

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

**OCTOBER 2008
50P WHERE SOLD**



**PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
INSIDE**



The Village in Bloom!

Although not in the best of health these days, Stan Coker produced another colourful display this summer at Toyers End Cottage in Front Street.



Last month's PN featured Beryl & Bud Abbott as they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Best wishes to them both and to remind them of their big day all those years ago, here is a view of Holy Trinity church, South Woodford, where they were married.



Catching up fast with Beryl & Bud are Valerie & Brian Church from Summer Street, a Golden Wedding Anniversary this time. They were married in 1958 at St Michael's church, Mickleham in Surrey.

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
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PhilipPenman@aol.com
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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

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

Introduction - People

The Parish Council had been chaired until July by Christine Benson. Christine retired during the summer break having represented and worked for the community over many years. Please see the additional article expressing the Council's gratitude for Christine's work in the community. Ken Crossett (Vice Chair) will be the acting chair until next May.

Ken is supported by Cllrs Steve Fuell, Philip Penman, Geoff Daniel, Janet Crawley and Tracey Burgess.

Geoff was away for some months due to ill health but we are delighted to have him back on board again.

Mike McKevitt had to leave us in April due to family commitments and this was a great loss to the Parish Council who would like to thank him for his invaluable contribution over the past years and his willingness to provide guidance to the council after his resignation.

We were delighted to welcome Tracey Burgess. Tracey also runs the Youth Club and works at Slip End Lower School so is able to make a great contribution to the Parish Council on youth matters. Nikki West continues as our Clerk. The whole team lives within the Parish and is therefore well placed to deal with all local issues that arise.

Earlier this year we were very sorry to lose the services of Pauline Smith who had been an excellent gardener for many years. Pauline worked hard on Coronation Gardens, keeping the playground and bus shelters clean and litter-free, cutting the grass and maintaining and improving garden areas on Crawley Close, Claydown Way and at St Andrews Church. We are currently designing a plaque in memory of Pauline, which will be displayed in one of our gardens. She is sadly missed.



Our Aims

Our key aim is to improve the quality of life for everyone in the parish, from our youngest to the oldest citizen.

Our focus is wide:

- ◆ to improve the appearance and character of the area through improvements and refurbishment;
- ◆ to keep residents feeling safe by working closely with our local Police team;
- ◆ to improve infrastructure through our own investment or by working in conjunction with District & County Councils;
- ◆ to take a proactive & informed approach to the major house-building and air traffic plans which will inevitably impact on our area over the coming years;
- ◆ to give grants to local groups and charities to help them provide support, recreational facilities, or other benefits which have a positive impact on so many of our residents.

Listed below are just a few of our recent achievements.

Local Improvements

Coronation Gardens

The bulk of the work was completed in the last financial year, but Debbie and Andy Prothero are maintaining the garden to ensure it remains an attractive centrepiece for the village.



Rossway Garden Feature

We hope you will have noticed the lovely new feature as you enter the village from Markyate Road. This has been designed and built by Debbie and Andy Prothero and will soon be enhanced with a village sign.

Crawley Close

Investment in extra gardening services has improved the gardens in front of the bungalows significantly: seasonal planting making a feature of this area throughout the year.

Crawley Playground

The Youth Shelter was installed this summer and provides purpose built shelter for our young people which we hope they will enjoy for many years to come. The Parish Council is aware that some local residents had reservations about this project and their concerns have been noted. As a Parish Council we will do everything we can to ensure that this is a positive addition to the village.

Thanks go to Cllr Steve Fuell who worked very hard to make this project a success. Funding was provided by Beds County Council, Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation and Bedfordshire Police Authority to whom we express our thanks. The shelter was supplied by Rekk.

The old black rubber tiling has been replaced with colourful synthetic grass which provides a safer non-slip surface and has brought a new lease of life to the playground. This has been paid for by the Parish Council.

Youth Club

One of the most significant changes for our younger residents has been the formation of Slip End's own Youth Club. Set up by Cllr Janet Crawley, Cllr Tracey Burgess and Nikki West last November, the club has proved to be a huge success with over 50 young people now registered as members. Start up funding for the club has come from

many sources – Youth Opportunities Grants, Bedfordshire County Council, local business donations, gifts from the St Albans Buffaloes, an award from the Vauxhall Griffin Fund to name but a few.

The Parish Council has also provided £2,000 of funding over 2 years. Recently we were delighted to receive a cheque for £2,500 from Luton Airport to support the club from September to December this year and we are hopeful that they will continue to support us in the future. This will enable the club to organise more trips, purchase new equipment and provide activities to appeal to our older members.

The club employs two local residents, Tracey Burgess and Shirley Garner as Youth Workers and is also grateful for the hard work of its regular volunteers: Carol Burgess, Charlotte Waller, Lynn Bateman, Nikki West and Janet Crawley along with all those who provide additional support. The club boasts a fantastic array of equipment and in addition to being open every Wednesday evening, trips out have also been a great success.

The Youth Club is particularly grateful to Mrs Crighton, the Headmistress of St Margaret's School in Bushey and to Chris Sneddon, the sports manager there, for the use of the school swimming pool and other facilities. The Parish Council would like to thank the Slip End Playing Field Management Committee for subsidising hall rental costs. The Energize team have worked with our young people over a number of sessions and have recently awarded the club a



Cllr Steve & Trish Fuell, with LLA's Adam Divney (the Community Relations Executive) & Simon Earles who, with CClr Richard Stay, tuck into sticky chocolate cake at the recent presentation at the Youth Club.

further £400 worth of sports equipment as the young people achieved a number of targets set for them.

Aley Green Cemetery

Thanks go once again to Cllr Ken Crossett who is part Chair of the management committee that look after this cemetery, and to Cllr Geoff Daniel who is also on this committee. Much hard work has gone on this year to improve the appearance of the cemetery and to conclude matters relating to its insurance and ownership.

Safety & Crime Prevention Policing

The Parish Council did not support the relocation of our team to Leighton Buzzard and still has concerns about this change and the impact on response times.

On the positive side, we have developed an excellent working relationship with our Beat Manager, PC Louise Howard who provides a great service to the community. We said goodbye to PCSO Darrell Saunders-Fern and welcomed PCSO Claire Young. Crime levels within the parish remain fairly low, but we still fight for more visible policing. Crime figures are now presented by quarterly



newsletters which are posted on the Post Office notice board and published in the Parish News and are available from the Clerk if required. Following a spate of thefts from cars parked by St Andrews Church, the Parish Council invested in a number of large

warning signs at that location, which do seem to have been effective.

We are pleased to report that vandalism around the parish has been low, although we have had to pay to have two of the bus shelters repainted to cover graffiti, and more graffiti has been sprayed on the side of Peter Edwards Hall. We remain very concerned about the broken glass at the playground and at the tennis courts and are liaising with the police about this.

CCTV

We continue to improve and review our CCTV systems both in the Village Hall area and down at the Playing Fields. We have been able to provide the police with tapes on a number of occasions.

Speed Sign

The speed-activated sign on Markyate Road has been effective in reducing the speed of vehicles entering the village, although sadly there are still drivers who ignore the limits. We are considering investing in an additional sign to be situated on Front Street, and there has been recent consultation with Front Street residents about this.

New Unitary Council

From the 1st April 2009 both Bedfordshire County Council and South Bedfordshire District Council will cease to exist. They will be replaced by a single Central Bedfordshire Unitary Council. This new authority will be responsible for all the services currently provided by the existing two councils and make it clearer and easier to access services. Earlier this year government laid an act of Parliament that set up a shadow authority to implement the transition process from two to one Council. It is expected that by reducing the number of councils to one will improve services while keeping the cost of Council Tax down. Both Councillors Richard Stay and Philip Penman are members of the Implementation Executive and Cllr Penman is also Deputy Leader of the Shadow

Authority. You can find out more about the new Central Bedfordshire Council at www.centralbeds.gov.uk

Infrastructure

M1

Since our last report to you, there has been some good news as diversions and road closures have ended, so the direct impact of the motorway widening on our community has reduced. Balfour Beatty Skanska Joint Venture continue to attend some of our meetings and we do have concerns that not everything that was promised at the outset of the project, is being delivered. But we continue to put pressure on them to ensure that all work is completed before their departure from this area in December 2008.

Road surfaces are a particular concern, along with the re-instatement and design of footpaths, pavements and bridleways.

We are also striving for improvements to the planting of trees and shrubs, as currently this is not meeting our expectations.

Junction Newlands Road & A1081

We continue to strive for a roundabout here to improve safety and traffic flow for our residents. We are pleased to see that the lighting installed further up by Luton Hoo is beneficial on this otherwise badly lit road.

Half-Moon Junction

Parish Councillors are working to get improvements made at this awkward junction, for both pedestrians and drivers.

Drainage

Amey has made some improvements to drainage in Pepperstock which has reduced road flooding there.

We are pleased to report that after years of lobbying by our Parish Council, work will begin in October on a major drainage project to prevent the flooding problems at the corner on Woodside Road.

Bollards

The unsightly bollards at the Post Office were replaced with a raised kerbing scheme in the summer. This project was funded by the County Council.

General Road Surfaces

We used £2,000 of Parish Partnership money from Bedfordshire County Council to improve road surfaces throughout the parish.

In 2008-9 we have been awarded £6,000 and this will be used to extend the footpath on Front Street from outside the old Chapel toward the new Pepperstock bridge. Cllr Fuell has worked tirelessly to liaise with the County's highway contractors, Amey, to get improvements made to our roads and pavements.

Ambulance Bay - Crawley Close

We were very pleased to see the ambulance bay which we had been requesting for some time, marked into Crawley Close in front of the pensioner's bungalows. We hope that this will reduce traffic problems and ensure that the bungalow residents have easier access to ambulances. Thanks go to Cllr Steve Fuell for his work on this project.

Siding Out

The pavement along Front Street from the allotments down to the Half Moon Pub has been sided-out by a local firm, funded by the Parish Council.

Housing Development Proposals

Members of the Parish Council worked with Caddington and Hyde to submit a response to the proposals for major housing development in South Bedfordshire. Assisted by leading consultant, Roger Shrimplin, the three parish councils confirmed that whilst they would consider sustainable and appropriate development, of benefit to our local schools and businesses, we would do everything possible to reject plans that threaten the loss of our village and hamlet boundaries.

We strongly opposed the possibility of losing our semi-rural landscape and the impact upon the greenbelt. We made the Joint Planning Committee aware that our infrastructure, particularly roads and drainage, would be unable to support development of any magnitude. As far as we are aware, our response was received favourably and our arguments and points were accepted as being valid.

More recently we have also submitted responses to the Green Space Strategy and the Gypsy and Traveller Planning documents. Details of all the above are available from the Clerk if you require more information and we would like to thank Cllr Penman for his excellent guidance on these matters.

Post Office Closure

Thanks go to Cllr Penman for his work in fighting the proposed closure of our post office facility, to which the Parish Council is strongly opposed. We await their response, although latest news seems negative.

Local GP Surgeries

We understand that residents were concerned that our local surgeries at Markyate and Caddington were considered to be “under threat” by proposals to build a big clinic at Dunstable. However we forwarded these concerns to the health consortium dealing with the public consultation and have had their absolute assurance that this is not the case and only central Dunstable practices will be moved.

Local Groups & Grants

The Parish Council has had pleasure in being able to support a number of local groups and charities over the past twelve months.

These include Brownies, Playgroup and Mums & Toddlers all held at the Village Hall, and the Beaver and Cubs groups held at Slip End Lower School. We have also given grants to the Friendship Club and Brickhill & Downlands Residents Association and the Bedfordshire Road Victim's Trust.



Other donations have been made to the Royal British Legion and other local groups. We continue to provide gifts to the more senior members of our community at Christmas, and appreciate the support we receive from local businesses which enables us to do this.

Slip End Playing Fields

A £500 grant was also given to the Slip End Playing Fields Charity. At this time, work is almost complete on the new Tennis Courts, which were paid for as compensation for the loss of land due to the M1 widening. The Playing Fields remain an excellent recreational resource for our local community, and three of our Councillors, Philip Penman, Steve Fuell and Janet Crawley along with our Clerk are active members of the management committee that run this local charity.

The maintenance of the Peter Edwards Hall and the field is funded by bookings. We hope residents will continue to support the hall and activities held there.

The Parish Council's Grant application system is now in its second year and is working well. All local groups are welcome to apply to us for project funding. Whilst resources remain limited the Council is eager to support local ventures which are of benefit to our community and applications for 2009-10 need to be submitted before we set our budget in November this year.

Village Day

One of the most noteworthy successes of our past year has been the Village Day. This was the idea of Cllr Crawley and she was assisted by all members of the Parish Council along with David Kingston, Barry Keech and many other local residents in making it such a huge success.

The event raised £4,000 which will be used to support the youth club and other non-profit making local groups (more grants to be announced shortly!)

We hope this has given you an insight into the range of work achieved by the Parish



Council over the last twelve months. The Parish Council would like to thank County Cllr Richard Stay and District Councillors, Ruth Gammons and Sally Hills for their hard work and support.

The Parish Council is wholly funded by you via your Council Tax. We would very much like to hear your views on the work we are doing and any concerns you may have.

We have two opportunities for you to raise questions and concerns at each Parish Council meeting and very much hope that more of you will come along with your suggestions and ideas. This is *your* council, funded by you, so please come and have your say. The agenda for the next meeting is always posted at the Slip End Post Office, the bus stop on Half Moon Lane and in Woodside, on the corner of Manor Road. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 8pm, unless notified otherwise.

Minutes of all meetings are available on the Slip End Website and from the Clerk.

CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

SLIP END VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30TH
10AM TO 3PM

IN AID OF PASQUE CHARITIES
FOR A STALL CALL GILLIAN ON 723109

FAREWELL!

During the summer break, Christine Benson retired from the Parish Council after twenty two years service to the community.

Christine was instrumental in the separation of Aley Green, Slip End and Woodside from the joint Council it formed with Caddington. She played a key role in the formation of the new Parish Council in 2001 and led it as its Chairman until July this year. To record this Christine will become part of the Village History when her name is recorded engraved on the Chairman's Chain of Office.

Over the years Christine has worked tirelessly for the benefit of our community and the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her many achievements.

*Ken Crossett
Vice Chairman*

Christmas Gifts for Retired Members of the Community

Each year, Slip End Parish Council gives a small gift to retired people living in Slip End, Pepperstock, Woodside and Aley Green. This is funded by the Parish Council, with generous support from many of our local businesses.

The Parish Council is aware that its distribution list may not be complete and is sorry if anyone has been overlooked in previous years. In order that we can update our records, please let us know if you (or someone you know) is over 60 (ladies) or 65 (gentlemen) and has been resident in the area for 5 years or more. Please contact Nikki West by phone (402312) email parishclerk@slipend.co.uk or in writing to 43 Summer Street, Slip End LU1 4BL, with the name and address and she will ensure that the list is updated.

YOUTH NEWS

Back in full swing after the summer holidays, we were delighted to welcome Adam Divney and Simon Earles from London Luton Airport and lots of local friends last month. Adam is the LLA Community Relations Executive and Simon is general manager of planning and corporate social responsibility. They have been supporting us generously and last month they came to present us with a cheque for £2500. All of us at the Youth Club greatly appreciate what LLA are doing for us and this grant, with other funds, guarantees a varied and interesting programme for our youngsters for the months ahead. We will keep readers informed on our activities.

In particular, we are looking forward to taking up Adam's invitation to visit the Airport to see what goes on behind the scenes there.

SLIP END YOUTH CLUB



"London Luton Airport sits at the heart of its local community and it is our vision to be a great neighbour, contributing passionately and thoughtfully to the social, economic and environmental life of the community. Our Community Engagement Strategy, published in January 2008, clearly sets out this vision."



Simon Earle demonstrates latent nimbleness at the ping-pong table!

RECYCLE ALL THOSE OLD SHOES!

The Parish Council has been approached by the European Recycling Company, also known as the Shoe People. They have asked us to consider having a shoe recycling bank within the parish and our thanks go to the Rising Sun for kindly agreeing to accommodate this in their car park.

They take ALL old shoes regardless of condition and part of their profits are donated to the Variety Club, supporting their work with families with sick and disadvantaged children worldwide. Their slogan is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and their aim is to prevent footwear ending in landfill sites that still has life.

Their scheme provides employment in developing worlds where job opportunities are sparse. They also provide local authority recycling departments with the weight of shoes collected to assist them in achieving their targets set by central government.

For more information search for ...

The
European Recycling
Company Limited

We hope that Slip End residents will make use of this new facility, but if you have any questions about it please do not hesitate to contact Nikki West, Parish Clerk.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

The lack of affordable housing in rural communities has been a problem for many years, with market house prices often rising much faster than the incomes available from rural employment opportunities.



One result of this is that many people, with strong connections to a locality, have to move away from their home village when seeking housing, thus reducing both the sustainability and the demographic mix of that community.

However, there is a solution to this problem that is only available to rural communities such as ours. This is the provision of affordable homes for both rent and shared ownership within a village community for those people with strong local connections. Once a need is proved, via a Housing Needs Survey (HNS), an Exception Site is located.. Exception Site developments are small scale delivering a maximum of 10 to 12 homes, with a mix indicated from the HNS and to a design that is compatible with the locality.

The rental/shared ownership costs are about 75% of equivalent open market housing. The local connection requirement for residence in the homes is maintained in perpetuity and thus homes cannot be transferred to open market housing in the future.

Slip End Parish Council has requested that that a HNS is carried out in October with forms being delivered to every house in the village inside this issue of Parish News. This project will be carried out by the Independent Rural Housing Enabler in partnership with our Parish Council. They both seek your support for the activity, which will require completing and returning the survey forms by the closing date.

freecycle™ Luton

**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.

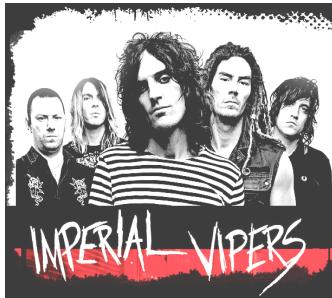
LAYLA'S BAKERY

If you were at the Fun Day you may have had a chance to taste the delicious cakes that were made by Su and Natalie.



If you want some special cup cakes for a special occasion why not give Layla's Bakery a try. They can adapt their cakes to the occasion which is an excellent idea. Contact Su or Natalie on 01582 605411. I can recommend them!

Editor



This local rock band evolving from a gang of mates with a shared love of rock 'n' roll has a new single out called

'Check This'. (Did you know you have a certain drummer living in Slip End? If you enjoy British rock music and want to help some local talent you can either download their single from:

www.myspace.com/imperialvipers

or buy a copy from HMV Record Stores or for a special price of a CD and 7" record go to www.recordstore.co.uk and search for Imperial Vipers.

They are signed by Luton record label Eminence who recognised their talent some years ago and are hoping to bring genuine British rock music back into the limelight.

Music correspondent

KEEP UP WITH THE SLIP END NEWS!

Do you see the magazine regularly each month?

If not and you would like to have it delivered to your home, would *new subscribers* please complete the slip below and send it with the £4 annual subscription to Brian Church, 2 Summer Street, Slip End (458443)

If you live outside the village, the subscription for postal delivery (11 issues per year) is at present £7.50. Any other subscriptions overdue, through your regular distributor please.

.....

I would like to receive Parish News regularly.

I enclose the annual subscription £4 or £7.50 for postal delivery.
Please make cheques payable to Slip End & District Parish News

Name:.....

Address:.....

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes packed with gifts of love

“Every Christmas is different because you care, every home is enlightened because you give, every person is changed for the better and every heart is touched because of Christmas.” Mayor of Otelu Rosu, Romania.

Making a difference

Krnacha Refugee Camp
near Belgrade, Serbia

Moma aged three lives with his family in a house that measures 15 feet by 12 feet. But in January 2008 he did not care about that, *he had been given a shoe box!* The first gifts he has ever had in his life. He is delighted with his toy cars and gifts, lost in a happy world of his own.

A wonderful gift

Silvana is four and it is not easy to give her a shoe box. The little girl stood in the heavy rain and cold in nothing but a sleeveless vest top and grey leggings, watching as the OCC team members slip and slide through the mud towards her. Silvana lives on a fly tip site underneath the notorious Gazela Bridge in Belgrade, where hundreds of families struggle



to survive and build little shacks amid the plastic bottles, sacks, furniture, car parts, cardboard and dangerous asbestos waste. The OCC team finally make it and Silvana accepts her shoebox with a shy grin of delight. She gazes at it and the team in wonder, bewildered by the strangers who want to give her something nice. Her parents welcome the present for more than one reason. The sturdy shoebox itself is immediately used to help block a rat hole in the side of the house!

You too can help give some ‘Love in a Box’ to a needy child. If you would like to make up a box, or just give some fillers towards a box - leaflets showing what to do will be available from St Andrew’s Church, Sue Briggs or Teresa Willson. We are hoping once again to have a warehouse in Dunstable to check, pack and send the boxes to those children who never receive a Christmas gift, so if there is anyone who would like to volunteer please contact Teresa on 01582 482681.

Sue Briggs

Brownies * @ the Village Hall

**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

KENYA TRIP BY STUART BAIRD

As promised here is the first part of Stuart's diary from Kenya. He was away for a month, so his diary will appear in three sections starting this month. It sounds like an amazing adventure and a wonderful experience for Stuart and his school friends.

Wed 9th July: The trip officially started at 9 o'clock, meeting at Manshead School for a kit check and our farewells which took a while, as people were apprehensive about leaving. I do not understand why we met at school so early as the coach wasn't due until 1p.m! We arrived at Heathrow at 2 p.m. and checked in at 4 o'clock, followed by a four-hour wait before boarding. Following this relative boredom we found the plane amazing with TV in the headrests, a complimentary blanket and pillow (many of which "went missing"), which helped to pass the eight hour flight.

Thurs 10th July: We landed in Nairobi at 7am Kenya time (5am U.K) and, with immigration taking a while, we just made the flight to Mombasa. We arrived at 9am then set off on a two hour mini bus ride to Makongeni, our first camp. The drive was an eye-opener.

Fri 11th July: The day started at 6am, with a freezing cold shower, as there is no way of heating the water, followed by breakfast at 7. We left for work at 8:30 and were split into 2 groups. I with nine others worked on the community loos, the other fourteen were repairing the school classroom floors.

We spent the morning leveling the ground around the loos then after lunch, when the temperature had reached 28 degrees, we made our way back to work. There were many distractions throughout the afternoon, mainly in the form of school children. At 4pm we packed up and went to the local village shop (a far cry from Slip End post office), where we bought doughnuts for 5 shillings each (3p). The shop consisted of five women sitting on a floor selling their goods. After our dinner, mainly carbohydrates, we had a half

hour lesson of Swahili and learnt the local song called "JAMBO!"

Sat 12th July: The day started at 6:30 again, but work was postponed for an hour because of torrential rain. By 9.30 though, we were back at work, building loo walls, mixing cement, cutting breezeblocks then building.

After lunch, we tidied up as we had made a lot of mess. We arrived back at camp and prepared for campers v village team (Rafiki boys) football match, and against all odds we managed to beat them 5-4, with me getting the winner! After dinner, we were amazed to find a green tree snake slithering along the roof beams in the mess hut! Finally, we had our second Swahili lesson.

Sun 13th July: We finished building the walls and started plastering. In the evening we had entertainment performed by African dancers. A member of our group was 18 that day, celebrated with a birthday cake and party

Mon 14th July: A rest and recreation day, when we all went to a bar on the beach called the Forty Thieves. The sand was white and the sea was clear and, together with a few beers, it was a good day. On the way back we had a chance to e-mail family & friends at a cyber café, which cheered us up.

Tues 15th July: That morning a friend and I taught an English class of 40, 9 to 13 year olds at the school. I enjoyed the experience but wouldn't want to repeat it again. In the afternoon we went back to work and started plastering the loo walls.

Stuart , the loo and some of his fellow workers



Weds 16th July: We continued plastering the walls then in the afternoon we visited Makuka, a village where a Wine Tapper, made 42% wine from coconuts. We also visited the Witch Doctor: quite an experience.

Thurs 17th July: The day started with torrential rain but by mid-morning it had stopped and we were able to finish plastering the loo walls. In the afternoon we learnt how to cook chapattis.

Fri 18th July: We left Makongeni and travelled to Camp Ocean at Diani beach. We stayed in our two groups which meant the school group started a diving course while our group spent the day on the beach. In the evening we played in a volleyball tournament with the other groups at the camp and we watched the moon rise.

Sat 19th July: We started a conservation project in the morning, learning what the project was about. We watched a DVD on the destruction of coral reefs. The project seeks to protect the coral, teaching fishermen how to fish without harming the reefs. Later we visited the mangroves, learning why they are important too.

Sun 20th July: We went on a beach safari to the rock pools to learn about creatures that live on the beach. We helped with a beach cleanup, amazed at what people dumped, such as petrol cans, paint pots, bottles and other weird and wonderful things.



CAN YOU HELP?

SLIP END WEBSITE



We would like to develop our Parish website slipend.co.uk which has been serving the Parish well for many years. We are looking for volunteers of all ages with a knowledge of web

design and an interest in community matters who would be willing to extend the information currently on the site and help keep it up to date.

Shirley and Daren Garner would like to announce ...

HALLOWEEN PARTY 1ST NOVEMBER AT SLIP END VILLAGE HALL



Last year there was fantastic support for this event and we raised over £650 towards the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Please help us try and top that this year, every penny goes towards helping find a cure for this lifelong disease.

For details see posters or call Shirley on 07866215453.

SAFETY GROUP



Smartwater is a crime reduction tool designed to help protect property from thieves. Bedfordshire Police has brought the Smartwater technology as part of its 'Safer Homes' burglary reduction campaign.

When placed under ultraviolet (UV) light the Smartwater liquid glows to reveal its unique chemical signature. Stolen property can then be checked on a database and traced back to its owner. Police screen all prisoners as they come into custody, to check whether they have come into contact with Smartwater.

Smartwater is used for marking valuables, from computers to jewellery. It is invisible and cannot be removed. UV light arches have been installed in Bedfordshire Police's custody suites to facilitate screening as prisoners walk under the arch. Any Smartwater liquid on them or their clothing will then light up and glow as proof crime.

Bedfordshire Police is giving away packs of Smartwater to residents as part of their commitment to crime reduction. Residents in the county living in burglary 'hotspots' will also be offered the packs for free along with victims of crime.

Smartwater has been jointly funded by Bedfordshire Police and Go East. It deters criminals from stealing your property because they know they can be caught and convicted. Packs are already being given away to people living in burglary 'hotspots' and victims of crime.

With the recent increase in crime here, it is hoped that Beds Police designate our Parish as a 'hot spot': our Safety Group will no doubt be on the case. Now that nights are drawing in and the criminals are getting on with their wickedness, residents must be extra vigilant and report all suspicions.

SLIP END TODDLER GROUP

The Village Toddler Group is open every Tuesday afternoon during school term time.

The location is the Village Hall and, as it is a 'drop-in' group, parents, grandparents and carers are welcome any week if you have a child from birth to school age. The cost is £2 for one child and £1.00 for each additional child. For babies under 6 months the cost is £1.50. The entrance to the hall is the door from the car park to the rear of the building.

The group offers a chance for the adults to meet and have a drink and a chat as well as activities for the children that include crafts, building bricks, puzzles, home corner and playdough. Some weeks will have a definite theme such as a physical play week and a music and singing week.

The group is part of the Slip End Playgroup and is run by qualified staff. The leader of the group is Jenny and you can contact her for more information on 07818 623647.



FANCY A NATTER WHILE YOU KNIT?

THEN COME TO OUR KNIT 'N' NATTER CLUB!

We will be meeting in October on 7th & 21st, 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.

Services & Events in October

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---|
| Wednesday 1 st | 10.30am | Little Stars meet in the Family Room |
| Thursday 2 nd | 8.00pm | Footsteps meet in the Family Room |
| Friday 3 rd | 2.30pm | Village School Harvest Festival |
| | 7.00pm | Harvest Supper Slip End Village Hall |
| Sunday 5 th | 10.30am | "Back to Church Sunday" |
| | 6.15pm | Harvest Festival with Informal Communion 3:16 Meet at Luton Churches Education Trust |
| Wednesday 8 th | 10.30am | Little Stars meet in the Family Room |
| Sunday 12 th | 10.30am | Morning Praise |
| Wednesday 15 th | 10.30am | Little Stars meet in the Family Room |
| Thursday 16 th | 8.00pm | Footsteps meet in the Family Room |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 19 th | 6.00pm | Confirmations at St Lukes, Leagrave |
| | 6.15pm | 3:16 meet in the Family Room |
| Wednesday 22 nd | 10.30am | Little Stars meet in the Family Room |
| Sunday 26 th | 10.30am | Morning Praise |
| Wednesday 29 th | 10.30am | Little Stars meet in the Family Room |
| Thursday 30 th | | Holiday Club at St Andrews, See booking form for detail |
| Friday 31 st | | Holiday Club at St Andrews, See booking form for detail |
| November | | |
| Sunday 2 nd | 10.30am | Family Service with Holiday Club Presentation And Informal Communion |
| | 6.15pm | 3:16 meet in the Family Room |
| Friday 7 th | 2.30pm | Woodside Home Service |

Thank you for the Music!

For 30 years Liz Higgens has tinkled the ivories at St Andrew's. Both on the piano and the organ. Last month she took well deserved retirement leaving the job, pleased that we have such a large number of people who enjoy music in varied ways in church.

Liz led various music groups and produced several memorable musical performances at Harvest Suppers gone by. These drew unexpected, hidden talents from some performers who did not know they had it in them!

With apologies to Abba, this was sung to Liz last month, when she was presented with a bouquet in church :

*Thank you for the music,
the songs you've taught us.
Thanks for all the joy you've brought us.
Who could live without you
We ask in all honesty,
What would life be?
Without Liz and a song what are we?
So we sing, thank you to our dear Liz
And please don't go away.*





ST ANDREW'S COOKBOOK!

**This will be produced over the
coming months and go on sale in 2009.**

We are now inviting you all to contribute your favourite recipe(s) for inclusion.

Please root them out and get them to

Joan Duncombe (joanduncombe@slipend.co.uk)

or to Marian Kingston ([mariakingston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mariankingston@hotmail.co.uk))

**or post your hard copy to Marian at 7 Crawley Close or Joan at 49 Summer
Street. If you wish, add a small personal note to your recipe.**

All funds raised will be put towards Church Roof Fund appeal .

AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

On Thursday 30th and Friday 31st October we will be holding a Holiday Club at St Andrews Church for children aged 4 to 11. The theme is Champion's Challenge. There will be stories from St Luke's Gospel with the emphasis on SPORT. We are planning a mix of small group team time activities and grandstand presentations. There will be lots of fun and games, singing, drama, a puppet show, craft activities and much more.

For more information contact Mary on 738435 or Jill on 452539 or talk to any of our Kidztime leaders. Then fill out a registration form - one for each child - and give it to Mary Barker or drop it in at Jill Sander's home at 19 St Andrew's Close, Slip End.

We look forward to seeing you there!



CHAMPION'S CHALLENGE REGISTRATION FORM

(Please use a separate form for each child)

St Andrew's Church on Thursday 30th & Friday 31st October.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Child's full name:</i> | | <i>Sex: M/F</i> |
| <i>Date of birth:</i> | <i>School:</i> | |
| <i>Please register my child for Champion's Challenge.</i> | <i>Parent's/Guardian's signature:</i> | |
| <i>Parent's/Guardian's full name:</i> | | |
| <i>Address:</i> | | <i>Phone number:</i> |
| <i>I give permission for my child's and my details to be entered on the church database:</i> | <i>Yes/No</i> | <i>I give permission for my child to appear on group photographs:</i> |

GOLDEN WEDDING!

Brian and Valerie Church were married in Mickleham church, Surrey in August, 1958. Although they both came from that area they met in Harpenden when Brian was working as an agricultural statistician at Rothamsted and Valerie at the Plant Pathology Laboratory in Milton Road. Brian had already spent some considerable time working in parts of Africa, and soon after their second child was born they went out to Ethiopia where Brian worked for Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Ethiopian Government as a consultant statistician, returning to England just before the birth of their third child.

Brian continued to work at Rothamsted until his retirement and has worked for British Sugar on a consultancy basis ever since. After bringing up their children Valerie also went to work at Rothamsted, mainly in the Plant Pathology department where she worked on agronomy and diseases of Oilseed Rape and of Sunflowers, the latter being her particular passion and where she gained an international reputation for her work.

They moved from Harpenden to Slip End in 1991 where they have made many friends, have become involved in St Andrew's church and all that goes on in the parish, and have happily integrated themselves into village life.



***Golden Wedding
Commemorated in Cup Cakes!***

SLIPEND.CO.UK POSTINGS

We came across this posting recently on the Parish website ...

"I thought I might comment on the loveliness of this village. I've read and posted some negative comments regarding the traffic on Church Road (which has over the past couple of months reduced quite significantly! Who would have thought what a blight on my life the M1 road works would have been.) But

The people are great, friendly cheerful and really helpful. The facilities for my toddler and I are amazing! Our village shop sells everything and the fresh bread it stocks is the best bread in the world. And now we have the new Stockwood Park Discovery centre within walking distance.

Thank you to whoever put the new play surfaces down in the children's play area. My little one loves playing on the climbing frame and I'm a little less frightened of her falling. Also, if you havn't been to a St Andrews service on a Sunday you really are missing out! Having never been to church really before it was a pleasant and warm welcome that my family received and continues to receive. Informal, refreshing and surprisingly enjoyable!!!

*Come on you lot!! This village is Great aren't we lucky!! A little o.t.t. I know but I really do love living in **SLIP END!**"*

Well, only a little over the top, but this view (from a young mum?) reflects the positive things we at PN feel about the Parish at the moment. These do not just happen, but come about due to the thoughts and actions of a number of people, who toil away unseen and unpaid, happy to do their bit within the community. We salute them all.

On the downside, there is a somewhat reasoned thread on the forum about the apparently inevitable closure of our post office. This is despite local council efforts. *Take a look at slipend.co.uk.*

Vegetable Garden

Regular readers of this column will not need reminding, but for those reading for the first time, a good tip is to bend a leaf or two over cauliflower curds for protection. Plant out as many spring cabbages as possible, a valuable crop at a thin time. Lift and store turnips of a reasonable size and any other root crops still in, storing in a frost-proof place with a covering of dry sand.

Rough dig and manure vacant areas, burning all couch grass and potato haulms.

Flower & Fruit

Deciduous shrubs may be planted or moved as required; new roses may also be planted but ensure ground around them is left very firm. Divide and replant herbaceous perennials.

Complete the gathering of apples, storing in boxes in a cool but frost-proof place. Pears can also be cropped now, storing them in a dry atmosphere at around 50 degrees F, never piling one on top of another.

General Work

Gather up all fallen leaves and place in a corner to rot down. Now is a good time to lay new lawns or repair worn patches. Aerate if the ground is compacted by use.. Mow for as long as required and give the grass an occasional going over with the rake to remove moss and dead grass. Spread worm casts with a birch broom or suchlike; leaving casts will damage the grass.



**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SLIP END
HARVEST SUPPER**

**SLIP END VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY OCTOBER 3RD
7.00 for 7.30**

£5 Adults

£4 Concessions

£10 Family Ticket (2+2)

(£1.50 for each additional child))

**For Tickets call in at Slip End Post Office
or call Joy Daniel (424363)**

**B-Y-O K,F & S, cold drinks, etc. we'll provide Supper,
plus... Tea, Coffee & Squash.**

SUPER AFTER SUPPER ENTERTAINMENT!

This year for our birthday meeting it was decided yellow would be a nice background colour. The tables reflected this with napkins, cloths and of course a table centre which was also the competition subject and was won by Rita Weber.

Vice President Lorna Kalisz was in the chair in the absence of Madame President Su Martin with the business carefully programmed to allow us to enjoy the rest of the evening. The catering results were a treat, a big thank you to all the ladies involved. This year the honour of cutting the first slice of birthday cake went to Betty Prior our most senior member.

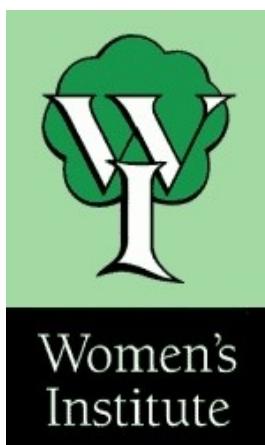
The entertainers were a group of three young lady singers called 'Razz'. They were so professional and their material was from 1950's onwards so it was lovely to be able to follow all the tunes and words. It was lovely to welcome members from Downside and Studham Women's Institute's and a pity the others were not able to join us.

We meet on the third Tuesday in the month at 7.30 at the Baptist Church Hall in Caddington. See Diary page in this issue for our forthcoming dates.

Come along,

it would be lovely to see you there!

Patricia Crick



Liquid Measures

If you are on a water meter and like your drinking water nice and cold, do not run the tap for ages, continually top up a jug that you keep in the fridge for cold water 'on tap'.

Swap Shop

Organise a swap shop with local parents for things like toys, books and clothes. Take what you no longer need and donate anything over to the local charity shop.

All wrapped up

Brown paper, old comics or newspapers cost much less than fancy wrapping, but has a nice vintage look. Get the kids to add ribbons and home-made tags.

Re-use it

Keep the tissue that comes when you buy new clothes for re-use on delicate gifts.

Imperfect condition

Save money on white goods by shopping in places with B-grade stock. The goods often have just small scratches on the side of fridges etc which you wouldn't see under the counter and they can make a real difference on cost.

Festive Cheer

Put £1 or £2 a week into a designated Christmas pot, plus any change lying about. It will soon mount up.

Premium Lines

Watch out for companies using premium phone lines for customer service. If it's an 0870 number calls are expensive.

Shanks' Pony

Mile for mile its more expensive to do short car trips rather than long so walk more locally and save money.



We hope you all had a good summer. Brownies are back in action and have been busy already. Natasha, Melisa, Sophie, Alyssa and Madison were enrolled last month, a really nice occasion with many supporters turning up and enjoying a cup of tea during the ceremony. Afterwards our cake sale raised £20, so thank you to the mums who supported that and especially to Matt for his huge, delicious, home made, organic, free range, Chantilly cream cake!

We will be working on the Friend to Animals badge with animal-themed crafts and activities. We look forward to Halloween, Guy Fawkes night and Christmas coming up. Finally, before the next Parish News edition we will have been on our first Indoor Camping trip so the 6 Brownies and 3 Guiders going on that are very excited.

Tawny Owl

Last month Shirley Garner (of Slip End Youth Club), Verity Edwards-Hoare and Philippa Plummer (of the Brownies) participated in the first 'Midnight Walk' arranged by and to raise funds for, the Pasque Hospice. They left Barnfield College at Midnight and walked a 10 mile circular route through and around Luton, returning to the college for breakfast in the early hours of Sunday morning.



They

completed the walk in just 2 hours 40 minutes raising over £200. Thanks everyone who supported them and their children for letting them have a lie-in the next morning!

THE FRAME SMITH

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Free local service in your own home with free collection & delivery or visit me by appointment at my workshop in Slip End.

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The Frame Smith

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**Any Breed
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Any Problem!**

Does your Dog:

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- ◆ jump up at visitors?
- ◆ not come back when called?
- ◆ destroy your home while you are out?

Are you prepared to give your dog the time and patience required?

Go into this with an open mind and work together as a household to make this work?

If so contact me, Rita. I can help!

**Phone: 01582 418014 Mobile: 07752 819374
rtims@btconnect.com**

Platinum Fitness

Pilates, Personal Training & Aerobics

We have been running Pilates and Aerobics classes in the local area for 6 years and after a short break after giving birth to my first child this January we are running some new and exciting classes.

My company specialises in Pilates for people with back problems, injuries & medical conditions such as Osteoporosis and Arthritis etc, but we also cater for those people who come for general toning and fitness. We are also qualified in Ante/Post Natal Exercise and Pilates and have just started a new class called Peek-a-Boo Pilates for mums and babies, which integrates Pilates and baby massage. It's a great way to tone up that post baby body without the stress of what to do with the baby. The Aerobic classes we run are legs, bums, tums and dance Aerobics, which are great classes for all fitness levels. The classes are run in Caddington on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays and we run Free Introductory Sessions throughout the year. Feel free to pop along to a class, for more information call me Lisa Burgess on 412426 or check out www.platinum-fitness.net

Some info about Peek-a-Boo Pilates

Let's face it; what we really want after giving birth is our old bodies back but it's not as easy as the celebrities make out: they are helped with surgery after a Caesarean section and have personal trainers & nannies on hand. After all that toll on your body through pregnancy, childbirth & motherhood your body is going to need some help!

Pilates is the best way to get to target the post pregnancy body, focusing on your 'powerhouse' which include the muscles your deep tummy, waist, pelvic floor, buttocks, hips, inner thighs and back. Your tummy muscles and ligaments would have been overstretched through the last stages of pregnancy and take time to tighten; with the help of Pilates the abdominal muscles will tighten to give you a smoother, flatter tummy.

If you had a normal delivery your pelvic floor may be experiencing distress, if you are experiencing urinary incontinence this will be due to a weakened pelvic floor, all exercises in Pilates engage & strengthen the pelvic floor. If you had a Caesarean section then you've gone through major abdominal surgery and as a result would be left with extremely weakened tummy muscles. By engaging your 'powerhouse' you will help the muscles to strengthen and aid recovery. Being a new mum myself I know how hard it is to find time or a sitter to do something for yourself, so I designed a class, which incorporates exercise, & massage for you and your baby.

Lisa Burgess



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On Monday 8th September we took the coach to Walton on the Naze. Having not been there for a number of years we did not know what to expect. The beach was great if you had children but there was not a lot to do elsewhere although everyone seemed to manage to find somewhere to go or something to do and all enjoyed the trip there. ***Plus, for a special treat the weather was good to us, which made a wonderful change.***

For any new pensioners (or old pensioners come to that) wishing to join our merry band, we meet at the Village Hall in Slip End every Thursday from 2 – 4pm. It will only cost you £2 to join the club and 40p per meeting – not bad considering you get some refreshments and bingo tickets for that and a warm welcome with a chance to catch up with the latest news and a friendly chat.

Pam King

FARLEY HILL LUNCH CLUB

It was third anniversary day for the Lunch Club at Farley Hill on September 8th. The voluntary help were attired in new Lunch Club embossed 'pinnies', the ladies enjoyed a little cat walk to much applause. Reverend David Aale said the Grace and co-coordinator Ken Cameron (offer of pinnie firmly declined) proposed the toast 'The Lunch Club'. The Toast was drunk accompanied by an excellent fruit punch concocted by Judy Harper. The October Lunch is on Wednesday 8th 12.30 for 1pm, although most members are in their seats before 12.20. The menu is Chicken Supreme and Rice with Sweet and Tea. Only £3!

Four days later Farley Hill Methodists will be joined by St John the Baptist and Strathmore Methodists for their Harvest Festival Service presided over by District Chair Mrs Anne Brown. The service will be followed by a lunch of roast beef etc, a sweet and tea. Clearly NO ONE is going to go hungry in our area this October!

GET INTO LINE THERE!

For any new readers, if you want a chance to do some exercise and make some friends why not go along to the Line Dancing class at the Slip End Village Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 12. You will be given a warm welcome there. Tea and biscuits supplied at half time and the dancers are all ages—young and old. All this for a bargain £4. Its great fun and a good laugh.



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.

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



For further information
CALL Paul Goodaker on 07979057393

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

October (for further information see inside pages)

- 3rd St Andrew's Harvest Supper at the Village Hall
3rd Slip End Playgroup Quiz Night
4th County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12 noon
5th St Andrew's Church Back to Church Sunday - Harvest Festival
6th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm
21st Women's Institute: "East Anglia Air Ambulance", Mrs P. Airton
25th Dance at the Village Hall - Call Shirley on 412506

30-31st Half Term Holiday Club at St Andrew's

November

- 1st Charity Halloween Part at the Village Hall
1st County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12
3rd Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 8.00pm
18th Women's Institute: Christmas Flowers & Save the Children Fund
22nd Slip End Playgroup: Nearly New Sale
22nd Musical Evening at St Andrew's
30th 'Crafts for Christmas' sale at the Village Hall

December

- 6th Dance at the Village Hall - Call Shirley on 412506
16th WI: Musical Entertainment, "In Accord."

Please complete
and return the
**HOUSING
NEEDS SURVEY**
forms by
November 21st.

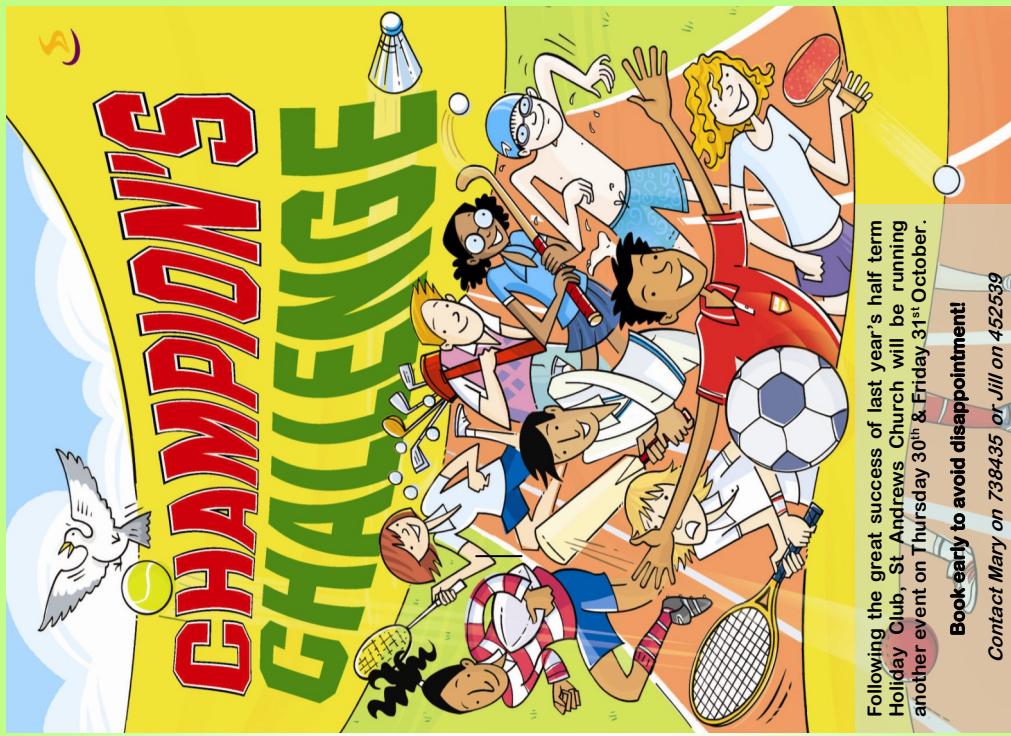
If you would like a copy of Parish News each month, contact Alan Butterly at 1 Claydown Way on 724527, alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk. Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holiday adventures, etc? Please contact us, letters and e-mails are encouraged. Views expressed by our contributors are not the Editor's own. Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to Sue Briggs, 4 The Oaks, Slip End or e-Mail parishnews@slipend.co.uk.

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For advertising enquiries call Steve on
01582 861186 (Monday to Friday 9 to 4) or
01582 414162 (evenings & weekends),
SteveSueLyons@aol.com

| | | Bin Days October 2008 | | |
|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|
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| | | | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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



Following the great success of last year's half term Holiday Club, St Andrews Church will be running another event on Thursday 30th & Friday 31st October.

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Contact Mary on 738435 or Jill on 452539

