

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

JANUARY &
FEBRUARY
2008

50P
WHERE SOLD



Angels descend upon St Andrews!

These delightful angels, Danielle, Heather and Lucy, were part of the St Andrew's Nativity play and little baby Barnaby proved to be an excellent baby Jesus. Well done to everyone who took part, it was a splendid performance.

Children from Slip End school at their Christmas Concert. It looks like someone has been busy with costumes. Well done to all the children and staff.





Some of the volunteers with shoeboxes at the warehouse in Dunstable when the first lorry arrived to take the first shipment to Kiev in the Ukraine, more details inside. Well done to all!



Santa with a couple of his Elves visited Slip End School to help the children choose Christmas gifts for their families.



Welcome home to Edie Ham who has been poorly lately. With a spell in hospital and convalescence, she is now well on the mend and hopes to be catching up with all her friends soon .



Santa helpers were on hand to help out at the final Line Dancing session of the year. Well done to the ladies, you look a real Christmas treat.

The Parish @ Large

SCHOOLS

Slip End Lower: 720152
Five Oaks: 726058
Streetfield: 613421
Ashton: 663511
Manshead: 608641

SPORT

Bowling Club: 412506
Tennis: 733253
Darts League: 425323
Football: 418494
Cricket: 414157

HALLS

Village Hall: 723109
Peter Edwards Hall: 455185

COMMUNITY

Brownies: 723109
Beavers: 725297
Cubs: 414157
Fly Tipping (SBDC): 472222
Friendship Club: 452978
Slip End Assoc: 414796
Mother's Union: 738435
Playgroup: 728865
Toddler Group 405931
Allotments: 736892
FoSELS (PTA):
Tracey Burgess
Women's Institute: 421034
Police: 473412
Aircraft noise: 395382
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Christine Benson: 456200
Christinebenson@bensons-autosupplies.co.uk
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
Mike McKeivitt: 720596
mike.mckeivitt@mndassociation.org
Janet Crawley: 07752 902070
crawley_janet@yahoo.co.uk
CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL
Nikkie West: 402312
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
sultanau@parliament.uk

CHURCHES

St Andrew's Church

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

Aley Green Methodist Church

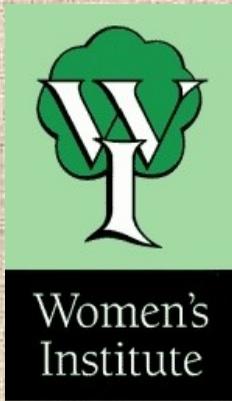
Minister: Rev Julia Dowding 730129
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668

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

*A Happy New Year
to you all!*



It was agreed that our Christmas dinner at the Highwayman was a very enjoyable evening.

We were fortunate to receive invitations to Studham on January 3rd for a Pantomime and Bingo night; to the Dunstable Downside W.I. Birthday Evening on March 13th and a Group Meeting at Houghton Regis on April 17th where the Meppershall Players will be appearing.

It was lovely to welcome Zena Skinner to speak to us again at our December meeting. This time her subject was "Facing the Camera". It all started when visiting East Africa. The Queen was there and a picture of her taken with the Bazi Warriors featured none other than our speaker! Requests followed for a T.V. appearance on a cookery programme. Margaret Patten was the well-known cook back in 1959 when Zena joined, before Fanny Craddock. We were taken through all the technical problems of these first cookery programmes, having three rehearsals, following instructions from a sheet of paper to match the technicians, the microphone and the make up.

For black and white T.V. it was all so different: it really opened my eyes. I really don't see how she managed to cook anything successfully. All this was explained with Zena's humour so it was a laugh and life experience together. Zena and Margaret always left their results for the technicians to sample but Fanny took hers home. Only once did she offer it to them to be told, "No thanks, we don't like Fagash Pie." (she was a smoker)

The refreshments had a Christmas feel about them. A lovely fruitcake made by Lorna and Stollen with tea or coffee.

On December 4th the Group meeting held at Houghton Regis Hall featured the W.I's in the Group performing a ten-minute Panto, ours was "Jack and the Beanstalk". For members not able to get there we performed ours again after refreshment.

We had the normal responses, "Oh no you can't!" etc. Suffice to say we caused a few giggles! Before we left Su our president presented us with a drink, a lovely surprise and members who had bought a gift a dip into the 'sack' to take a surprise home for Christmas.

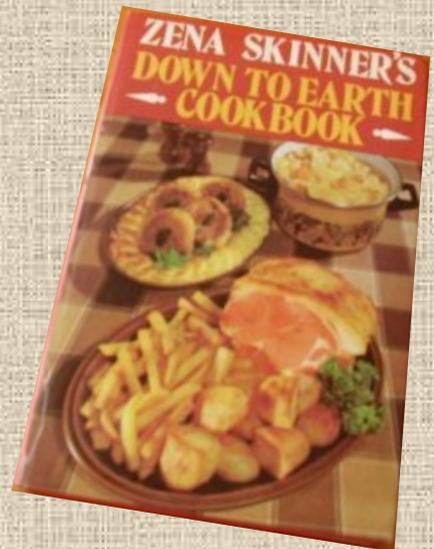
We started 2008 with a Mock Auction at our January meeting. What a giggle! Yours truly was wielding the gavel "You will buy it!" with Sallie and Josie doing all the dirty work, a big thank you ladies.

The evening finished with a quiz about food. The answers certainly sorted out those that can spell.

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

See you there,

Patricia Crick



DANCES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

I am going to see if the Dances will be a success this year or not. I have booked two, the first is Saturday March 1st, the second April 26th. If these are reasonably successful, I will then think about later in the year.

You do not have to be an expert dancer, just come along for a good night out. If you would like to come to any dances please contact me on 01582 412506.

Shirley Knapton

ALLOTMENT GARDEN ASSOCIATION

General Work

Good gardeners will have completed all digging and trenching by this time, but others may still have some work to do. The sooner it is finished the better. Ground that was turned over earlier in the winter and left rough should be broken down to a fine surface some time during February. It is essential to choose a day when the surface is fairly dry. You will do more harm than good if

you walk about on beds that are soaking wet. Some good days often turn up during this month and may be looked for after east winds have dried the ground up.

Look over seed potatoes, clear up decaying rubbish, BURN IT! Make garden layout plans including the rotation scheme for vegetables.

Vegetable Plot

Prepare the onion bed for sowing later in the month and protect broccoli. The curds are still liable to be damaged by frost. If the weather is favorable, do not hesitate to sow parsnips out of doors, for the longer and more steadily they can grow the better: but parsnips that were left in the ground all winter will be starting to grow again. It is best to lift them now and store them in a cold place.

Flower & Fruit Garden

There is still just time to plant fruit trees and deciduous ornamental trees and shrubs, including roses. The earlier this can be done the better. Continue to prune bush and standard roses, flowering shrubs and Clematises.

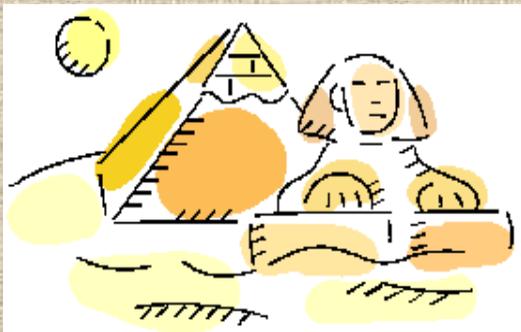


I met up with several members of the Fleckney family in St Andrew's at the Carol Service for the Bereaved last month. Having just returned from a working visit to Alexandria in Egypt, it was interesting to hear the Fleckneys' impressions about a country which Wilf knew and loved. Wilf's widow Eileen, has written in to Parish News to tell us her interesting story, "Slip End to Egypt, the last journey of Wilfy Fleckney"

David Kingston.

One day last Spring Eileen, Brian, Alison, Sarah, Judy, Ray, Barbara and Judith set out on a journey to scatter Wilfy's ashes on the West Bank Nile at Luxor. Judy Fleckney carried Wilfy's ashes in her backpack and the first obstacle was at Heathrow Airport. All hand baggage was x-rayed: imagine the look on the faces of the security staff when Judy told them that it was a box of ashes of her father but, fair play, they were very understanding!

At Luxor we boarded the Nile cruise boat MV Sun Ray which was to be our home for the next week. Wilfy's ashes were placed on a table by a window in Judy and Ray's cabin to be seen as we cruised down the Nile from Luxor then back to Aswan, a journey of six days. On the seventh day we rose before sunrise to go to the village of Qurna on the West Bank to take a hot air balloon flight over the Nile Valley, taking Wilfy's ashes with us, a trip he that always wanted to do. After taking off on a football pitch we landed in a corn field! After the balloon flight we went sightseeing around Queen Hatchepsut mortuary temple then onto the Valley of the Kings.



After cruising up and down the Nile, a balloon flight and sightseeing around some of his favorite places, the time had come to lay his ashes to rest. The garden in the villa of Howard Carter, who discovered the Tomb of Tutamkarmun, which is also on the West Bank was the chosen spot and with help and assistance from the gardener at the villa, the ashes were spread amongst the palms and flowers. At last Wilfy was where he wanted to be and the purpose of our journey was complete

Eileen Fleckney

Left to right: Alison Fleckney, Sarah Fleckney, Judith Fleckney, Brian Fleckney, Eileen Fleckney, the gardener, Judy Fleckney & Barbara Fleckney.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**It was a very special day
on the first day of 2008.**



Many of you will know Diane Casemore who lives in Claydown Way and looks after the Nursery Department at Slip End School. Diane is pictured here with a beautiful plant display which she received from some of her friends in recognition of 60 years.

You certainly don't look it Diane, I think you must have got the years muddled up!

Congratulations Diane, from all your friends, near and far.



LINE DANCERS - CHRISTMAS FESTIVITY

Line Dancers enjoying their Christmas meal at The Plough, Woodside. We had a lovely time and the service was excellent. It was nice to be able to celebrate with friends from dancing.

If you fancy a twirl and a way of keeping fit why not come along on a Wednesday morning at 10a.m. at the Village Hall and join in the fun. We even get a tea break at 11 and a chance for a natter. You don't have to be an expert as you will soon pick the routines up.

Sue Briggs



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.

Services & Events in February

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

Sunday 3 rd	10.30am	Family Communion
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 6 th	10.30 am	Pram Service (now called 'Little Stars') Family Room
	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in Church <i>(note new time)</i>
Saturday 9 th	2 to 5	Kidz Time Valentine Party in Church – Newcomers welcome
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Praise with Baptism of Heather Allaway
Thursday 14 th	8.00 pm	Footsteps in the Family Room
Sunday 17 th	10.30pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 20 th	10.30am	Little Stars meeting in the Family Room
Saturday 23 rd	10 to 4.00	Prayer Conference “Travelling at the Speed of God” (Dynamics of Prayer) St Hugh’s Lewsey. Forms in church.
Sunday 24 th	10.30 am	Morning Praise
	6.15 pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Monday 25 th	7.45 pm	Deanery Synod at St Hugh’s Lewsey
Thursday 28 th	8.00 pm	Footsteps in the Family Room
Friday 29 th	2.30 pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday March 2 nd	9.15 am	Holy Communion East Hyde
	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday Service & Family Communion - Led by children & leaders of 3:16 (all ladies receive a small gift)

Powerful Prayer

Winter is time when we are vulnerable to illness, particularly in the gloomy days after Christmas and many of us have been suffering the usual bouts of cold and flu this time round.

More seriously for us at St Andrew’s, Dorrie Strong and Geoff Daniel have been pulled down with illness in recent weeks and both are quite poorly, as I write this, undergoing treatment at the Luton & Dunstable Hospital.

As a Christian Community, we have held them in our prayers and not surprisingly, these are being answered. Both Geoff and Dorrie are responding to treatment and our prayers now are that progress will be maintained and that they will be back amongst us before too long.

Treatments continue and there is still some way to go for them both.

Visiting Geoff and Dorrie at the L & D recently, as I stepped into the lift, Mo Coker stepped out. A brief chat revealed that her husband, Stan had been admitted. Stan has impressed me for quite a while, as although quite poorly from time to time, he could still be seen around the village and hopes are that he will be back home in Slip End soon.

So those of us suffering coughs and snuffles at this time should take heart, spring is not too far away and be encouraged by the examples shown by Dorrie, Geoff and Stan in the ways they are handling their illnesses.

**IN MEMORY OF MARY STUDNICKI WHO SADLY
PASSED AWAY ON 24TH DECEMBER**

A few words by Julie Flashman on Mary who lived in the village for many years.

I came to St Andrews in the mid 1990's, when Mary was attending church a little less often, and was asked by David Bolster to visit Mary in her home. I was immediately drawn to her gentle spirit and warm personality, and to the lovely smile which, so readily, lit up her eyes and her whole face. Sadly, as her condition deteriorated, illness took her path in a different direction. I was overjoyed to meet her again at one of the monthly services, which we hold in the Woodside Home next door, after Alex and Mary had both moved in. When they both attended our Harvest Festival Service here in church, it felt as though she had 'come home'. It was good to have her back with us, if only for such a short time.

Recently, I spoke with one of Mary's greatest friends here in the village, Edie Ham - who would have loved to have seen Mary, just one more time, before she passed away. (Edie was unwell and so was unable to attend the funeral.) Edie met Mary soon after she, herself, moved into Slip End around fifty years ago and one of her earliest memories was when she gave an 'old fashioned' pram which had belonged to her niece, to one of Mary's daughters, who was just a little girl at the time. Edie believes that that was the start of their life long friendship and she kept in touch ever since, even in recent years, by phone and by sending flowers at Christmas. Mary was very fond of Edie's husband Cyril and Edie remembers her own walks around the village when she would stop and have long friendly chats with Mary's husband, Alex.

Mary loved to come to church and mix with other people and in later years occasionally brought a couple of her grandchildren. She would sit with Edie and Dorrie (and Margaret Osmond before Margaret died in 2006). And she loved Eileen Crapnell's husband, Nick, who was a Lay Reader here at that time. She was a well-loved, gentle, kind-hearted and

caring person. I am told that she loved the bazaars in the church hall, and was good at practical things, like baking cakes. She was very reliable and would always get one of her girls to do things for her if she was unable to do them for herself.

Edie and Mary used to cleaned the church together. Cleaning done, Mary would stand on the chancel steps, clap her hands together like a little child and say "Come on 'Ede', let's sing!" and accompanied by Edie on the piano would sing that favourite hymn, 'Shine, Jesus, Shine!' How lovely to be able to sing that as a tribute to her today!

We think of Mary's family, especially her husband, Alex, who supported and upheld her with such great love for so many years of her life. We pray too for Mary's son, Robert; her two daughters, Caroline and Jane; her three grandchildren, Amy, Eve and Dean (who were such a joy to her); and all who had a very special affection for her, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss but turn to Christ for their courage and have confidence in His goodness and strength to meet the days ahead.

Although Alex was Mary's prime full time 'carer' we also give thanks for all the love and support she received from the 'professionals' over the years and for the friendships she made during those more difficult times. Most recently, we give thanks for the tremendously caring, patient, staff at Woodside Home where Alex and Mary have lived for the past few months.

We give thanks for everything that Mary brought to St Andrew's Church and to all who met her.



ST ANDREW'S NATIVITY

You cannot fail to be inspired these days at St Andrew's by activities within our church, which take in the complete age range from the very youngest to the very oldest!

We are particularly thankful to have in our numbers a large group of children, youngsters and teen-agers who come along at various times throughout the week with mums, dads and carers. We are thankful to mix together in relaxed styles of worship and activities, so if you have not set foot in church for a while, give it a try, bring the family and see what is going on here!

Christmas, they say, is for the children: not so at St A's where the good news is shared by everyone, although children are to the fore, just as it was 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

It was lovely to see our children perform at the Nativity last month. The little angels were a delight (along with their mums) and it was good to see the children from the Pram Service

joining in with the children from Kidz time. Hard work for the helpers and assistants but it was great on the day. Thanks to everyone who helped.

The Pram Service which takes place on alternate Wednesday mornings around 10.30a.m. has been renamed Little Stars (suitably named after their Nativity performance). It is held in the Family Room at St Andrew's and our next meeting is on January 30th.

The older children, Kidz Time meets every Sunday morning during part of the main worship session and there is fun and activities tailored to the ages of those attending. Not to worry if you can't be there every week but it would be lovely to see you when you can make it. We had a great time last month making up shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and making cards, sometimes we even get to do some cooking!

Hope to see you there.

St Andrew's Little Stars and Kidz time.

All children invited

to

VALENTINE

KIDZ TIME PARTY

ON

SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY FROM 2.30 TO 5

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

PARTY GAMES, CRAFTS, QUIZZES, FUN & FOOD

GET YOUR £1 TICKET TO COVER REFRESHMENTS

MORE DETAILS FROM

MARY BARKER 738435 & JILL SANDERS 452539





FANCY A NATTER WHILE YOU KNIT?

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

We will be meeting on February 5th & 19th, 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.

Website of the Month

No, not RailPhotoArchive or Airliners.net, here's a website you might want to look at.

It's called Freerice and the way it works is that you do a word quiz and for each correct answer they donate 20 g of rice to the UN world food programme. It soon mounts up if you are a half decent wordsmith! The site has a slot for FAQ's which explain it and it seems genuinely a good thing. I have a little session a day. It helps to keep my brain working!

What's on for families?

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

Stockwood is undergoing major development at the moment and will re-open next July. *To see how things are going there, note the Discovery Tours on Sundays 10th February and 30th March.*

Julie Taylor



SLIP END TENNIS CLUB

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 23th February

Peter Edwards Hall Slip End Playing Field

Teams Maximum of 8 People

£6 per person including Supper

**Bring your knives & forks,
Drinks & Glasses**

(Doors open 7.00pm - 7.30pm start)

Call Steve on 414162 for Tickets



That your days may be blessed.

What shall I ask of the year that is dawning?
 What shall I hope as I face the new day?
 What shall I ask on the very first morning?
 What shall I wish, and for what should I pray?

Ask for an eye that is open to beauty,
 Ask for a faith that no bludgeon can break.
 Ask for the patience to do every duty—
 With a good humour that nothing can shake.

Now at this time of the year's new beginning.
 Pray for these gifts. They outweigh all the rest.
 For without these there is naught worth
 the winning.
 Ask for these things that your days may
 be blessed.

**Every Day, Every Year**

You need every friend you can make
 In a world where things hurt and hearts break.
 Friends who will always be there
 The good and the bad times to share.
 But friendship two-sided must be,
 Each giving much, yet both free.
 Going a separate way
 wherever life leads day by day.

Friendships the new and the old
 Form links that connect and will hold.
 In spite of the day to day strain,
 One friendship will always remain.
 Through changes and chances you learn
 To this one special friend you can turn.
 The friend who unchanged will appear
 any time, any day, any year.

Most of us miss out on life's big prizes. Pulitzer, Nobel, Oscars, Emmys, but we're all eligible for life's small pleasures: a pat on the back, an empty parking space, a glorious sunset, a cold beer. Don't fret about coping with Life's great awards. Enjoy its tiny delights. There are plenty for all of us.

We want to thank villagers for their continuous support of our Church, the generosity of friends giving their time, talents and money to raise funds for our Church building and other charities. This Christmas we raised funds as follows. The Coffee Evening raised £112 for Methodist Homes for the Aged. Our musical evening raised £225 for Keech Cottage. The Nativity concert collection took £64 for Christian Aid, our Church Christmas card £52 for the Bible society. Carol service raised £153 for National Children's Homes and the Christmas Day collection £70 for NOAH (Luton's Homeless).

Our service and Sunday school is at 11am but the church will be closed on February 10th as we are going to a memorial service for Ken Snoxel at Barton Methodist church. Ken was a preacher for over 60 years and for many years a Sunday school teacher at Aley Green.

We will be joining in the Caddington Ecumenical Lent meetings which start on Monday 11th February in the lower school room at 7:45pm. Please join one of the Lent groups, it is a spiritual way to prepare yourself for Easter. Our February coffee evening will be on Wednesday 20th at 7:30pm. Drinks are free, home made cakes will be on sale.

Thanks to Alan Martin who put up new bookshelves and Graham has stocked them. Come and browse for your winter reading.

"He did it with all his heart and prospered."
Book of Chronicles

We pray you will be able to join us throughout 2008 God Bless you from all at Aley Green Methodist Church



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FoSELS

Friends of Slip End Lower School

We have had a fantastic year of events and thank you everyone involved in organising them and taking part. 2008 is set to be even better with events such as Cinema clubs to Camp-outs and car boot sales on the agenda, not forgetting our main event of the year the Summer Fayre on Saturday 21st June.

Anyone who may like to get involved in any of these events please get in touch with Tracey Burgess at tracey_burgess88@hotmail.com if you have spare time to help out or you would like a stall of your own at the Summer Fayre please get in touch.

Christmas is always a busy time of year and this year was no exception with lots of fun activities for the children at Slip End Lower School to partake in.

Christmas Production

We were treated to a wonderful performance of "It's a party" from Angelic Angels to Fog Horn Fred characters. All the children were involved and put on a beautiful and up to date version of the Nativity story. A big thank you to all the children who worked hard at learning their lines and Christmas songs. Also thanks to the teachers and helpers who worked hard to put on a very entertaining show.

Activity Day

The children enjoyed the run up to Christmas with their annual activity day. Glitter, tinsel, paint and sparkles were turned into amazing decorations used to brighten up the school. The children even had a chance to bake their own biscuits. Well done teachers and helpers, it was lots of fun and apologies to them if you are still finding glitter in your classrooms!!

Also thank you to Diamond class who helped Mrs Tracey and Mrs Carol Burgess turn some old cardboard boxes into a wonderful nativity scene that was displayed in the school entrance, it was lovely and unique. Thank you Tracey and Carol.

Christmas Fayre

A highlight of the winter calendar is the Christmas Fayre and this year was no exception. We started with the school choir singing some favourite Carols. There were stalls for everyone from making chocolate apples to reindeer food for the children, to local craft stalls to bottle stalls for adults.

A magical train ride to Santa (although rather damp) but once at the grotto the children were treated to a visit to the real Santa. Warm turkey and cranberry baguettes were available, washed down with a seasonal cranberry punch! Everyone enjoyed the day and a big thanks to all those involved, raising a record £1500 on the day.

Elf Shelf

This year the children had their own Christmas shopping to do at school when the Elves visited Slip End Lower School. The children had a chance to choose presents for their family; and with the help of the Elves and Santa; wrapped them up and took them home to be placed under the tree until Christmas day!

The children had a lovely morning and boosted our funds with another £36 raised. Big thanks to Santa and his Elves who have promised to return next year (see picture on the inside back cover.) They hope you all enjoyed your gifts.

Lastly a big thank you to all the local businesses that continue to support the school and its events, you really do make a difference. We would also like to thank the people in the community who come along in their spare time to help at the school and give their support throughout the year.

Early Warning!

Summer Fayre Slip End School

Saturday 21st June

*Why not have your own stall and help raise funds at the same time?
You could have your own produce/
crafts or goods*

£10 to hire a stall

Please contact

Tracey Burgess - Tel 07767731187

Paula or Philippa can dig out a picture or two, we would be pleased to include them in the next issue.

WOW! What a surprise on December 21st, I thought Pete and I were going to a Wedding reception. But, oh no, when we arrived at the Village Hall, I found out it was a farewell party for Gillian and myself for over 30 years of Brownies.

I understand Paula had been arranging this party since early Summer, 'Well done Paula', It was such a shame not everyone could make it, as it was so close to Christmas, but it was good to see some of the old Brownies, also Commissioners Mary Mechem and Jeanne Wain. Mary, our first Commissioner, told us all about a few of our secrets, such as I always wore a Green Flash on my hat. (I said that was because we were a country pack). When she came to visit she would lose count after 24; so it was decided to have 2 packs!

Gillian and I would like to thank you all for the cards and gifts that were given to us, I think by these tokens that we must have been appreciated! I Hope Paula and Philippa have as much enjoyment as we had.

Barbara Ray

Brownies

As very special night took place in the Village just before Christmas, when a Surprise Party was held to honour Gillian & Barbara, as they retire from the Brownies after so many tears. Thankfully, two young ladies are taking over and the community should be grateful to Paula & Philippa.

So Parish News joins in the congratulations to Gill & Barbara and wishes them many happy years in retirement. Sadly our roving reporter was away at that time and could not get along and share the fun, but if

It was no surprise to me about the party as it was to Barbara. I did know a bit about it as I had to tell Paula who we had had in Brownies over the years as she would have not known whom to invite.

Thanks to those who did turn up, and for the gifts and cards, special thanks to Sandra for the two cakes. It was nice to hear the girls talking about their time in Brownies, with each other, and looking through photo's and certificates and shields that had been won.

It was nice to have at least 2 of our first Brownies with us, Paula & Lisa, as well as Commissioners Mary and Jeanne.

Gillian Plummer

OPEN GARDENS 2008

We are planning for 2008 for the Open Gardens on Saturday, the 12th July and we are looking for some new gardens, big or small.

The Open Gardens Day has become a very popular biennial in the Parish, providing opportunities to get advice from some pretty knowledgeable local gardeners and to see just what there is in some of our back gardens. You'll be amazed what our creative neighbours get up to in their gardens!

Past experience is that good weather is guaranteed: there will be time for cream teas, raffle prizes, not to mention the chance for serious chat with local friends and neighbours!

Use the form below and send it in if you wish to enter or if you want more information. Please get in touch, we are waiting to hear from you. Now in February, July may seem a long way off, but it will soon be round, so please do not hesitate!



SLIP END OPEN GARDENS 2008 ENTRY FORM



If you would like to take part in the Open Gardens Day on Saturday 12th July 2008, please complete the form below and return it by the end of February to: Valerie Church, The Old Bakery, 2 Summer Street, Slip End or e-mail to churchval2@aol.com.



I would like to 'Open my Garden' on 12th July, 2008

I need more information

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

e-mail address:

Advance Notice: Plans are under way for a ...

VILLAGE FUN DAY

At the Playing Field next to St Andrew's Church
On 26th July 2008 11am to 5pm

All Village Groups are invited to do something for this, perhaps by organising an item or taking a stall. We'll be pricing Stalls at a tenner or by 50-50 share. We're planning a Beer & Refreshment Tent, Vintage Tractors with Tractor Rides, Bouncy castle, face painting and more!

For further details contact:

Janet (07752 902070) crawley_janet@yahoo.co.uk

Nikki (01582 402312) parishclerk@slipend.co.uk



Welcome to the Parish of
SLIP END





Here are just some of the volunteers on the final packing day at the Dunstable warehouse enjoying a buffet lunch and reflecting on their record breaking year. Altogether 21,861 shoeboxes were taken to Kiev in the Ukraine to be gratefully received by the many children who have never received a gift or toy in their short lives.

We are indebted to all the volunteers who give up their precious time, around Christmas when everyone seems to be especially busy. Thanks must also go to the van drivers who drive all around Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire picking up boxes from schools, churches, organisations and individual homes. And let's not forget the unseen and heroic team of Bean Counters, who worked long hours of overtime on the accounts, counting out and banking all the cash which goes towards the

costs of transportation. *In all, 1.3 million boxes were sent from the United Kingdom, a wonderful effort.*

Some of the volunteers receive the newsletter from Samaritan's Purse, which tells you of some of the visits overseas. One particular story caught my eye from a visit to the Roma (gypsy) children who live under the Gazela Bridge in Belgrade. "Never in my worst nightmare did I imagine such squalor and poverty was possible. Thousands of Roma children live on a landfill site and the ground is littered with rubbish. Families even use the SPI cartons to build their houses! Despite the rain and cold I saw a girl wearing a sleeveless top. Her name was Silvna. A grin spread across her face when she received her box. The slum houses have little light and no water supply. These images will remain etched in my memory"



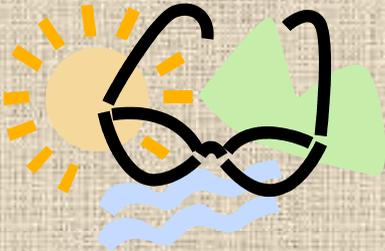
And finally, here is a picture of the Polish driver (and yet more volunteers) who collected the final batch of boxes from our warehouse in Dunstable. He has grown up children of his own and he was thrilled with the shoebox we gave him for his family, plus the large fluffy rabbit to sit in his cab and keep him company on the long trip back home.

“Cast your bread upon the water” An Open Gardens Anecdote

Two days before we opened our garden in 2006, everything was almost in good order apart from last minute panics. We had one. A small water garden, constructed inside half a beer barrel, blew a gasket! The plastic liner split and the water flooded our little courtyard. So the old liner had to be removed, complete with significant ‘gunge’ and a new liner stapled in, with the planting updated.

The bonus was finding in the ‘gunge’ a pair of stainless steel kitchen scissors, as good as new, and spectacles which had gone missing for at least 2 years! The specs were also perfect for use, the frames having developed an elegant green fleck which was seen as a distinct improvement on their original pristine state!

The little pond was then stocked with four fish: ‘Hide & Seek’ and ‘Lost & Found’.



RECIPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Jewelled Shortbread

A rich, buttery shortbread, with candied fruits: colourful addition to any tea table.

Ingredients:

4 oz. Butter

2 oz. multi coloured glace cherries,

2 oz. caster sugar, washed and chopped

6 oz. flour

2 oz. flaked almonds, chopped

Pinch of salt

1 oz angelica, chopped.

Set oven to 325°F or Mark 3. Cream together the butter and sugar in a bowl until just

They ask why I like retirement!



Q: How many days in a week?

A: 7, 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Q: When is a retiree's bedtime?

A: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Q: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

A: Only one, but it might take all day.

Q: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

A: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Q: Why do retirees count pennies?

A: They are the only ones who have the time.

Q: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

A: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Q: What do retirees call a long lunch?

A: Normal.

Q: What is the best way to describe retirement?

A: The never ending Coffee Break.

blended, then work in the flour and salt, followed by half the cherries, almonds and angelica. Knead lightly and chill for 15 minutes. Roll out on a floured surface into a rectangle 4 inches wide and about quarter inch thickness and cut into fingers of approximately 1 inch width.



Place the fingers on to greased baking sheets and decorate with the remaining cherries, almonds and angelica. Prick the biscuit fingers with a fork lightly all over, then bake for about 20 minutes until pale gold, but do not allow to brown. Place the biscuits carefully on a wire rack to cool.

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

February

- 4th *Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm*
- 10th *Aley Green Methodist Church: closed, all to Barton Methodist Church*
- 19th *Women's Institute: at Baptist Hall, Caddington: "Boccia" (Bottle?)*
- 20th *Aley Green Methodist Church: Coffee evening at 7.30*
- 23rd *Tennis Club: Quiz Night at Peter Edwards Hall. 7.00 for 7.30.*

March

- 1st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
- 3rd *Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm*
- 18th *Women's Institute: at Baptist Hall, Caddington: "Scams", Major Gilmore*

April

- 7th *Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm*
- 15th *Women's Institute: at Baptist Hall, Caddington: Member's Night*
- 26th *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*

May

- 12th *Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm Annual General Meeting*

June

- 21st *FoSELS: SUMMER FAYRE at the School*

July

- 12th **VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS DAY**
- 26th **VILLAGE FUN DAY**

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

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

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

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

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

BIN DAYS - February 2008

				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

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