods in the car and then return to the shops for more. You don't know who may be watching in the car park.

Late night shopping may be more convenient, but do take care and take someone with you if possible.

to give your home a security health-check. Check outdoor security lights and replace blown bulbs. Check padlocks, hasps and hinges on your outside doors.

Many people have freezers in the garage. Christmas food and alcohol is vulnerable and don't forget those new bicycles!

Has your house alarm been serviced recently? If you don't have an alarm, you can always buy a battery operated single room alarm to protect your hallway, shed or garage.

Use timer switches to operate lights and radios tuned to a talk radio station in the house when you are out.

Although the tree looks lovely in the window, don't leave the lights on and curtains open when you go out - and don't leave presents under the tree!

After Christmas, dispose of boxes and packaging carefully - don't leave them on the roadside or on the top of the wheelie bin.

Bogus Callers: pretending to be from a utilities company (water, gas, electricity, phone, even police).

Distraction Burglars: one will keep you at your door with an excuse (e.g. looking for an address or a lost ball/dog) while an accomplice commits the burglary round the back.

Cold Callers: hard-sell sales reps who turn up without an appointment and won't leave till you have signed a contract.

Rogue Traders: unqualified workmen offering to do jobs on your home, often badly and very expensively.

Whoever it is, before you answer the door, check all back doors and windows are closed. If it's a genuine caller, they won't mind waiting a few extra seconds.

KITE FLYING IN THE LOCALITY?



This magnificently graceful bird of prey is unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and deeply forked tail. It was saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest running protection programmes and has now been successfully re-introduced to England and Scotland. It is an Amber List species because of its historical decline.

Where to see them

At one time confined to Wales, a reintroduction scheme has brought them back to many parts of England and Scotland. Central Wales, central England, especially the Chilterns, central Scotland at Argaty and along the Galloway Kite Trail are the best areas to find them.

Also reported to be nesting in the

A few Slip End locals are aware that over the past 10 years or so, Red Kites have spread their wings eastwards across the Chilterns, from the Stonor area near Wallington. In the past year Red Kites have been seen over Bison Hill in Whipsnade and Lilley Bottom to the east of Luton. Word is that they have been seen in Harpenden and St Albans too, then this year there have been local reports that a pair has nested very close to Slip End, so watch out for this impressive bird.



**Can't find the time
to do all those jobs
around your home
and garden?**

RELAX!

We have a man that can...

Collections, deliveries, removals, furniture repair and restoration, flat packs, gardening and all manner of jobs and maintenance work undertaken.



For further information
CALL Paul Goodaker on 07979057393

PANTO TIME

*Panto time returns as
Leighton Buzzard
Drama Group will be
presenting the family
favourite, Aladdin.*



The story is told in traditional pantomime style and includes all the well-loved characters such as Widow Twankey, Wishee Washee and the Princess. There will be lots of opportunities for audience participation; cheer for Aladdin and boo the much hated, Evil Abanazar! The show is packed with fabulous songs and dance routines and the music is performed by professional live musicians with songs to please everybody.

Aladdin is full of the feel-good factor, just what you need to brighten a dull winter's day. Call the box office on 01582 818801.

**Performances at the Leighton Buzzard
Theatre, 7th to 24th January**

FARLEY HILL METHODISTS

There was much applause for Margaret Woolston at the Lunch Club last month. Margaret makes and sells tasty marmalade in aid of the Home Mission Fund, reaching the £1000 mark for the Fund. It is Christmas Dinner time at the Lunch Club on the December 10th with turkey and trimmings, carol singing and crackers and lots of fun. The lunch and tea with a glass of Judy Harper's fruit punch, just £3! Come at 12.15 for 1pm.

On Sunday December 14th the fifth annual mini pantomime takes place after the Carol Service at FHM North Drift Way. The Carol Service is at 3pm. There's Princes & Wicked Witches, Fairy Queen's & ordinary Queens, King Nice, grumpy Ladies in Waiting, a WPC, etc... Christmas looks like getting off to a good start at Farley Hill!

Ken W Cameron
07960257218

SLIP END POST OFFICE - RIP

We are having to get used now to loosing our post office. The alternatives defined by the authorities show scant regard for our locality, showing to me as obvious "couldn't care less" attitudes. We are left with a choice of Farley Hill and Markyate PO's, which are sad jokes as far as bus services are concerned!

Anil at the Slip End ~~Post Office~~ Shop is offering some services previously provided by the PO, with lottery tickets and some postal arrangements. There is a new ATM, where balances and statement enquiries *are free*, but watch out for charges for cash withdrawals (check your bank statements...)

The spin doctors will emphasise any positives in the new arrangements, but as far as I am concerned, they would be so much rubbish and hot air.

I wish the Parish Council well in their efforts to have a better service restored and await feedback from the MP in naive hope.

David Kingston

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

*Put your problems on probation
Run your troubles off the track,
Throw your worries out the window
Get the monkeys off your back.
Silence all your inner critics
With your conscience make amends,
And allow yourself some happiness
It's Christmas time again!*

*Call a truce with those who bother you
Let all the fighting cease,
Give your differences a breather
And declare a time of peace,
Don't let angry feelings taint
The precious time you have to spend,
And allow yourself some happiness
It's Christmas time again!*

*Like some cool refreshing water
Or a gentle summer breeze,
Like a fresh bouquet of flowers
Or the smell of autumn leaves,
It's a banquet for the spirit
Filled with family, food and friends,
So allow yourself some happiness.
It's Christmas time again!*

Bob Lazzar-Atwood

For the children or the Grown-ups

Tis the week before Christmas and every night
As soon as the children are snuggled up tight
And have sleepily murmured their wishes and prayers,
Such fun as goes on in the parlour downstairs!
For Father, Big Brother, and Grandfather too,
Start in with great vigour their youth to renew.
The Grown-ups are having great fun - all is well;
And they play till it's long past their hour for bed.



They try to solve puzzles and each one enjoys
The magical thrill of mechanical toys,
Even Mother must play with a doll that can talk,
And if you assist it, it's able to walk.
It's really no matter if paint may be scratched,
Or a cogwheel, a nut, or a bolt gets detached;
The grown-ups are having great fun - all is well;
The children don't know it, and Santa won't tell.

- Anon

SLIP END GARAGE APPEAL.



Kissing under the mistletoe is a custom only in Britain. It has been suggested that until the 17th century, kissing was a common greeting here. Erasmus wrote

"Wherever you go, everyone welcomes you with a kiss, the same on bidding farewell.....kisses, kisses everywhere!"

Mistletoe has long been regarded as the plant of peace. By tradition, when enemies met under a tree on which mistletoe was growing they were expected to make up their quarrel there and then.

During the Middle Ages there was a custom in York Minster of laying a branch of mistletoe on the high altar and leaving it there for the Twelve Days of Christmas. While it remained, a universal peace and pardon was proclaimed at the city gates.

No doubt we shall enjoy the traditional custom of kissing under the mistletoe, but don't let us forget the symbolism of mistletoe as the emblem of peace and love, the true marks of this Christmas season.

Recently we have been subjected to all kinds of theft from both our forecourt in Markyate Road and at our Grove Road site. The cost has now escalated into tens of thousands of pounds. Last month, we were alerted to problems within our compound in the early evening by the local teenagers in the park shelter. We managed to disturb the break-in but did not catch the thieves. A set of expensive wheels had been removed from a Subaru, but thankfully saved from theft by their quick actions.

To all residents, dog walkers or those just walking to and from the shops and pubs: we ask the people of Slip End to look out for things that may not seem quite right. Cars and vans parked in unusual places at unusual times may be a threat to us all.

All the Flitton mobile numbers are available in case of an emergency to all if you can assist. Local rewards for information resulting in arrest will also become available.

Many thanks
Paul Flitton.

Telephone: 01582 456888,
Mobile: 07785 341376

Slip End Lower School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 6th December 2008 3pm - 5pm

Come and enjoy our festive fun!

Children's stalls

Crazy Sand
Santa's Socks
Lucky Dip
Balloon Game
Reindeer Food
Decorate a Mug
Chocolate Apples
Tombola
Win a Bike



Adult's stalls

Guess the liqueur
Bottle stall
Hampers
Tombola
Outside stalls
Christmas goodies
Cards
Jewellery
Books



Santa Express
Ride on the train to
Santa's Grotto

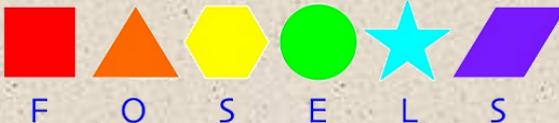


Refreshments
Pork & Apple or
Turkey & Cranberry
Baguettes
Cakes, Tea & Coffee
Cranberry Punch

Big Bingo Game
At 4.15pm
Win prizes & cash



School choir will open the Fayre
Bring your family & friends



F O S E L S

ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Services & Diary dates

Sunday 7th December, 11am

Morning service lead by Rev Phil Horner
& Sunday School

Friday 12th December, 5.30 to 8.00

Charitree Festival – Light refreshments

Saturday 13th, 11 to 5.30

Lunch & Tea

Sunday 14th, 2 to 4

Light refreshments

Wednesday 17th, 7.30

Coffee Evening (Keech Cottage)

Sunday 21st, 11.00

Morning Service – All Age Worship
The Christmas Story

Tuesday 23rd, 7.30

Candle Lit Carol Service
(National Children's Homes)

Thursday 25th, 9.30

Christmas Morning Service
Led by rev Phil Horner (Collection for Noah)

Sunday 28th, Closed, No service

Sunday 4th January 2009, 11.00

Covenant Service – Rev Phil Horne
Communion, Sunday School
Bring & Sing

Sunday 11th January, 11.00

Morning Service - Bob Squires
Sunday School

Wednesday 14th January 7.30

Coffee Evening (National Children's Homes)

Sun 18th, 11.00

Morning Service – Mr M Adams
Sunday School

3p.m. Ecumenical Service at St Thomas'

Wednesday 28th January, 7p.m.

New Year's Dinner

Father make us kind and wise, so we may always recognise the blessings that are ours to take, the friendship that are ours to make. If we but open our heart's door wide, to let the sunshine of love inside.

We sent forty-eight boxes for the Romanian Shoe Box Appeal 2008 plus the £96 for the carriage. Thank you to everyone who donated boxes, items and cash.

We pledged to raise an additional £500 for Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) and I'm pleased to report that we have far exceeded our target with more to come! Our Coffee Evening in October added £55.

A new venture, a Brunch 'n' Browse Coffee Morning on November 8th, was very well supported by people of all ages. The little ones played in the upper school room while the bigger people relaxed and chatted in the lower schoolroom with their coffee, bacon & sausage butties and jacket potatoes. The friendly, comfortable atmosphere in both areas saw our friends & supporters sitting far longer than they had planned. A very successful morning in terms of outreach and finance, £320, bringing our special fund to £827 and we still have the Charitree Festival tree & the Christmas Cake raffle to go! We look forward to seeing you all at our Charitree Festival and other Christmas celebrations.

Our Christmas Charities this year are;

Christmas Cake Draw
Methodist Homes

Children's Nativity Service
Tree Festival Charities

Aley Green Christmas Card
The Bible Society

We at Aley Green Methodist Church wish you all the joys of this Christmas Season. Peace be with you and may God Bless You.

Yours in Christ,
Ann Meader

STUART BAIRD'S KENYA TRIP CONCLUSION

30th July: We learned how to navigate using the sun, a bowl of water, piece of paper and magnetised metal and make fire without manmade substances. No one actually made fire but most of us created smoke.

31st July: Sesenyi Primary School was a real eye-opener, it had nothing. I dug sand to fill channels left by the rain water. After delivering our presentations to the school, we were challenged to a football match. I was put in goal due to my injured foot and three other injured boys were replaced by girls. At full time it was 2-2 so it went to penalties and I scored the winning penalty. Later we talked about how privileged we were in England.



1st Aug: We visited a tree nursery where the aim is to grow types of trees that have been deforested then transplant them back into the wild. We made grow bags with soil and goat manure and we planted over 1000 seeds. The local tribe came and danced for us, so in return we made fools of ourselves performing the okie-kokie, which provided a lot of laughter for the locals.

2nd & 3rd Aug: We went to Tsavo National Park where we saw 32 types of animals and birds, including warthog, waterbuck, impala, lion, elephant, giraffe, monkey, fish eagle, falcon, ostrich, flycatcher and storks.

4th Aug: A rest day, although in the middle of nowhere our options were limited. We



sunbathed and packed bags for the journey home, read and played cards and dominoes.

5th Aug: We made elephant dung paper, which was a pretty odd experience. The majority of us bought at least 2 sheets of paper each. We spent a relaxing afternoon trading contact details with each other.

Wed 6th Aug: The morning was spent tidying out huts then around 12 o'clock it was time to leave. I looked forward to getting home, but at the same time was upset I was leaving. After spending over 5 hours at the airport, we boarded the internal flight. At 11:50 we boarded our flight home.

Thurs 7th Aug: We were anxious to get home, everyone was shattered but no one could get to sleep. We arrived at London Airport at 7am and by 8am we were on the coach back to school.

The experience had been amazing and many of us agreed that, given the chance we would return: some of us older one's are planning a gap year to spend three months in Borneo at Camp international's new camp and then going back to Kenya for three months.

Well done Stuart on your amazing adventure. It has been very interesting reading it and as you say, "a real eye-opener", illustrating just how privileged children are here in Britain, with so many things taken for granted.

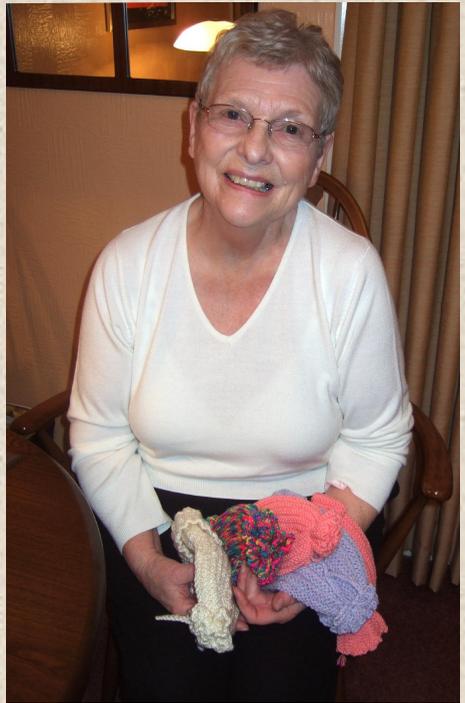
*Thanks for sharing your diary
with Parish News.*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We have been very busy at the warehouse on the Woodside Estate in Dunstable for the last two weeks and shoeboxes have been arriving daily by the van-load (with thanks to Alan Buttery and his team of workers).

At the time of writing this report we have processed over 17,000 boxes and would like to give a massive thank you to anyone who donated boxes or fillers or the brilliant army of knitters who have knitted large numbers of hats, gloves and scarves (plus blankets, baby clothes and jumpers which will be sent to hospitals and orphanages).

Also to the many volunteers who have arrived at the warehouse to help with the checking, sealing and packing or covered new boxes to replace damaged or extra large boxes or sharpened pencils and made up packs of paper for the boxes. We certainly couldn't do it without you! We have welcomed several groups of visitors at Dunstable who have seen for themselves what happens there, and have admired the operation and dedication of the volunteers.



Olive Smith, from Hemel Hempstead who knitted 86 hats with help from friends.



Chiltern Radio came along and took photos and did some interviews which will be broadcast on Saturday 6th December and the pictures will be on their website. Don't forget to listen and check out their website.

We are expecting two lorries also that day to take the shoeboxes on the long journey to Kiev in the Ukraine, and will need some extra help to load them onto the lorries. If there are any strong chaps who would like to assist, please come along to Unit 7, Humphrys Road from 9.30 onwards.

*Thank you
one and all,
from Teresa and Tony
Willson
and Sue Briggs.*



SLIP END YOUTH CLUB



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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING
FROM 6:30-8:30PM
@ 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 £1.50 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.

One from the Archives

Some of the Edwards family gentlemen photographed at the family home in Summer Street during World Way II. What an impressive selection of uniforms!



*The Parish News team
would like to wish all its readers
a very Happy Christmas
and a healthy, peaceful New Year
with a prayer especially written for Christmastime:*

*A prayer for you is said today;
May the love of God ever with you stay;
Wherever you are, whatever you do,
May the blessing of God ever rest on you;
And in the peace of God ever rest on you;
And in the years that are still to come,
May the peace of God be in your home.
At Christmastime and in New Year too,
May God's great love abide with you
(Francis Gay)*

I liked the story of the lady who wished to join a certain church but was worried about some new ideas they had introduced into the service. "Is it true," she asked the minister, "that the Ten Commandments are repeated during the service?" "Oh," the minister replied, "we have introduced a greater innovation than that," "what is it?" she asked him, "We are trying to keep them!"

After a snowstorm that closed all the local schools, the teacher asked one small boy if he had used his time constructively while he had been off. "Yes Miss", he replied, "I prayed for more snow."

Details of St Andrew's Church and Aley Green Church services for December and January are included in this issue plus a longer diary page, as there will not be another issue until mid January (we deserve a bit of time off!).



*Finally, Christmas Wishes
to one and all!*



Sue Briggs

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

December

- 2nd *Knit 'n' Natter at Julie Taylors home 1.30 - 2.45, Call Julie on 413912*
2nd *Christmas Bazaar at Toddlers Group in the Village Hall - all welcome*
6th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12 noon*
6th *Dance at the Village Hall - Call Shirley on 412506*
6th *FoSELS: Christmas Fayre at the School*
12th *Play Group & Toddler Groups: Christmas Party*
12th *Play Group & Toddler Groups: Leaders night out for staff, parents & carers*
16th *Women's Institute: Musical Entertainment, "In Accord."*
16th *Knit 'n' Natter at Julie Taylors home 1.30 - 2.45, Call Julie on 413912*
16th *Playgroup closes for Christmas break*

January

- 1st *Rotary Club Antiques Fair at Dunstable Leisure Centre, 10am - 4pm*
3rd *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12 noon*
5th *Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*
6th *Playgroup reopens after Christmas break*
20th *Women's Institute: "Bon Appetite!", Mrs S Horn*

February

- 7th *County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12 noon*
9th *Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*

Please note: The PN team take a break over the festive period. We aim to get the January PN out during the latter part of the month, followed by an issue at the beginning of March.

If you would like a copy of Parish News delivered each month, contact Alan Buttery at 1 Claydown Way (01582 724527), alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk. Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holidays, 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, 4 The Oaks, Slip End or e-Mail parishnews@slipend.co.uk.

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 to 4) or 01582 414162 (evenings & weekends) or e-mail SteveSueLyons@aol.com.

Bin Days		December 2008				
M	T	W	T	F		
1	2	3	4	5		
8	9	10	11	12		
15	16	17	18	19		
22	23	24	25	26		
29	30	31				

Bin Days		January 2009				
M	T	W	T	F		
			1	2		
5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23		
26	27	28	29	30		

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