

DECEMBER 2009

# SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

50P WHERE SOLD



*Santa takes a break in his preparations to visit the children in our area. He receives a gift from one his adoring Pixie Helpers. (Getting over excited, Santa's glasses are misting up!)*





Proud mum Rachel Parslow is seen with young Samuel Michael, less than a week old! Congratulations to Rachel, Andy and the Parslow & Buttery grand parents who live in the village.

*Time for Remembrance came round again last month and Derek Worsley joined with many others including our Brownies, around the War Memorials.*

Other Brownies are seen with Liz Meleady who helped them with their 'Healthy Heart' badgework.

*Finally our Toddlers were on hand again to help with the annual 'Samaritan's Purse' Shoebox appeal.*







### *Construction & Destruction in Slip End*

Started last month, work was well in hand at the end of November with the church roof repairs. Builder Tom Shutlar reported that only half a day has been lost due to the weather as we went to press and he is optimistic to finish work on schedule. The extent of the work is now apparent, making much more sense of the large costs involved. Those entering the 'Guess the Tiles' competition might use this picture as a clue.

Not so positive is the onset of the current verge smashing campaign by inconsiderate motorists. Latest creative example is thanks to Tesco, whose impatient delivery driver chose a short cut across a sodden verge in Crawley Close with damaging result pictured above. One local resident makes it clear when arranging deliveries that vehicles should, under **no** circumstances, be driven off road!

*Parish News advocates this precaution to all readers.*







### ***Aspiring Views!***

With scaffolding up the spire, PN photo desk could not miss the opportunity for some unique views. Above: the camera is pointed towards Upper Woodside.

Left: Over the roof of Woodside Home (the old Vicarage) looking up Church Road.

Below: View over the church roof and the Playing Field, across the M1, Rugby Club and Stockwood Park.



# 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: 767916

## COMMUNITY

Brownies: 723109  
Beavers: 0795 6833488  
Cubs: 414157  
Fly Tipping (CBC): 0300 300 8000  
Friendship Club: 452978  
Slip End Assoc: 414796  
Mother's Union: 738435  
Playgroup: 728865  
Toddler Group 405931  
Allotments: 736892  
FoSELS (PTA):  
Tracey Burgess 07767731187  
Women's Institute: 421034  
Police: 473462  
Aircraft noise: 395382  
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Stephen Fuell: 417792  
stevefuell@f2s.com  
Philip Penman: 455185  
PhilipPenman@aol.com  
Geoff Daniel: 424363  
geoffdaniel@btinternet.com  
Ken Crossett 414168  
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Janet Crawley: 07752 902070  
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Paul Cooper  
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## CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL: 0300 300 8000

## CENTRAL BEDS COUNCILLOR

Richard Stay: 0300 300 4230  
Richard.Stay@centralbeds.gov.uk  
Ruth Gammons 01582 738398  
ruth.gammons@centralbeds.gov.uk

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Margaret Moran: 01582 731882  
info@margaretmoran.org.uk

## CHURCHES

### St Andrew's Church

Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363  
Wardens: Tony Willson 482681  
Susan Wiltshire 727477

### Aley Green Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Philip Horner  
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668

## SHOPS & SERVICES

At the Crossroads, telephone 401069  
Monday to Friday 6.30 to 21.00 Saturday 7.00 to 21.00 - Sunday 7.30 to 21.00  
Garage: Slip End Garage, Markyate Road, telephone 456888

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



# Brownies

What a great start to the new term! We have had 9 new kittens starting all at once which has increased our numbers nicely. Welcome to: Sophie, Drusilla, Ella, Amy, Maizy, Lucy, Molly, Cali and Ellie F.

To tie in with the Centenary this year we are working towards the Brownie Traditions badge. The Brownies researched the history of the movement and started a scrapbook. We were very interested in what the Brownies used to get up to, from the '20s to the present. This tied in nicely with another part of the badge which involved a rousing verse of the National Anthem and also safely lighting candles using matches.

We have completed our Healthy Heart badges and had great fun making a healthy 'lunch' which was then eaten in much less time than it took to make! We also had a special guest in the person of local paediatrician Liz Meleady, who kindly came and took the Brownies' heart rates so we could then look at how they increased with exercise. Many thanks Liz! (There is a picture of Liz with a couple of our Brownies on the colour page.)



The Brownies took part in a sleepover at the Luton Arndale Centre at which they learned, through fun activities, about NOAH and all the hard work they do to support the homeless in the area. We slept in the TESCO's doorway and it was *cold*, even indoors, which made them more aware of the hardships of the unfortunate people sleeping in the open every night.

Many thanks to the Brownies who attended the Remembrance Service at St Andrew's. (see picture). It was much appreciated and an important date to remember.

*Tawny Owl*



**Brownies** @ the Village Hall

## USED STAMPS

**Don't** throw away all those used stamps on letters or cards received this Christmas or in the future. Keep them for Charities, which include Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Cut them off with a 1 inch border and save until you have a reasonable amount, then post "free" to following address:



Ladies: Get Fit in 2009 & 2010 at ...

### DEBORAH'S AEROBICS

Thursdays 8pm at Peter Edwards Hall  
Only £3!



For information call Deborah  
on 01582 767916



**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.

## FREE FIRE ADVICE & SMOKE DETECTOR!

*Following on from Chris Gains' advice  
to the Chatty Club in this issue...*

**Professionals from the Bedfordshire Fire Service will conduct a thorough Home Fire Safety Check and fit a smoke detector completely FREE!**

"Unfortunate incidents come to our attention from time to time, where people have been charged large sums for unnecessary fire prevention equipment in their home. Recently a doorstep caller quoted £25 for fitting a smoke detector," explains Community Safety Manager Karl Grant.

"The Fire & Rescue Service scheme is completely free. Call 0800 0435042 to book a visit. One of our staff will then come to carry out the safety check and fit a smoke detector, *absolutely free*. If you have any doubts about anyone presenting themselves at your door, call 01234 351081 and our Fire HQ reception team will double check credentials. Of course this advice is especially aimed at the elderly and vulnerable and we ask family members and neighbours to make sure those living nearby heed our advice."

### **Central Beds** **Councillor's Surgery** *Heathfield School Caddington*



Meet Richard Stay or Ruth Gammons  
to discuss local matters which are of  
your concern or interest.

*First Saturday of each month,  
10am to 12 noon*

### **MP's Surgeries**

PN is assured by her officials in Luton that Margaret Moran MP continues to hold surgeries on Friday evenings, where you can meet and discuss on a person to person basis.

*For appointments: call 01582 731882  
or via [www.margaretmoran.gov.uk](http://www.margaretmoran.gov.uk)*

### *Harvest*

Harvesting of winter cabbages and cauliflowers and Brussels sprouts should be starting. Leeks should be ready, take what you need and leave the rest to stand until required. Harvesting can be tricky in severe weather, so lift a few and heel them in on well dug ground which will not freeze solid. Dig carrots now, storing them in peat, sand or a traditional clamp. Lift celery, parsnips and Swedes although they may be left in the ground until needed. Cover them with fleece or straw. Check vegetables in store and remove anything that has started to rot. Potatoes especially need to be checked and watch out for slugs.

### *General Jobs in the Garden*

On our clay soil, digging when the soil is wet and sticky can do more harm than good. Dig only when conditions are right. Winter is the time to do double digging, incorporating manure into the bottom of the trench and deepening your topsoil. As ground becomes vacant, dig it over and spread manure over the surface. Leave the soil roughly dug in large clumps and the worms and frost will break these up.

Stake young trees and tall brassicas to prevent wind rock damage. Cover compost to prevent rain leaching the nutrients and to keep heat of decomposition in.

To get the best out of your garden send soil samples for professional pH and nutrient analysis or use a kit or meter available from garden centres and DIY stores.

### *Cuttings*

Soft fruits and vines can be propagated by cuttings inserted in open ground. Choose sturdy ripened shoots of this year's growth, cutting them just below a bud and trimming to just above a bud. For blackcurrants make them about 8-10 inches long, 12-15 inches for other fruits. Insert them into the soil to about half their length. Grow all except blackcurrants on

a short stem removing buds from the lower part of the cutting. All the buds should be left on blackcurrant cuttings.

### *Sowing, Planting & Cultivating*

Onions sown just after Christmas will benefit from the longer growing period. Sow in seed boxes in the greenhouse or frost free cold frame. Cold frames can heat up in winter sun so particular attention must be given to ventilation. Pigeons will be on the look out for food, so net your brassicas to keep them away. Remove any yellow leaves.

### *Fruit*

Plant bare rooted fruit trees and bushes and prune apple and pear trees. Cut down canes of autumn-fruiting raspberries which have finished fruiting and burn to prevent fungal diseases. Now is a good time to plant rhubarb crowns which will benefit from being left out to be frosted before planting.

Young trees should be supported with stakes and ties. Stakes can tend to work loose, which means they won't be doing their job of preventing wind rock loosening the roots.

### *Seed Order*

Go through the seed catalogues, decide what you want to grow and make a list. Most gardeners love a bargain but sometimes a bargain isn't as good as it appears to be. Considering the time and effort spent in growing anything from an Aubergine to a Tomato, buying the right seed is not a luxury. Quality suppliers like Thompson & Morgan, Suttons and Dobies offer selections of vegetable seeds, fruit bushes, fruit and nut trees.

Dobies have supplied seeds direct to gardeners in the Chester area since 1880 and for over fifty years to customers throughout the UK. Obviously, Mr Titchmarsh would not lend his name to anything inferior and Suttons have been supplying seeds since 1806 so they have a bit of a track record too!



# **ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH**

## ***Services and Diary dates for December***

Sunday 6th (Advent 2)	11am	Morning Service & Communion ~ Rev Phil Horner
	11am	Sunday School
	3.30pm	All Saints Caddington Christingle Service
Monday 7th	7.30pm	Fellowship Meeting led by Mike Bull
Tuesday 8th	10am	Cakes & Company ~ Coffee Morning
Sunday 13th (Advent 3)		No Morning Service
	3.30pm	Nativity Play ~ Rev Phil Horner & the Sunday School
Tuesday 15th	7.30pm	Bible Study led by Rev Bob Forrest
Wednesday 16th	7.30pm	Coffee Evening in aid of Methodist Homes for the Aged
Sunday 20th (Advent 4)	11am	Morning Service – Rev Bob Forrest
	11am	Sunday School Advent4
Tuesday 22nd	7.30pm	Candle Light Carol Service ~ Rev Phil Horner
Friday 25th	9.30am	Christmas Morning Service ~ Rev Phil Horner
Sunday 27th		No Service

## ***Services and Diary dates for January***

Sunday 3rd	11am	Morning Service ~ Ron Cowle
	11am	Sunday School
Sunday 10th (Epiphany)	11am	Covenant Service & Communion ~ Rev Phil Horner
	11am	Sunday School
Tuesday 12th	10am	‘Cakes & Company’ Coffee Morning
Sunday 17th	11am	Morning Service ~ Rev Bob Forrest
	11am	Sunday School
Tuesday 19th	7.30pm	Bible Study ~ Rev Bob Forrest
Wednesday 20th	7.30pm	Coffee Evening in aid of Action for Children
Sunday 24th		<b><i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i></b>
	11am	Morning Service ~ Mr Bob Squires
	11.00am	Sunday School
Monday 25th	7.30pm	Fellowship Meeting led by Mike Bull
Friday 29th	7pm	New Year Meal
Sunday 31st	11am	Morning Service led by Lorna Martin
	11am	Sunday School



## ***‘Cakes & Company’***

***Our new venture ‘Cakes & Company’ coffee morning was launched on Tuesday 3rd November and was well attended by all ages. It was wonderful to welcome new people into our Church.***

We plan to hold Cakes & Company monthly, on second Tuesdays from 10am to noon. There will be free drinks and biscuits and a warm safe play area for the children.

*Do pop along and join us!9*

We have changed our Bible Study evenings to Tuesdays and have begun a very interesting study of Genesis. The meeting is open to all, a warm welcome is assured.

Our November Coffee Evening raised £91 for Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our 'Brunch & Browse', it was good to see so many people there. An excellent result, £500 was raised towards the running of our Church.

We hope you will join us over the festive season. Tea will be served after the Nativity Play on December 13th and there will be a collection taken for Keech Hospice Care.

Come and sing along at the Carol Service, where a collection will be taken for Action for Children (formerly NCH). Coffee and mince pies will be served after the service.

Our Christmas Day service will start at 9.30 so that Phil our minister can fit in services for



three of his four Churches, and we can worship before the cooking begins.

*Jesus is the reason for this season.  
Peace love & joy be yours  
this Christmas and always.*

We hope you will be able to join us for services, fellowship meetings, Bible Study and other events in the New Year. As always, you will be given a warm Aley Green welcome. Good wishes for a Happy New Year and may God richly bless you in 2010

From all your friends  
at Aley Green Methodist Church.

*Ann Meader*

## ***WEDDINGS & CHRISTENINGS***

*Looking for something special that won't break the bank?*

*We provide a wish tree and handmade tags designed to co-ordinate with your Wedding/Christening colours or theme. Guests write their best wishes for the bride and groom/new baby and then hang the tag onto the wish tree, creating a stunning display at your reception. Tags are then collected and presented in a pretty handmade album, the perfect keepsake to remember your special day!*

*Phone Liz on 07968718468 or email [liz@blueskycrafts.co.uk](mailto:liz@blueskycrafts.co.uk)  
Samples available to view*

***CHARITY JUMBLE SALE  
AT SLIP END VILLAGE HALL  
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER***

Ken & Pat wish to thank all those who made the dance at the Village Hall last month such a success. We look forward to meeting you all again in the New year.

Watch this space for forthcoming dates.  
Happy Christmas!  
Ken & Pat.





# CHRISTMAS FOR ALL THE AGES

Christmas approaches in the house  
All ages prepare,  
Nights draw in fast  
Shops in town are overloaded  
with gifts, tinsel and toys.

O come all ye faithful,  
Come in and shop,  
Shop 'til you drop.  
Chocolate and wine  
It's nearly the time,  
For Christmas is here!

Baby Jane doesn't know it's today  
Everything is bright  
Baubles sparkle in the light  
But she can't touch, is kept away.  
Crackly paper, hide in boxes,  
Excitement in the mundane.

Young ones wake early,  
to parent's despair,  
By six the stockings are done  
Shrieks of joy fill the house,  
Chocolate wrappers litter the floor,  
By breakfast time they know  
There are still more presents to go

O come all ye faithful  
Lovely gifts and toys  
For all the girls and boys  
Paper and bows  
For everyone knows  
That Christmas is here!

The teenagers of the family  
Prefer to sleep through the noise.  
They pretend not to care  
As they look under the tree  
For their names on parcels  
big and small  
Clothing, make-up and  
computer games.  
Grandparents rise just in time

Dressed in their Sunday best  
Ready to join the family downstairs,  
They love to see the happy smiles  
And the children's shining eyes  
As they join in with the day.

O Come all ye faithful  
Off to Church we go  
Real meaning to know  
Joyously to sing  
"All welcome to the King!"

Mum and Dad are weary  
Planning the food and the drink  
Choosing the presents for all  
Wrapping paper and tree  
Shopping for many  
A house full of guests.

Now they sit at the table,  
Turkey and trimmings,  
puddings and pies,  
Served with wine and good cheer  
Look round the table and see  
The family are all here  
Together and cheerful as can be.

O Come all ye faithful  
Families are sharing  
Happy and caring  
Jesus was born  
On Christmas day in the morn.

*Alison Wilson*



## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

### Services & Events in December & January

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

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the family Room
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christingle Service with informal Communion
	6.15pm	3;16 meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the family Room
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps ( visit to LCET)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
	3.00pm	Carol Service for the Bereaved
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.50pm	Carol Singing around Village (Meet at School Gates)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the family Room
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	St Andrews Nativity Play
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight (With Mince Pies and Coffee)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00pm	Woodside Home Service
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.15pm	First Communion of Christmas
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day Celebration with Said Communion
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise

### January 2010

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
	6.15pm	3;16 meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
	6.15pm	3;16 meet in the Family Room
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	PCC meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise



# £100

## extra discount!

Just take dual-fuel, plus Home Phone, Mobile and/or Broadband, and receive an extra discount of £100 once you've been with us for a year!\*

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And... all on one clear and convenient monthly bill!

## Want an extra £100 off? Join the Club!

Call Adriana Lokman  
01582 873079



### SAVE ON YOUR HOUSEHOLD BILLS & RAISE MONEY FOR ST ANDREW'S ROOF !

*Call Ade Lokman locally on 01582 873079  
and give our appeal number C91942.*

*We're part of a new fundraising scheme. Simply switch your utilities to the Utilities Warehouse Discount Club and we'll receive a donation of up to 5% of your household bill - every month. And you'll save money for yourself at the same time! Also, save 5% on petrol and shopping.*

*Call and ask how.*

## YOU SAVE MONEY, WE RAISE MONEY!



## ***St Andrew's Holiday Club***

Last month we welcomed over 30 youngsters to the latest of our popular half term Holiday Clubs. Theme this year was 'Showstoppers', a theatrical theme running through the activities, stories, videos and music. The children entered enthusiastically into two days of hectic activity and put on an impressive show for the parents who arrived towards the end.

All this would not be possible without many weeks of hard work and preparation put in by a large group: many thanks to them all for their great effort!

Here are a few pictures which reflect just some of what went on.



### ***ADVANCE NOTICE***

*Plans are in hand for a unique event at St A's ....*



## ***Grand UKELELE CONCERT***

***Saturday 6th March***

***Put on by a large group  
of very enthusiastic youngsters!***

***More details in the next issue  
of Parish News (February 2010)***

### ***ADVANCE NOTICE***

*Plans are in hand for a ....*



## ***QUIZ NIGHT***

***Saturday 27th February***

***Put on by Slip End Tennis Club  
Start recruiting your Teams now!***

***More details in the next issue  
of Parish News (February 2010)***



### ***‘Outspired’ Scaffolding!***

Last month this amazing construction around the church spire was put up in just a couple of days by our expert scaffolding team. The spire is now receiving attention from Tom Shutler and his builder colleagues. The PN photographer has been granted permission to climb the spire, confident that the structure is perfectly safe but he may take a bottle out option at high altitude!



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## A LETTER FROM DORSET

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Two things prompted this letter: the sad news of the death of Madelene Gains and Dorothy's purchase of a new bread-spread.

The Half Moon was the only pub/restaurant where I have been greeted by the waitress with a kiss or hug! The warm welcome by Madelene made it a most successful place to dine. Her quality of determination was shown by her (reluctant) willingness for the first time to fill in to play the St Andrews church organ for a service when no-one else was available. After several practises she played and did well enough to gain the courage to persist. She eventually joined the regular rota of church organists. Looking back, I feel privileged to have known such a joyful Christian lady.



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## CHATTY CLUB

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Last month the Club had a great afternoon at the old-fashioned Christmas Music Hall in Harpenden, full of favourite Christmas songs and fun. Many thanks to the mini-bus drivers who ferried them to the show.

Christopher Gains had promised his mum Madelene before she died, that he would drop in at the Club to talk about his work with the Fire Service at Dunstable Fire Station. Last month he did just that.

It took him seven years to get into the Fire Service, now he is now one of the drivers! When he joined the brigade he went through three months of intensive training before he could start work. Now it is important to keep up to date with new procedures and Chris is often away on training courses. Back at Dunstable Fire Station he works with twelve colleagues on a rota with the other teams.

The take-over of Somerfield by Co-op affected Wareham, as they had one of each! Dorothy recently bought a new (to her) brand of breakfast bread-spread and when it appeared on our breakfast table, it reminded me of another fine Christian lady at Slip End.

Our sister church (St Dunstons at Upton) has started a 'Messy Church' once a month, and Dorothy has been a prayer partner for it; it is very successful in bringing in people not usually used to church-going. Has St Andrew's got one yet? Dorothy also does bereavement counselling in the Wareham area.

As for what Grenville has been up to: just ask David Kingston to show you a copy of the January issue of the 'Railway Modeller' (out on 10th December) showing his (G's) delving into Cornish history.

We shall be sending Christmas greetings on a card on the communal board in the church, but meanwhile send best wishes to all!

*Grenville & Dorothy*

Chris told us that you can arrange a for a free home fire safety check by the Fire Brigade (see item in this issue.) He showed us some small alarms, including one which warns if the chip pan has been left on, a common cause of fires. He kindly provided an alarm for each of our members. Then lots of good advice came out from Chris during a question and answer session

We would like to thank Chris for taking the time to come and see us. Your dear mum would have been very proud of you!

*Sue Briggs & Maureen*

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*Barrie, Michelle, Maria, Christopher & Gemma Gains would like to thank everyone who attended Madelene's funeral last month. They are grateful for donations totalling £590, towards the Brain & Spine Foundation.*

We had a very successful Shoebox Sunday on November 15th at St Andrew's when Kidztime made up their own boxes to send to children less fortunate than themselves. Luckily volunteers were on hand to help sort out all the fillers for the boxes that had been donated from around the village and the congregation, so we set to work to do as many boxes as we could.

The most difficult part of the operation is covering the shoebox and we were grateful to receive some boxes that had already been covered - it made our job a lot easier! The children also made cards to go in their boxes with a little message to the child who would receive it. We also watched some CD's from Samaritans Purse showing some of the children receiving their boxes and how thrilled they were with the gifts inside. It certainly makes you think of all the gifts our own children take for granted at Christmas time. It was a great effort and we managed to do over twenty boxes.

We then took them into church for Rev Joy Daniel to bless the boxes from the children and all the other boxes that had been collected by St Andrew's. It was a huge pile and they have now been transported to the warehouse in Cambridge where they will be collected by one of the huge lorries that will then deliver them to Belarus.

Many thanks to all who helped on the day and for the gifts we received to put in the shoeboxes. They certainly went with a lot of 'Love in a Box' to the needy children who will hopefully receive them in due course.

*Sue Briggs*



We have had a busy term with our number of children slowly increasing. During the early part of the term we thought about the Autumn coming and spent a lovely morning in Stockwood Park collecting conkers, acorns and autumn leaves before going into the Discovery Centre for refreshments and to play.

The children made firework pictures during November month and will soon be making some Christmas crafts for sale at our Christmas bazaar on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon at Toddler Group in the Village Hall, we hope you will be able to join us.

A big thank you now to everyone who donated bags of clothing etc to our Bags2School collection. Amazingly it raised £198 for playgroup, it is much appreciated and helps us to continue to run and will help us to fund the children's Christmas party.

We were inspected by Ofsted during the second week in November. We passed the inspection with a couple of small improvements to make. The inspector wrote that we provide 'a relaxing and friendly environment where they (the children) can play and learn together'.

We have a number of events coming up in December:

**8<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Bazaar at the Toddlers Group, all welcome.

**11<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Christmas Party for Playgroup with music, games, food and a visit from Father Christmas.

**15<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Christmas Party for Toddlers with a visit from Father Christmas. (This is the last day of term for both groups.)







### *Yet another 'scheme' threatens!*

I have received the proposals of another 'developer' who is looking to build on the land behind Summer Street running its full length from Church Road to Pepperstock. This one is referred to as **Luton Gateway**. It will also use land on the other side of the motorway. If these and the Bushwood proposals come to fruition, the land adjacent to the motorway stretching from Pepperstock to Chaul End will be built on, and Upper Woodside merged in with it all.

Some Councillors from here and Caddington recently attended a presentation from the Luton West schemers. No new information emerged. I understand that at a recent meeting Luton Borough Council decided to withdraw their support from the Luton East Development so the focus may be drawn in our direction.

A small group of residents from the two parishes of Slip End and Caddington recently met to form the committee of an action group which is being set up to oppose all large scale development on our greenbelt. I understand every house will soon receive a leaflet introducing the group and there will be a small action for you take. As time goes by, residents with specialist skills will be co opted to the committee so that their expertise can be used and I gather there will also be plenty of opportunities for all residents who want to, to take part in a number of activities to show their feelings to the powers that be.

In the public meetings, the views of residents were overwhelmingly against large scale development, the battle to save the green belt is not going to be easy and the action group will need your support. The Action Group will need funding and I understand Father Christmas will be visiting the Parish in a float collecting donations to help with this.

### *Hard fact*

On another subject, Steve Fuell and I attended a conference for Town and Parish Councils at Central Beds Offices. One staggering statistic I came away with, which I thought you might find interesting as well. Apparently, the cost of supporting the credit crunch globally amounts to \$13,000,000,000,000 (\$13 trillion) or put another way, it equates to about \$2000 for every man woman and child on the planet.

### *Something positive*

Speaking of Steve, his hard work has once again paid off. By the time you read this, resurfacing work in the centre of Slip End will be complete or nearing completion. The work in Church Road was not due to take place for quite some time but has been brought forward by Highways. Hopefully, Steve's work in getting the new road surface earlier, new Airparks buses and Airparks voluntary 20 mph speed limit will give Church Road residents quieter nights.

### *Nikki*

***It is with great regret I have to tell you that Nikki, our Parish Clerk, will be resigning soon.***

Sadly, she has been unwell and can no longer continue with her busy life at home and work for the Parish. Nikki will be carrying on for a little while yet as we look for a new Clerk and ease that person into post.

For many years, Nikki has been a stalwart of our community, helping residents and councillors alike. She has been at the forefront of the new initiatives in the Parish being one of the founding team who set up the Youth Club, Village Day, Parish Plan Group and the

Community Projects Group, all the time carrying out her work in that quiet, friendly efficient way we have all become so accustomed to. I am sure you will join me in thanking her, for all her hard work over the years and wish her well for the future.

### ***In conclusion***

2009 has been a tough year for many of us with the recession, we have said goodbye to some old friends and welcomed new ones who have moved or been born into the Parish. We have had some tough challenges to face and overcome but I would like to think that as a community we have grown stronger together over the last twelve months.

I received an email recently from someone living outside the parish who attended a Community Projects Group meeting, "As a non resident of the parish, I was impressed by the real sense of community that there was at the meeting. The various groups represented there were genuinely trying to help each other." 2010 will be no less challenging as we continue to grapple with the recession and deal with the proposed schemes which will affect all of us.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank the residents who have helped us over the year and the many residents who have served the community by working for the various Clubs, Groups, Youth Organisations, Hall Committees, Church, Parish News and to our businesses who have supported them. We wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2010.

*Ken Crossett,  
Chairman.*

## **VACANCY**

Slip End Parish Council need a new Clerk in 2010 progress the work of a dynamic Council working hard for its residents maintaining services and developing an already strong sense of community through new initiatives.



will  
to

Work is already under way in developing our Parish Plan and councillors are determined to achieve Quality Parish Status in the near future. This will be a demanding role and involve more than just the day to day administration duty as the Parish faces the challenges to develop the local green belt.

The successful applicant will need to be literate, numerate, have good organisational and computing skills particularly in the use of Microsoft Office. An outgoing personality and excellent communication skills are essential. You will have or be willing to achieve CiLCA qualification and live within reasonable commuting distance of the parish. There will be an adequate hand over period where you will work with our current clerk to ensure a smooth transition into post.

The position is for 20 hours per week, including some evening work attending meetings. Salary, depending on experience, will be in the region of £10 per hour plus a £400 pa working from home allowance.

*For further details  
and a full Job Description please contact:*

*Ken Crossett,  
Chairman Slip End Parish Council,  
19 Crawley Close,  
Slip End  
LU1 4BT*

*email: [kencrossett@slipend.co.uk](mailto:kencrossett@slipend.co.uk)*







PC Wesley Hall



PCSO Claire Young



PCSO Paul Clark

## Caddington & District SNT

Tel: 01582 473462

E-mail: [SNT.Caddington@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNT.Caddington@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

### *Police Surgeries:*

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2pm - 3pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 4:30-5:30pm**

***Come along and discuss any concerns or issues you may have.***

***Slip End Village Hall, Car Park Drop in and have your say!***

Local crime should be reported on Tel: 01234 841212  
(please obtain an Incident Reference Number)

In an emergency dial 999

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## **PUB COLUMN**

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It was a night of quick draw at the Frog & Rhubarb on 24th October. Over 35 People took part in the Pub's Pictionary Night which is like charades but with drawing instead of miming.

Contestants were only allowed just 2 minutes to get their team members to decipher their sketches. All this resulted in many hilarious efforts. The winning team on the night took away £60 in vouchers.

### ***It's been 10 years ...***

The Frog celebrated 10 years with Paul Cooper at the helm on the 7th November. There was a fantastic party atmosphere on this extremely busy night. Staff and customers, past & present were celebrating the ongoing success of the pub. The night went on into the early hours with music provided by Martin Simpkins on the Turntables. Here's wishing the team at the Frog all the very best for the next 10 years!

### ***Why not take the hassle out of Christmas Day?***

### ***Let the Frog & Rhubarb do all the work!***

The dining area will be buzzing with Christmas cheer as families, friends and couples enjoy a five course gourmet menu. Book early as the limited places are going fast.

In a pub not so far away, New Years' Eve will see creatures from across the universe celebrating the arrival of 2010. The Frog has a Sci-Fi party with fancy dress (optional) and a disco. Tickets are available now and include either a buffet or gala dinner.

If you want to keep up to date with what's happening at the Frog & Rhubarb, check out their latest menus or see photographs of the many events at the pub visit their web site:

[www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk](http://www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk)

*We wish Nikki West well as she retires as Parish Clerk. Over the years we at PN especially appreciated her unfailing and considerate responsiveness to the myriad of questions we threw her way.*

Nikki and Matt have a large extended family under their roof in Summer Street and the way they have been able to take everything on, reflects their unbounded energies! Not enjoying the best of health now, Nikki is wise to slow down, which will probably come as a frustration to her but we advise her to take it slightly easier: your health comes first Nikki!

The arrival of Matt, Nikki and family to the village some years ago had quite an impact! Since that time their dynamism, along with that of many notable others, became infectious throughout the Parish which has developed (to use Cllr Ken's words) 'a strong sense of community through new initiatives'.

We send our best wishes to Nikki with many thanks for all her hard work as Parish Clerk:

***Yet another 'scheme' & some 'passion'***

*Cllr Ken reveals a 'Luton Gateway' scheme which some wish to dump on this part of Central Beds. Like the Luton West scheming by Doyle/Boyle/Boyle for our bit of Central Beds, J10a ideas are light on detail. There is vague reference to Luton's ideas for a road rehash in the Newlands area. As such, with no direct link to J10a, access to the Central Beds bit of the 'Luton Gateway' would apparently be via our Pepperstock/Slip End back doors, unless there is an agenda, as yet unrevealed?*

*Boyle, Boyle & Doyle claim to have 'passions' for 'village character' retention. Perhaps with some commendable honesty, the J10a schemers do not share those particular passions!*

Neither scheme has planning status yet: we hope they remain only as 'dreams' in few minds.

***God forbid they become our nightmares!***

Farley Hill Methodists raised £200 at a jumble sale in aid of the Young Persons' working trip to the Dominican Republic next year. The expedition will be led by Jenny Spouge who made a similar trip to Brazil earlier this year.

FHM's Christmas Lunch takes place on Wednesday 9th December Turkey, Stuffing Roast Spuds etc and Christmas pud. A welcoming glass of Punch by Judy (there has to be a joke there somewhere) grand free raffle and carols to be sung. Margaret Gibbon will have her excellent charity Christmas Cards designed and printed by her good self, Margaret Woolston will have her charity home made marmalade on sale as usual.

12.15 for 1pm, first carol around 12.45, All for just £3.

The annual Carol Service takes place on Sunday 13th at 3pm led by Reverend Julia Bradshaw. The Service is followed by the sixth annual Mini-Panto, 'The Princess's Wedding'. Princess Tweedledum is planning a Christmas Wedding to Prince Whats-his-name and the whole of Farleyland is agog with excitement. BUT! AH! That dastardly Duo Prince Nasty (Ken Cameron) and Wicked Witch (Gill Jardine) are determined to cancel Christmas and stop the wedding.

The locals hope that the appointment of a Royal Parson, the Reverend O. Holyone, played by Reverend Julie Bradshaw ensures there will be a happy ever after finish.

Ken W Cameron

07960257218

khubsurat1@xln.co.uk





November was a quieter month at school before the hectic run up to Christmas so there isn't as much to report on this month but plenty for you to look forward to in the coming weeks.

The children are, as ever, keen to help those less fortunate than themselves and as such will be joining in with the fund raising efforts for Children in Need. By the time you read this they will have all enjoyed a Mufti Day and have raised some money in the process. They will also be donating gift shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

With Christmas fast approaching there will be plenty of festive fun at school starting with a Christmas Activity Day. The children will be busy making decorations for the school and some Christmas food. This is a fun event when different age groups work together, trying their hand at different creative activities. Then FoSELS have organised a very special visit from Santa on December 12<sup>th</sup> for tea at the school. Taking a break from the traditional Christmas Fair, this year parents can book their children in for some fun, games and a chance to tell Santa himself what they are wishing for.

Rehearsals for our Christmas Production, 'There's something amazing going on' are in full swing. The performance will be on 10<sup>th</sup> December with classroom parties then on the 15<sup>th</sup> before term ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> December.

We are also very pleased and proud to report that we have had good feedback on the SELS pupils who joined their respective middle schools in September. We have been told that they have settled well into year 5, so congratulations to them. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to letting you know more about our school in the New Year.

Remember the school website has all the latest information you may need at [www.slipend.beds.sch.uk](http://www.slipend.beds.sch.uk)



*The new "Friendship Bench", donated by FoSELS, is now in the playground. This is a place where children can sit if they feel left out or lonely. A 'playground buddy' then comes along to look after them. This nice idea helps to ensure the children never feel isolated.*

## **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

**is coming to Slip End  
on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

**He will be revisiting his friends at Slip End Lower School. To avoid queuing, book places in advance with tickets from the School Office or the Village Playgroup. For more details call the School on 01582 720152 or Tracy Burgess on 0776 7731187. Father Christmas will give presents to the children and his Pixies will provide mulled wine for adults with hot chocolate, mince pies, Yule log: yummy! A visit to Father Christmas will cost just a fiver, but book your place early. His time is limited as he has a heavy global schedule and his reindeer will be champing at their bits and the Elves will be impatient to get away!**



Women's  
Institute

Sue opened the November meeting with a welcome to everybody, including some new members and visitors. She gave a report on the Autumn Federation meeting at the Rufus Centre Flitwick that six of us attended. Upholding high standards of Women's Institute democracy, a 'Christmas Dinner' motion was moved: the vote 'for' was unanimous with no abstentions.

Paul Bullimore and his wife then talked about and demonstrated Old Tin Plate Toys. Mostly made in Germany and America, some dated back to the early 1900's. There were far too many to note here, suffice to say they raised much interest and caused a bit of laughter now and again. Some members had brought in their own childhood toys to demonstrate.

After tea we had a sales table; a member and her daughter brought along Jewellery, Handbags and Cards for sale. The competition was for the oldest children's book: the winner was one dated 1907.

*Sheila Coleman*





# SLIP END YOUTH CLUB



## *Grant success*

We are very grateful for the generosity of several groups which have donated grant aid to us this year. These are vital to the continuing success of our Youth Club!

Back at the start of this year we applied for a grant from Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (BLCF) to help with some new equipment and also with our running costs, which are probably higher than you might think.

In May we received confirmation from the BLCF that our grant application had been successful and we had been awarded £2,300. £1,800 of the grant was awarded by London Luton Airport and the remaining £500 was awarded by F & R Cawley Ltd, the recycling waste management company in Luton. We purchased some new equipment with some of the grant money. We now have two new LCD TV's, a table tennis table, an indoor/outdoor swingball game and a Guitar Hero game for the Wii console. The photo shows some of the children playing on the Wii console which is being shown on one of our new TV's.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank BLCF for considering our grant application, and to London Luton Airport and F & R Cawley Ltd for the generous support.

If you are not yet a member of the Youth Club and you'd like to be, either pop along on Wednesday evenings, between 6.30pm and 8.30pm to the Peter Edwards Hall behind St Andrews Church or call Shirley for more information on 07866 215 453.

We want to thank all those in the Parish who have supported us this year, particularly those parents who help out at the Club. May we encourage more to come along and help us out.

## Rave Bus at the Village Hall

2<sup>nd</sup> December

7.15-8pm

*For ages 13 & over*



**At a loose end? Come along! There's Free Food and Drink, DVD movies, music from the CD player, a Plasma Screen, Kitchen, seating area.**

**Graffiti Wall, Quiz, etc.**

*Meet Jemma from the Beds Rural Charity*

*Teenagers: we need your input! Don't miss this worthwhile event.*

# DIARY

## December

- 2nd Rave Bus at Village Hall for 13 and over 7.15-8  
 3rd Police Surgery at the Village Hall, 2-3pm  
 5th Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am-noon  
 7th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 Toddler Group: Christmas Bazaar  
 8th Community Projects Group - 7.30, at the Social Club  
 11th Playgroup: Children's Christmas Party  
 12th Santa Visits Slip End School - afternoon.  
 13th Bereavement Service at St Andrew's Church at 3pm  
 Toddler Group: Children's Christmas Party (Meet Father Christmas!)  
 15th Women's Institute Baptist Church Caddington - 'It Takes Two'  
 17th Police Surgery at the Village Hall, 4:30 - 5:30pm  
 Children's Nativity Service 10.30am  
 20th Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's Church 6pm  
 25th Christmas Celebration with Communion St Andrew's 10.30am

## January 2010

- 2nd Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am-noon  
 4th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 12th Community Projects Group - 7.30, at the Rising Sun

## February

- 1st Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 6th Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am-noon  
 9th Community Projects Group - 7.30, venue TBA  
 27th Tennis Club Quiz Night (Advance Notice)

## March

- 1st Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 St Andrew's: Ukulele Concert (Advance Notice)  
 Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am-noon  
 9th Community Projects Group - 7.30, venue TBA



At various times this month Father Christmas will be dropping in at various homes & venues. After due consideration, Santa has decided to throw his not insignificant weight behind the Anti-Luton West Fighting Fund. He promises to be on the float which will be touring the Parish, date TBA.

**No PN in January, get items for the February to us by 15th January!**

If you would Parish News delivered monthly, contact Alan Buttery at 1

Claydown Way (01582 724527), alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk. Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holidays, etc? Please contact us, letters and e-mails are encouraged. Views expressed by our contributors are not the Editor's own. Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to Sue Briggs, 4 The Oaks, Slip End or e-Mail parishnews@slipend.co.uk.

DECEMBER						JANUARY					
M	T	W	T	F		S	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4						1	
7	8	9	10	11		2	5	6	7	8	
14	15	16	17	18		9	12	13	14	15	
21	22	23	24	25		16	19	20	21	22	
28	29	30				23	26	27	28	29	

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

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