

# SLIP END & DISTRICT

MARCH 2008

# PARISH NEWS

50P  
WHERE SOLD



## *Brownies Leadership*

*Gillian Plummer and Barbara Ray retired from Slip End Brownies and are seen at the surprise Party in December which was held to celebrate the many years when they lead several generations of Slip End Brownies. The local community is fortunate that the Paula, Philippa (seen here standing behind their more mature, seated predecessors) and Verity are taking over from Babs & Gil. Parish News wishes Paula & Philipa and the Brownies every success for the future.*

*As this is being written, we are enjoying some mid-February brightness, some sunny days with a touch of spring in the air. People around the village are well into planning Fun Day, Summer Fete, Open Gardens, etc. But winter could strike back and the wise vegetable gardener is keeping a wary eye out for frosts, not wishing to have seed potatoes or heading broccoli damaged.*





*This is the new music band at St Andrew's Church, formed by Russell (far right) who sang and played for the first time on the 10th February— drums, trumpet, keyboard, guitars etc. They made an excellent start with their first performance and hope to be doing many more. If there are any budding musicians out there why not contact St Andrew's or Parish News and we will put you in touch. The band is available for social occasions also. Next performance at St Andrew's will be on March 30th. Why not come along and join in the celebrations?*



*The Thanksgiving & Blessing service for Barnaby Storey took place on 27th January. Barnaby (Jesus in last months Parish News) is seen her with mum Gayle and Dad Ben.*



*The Baptism of Heather Gallaway took place on 10th February at St Andrews with many friends and family present. Parents, David & Angela live in Church Road.*

# 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

*Christine Benson: 456200*  
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*Geoff Daniel: 424363*  
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**CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

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## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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



After Jerusalem was sung, we were all in the mood for what the evening had in store. We were given dates for forthcoming events and outings as follows: 17<sup>th</sup> April there is a Group Meeting at Houghton Regis (Houghton Regis, Totternhoe, Dunstable and Caddington). The Meppershall Players will be the entertainment.

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Spring Federation meeting at the Corn Exchange in Bedford: speaker Baroness Perry of Southwark.

29<sup>th</sup> April: International Eve at Flitwick Village Hall and on 2<sup>nd</sup> May we meet at Kings Langley

13<sup>th</sup> May: Dunstable Ladies Choir, Baptist Church Hall, Caddington, open to all.

19<sup>th</sup> June: Wilkins Jam Factory, Tiptree

17<sup>th</sup> July: Camden market and Boat trip

As you can see it isn't only a once a month situation. "You pays your money and you takes your choice" as the saying goes. This month Joan did us proud in running a Boccia Match. It is like indoor bowls for those of you not familiar with the name and we had a whale of a time. Thank you Joan.

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*

Slip End Village Hall Committee

## **Annual General Meeting**

Monday March 10th, 8pm

*Come along and see how things are going with our Village Hall. The committee could do with one or two new faces, so if you have a little time to spare call in at the AGM.*

## **FARLEY HILL METHODIST CHURCH**

Farley Hill Methodists visited St John the Baptist for a joint service conducted by the new Vicar of St Johns, Reverend Dr Diana Sanders.

The Lunch Club meets on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30 for 1 pm for a two-course meal and tea for £2.50 (*sounds a bargain, editor*).

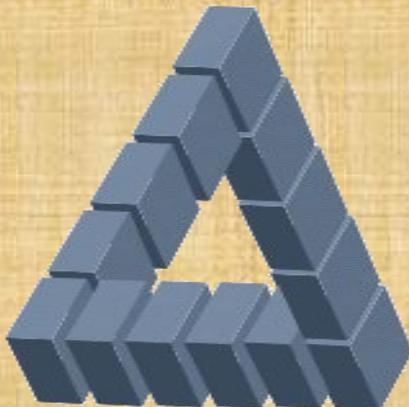
The first social event of the summer will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, St George's day and a special social afternoon with an English theme, is being arranged. There will be the usual first class afternoon tea, home made scones, cakes etc., musical interludes of English style music and some thumping Handel as well as table games and the usual 'chatting' time.

The concerts arranged for the first half of the year commence with the excellent all ladies choir, "Cantata" on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Cantata will be arriving at Farley Hill following a European Tour, taking in Amsterdam, Brussels and Berlin.

The Annual June Charity concert will once again feature the popular Bedfordshire Police Choir on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The beneficiaries this year will be Noah Enterprises for the Homeless.

*Any enquiries:*

*Ken Cameron 07960257218*



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## **DANCES AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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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*

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## **ALLOTMENT GARDEN ASSOCIATION**

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### ***Vegetable Garden***

A most important sowing for this first week in March is that of maincrop onions, but only if the ground is suitable. Make the first sowing of culinary peas outdoors where the plants are to grow. In a sheltered spot and if the soil is in a good working state, sow some stump-rooted carrots. The first sowing of early potatoes can be made during March.

### ***Flower & Fruit Garden***

Plant rose trees, making sure the ground is firm around them. Trim herbaceous borders, pinching out weak new growth from perennials. If you were unable to sow sweet peas in the autumn, make an outdoor sowing as soon as possible.

Strawberry runners should be laid out for the sprouting ends to root, cutting off runners that show no new leaf. Late summer fruiting raspberries should be cut back to 6 inches, leaving a couple of buds. Fresh shoots will grow in good time. Canes planted last autumn will not fruit until next year.

Spray apple trees if blossom weevil has been a problem; this is a pest which produces small white maggots which feed inside the opening flower buds, causing them to brown and harden. Spray with insecticide.

Apple and pear stock that are well established, also older trees that have been cut back for reworking may be grafted now.

### ***General Work***

Now is the time to lay new turf. Do this when the surface is dry enough to walk on without clagging, beating the turfs down.



*Last month Peter Smith and the Tennis Club folk put on another of their popular Quiz Nights in the Peter Edwards Hall. Here's a few Quiz Nighters at an earlier event, struggling for answers to the Running Puzzle thing.*

**NEWS FROM ....  
THE RISING SUN AND FROG & RHUBARB**

Fears were that the Rising Sun would not re-open following closure before Christmas. Punch Taverns put up their sign to attract new management and, to the relief of quite a few in the village, Lily stepped forward!



Moving up from West London, she brings experience and enthusiasm with optimism that she can run the business successfully. Before making a long term commitment, Lily has taken on the Rising Sun for a three month trial period and initial signs are looking positive at a time normally quiet for pub trade.

As well as beers and lagers, plans are to offer a food menu including Sunday lunches and Theme Nights with musical entertainment every couple of weeks. In the longer term hopes are that work will be undertaken on the building without losing that village pub atmosphere.

Along Church Road at the Frog & Rhubarb, Paul Cooper is seen hard at work on Sunday morning recently, clearing up discarded smoking material from outside his pub.

Paul says, "We sweep up every day, but it's a job that I wish we did not have to do! We have provided space at the rear of the pub for smokers and this area is used by some but others persist in smoking outside the front door, discarding dog-ends on the pavement, despite signs requesting restraint and consideration. Some local residents are



getting quite stroppy and I quite understand their feelings."

This is a common problem since the ban on smoking inside public buildings was introduced and many pubs suffer in this way.

*Piles of soggy dog-ends do not reflect a welcoming image.* Parish News joins Paul in his wish that patrons show more consideration and make use of the facilities available for smokers.



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## MOTHERING SUNDAY

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*Make sure you remember Mothering Sunday, coming up early in March on Sunday 2nd!*  
The history is interesting but be warned, it has little to do with “mums”!

Most Sundays in the year, churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year so each year, in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit his or her 'mother' church, the main church or Cathedral of the area. Inevitably, the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

Most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick violets or other wild flowers to take to church or give to their mothers as small gifts.



### To celebrate mothers everywhere – a few poems for Mothering Sunday

*A mother has the special gift  
of always speaking true.*

*A mother gets the praise or blame  
if skies be dark or blue.*

*A mother is a doctor, a joiner and a vet*

*The jobs a mother cannot do,  
have not been heard of yet.*

*A mother is a power all wise,  
a tyrant or a saint,*

*An oracle, a paragon,  
with smart ideas or quaint.*

*Whatever else she may be,  
a mother knows full well,*

*A house can never be a home  
without her magic spell.*

### A Mothers Love

A mother's love will carry you  
through all life's ups and downs,  
A mother's eyes are all she needs  
to see your smiles and frowns.

A mother's arms can hold you  
when you need that loving touch,

A mother's heart is given  
when you need that love so much.

When a mother's love is given,  
it is given from the heart,  
And continues to be given,  
even though you are apart.

A mother's love is with you  
and with you it will stay.

A mother's love will be with you,  
forever and a day.

So as you go about your daily lives,  
just stop and pause a while,  
And if you close your eyes shut tight,  
you will see your mother's smile.

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## DO WE NEED THIS?

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The phone box in Front Street is again useless and has been for weeks. BT seems to have lost interest along with the vast majority of the parishioners.

**Is there anyone out there who would use the thing if it was ever serviceable?**

Parish News raised this issue some years ago and there was some reaction against removal. Has the situation changed since then? Please let us know.

There is a formal procedure for removal of call boxes by BT (do an Internet search for "BT call boxes"): perhaps it is time for the Parish Council to start the ball rolling. Some consideration will no doubt be required for those deprived of this recreational outlet and alternative destruction opportunities will need defining.



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## DID YOU SPOT THIS?

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You will not need reminding that the airspace above our heads is pretty busy but did you realise that we are over-flown at relatively low levels by aircraft using, not only Luton but also those using Stansted, Heathrow and Northolt? **Fact is that one of the busiest bits of airspace "on" the planet is right over our heads!**

The National Air Traffic Service (NATS), provides air traffic control services to major airports and en-route services to commercial aircraft flying over the UK. NATS is proposing some radical changes to aircraft routings in an attempt to unravel this congested airspace and to reduce aircraft nuisance and pollution by re-routing away from the most populous areas.

How would this affect us? Reference to [www.consultation.nats.co.uk/](http://www.consultation.nats.co.uk/) shows how air traffic arriving at and departing from Luton and other airports are routed above the Parish. Presently aircraft departing Luton westerly (above us) turn sharp left between the end of the runway and the M1, to fly between Slip End and Pepperstock. Proposals are that these departures will be routed in line with the runway with a slight left turn above the M1, to overfly between Lower Woodside and Caddington, i.e. almost along the same route as aircraft incoming from the west fly now.

If these proposals go through it will be some relief to Slip End and Pepperstock residents but not to those living in the north of the Parish in Woodside. In the days of Court Line's BAC III's, which flew over at much lower levels than today's 737's and A320's, noise nuisance was greater than today in my opinion, although flight frequencies have increased.

The Parish Council will be informed of these proposals and invited to comment. Comments from individuals may be made on the NATS site.

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## SENIOR MOMENTS

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A friend of mine went into Harpenden Post Office recently and asked "I'd like a book of twelve 2½p stamps please". When I was told about this, I laughed like a drain!



Then the other day I was leaving a message on someone's answer phone, and of course had to include my 'phone number, "It's 4685." That rang a bell, but somehow it didn't quite seem right: I left that house 20 years ago!

### *Services & Events in March*

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

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15am	Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Mothering Sunday service
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<i>Little Stars</i> in the Family Room
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.0 to 4.0	Fresh Expressions Vision Day at St Marys Church
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
	6.15pm	3;16 in the Family Room
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	<i>Footsteps</i> meet in the Family Room
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Evening with Bobby Ball at Luton Christian Fellowship
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Palm Sunday: Holy Communion
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Week evening prayer in the Family Room
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Holy Week evening prayer in the Family Room
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<i>Little Stars</i> in the Family Room
	7.00pm	Holy Week evening prayer in the Family Room
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday: Agape
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.15am	Good Friday: Procession of Witness
	12.00	Good Friday Service in St Andrews
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am	<b><i>Easter Day:</i></b> Holy Communion at East Hyde
	10.30am	Communion at St Andrews
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	<i>Footsteps</i> meet in the Family Room
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise - Stan Drew's Band

### *Children's Groups*

At St Andrew's there is a big emphasis on children's activities and we are blessed with an energetic team of leaders and large, keen groups of children, mums and carers. The older members of the church family at St A's are thrilled with the dynamism and energy of these younger elements!

About 30 youngsters spent an enjoyable afternoon last month at their Valentine's Party playing games, tackling fun quizzes, making chocolate cakes and fancy party masks. They then tucked into a Pizza-Plus feast and ended the day singing along with some of their favourite holiday club songs.

***After all that fun plans are now underway for another Holiday Club, probably in the autumn half term again.***

To keep the younger generation regularly amused and occupied, we have "Kidz Time" ***every*** Sunday morning (unless it's a child

friendly service). In the middle of ***every*** week on Wednesday mornings the "Little Stars" group meets. On alternate weeks the session is led by Mary and Paddy and continues in the original format. On the other Wednesday mornings, mums and children meet for a cup of tea then, depending on the weather, decide whether to stay put and use the facilities that the church offers or go out and about for a walk. However, whatever they do, they start by being in the family room at church at about 10:30am. Little Stars is a fun time for mums, mums-to-be, pre-school children and their carers!

For older children there is 3;16 on alternate Sunday evenings and the teenage group "Footsteps" meets on alternate Thursday evenings. For contact details see the phone details elsewhere in Parish News.

*Mary Barker*

### ***Council Tax***

*By now most of you will be aware of the increase in Parish Council Tax for the next financial year. To increase the average Band D from £28 to £75 per annum was not a decision taken lightly.*

Since we became a Parish in 2001, there has been no increase in Parish Council Tax. The only extra money we asked for was a one off £10 increment for legal costs relating to the Travellers Site and some of this money has been used to pay for the consultations with Caddington and East Hyde regarding the extra 40,000 houses within South Bedfordshire. Over the years it has become obvious that things need to be done around the Parish and finance for these projects is becoming more difficult to obtain. A great deal needs to be done. *The increase is less than £1 per week, per household.*

### ***Parish Improvements***

We have identified places in the Parish that have priorities. We need 30mph flashing signs at various places. In the next few months a new one should be installed in Front Street. We intend to replace the current kerbside parking with new anti-parking kerbside measures (see a picture elsewhere in this issue.) These will eventually be placed around the Parish as required.

Building on success of the SEPC design for Coronation Gardens, we are identifying other sites throughout the Parish where projects of a similar nature will improve our locality. We are considering locations and costs and parishioners will have consultation opportunities. The first of the new sites will hopefully be installed during the summer. We have won funding for a youth shelter eventually to be sited at the rear of the Crawley Playground. We have to “match fund” the costs for ground clearance etc.

The current pedestrian arrangement around the corner of Front Street and Markyate Road

is unacceptable with damage being caused by cars and lorries. We are considering a complete re-vamp of the area as the cost of replacing the bollards and sheaths is too expensive. This will be done in partnership with Bedfordshire County Council which will be meeting most of the cost.

### ***Value for Money***

The council is aware that any increase in local rates or taxes will impinge on the budgets of most people; members also have rates and taxes to pay. What we are going to do is give you value for money for the rates you pay, in giving the Parish an identity of which we can be proud. Various new initiatives are under way such as the Youth Club which is proving so successful and we have a Village Day to look forward to in July. We hope we will have the full backing of local residents.

The Parish Council is looking at ways in which to take an active part in the Slip End website. Slipend.co.uk has served the community for many years and is financed and largely run by St Andrew’s church.

### ***Take an Interest!***

Just to remind you all, Parish Council meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, Bank Holidays excepting, at the Village Hall. There are two opportunities for the public to interact with Councillors. The first 15 minutes are put aside for members of the public to discuss any item already on the Agenda. Should you wish to remain for the meeting or get to speak to any Parish, District or County Councillor you are given an opportunity either during the meeting or at the end during Questions from the Public session. We do like to see people come along as it does get rather lonely in the Hall from time to time! We look forward to seeing you all at the Village Day and at any of our Parish Meetings.

*Christine Benson  
Chairman, Slip End Parish Council*



This picture shows what has been done in Kenton, although it looks uncannily like Front Street! There they had similar problems to ours, with grass verges and footpaths which had, over the years, been destroyed and damaged by parked vehicles.

The grass now thrives and there is not a cracked paving slab in site.

The Parish Council is currently considering the progressive introduction of schemes such as this to be applied where required around the Parish.

***Insurance claims that didn't quite hit the mark***

*Who needs comedians to make up jokes when the Great British Public is quite capable of making us laugh, as these genuine, if bonkers, insurance claims demonstrate.*

"I hit a giant plastic mouse coming down the car park ramp."

Q: Could anything have been done to avoid the accident? A: I could have travelled by train.

"My wife pulled my hair causing me to turn into a lamp standard."

"The witness gave his occupation as a gentleman."

"I sounded my horn, but it didn't work as it had been stolen."

"The wheels went into a ditch, and my foot jumped from the brake to the accelerator, leapt across the ditch and hit a tree trunk."

"I was not aware that the speed limit applied after midnight."

Q: Do you engage in any pastimes of a dangerous nature? A: I watch Noel's House Party and Beadle's About.

"I was crossing from Edgware Road to Park Lane in the direction of Margate."

"There were plenty of on-lookers but not one decent witness."

"My car was stolen. I made a human cry but it has not come back."

"On entering Wales I blew my horn at the right hand corner."



**St Andrew's Robin Hoods Football Team - 1959:** Here's one from Peter Mardle's archives. This local team was going strong back in the '50's achieving success in local competitions. They played in a field between Pepperstock and Kinsbourne Green where there were no changing and shower facilities so the lads walked or went by bike from their homes already "togged" up. No Amarni suits or sheepskin coats for Team management in those down to earth days when "wellies" were the vogue. A number of these boys are still around, a little older now. (Left to right, back then front rows) Keith Webb (Trainer), Gordon Burton, Dave Morgan, Eric Wilson, Michael Leach, Jeff Wilson, Jim Morgan, Wally Gale (Manager), Peter Mardle, Mick O'Malley, Reg Poole, John Liddle, Mick MacDonald. Another local team achieved greatness in May 1959. Any ideas which team and what did it achieve?

## SLIP END YOUTH CLUB

Our first trip out was a great success! We went to St. Margaret's School in Bushey, to their new pool (with life guards) given as part of their public benefit. Our 22 kids had the whole pool to themselves and they had a fabulous time. Thanks to Beds County Council for providing transport.



Other trips are ready to be organised and we hope to do a residential outward bound trip later in the year.

Dear TOWN COUNCIL  
thank you for our club.  
I'm ~~happy~~ I like the chill out area because  
I can watch a film. The Games are really fun  
I like who the best I never get a chance to play  
Football because the boys are always playing it.  
I love it because it's something to do.  
It's a safe place for us to play and learn.

Big thank you LOUISA

Sorry Louisa, I am still honing my photocopying skills! I believe that clipped first line refers to Richard Stay?

Janet Crawley

## THE UNLOCK LONDON WALK NO.25

Unlock   
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

As springtime approaches, thoughts turn to getting outdoors and this popular event is coming round again. Thousands turn out to walk a different route around London each year.

Organisation is very good with an interesting route, stopping off places, refreshments, a rolling questionnaire and, not least, opportunities to meet the locals and get a perspective on what they are up to and how they tick. General impressions are that things in urban areas are never quite as reflected in the media and it is good to reset the balance. Contact us at Parish News if you wish to join the group who will be going from this parish.

# 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  
BOARD GAMES  
(HILL OUT ARGA)

DJ / KARAOKE & DANCE MATS

**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.

## FLY TIPPING - WATCH OUT...

If you see anybody flytipping or become aware of flytipping in our area, then contact:

**Envirocrime Unit  
01582 474031**

The Unit doesn't operate on Monday to Wednesday nights but will assist when they next come on shift. In addition to fly tipping, the Unit will investigate other issues including fly-posting, graffiti, dog fouling, littering, litter and refuse disposed of on land and noise.



## **FLOSS MARDLE - HER LIFE & TIMES**

A long time Slip End resident known to many of the seniors, Floss sadly died last month. Her life spanned almost a century: what exciting, or maybe, for her, sometimes threatening changes she had to adapt to. Born in 1912, Floss Tofield lived in Oak Road, Luton. Her father worked for the Post Office but both her parents died before Floss' son, Peter, had memories of them.

Floss attended Beech Hill School then worked at the Cocoa factory in Dallow Road near the football ground. Hubert Mardle, a farm worker at that time, courted her in the village and they were married at St Andrews church in 1933. In 1936 they made their permanent home in 4 Front Street, where she remained until it became necessary for her to move to Ambassador House, 7 years ago.

Hubert and Floss, an emancipated, smart and stylish couple, loved to party and dance. Peter was born after they had been married for 8 years and he remembers Floss as being an attractive, independent lady who had very strong views and didn't suffer fools gladly. To quote Peter, 'she didn't so much have friends as terrified admirers!' She had some very good qualities too and her fun-loving personality meant that she had 'novelty' value, and was 'someone to be enjoyed'.

She made a profession out of housework, supported all the local village shops, but grudgingly learnt to cook. Floss' husband, Hubert, worked as a sub contract builder. He was a hard-working man who loved his pint and a bet on the horses, but his first love was always his wife, whom he adored and spoilt. Floss enjoyed a drink too. In fact she celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in fancy dress, glass in hand!

Floss encouraged Peter to attend St Andrews church, where he followed in the footsteps of his paternal grandparents, becoming very involved in all areas of church life. He remembers the Mansion, in Stockwood Park, being turned into a hospital, and the nurses

walking across to attend services here. In 1952, Floss joined the Mothers' Union and the following year Francis Hugh Warwick arrived, from London, to take over as vicar of this parish. Young, wealthy and unmarried, he caused quite a stir, especially with the nurses! He revolutionised the church, bringing electricity into the building, holding candlelit services, processions around the outside of the church and introducing confirmation classes. Floss herself was confirmed here that year.

Hubert and Floss enjoyed a pleasant lifestyle, spending some Christmases in Brighton and holidays in such places as Cliftonville, Jersey and Eastbourne. Hubert died in 1982 but Floss never lost her love of parties, dances in the Village Hall and dressing up. She joined forces with other village ladies including Joan Bendal and Marg Chapman, Con Watson, Marg Ginger and others, calling themselves 'The last of the Merry Widows', a lively bunch indeed!

Very much a village person, Floss was a familiar figure, chatting over her garden gate to one and all as they passed by. Remaining in her own home up to the age of 88, was a remarkable achievement and must have meant a lot to her as she valued her independence highly. She adjusted well to life at Ambassador House, appointing herself as 'Chairman' of the Residents Association, no doubt keeping residents and staff on their toes, the 'home' will seem very quiet without her. Floss Mardle is greatly missed!

*Julie Flashman*

*By co-incidence, I attended Dunstable School where Peter went. I reckon Floss would have appreciated the somewhat raucous rendition of the old school song when we met up last month! I also remember the Co-op Chocolate factory behind the Kenilworth Road end. The smell of warm chocolate wafts no longer across the football ground terraces.....*

*David Kingston*



*A mighty Slip End tour-de-force, hokeying and cokeying at the Village Hall! Floss Mardle (middle) joins with (left to right) Thelma Edwards (wife of Peter Edwards), Shirley Knapton & Doris Horgan (still very much amongst us, going strong in the village) and Joan Austin (90 years not-out, living at her own home in Dunstable these days.) Watch out chaps, an equivalent ruck of female energy expresses itself in the Village today amongst those Line Dancing Ladies.*



*One from the Edwards' Archive. A group of admiring ladies in Front Street admire this Royal Enfield, latest thing in motor bikes in its day.*

## Slip End & District Association



*Join us on our Annual Outing on Saturday June 7th!*

*If you are a Senior Citizen living in Slip End , Pepperstock or Woodside, you go free!  
So put your name down when you visit our ....*

## Car Boot & Table Top Sale

On Bank Holiday Monday, March 24th  
10am to 1pm

For a Stall call 01582 414796 or 723109

*In aid of the SEADA Senior Citizens Outing*



## **THE PLOUGH**

**UPPER WOODSIDE**

☎ 01582 720923

**TRADITIONAL FOOD**

**DINING ROOM, GARDEN & MARQUEE AVAILABLE FOR ALL TYPES OF PARTIES  
BREAKFASTS, LUNCHES & BAR SNACKS  
AFTERNOON TEAS & EVENING MEALS**

**WE TAKE BOOKINGS FOR LARGE PARTIES SO FOOD IS PREPARED JUST FOR YOU.**

**CAR PARKING, DISABLED FACILITIES & BABY CHANGING FOR MALES AND FEMALES**

**BAR OPEN:**

**MONDAYS TO WEDNESDAYS: 9AM TO 10PM**

**THURSDAYS TO SATURDAYS: 9AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT**

**SUNDAYS: 11AM TO 10PM**

## **LUTON MALE VOICE CHOIR**

Officers of the Luton Male Voice Choir reported another excellent year. The number of concerts had increased as had the membership and our treasurer, Peter Raven, reported a healthy financial position.

Director of Music Ken Hone, whose 50 years in music was recently featured in The Luton News, thanked the committee and members for their unwavering support over the year, 'Indeed, for the fifteen years the Choir had been performing'.

Mr Hone singled out for a special vote of thanks Stuart Pattinson, one of the two accompanists. Stuart travels from near Hunstanton for nearly every concert and over 80% of the rehearsals and rightly received a standing ovation from his colleagues.

Thanks for their efforts were also warmly given to Ron Lee for organising the Annual dinner and Ken Cameron our Press Officer.

Officers elected for the year 2008.

President. Lord Bill McKenzie.

Vice Presidents: Derek Ludlow MBE, Kelvin Hopkin M.P., Father Michael Griffiths and Peter Jackson.

Chairman: John Croft.

Secretary Lanfyr Jones.

Treasurer Peter Raven.

It was announced that this years weekend tour will be to Worthing for two, possibly three concerts and the annual Christmas Dinner would be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>

*Ken Cameron*



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

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

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

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

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

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  
tracey\_burgess88@hotmail.com

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

30-12-2007

Many thanks to the Parish Council for my Christmas gift.

The pensioners of Slip End are very lucky, we have a seaside outing every year from Slip End District Association, a Harvest gift from St Andrew Church and the school, then a Christmas gift from the Parish Council, also a 'get together' Thursday afternoon's with the Friendship Club, with outings throughout the year.

Thank you all once again and a Happy New Year to you all.

Vi Porter



## OPEN GARDENS 2008

Thanks for the response last month, we could do with just one more garden, so give me a call on 458443 if you want to join in the fun.

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!

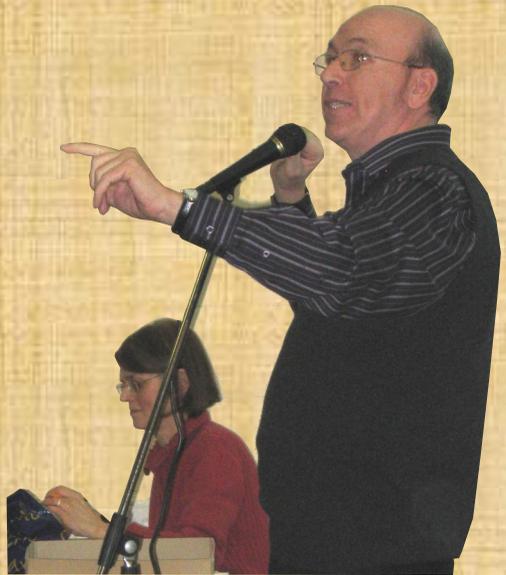
Past experience is that good weather is guaranteed. There will be time for cream teas, raffle prizes, not to mention the chance for serious chat with local friends and neighbours!

Val Church

## TENNIS CLUB

The rearranged Quiz Night was held at the Peter Edwards Hall on Saturday 23 February. (By coincidence, England also played France at rugby that evening and won, even though not a world cup semi-final this time!)

Ten teams totalling 68 people had an entertaining evening, with plenty of humour and banter between teams. After a close fought contest the eventual winners were Rona's Office Team, who each received a bottle of wine to celebrate.



Well done to Peter Smith and his wife Margaret for an excellent quiz. A bouquet was presented to Sue Lyons for providing the welcoming supper. Many thanks to the "regulars" and new people who supported the event.

**Tennis Club A.G.M.**  
**Monday 7th April**  
**7pm at the**  
**Peter Edwards Hall**

# VILLAGE FUN DAY



*We are hard at work planning this new event, see details below.*

We need to hear from groups and individuals who wish to take part or have a stall. If you are interested or want more information, please give us a call. We'd like to mobilise those in the village who have run stalls in the past, e.g. crafts, jewellery, candles, etc

There are a couple of particular things which we are looking out for:

- a tug of war rope
- a large tent to host the bar

Please get in touch if you can help.

*Janet Crawley*

## 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**



### Need an evening Babysitter?

Call Philippa  
on  
01582 452003  
*(Registered Childminder)*

*All proceeds to go to the  
Cystic Fibrosis Trust*

**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](mailto:crawley_janet@yahoo.co.uk)  
Nikki (01582 402312) [parishclerk@slipend.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@slipend.co.uk)**

# Brownies

## HELLO!!!

We are the new leaders of your Brownie Pack. Let us introduce ourselves: I am the new Brown Owl, Paula Fowler, the daughter of the previous Brown Owl. Born in Pepperstock, we moved to Slip End where I have spent most of my life. I have a husband and 2 children, Courtney (8) and Sean (6). I work as a Teaching Assistant at Slip End School and also Chantry Primary School.

I'm Philippa Plummer, the new Tawny Owl and daughter-in-law of the previous Brown Owl. I come from Newcastle upon Tyne, moving to Slip End when I met my husband. I have 2 children, Zoë (9) and Amy (5). I have been a childminder for 5 years.

I am Verity Edwards-Hoare, the new Snowy Owl. I have lived in Slip End, on and off, for

most of my life (the Peter Edwards Hall is named after my Grandfather). I have a husband and 3 children, Conor (11), Madison (6) and Lily-Rose (4). I work with Philippa.

We have many aims and objectives for the Brownie pack, a few of which are:

- to have fun: lots of games and laughs
- to be creative: through crafts, cooking etc
- to be active: with outdoor pursuits, weather permitting
- to be sociable: meeting other organisations
- to be thoughtful: charity work, good turns

We are very excited to have this opportunity to be working with such a large and respected organisation as the Guiding movement and hope to create some lasting memories for your girls, like we (and maybe you) have from when we were Brownies ourselves.



On 14th February, Woodside Brownies held a Tea Party at Slip End Village Hall. We invited the Friendship Club, the Thursday night SEADA Bingo players and various other special guests from Slip End and surrounding areas. Tea was drunk and cake was munched! There was Bingo, a quiz and various other games and events.

We are pleased to announce that every table was filled to bursting and over £160 was raised towards Brownie funds.

*Paula, Philippa and Verity would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who supported the event and helped to make our first fund-raising activity a fantastic success.*

Tea in Beds is Girlguiding Bedfordshire's 2008 World Thinking Day Challenge, celebrating the joint birthday of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, the founders of Scouting and Guiding. The Tea in Beds theme was chosen because the tradition of afternoon tea was first started by Anna-Maria, seventh Duchess of Bedford.

### ***Did You Know?...***

## **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

Girlguiding UK is the largest organisation in the UK that provides a safe, girl-only space for girls and young women at the most formative time in their personal and social development.

We remain relevant to today's girls, introducing challenges into our programme that extend beyond badges to encourage girls to develop their potential.

Today's Guides – as well as Rainbows, Brownies and Senior Section members – are involved in an incredibly diverse range of projects, from girl-led community projects to volunteering in developing countries.

As we approach our Centenary in 2010, Guiding is still about helping girls to achieve more than they ever thought possible.

We are raising a generation of young women who are ambitious, optimistic and ready to grasp their place in the world with both hands but they still face many challenges every day. Most of all they value having a girl-only environment in which they can share their feelings, grow in confidence, form strong friendships and know that they are being heard.

That is why Girlguiding UK continues to use our girl only space to help our members unleash the power of possibility. Through developing their self confidence and self-esteem and exposing them to new skills and experiences, we enable girls to reach for new, bolder and more exciting goals.

### ***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*



*Santa Claus is seen departing Slip End in December after dropping in to conduct an unscheduled performance audit on local agents Santa Pete, Santa David & Santa Roger. They were reprimanded having been found falling short on achievement targets and were directed by the Chief Executive to apply enhanced extraction methods on their punters. Local boy Mick Plummer is seen putting up stiff resistance to their "cough up or else" technique, ultimately succumbing under relentless pressure. Thus targets just achieved to the extent that Santa has retained their services in 2008!*

***Thanks to all who contributed to the collection in aid of local charities last Christmas!***

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

**March**

- 1st *Dance at the Village Hall: Call Shirley on 412506*
- 3rd *Parish Council: Village Hall at 8.00pm*
- 4th *Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home in Crawley Close*
- 10th *Village Hall: Annual General Meeting*
- 18th *Women's Institute: at Baptist Hall, Caddington: Nightjar Productions*
- 18th *Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home in Crawley Close*

**April**

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

**May**

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

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

**June**

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

**21st**

***FoSELS:***  
***SUMMER FAYRE at the School***

**BINGO**

*at the Village Hall Thursdays at Eight*

*Slip End & District Association*

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.

**BIN DAYS - March 2008**

3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

***Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to: parishnews.co.uk or to Sue Briggs at 4 The Oaks, Slip End, or David Kingston 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

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e-Mail: sales@lasertype.co.uk Website www.lasertype.co.uk

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