

# ***SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS***

**JAN - FEB 2009 50P WHERE SOLD**





***Bbbbrrrrrrrr ... A Happy (not to mention chilly) New Year to all our Readers! Summer Street residents Valerie Church (see front page) & Matt Ogier (see above) were out snapping during the recent cold spell to produce beautiful but wintry pictures.***



***And inside in the warm, the Line Dancing Group celebrate Christmas in the Village Hall with lots of fun, cakes and nibbles. "It was a really good class, we danced to Christmas music for the whole session."***

# The Parish @ Large

## SCHOOLS

Slip End Lower: 720152  
Caddington Village School: 726058  
Streetfield: 613421  
Ashton: 663511  
Manshead: 608641

## SPORT

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

## HALLS

Village Hall: 723109  
Peter Edwards Hall: 455185

## COMMUNITY

Brownies: 723109  
Beavers: 725297  
Cubs: 414157  
Fly Tipping (SBDC): 472222  
Friendship Club: 452978  
Slip End Assoc: 414796  
Mother's Union: 738435  
Playgroup: 728865  
Toddler Group 405931  
Allotments: 736892  
FoSELS (PTA):  
Tracey Burgess 07767731187  
Women's Institute: 421034  
Police: 473462  
Aircraft noise: 395382  
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

Stephen Fuell: 417792  
stevefuell@f2s.com  
Philip Penman: 455185  
PhilipPenman@aol.com  
Geoff Daniel: 424363  
geoffdaniel@btinternet.com  
Ken Crossett 414168  
kencrossett@slipend.co.uk  
Janet Crawley: 07752 902070  
crawley\_janet@yahoo.co.uk  
Sarah Minnighan  
s.minnighan@btinternet.com  
Paul Cooper  
paul-cooper@indigo-tiger.com

## CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Margaret Moran: 01582 731882  
info@margaretmoran.org

## CHURCHES

### St Andrew's Church

Rev Joy Daniel 01582 424363  
Warden: Tony Willson 482681

### Aley Green Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Philip Horner  
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668

## SHOPS & SERVICES

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

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

*Following recent items about the closure of the Post Office in Slip End, Betty Marriot has written in ...*

Regarding the closure of the Post Office, I was surprised that there was no mention made of the very efficient P.O. in Caddington. I always use it, the staff are very helpful and the shop sells a variety of goods, papers, cards, some food and household goods, frozen foods and alcohol. It is near to the Co-op if you have forgotten anything in your 'big shop'.

I use the chemists a lot for all my pills, potions and prescriptions.

Buses are frequent between Slip End, and Caddington, so why try to travel to Markyate or Farley Hill; maybe there is war between Slip End and Caddington!

*Betty Marriot, Woodside*

*No war Betty! Farley Hill and Markyate are the alternatives nominated by the Post Office, whose knowledge of our locality is sadly lacking, a matter raised recently with our MP.*

### **Chris Smith - Personality of the Month!**



Just to put in a good word for (what's left of) P.O. Service in the Parish: our postman, Chris Smith knows his patch very well. He deserves a pat on the back for all his good work in getting our post delivered. We appreciate his

efforts, particularly during this cold winter period. Thank you Chris!

**(Chris tells us he is very happy serving us here in the Parish!)**

### **Vegetables**

Keep on digging if the weather allows it, and if your soil is not too cold, wet or waterlogged. Clear and burn any rubbish which will not compost. Plan your crop rotation and prepare the seed order

Check stored crops for disease, damage or rot. Open your packs of onion and shallot sets and lay out to stop rot and sprouting. If seed potatoes arrive, lay out to chit in an airy but frost proof place indoors.

Cold it may be, but there may still be harvesting to be done: Brussels sprouts, cabbage (winter and Savoy), leeks, kale, swede, winter radishes. Also parsnips, salsify and scorzonera.

Clean Asparagus beds ready for spring, and mulch with well rotted manure or compost before growth starts.

### **Fruit**

Mulch rhubarb crowns well with compost or well rotted manure. Plant new fruit bushes and raspberry canes as soon as you get them, and any time until February.

### **Book of the Month**



## **VEGETABLE GROWING** **MONTH BY MONTH**

The down-to-earth guide that takes you through the vegetable year

**JOHN HARRISON**



During these chilly days, stay in and take a look at this book by John Harrison. He has put down lots of his a l l o t m e n t experience in 'down to earth' and practical terms in this well produced and inexpensive book.

*You'll find more details and much more information, including recipes etc. on his website, [www.allotment.org.uk](http://www.allotment.org.uk). Take a look, it is another good, interesting read!*

## **17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER**

*LORD, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am getting older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knows, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.*

*I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening of cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint (some of them are so hard to live with) but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil..*

*Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.*

*Amen*

Stockwood  
**Discovery**  
Centre

Call in at the Stockwood Discovery Centre and pick up their "What's on for Adults and Children" booklets or take a look at [www.stockwooddiscoverycentre.co.uk](http://www.stockwooddiscoverycentre.co.uk).

There you will find a wide range of activities, courses and talks, all full of interest, many free of charge. Similar material and activities are also available at Wardown Park Museum down in Luton.

### **L & D - 70th Anniversary Celebrations**

Many of us are familiar with the work of the Luton & Dunstable Hospital and 2009 sees the 70th anniversary of its opening. There is at least one Slip End family whose members include 3 generations born at the L&D! Several Slip Enders work or have worked there too. From 27th January until 7th March there will be a fascinating exhibition at Wardown in celebration of 70 years of the L&D. This exhibition is being produced in conjunction with the hospital and here is another Slip End connection: Val Cooper, who lives in Summer Street, together with long-serving staff have been working at this for a while, so get down to Wardown and see the results of their efforts!

Wardown Park  
**Museum**

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

### **DEBORAH'S AEROBICS**

*Thursdays at 8.pm  
Peter Edwards Hall.  
Only £3*

*For information call Deborah  
on 01582 767916*



### **County Councillor's Surgery** *at Heathfield School, Caddington*

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

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



Gwladys, who died in January, was born in South Mimms near Barnet in 1914, where she grew up and went to school. She worked in Borehamwood in a textile factory as an 'invisible mender'.

During World War II she met then married Stan Wilson from Slip End. They were both widowers, each having two children. Stan had two sons, Jeff and John and Gwladys a daughter Shirley and a son, John. So there were two John's in the family! They solved this by calling the younger boy Johnny.

At that time Stan's family owned the Slip End Working Man's Club, now Slip End Social Club. It was all work and not much play in those days, except for two weeks every year when they went off to Jersey, which they did for 27 years.

Gwladys enjoyed her time 'behind the bar', serving many members sadly no longer with us. After about 40 years it was decided that Gwladys should call 'time' and hang up her apron, so to speak. She took many happy memories from her times at the Club and always enjoyed talking about 'the good old times'!

Later, she cared for Stan who had lost a leg through illness. He passed away in 1996 then Gwladys lived alone in the large house with its big garden, which she absolutely adored. She went on to enjoy the rest of her days. She always said "I only go out if I'm taken out" which her family did as often as possible.



## ***Frog & Rhubarb***

Our Charity Fundraising and Donations have now topped £3000 and we are busy arranging a programme of events. So coming up:

*Every Wednesday, 8.30pm start  
Charity Quiz Night*

£1 per person donation to Macmillan Cancer Support. Maximum 5 per team. 1st Prize Meal for 4, 2nd Prize Drinks for 4.

*Saturday 24th January*  
Elvis Rivers is performing from 9pm til late.

*Tuesday 10th February*  
Charity Ann Summers Night (ladies only)  
£4 donation to Macmillan Cancer Support.  
Party Nibbles and a cocktail provided.

*Valentines Day - Saturday 14th February*  
Treat your loved one at the F&R, full menu and specials available. Free gift for every table, so book early to avoid disappointment.

*Shrove Tuesday - 24th February*  
Order a main course, then free pancakes!

## ***Rising Sun***

*Monday Evenings*  
Food of Malaysian Origin 6.30-8.30PM

*Tuesday Evenings (from 19th Jan)*  
Grill Night  
(Variety to include chicken and T-bone steak) 6.30-9.00pm

*Afternoon Sunday Roast*  
Selection of meats starting from £6.50

Tuesday afternoons - "*Chatty Club*"

We have launched the Tuesday afternoon Seniors' 'Come Chatty' Club from 2pm. We will also be including a 'Tea Dance' for the seniors once a month starting from February.

*... and coming up in March*

We will be introducing further evening meals at Lily's Place.

# SLIP END YOUTH CLUB



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

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING  
FROM 6:30-8:30PM  
@ PETER EDWARDS' HALL**

(NEXT TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH)

NINTENDO WII  
POOL TABLE  
TABLE TENNIS  
TABLE FOOTBALL  
AIR HOCKEY  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
VOLLEYBALL

BASKETBALL  
BADMINTON  
PLAY STATIONS  
DVD'S  
DJ / KARAOKE & DANCE MATS  
BOARD GAMES  
CHILL OUT AREA

**ALL FOR JUST £1.50 A WEEK!!!**

ALSO TRIPS TO...

**XSCAPE SNOWDOME  
LASERQUEST  
SWIMMING**

AND MUCH MUCH MORE....

**TUCK SHOP**

WITH SWEETS, CRISPS, COOKIES AND HOT + COLD DRINKS  
SO DON'T FORGET YOUR POCKET MONEY

SO IF YOU ARE BETWEEN 10 AND 16 YEARS OLD  
THERE'S NO NEED TO BOOK - JUST TURN UP ON THE NIGHT

And if you're over 16 and interested in becoming a volunteer, come along too and meet us.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

*We have received the following letter from a Rossway resident:*

I am writing in response to your article in December's Parish News regarding parking problems on road junctions in the village. I constantly experience difficulty driving out of Rossway onto Markyate Road, due to inconsiderate parking.

The problem often occurs when parents are dropping off and collecting at the school. Not only do parents park close to the junction they often park *on* the junction. Slip End Garage often has cars parked there too, almost as an extension to their forecourt. Surely parking restrictions are long over due, especially considering the safety of school children in the area.

I rarely notice such problems on other junctions: is there a reason why the Rossway / Markyate Road junction was not mentioned in your article? The other area I see inconsiderate parking is at the shop, now much worse since the Council decided to 'improve' the pavements, limiting the parking access to the shop.

With regard to vehicles parked at Slip End garage. I have a child under one years old and when walking to the shops with her myself and my partner find that we are constantly forced to walk, with her pushchair, into the road due to vehicles parked outside the garage and across the pavement. This pavement is surely a public footpath, not part of Slip End Garage forecourt, and as such I think the council should be forcing them to keep this area clear. Maybe the council could consider double yellow lines outside this garage and up the to junction to solve both of these problems in one and finally offer residents of Ross Way, St Andrews Close, etc a clear view down this busy road.

*Ken Crossett, the acting chairman of the Parish Council replies as follows:*

I hope this reply will promote debate and encourage others to contribute by joining the Project Group or writing to me either direct or through PN.

I was sorry to hear of the problems you and no doubt others have experienced with inconsiderate parking. I will explain what the Council has done to try to resolve this and discuss some possible solutions.

I listed some junctions mentioned in a growing number of recent complaints we have received, although the Rossway/Markyate Road junction was not included in those, fellow Councillors and myself are aware of problems in that area. The Council and some parents had made several reports to Police about dangerous parking, on both sides of Rossway, within the restricted parking area outside the School Gate. In view of the volume of complaints, the Police responded and this has to some extent alleviated that problem. However, I agree it has also had an adverse affect with some illegal parking at the junction and on the bend just past the School. The Council informed the Police of concerns at other junctions throughout the Parish.

Over the last eighteen months or so the Council approached the County Council asking for double yellow lines at all the hot spots in the Parish including yours. Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have the power to do this itself. The approach was declined on the basis that the Authorities have limited resources to enforce the restrictions. Mirrors were requested to improve visibility at some junctions, this too was declined for various safety reasons. A request was made for a roundabout at the Rossway/Markyate Road junction with a view to slowing traffic approaching the junction. This proposal was accepted and is now on a priority list with a 2 ranking to be completed when there is available funding within the County Highways budget.

Sometime ago the Council approached the Garage concerning both the visibility problem



for the junction and the problems faced by pedestrians as a result of parked cars. The Garage dealt with this as far as staff parking was concerned and this holds to the present. However, the parking issue is caused by people visiting the Garage, some of who are just looking and do not speak to the sales people. Clearly, it would be impractical for the Garage to employ someone, who at best could only request motorists to move their vehicles.

For many years, it has been difficult to manage the separation of vehicles and pedestrians on the area outside the Shop. The previous bollard system recommended by the County was not successful in as much as while it did provide some separation it was expensive for the Parish Council to maintain in terms of vandalism to the bollards and the general appearance was poor. Since this scheme was not successful the Council appealed to the County, who after a full investigation agreed, devised and implemented the current scheme, in agreement with the Parish Council, at their cost. The width of the pavement has not changed between the two schemes, however, the raised kerb has afforded better protection for pedestrians.

The land forming the parking area outside the shop belongs to the shop owners, and the pavement area to the County. While I understand your point about reducing the pavement area in favour of expanding the parking area would seem a solution, sadly it is not that straight forward. There is a now a minimum width to all new or refurbished footpaths and the revised scheme had to make provision to protect pedestrians walking round the corner and waiting at the crossing. The shop was in an a difficult position at the time it built the extension i.e. whether to make a smaller addition to the building with the resultant reduction in the stock it could hold or go to the present size and reduce the parking area outside. Since there is enough room for two cars coming in opposite directions to pass, I believe the shop felt a greater benefit to the community would be had from the increased stock that could be carried.

A one way system of traffic passing was considered and rejected because of safety issues caused by all vehicles turning into either entrance from the cross roads. I agree the position is not ideal, however, it would seem to be the best available following extensive surveys and meetings with the County Highways Department.

The solution is really in the hands of motorists and brings us back to inconsiderate parking. If motorists parked as far forward on the left as they are able, making sure they leave the two entrances clear many of the problems we experience would diminish. I do regret that so far I have not been able to spend time in the car park with the people at the shop speaking to motorists about this.

The Police have agreed to make illegal parking a priority for the first three months of this year and I expect this will include parking which obstructs pavements and vision on corners and bends. Their activities will be reviewed with them at the next Council meeting together with comments received from residents. Unfortunately, the time has come for enforcement to become necessary: the Council urges an increase in consideration amongst friends and neighbours in our small community. While the focus of the Police may help in the short term, later we may need to place some physical barriers such as the Countryside Kerbing. That is an expensive solution which would be paid for by residents through the Council Tax to the Parish Council. You will have seen the Council is in the process of forming a Community Projects Group. Part of their remit will be to contribute towards the formulation of a medium term Parish Plan which will prioritise capital expenditure for the Council such as this as well as social projects for the benefit of groups and individuals. This vehicle will enable the Council to ensure its decisions are much more representative particularly with regard to capital expenditure and so I hope residents will use it as well as the established routes to make their views known.

It is of course appreciated that many of the houses in the Village were built before the

motor car and that parking is at a premium, the Council has identified where some additional localised parking can be made available. We are currently trying to resolve some difficulties to enable this to happen.

### ***“Chatty Club”***

All 20 places for last month’s Christmas lunch at the Rising Sun for representatives of various residents associations and Club were quickly snapped up and everyone enjoyed themselves. We are grateful to Lily for providing the excellent meal. I took the opportunity to explain what we are trying to achieve with the new Projects Group and to introduce the Tuesday afternoon “Chatty Club” which is open to all in the Parish over 55. Two meetings taken place so far and have been well attended. Call in at 2pm Tuesday afternoons: for £1.50 there is as much tea and coffee as you like with sandwiches and biscuits. Pop in for a chat with friends, you will be very welcome. We hope to arrange for occasional speakers, the Police have already said they will come to talk about home safety, etc.

I also explained that the new Central Beds District Council will continue the free bus pass scheme for our senior citizens. *A big difference is that anyone travelling on their own in this or neighbouring counties, may take a friend of any age and their fare will also be covered by that pass.*

### ***Emergency Planning***

A small committee has been reviewing the Parish Emergency Contingency Plan. This document is designed to be used in the event of a major crisis affecting the Parish such as a plane crash, prolonged period without essential services, etc. Some may remember the effects on Westoning when a petrol tanker set fire to a number of buildings in the centre of the Village. In reviewing the plan it was realised the Council does not have an up to date list of those who are less able and would need help under such circumstances. Please let Nikki West, the Parish Clerk know **01582 402312** if you would need extra help or if you know of someone who would. In an

emergency it might be necessary to contact people quickly and it was felt the best way of doing this would be to have a list of people who could be telephoned and who in turn could then telephone others and inform them of the problem. That way the word could be quickly spread. If you would be happy to be a caller please let Nikki West know. Also, please give Nikki your telephone number if you would like to receive a call should the need arise. As you will appreciate this will be a difficult list to maintain so the responsibility for being on the it will of course have to rest with residents themselves.

### ***Budget***

The Council has approved the budget for the next financial year. A recommendation was agreed to reduce the Parish part of the tax from £75 to £50 for band D homes (to £38.99 band B, £44.44 band C & £61.11 band E). These levels should enable us to maintain the normal work of the Council and provide funds for capital expenditure.

In 2008 the Council made a significant increase to enable it to embark on some capital projects. While some of this money has been spent, about £24400 has been held back. This was largely earmarked for a speed activated sign in Front Street and Countryside Kerbing in Church Road. When the budget was set last year there was a view that these projects were favourable with residents. When the Council began the preparatory work to begin these projects it found that the proposals were not as popular as had first been thought! (Sadly, this reflects the low input generally received from residents and the low numbers who attend Council meetings.) It could be argued the Council had not done its homework properly and had it carried out a survey before setting the budget this could have been avoided. In mitigation, the time for producing the budget is tight, the budget is discussed in November with members putting forward ideas so that at the December meeting the principles are agreed to allow the preparation of all the financial documents for final approval in January. Throughout the process residents’ views and suggestions are sought.

Anxious to ensure this does not happen again the council is looking at other ways in which residents views can become known. I mentioned the Community Projects Group who will look at ways to harness community spirit and improve the social aspect of life in the Parish. Members of this group will be drawn from the various groups and associations and part of their work will be to help in a "Parish Plan" which will put forward projects which the Council can deal with over the next three to five years, ranking them in order of priority. This will help us establish the level of tax residents are prepared to pay, the projects they wish to see completed and when: more about the Projects Group next month.

### *MP feedback*

I have yet to receive information from Margaret Moran MP about issues following the Post Office closure, Policing and fly tipping raised with her last month. A copy of last month's PN has been sent to her as will this one.

The Police priority for this quarter on parking has been well aired elsewhere in this issue, so

come on folks, lets all get this sorted and stop making our own lives a misery!

### *Dog Mess*

Recently this has become worse than ever: I can only think a new breed of dog *owner* has emerged! The breed is distinguished either by its inability to remove gloves in the cold to retrieve deposits or does not have a thick coat to fend off the biting winds over the fields. Its temperament is dominated by a couldn't care less attitude to children or anybody else who has the misfortune to follow in its tracks. Fortunately, this breed is unpopular and in the minority: hopefully its extinction is imminent,, encouraged by the patrols of the Enviro Crime Unit.

### *Thanks*

Finally, all of us at the Council would like to say a huge thank you to the businesses who contributed to the tins of biscuits given as Christmas presents to our senior citizens. Our heroes are Balfour Beatty, Grace Cook Trust, Slip End Garage and Annil Mittal at the Shop.

*Ken Crossett  
Acting Chairman SEPC*

We're looking for contestants from Beds, Herts and Bucks to take part in Treasure Quest, every Sunday 9am-12pm!

If you'd like to take part, call 01582 637400 during office hours.

Treasure Quest with Andy Gelder every Sunday morning from 9-12 on BBC Three Counties Radio.

**BBC THREE COUNTIES**





PCSO Paul Clark



PC Louise Howard



PCSO Claire Young

Tel: 01582 473462

e-Mail: [SNT.Caddington@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.com](mailto:SNT.Caddington@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.com)

### *Neighbourhood Priorities*

*January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009*

- ◆ Inconsiderate Parking, Slip End
- ◆ Inconsiderate Parking, Caddington
- ◆ Speeding, East Hyde

These are the priorities/issues that have been identified through consultation with members of your local neighbourhood.

*October 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008*

- ◆ Anti Social Behaviour, Caddington
- ◆ Anti Social Behaviour, Youth Shelter, Slip End

Patrols were carried out around these areas, mainly on Friday/Saturday nights. Regular visits were made to local businesses to offer advice and reassurance. A letter drop was carried out around the area requesting any information regarding ASB. Intelligence was gathered by residents and circulated through to our partner agencies. Test purchases were carried out by Trading Standards on local businesses. ASB logs were distributed to residents who were often subjected to ASB. Registered Owners of vehicles who had been identified causing ASB were contacted and advised that if seen using their vehicles in an anti social manner they could face them being confiscated.

Further enquiries were carried out by SNT officers regarding all incidents of ASB. Names of youths involved were taken and letters sent out to parents/guardians. Due to a high visibility presence on Halloween we only received three calls regarding ASB.

We are pleased to say that as a result these actions we have received a significant drop in calls regarding ASB in both of these areas.

SNT held a drop in day at Heathfields School on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately no one turned up. This would have been an opportunity where everyone could of come and meet their SNT team, pick up some very useful crime prevention advice, and register for ringmaster.

### *'Ringmaster'*

The computerised communication system run by Bedfordshire Police Ringmaster is a free service which offers residents, businesses, farms, schools and partnership organisations information about crimes, incidents and events in their local area. If you are interested please contact us and we will arrange this for you.

### *Parking Complaints*

Due to an increase in parking complaints, regular patrols will be carried out around the village of Slip End. Any vehicle, which we deem to be parked inconsiderately, will be photographed in situ and the owner will be contacted. This could include the owner/driver receiving a fixed penalty notice, which could vary from £30 - £60 fine and could include points on your licence!

*Illegal and/or dangerous and inconsiderate places to park include: -*

- On a junction**
- Obstructing a driveway**
- Obstructing a kerb so that prams/wheelchairs cannot pass**
- Parking on a corner**
- Parking opposite another parked car**
- Parking on zigzags or double yellow lines**

Please **THINK** about where you park your vehicle!

*Making neighbourhoods safer, together*

### **Services & Events in January & February**

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

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Woodside Home Service
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Deanery Synod Meeting
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Praise
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
	7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in Church
	-	Transforming Prayer, Stopsley Baptist Church
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Woodside Home Service

### **Groups run on a regular basis at St Andrews**

#### ***Kidztime***

3 - 11+ years,  
during weekly Sunday services

#### ***3:16***

Middle school age, alternate Sundays 6.15pm  
in the Family Room at St Andrew's  
Contact Paula 738205

#### ***Little Stars***

0 to attending school.  
Weds 10:30 a.m. to noon  
in the Family Room at St Andrew's  
Contact Mary 738435 or Paddy 413108

#### ***Footsteps***

Upper school age, 8pm to 9.30pm  
on alternate Thursdays in the Family Room  
Contact Rachel 07748371795



## ***ST ANDREW'S COOKBOOK!***

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



Please root out your favourite recipe(s) for inclusion and get them to  
Joan Duncombe (joanduncombe@slipend.co.uk)  
or to Marian Kingston (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.

A Christingle is a symbolic object used during Advent services at churches of many Christian Denominations. It has its origins in the Moravian Church, the first recorded service being in Germany, in 1747.

This is the story of the first Christingle. At Christmas time in 1747, in the town of Marienborn, Pastor John de Watteville sat at home in front of his fire. He was thinking how he could explain the love of Jesus and what Christmas really meant to the children in the church. He prepared a simple symbol to help make the message of Christmas fresh and lively for them. John de Watteville gave each child a lighted candle wrapped in a red ribbon, with a prayer that said "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these dear children's hearts". This was the first ever Christingle service.

Years later in 1968, Christingle services were introduced to the Anglican Church in Britain by John Pensom of the Children's Society and the custom spread quickly; each year there are more and more Christingle services in England and Wales.

- The orange represents the world, the red ribbon around it represents the blood of Jesus who died for us.
- Fruits & sweets on 4 cocktail sticks pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.
- The candle pushed into the orange represents Jesus, the light of the world. 'I am the Light of the World, if you follow me you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.' (John chapter 8 v. 12).
- The base of the candle is commonly wrapped in tinfoil; this is regarded by some as purely functional, though others ascribe it with a specific meaning.





# Citizens Advice

the charity for your community

**‘The Citizens Advice service helps people to resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing free information and advice’**

Are you aware that there is a special Citizens Advice Bureau every other Friday at Manor Road Surgery in Caddington. Becky Steffans who runs the service can help you with a range of problems, give advice and assist with benefits information. To book an appointment just give the surgery a ring on 01582 725673. If Becky is unable to help on the day she will certainly do her best to sort out your problem or enquiry and get back to you. The Bureau is open every other Friday from 9.15am. and there are usually four appointments available for approximately 30 to 45 minutes each one, depending on the

problem. Next session is on 30th January, call Becky for further dates.

Why travel all the way to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Dunstable or Luton when there is one available in Caddington, right here on your doorstep? So, don't forget to book an appointment if you need any help. If we don't use this service we will lose it for sure.

Please note: this service is available to all residents, you do not have to be a patient at the Caddington Surgery, so next time you need some advice just ring and book your appointment. Hopefully, if this service proves to be popular it will remain there.

*Sue Briggs*





## PHIL'S TREK

Phil Macdonald is starting 2009 on top of the world as he sets off on a charity trek up to an altitude of more than 17,000ft, to the Mount Everest Base Camp. He is well on his way to his £1,000 target for the Starlight Children's Foundation, "This is something I have always wanted to do and I want to embrace the opportunity to raise some money for a charity that is very close to my heart."

*Phil MacDonald heads east out of Crawley Close: next stop, the Himalayas!*

Phil jets off to Asia on January 25th and will complete his journey on February 12th. A group of 15 other trekkers will join him on his ascent. He has been training by leaving the car at home and walking several miles to work and back every day.

The Starlight charity works to brighten the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting their wishes and providing entertainment in hospitals and hospices.

Phil said: "Supporting Starlight is something my family has always been into. We've done other fundraisers for them in the past."

For more information about the work of Starlight, log on to the [www.starlight.org.uk](http://www.starlight.org.uk).



*To sponsor Phil visit ...*

*[www.justgiving.com/philmacdonald1](http://www.justgiving.com/philmacdonald1)*

***Parish News wishes Phil a safe journey and looks forward to his travel feature in a month or two!***



## *So 2009 sees the Centenary of our Village Hall!*

Plans are afoot for a special Village Function in the summer to be put on at the Hall in celebration. ***Watch this space!***

### **AGM**

The Village Hall Management committee meets once a month. At the moment we have about 9 on the committee and could do with one or two more. Our AGM takes place on March 9th, open to all.

If you are thinking of doing "something in the community", why not join us?

*Every village has one  
Be it large or be it small,  
'Tis the focus of the village  
It is your village hall.*

*While village shops are closing,  
Some local pubs and all,  
But what can we rely on  
The good old village hall.*

*Financially the times are bad  
And money raising is a pall  
This must be done to keep alive  
Your local village hall.*

*Please make a special effort  
You parishioners one and all  
We cannot do without it  
It is our village hall!*

# 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.



**FANCY A NATTER  
WHILE YOU KNIT?**

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

We will be meeting on 27th Jan,  
10th and 24th Feb, 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](mailto:duncan.taylor@btinternet.com).*



## SLIP END SOCIAL CLUB

*New Street, Slip End*  
☎ 415804

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

Golf Society

Opening times:

**Weekdays: 4.00 to 11pm**

**Saturdays: 12 noon to 12 midnight**

**Sundays: 12 noon to 11pm**

*Be social  
make it  
your local!*

*New members  
& their families  
welcome!*

*Usual Club prices!*

There was a full house at the Lunch Club on December 10th and an excellent full Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by all.

The event commenced with the now usual glass of Fruit Punch followed by a Carol and Grace by Reverend David Vale, who also played the piano. 'Shepherds Watched' came between the turkey etc and the Christmas Pud and the extended lunch finished with 'O Come all Ye Faithful' and the customary votes of thanks, all well deserved.

Four days later the Carol Service presided over by Rev David Vale followed by the Mini Panto a Christmas Tea and the distribution of presents by Father Christmas. Old FC was in much demand afterwards for many a photo call.

As we go to press, FHM are running a coach trip and conducted tour of the House of Commons in co-operation with Margaret Moran M.P. More news next month.

New Year can be a stressful time for many people as they try to face another year of the same. Anyone who has lost a loved one becomes very aware of who is missing and it can be a very lonely time.

This year in particular, Samaritans are aware of the additional pressures caused by the 'credit crunch'. We urge anyone concerned about financial pressures or job security to get in contact to talk through any problems and fears that they may not be able to share with family, friends or employers.

We will be open 24/7 to take calls, answer emails and see callers face to face (10.00am - 10.00pm) at any time of year. Contact 08457 909090. or [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org).

Anyone wanting to find out about volunteering for Samaritans can attend our 'Introductory Day' on Sunday 17th May 2009. Please call 07807 892681 or email on [luton.publicity@samaritanseast.org.uk](mailto:luton.publicity@samaritanseast.org.uk)

*Ken Cameron 07960257218*



Many thanks to everyone who gave shoeboxes, helped at the warehouse or knitted all the hats, gloves and scarves. We were overwhelmed by the response especially with the current financial problems. It shows what 'hearts of gold' there are everywhere.

It was a record year with nearly 24,000 boxes from churches, schools, organisations and individuals being processed at the Dunstable warehouse. On 6th December two huge lorries arrived to load up for their onward journey. Many volunteers had turned up to help and worked in shifts to fill the lorries. One lorry went to Kiev in the Ukraine and the other to Serbia with long journeys ahead before reaching the thousands of needy children who would be delighted with their gifts from strangers. I am sure that all the boxes were received with great joy and each child truly had their 'love in a box'.

*Sue Briggs*

PN has campaigned tirelessly for the removal of what is left of the unloved phone box in Front Street. It is understood that BT has scheduled its dispatch for "sometime this millennium, maybe".

*PN can reveal a seemingly insidious plot by BT in seeking to shirk on its responsibility.*

***As time goes on, our increasing fear is that from his ivory tower, some do-gooder BT suit will grab the opportunity to designate the wretched phone box with Grade II Listed Status. Then we and English Heritage will be stuck with it!***

But here's the rub ..... Despite many months (years?) of decrepitude, the light in the phone box continues to burn bright in vain effort to tempt punters to stop by and make a call. *We ask: who is paying the bill for the accumulated megawatts consumed over the years? Does this not reflect badly on BT's community friendly, squeaky green image??*

*David Kingston*



**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**

# L & D 70



**70 years of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital**  
**27 January - 7 March 2009**

**Opening Times:**

Tue - Sat: 10am - 5pm

Sun: 1pm - 5pm

(open Bank Holiday Mondays)

**Free Admission**






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## NEW YEAR GREEN RESOLUTIONS

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**Stamps:** There are many charities including Oxfam, PDSA, RNIB and RSPB which would welcome your used stamps.

**Christmas Cards:** Use the recycling bins for your cards and old envelopes. The Woodland Trust uses the card to fund the creation of new woodland areas.

**Reduce waste today:** Work out exactly what meals you will be cooking and only buy what you need. Be very strict about perishable fruit and vegetables. If you do buy two for one, freeze second one immediately for later. Wrap nitrogen rich foods peelings in carbon-rich newspaper before composting.

**Get into the habit:** Buy lightly wrapped products to cut down on recycling. Have a recycling bin next to your waste bin. Wash and squash cartons ready for recycling.

**Leave the washing up:** Apparently washing up by hand uses up to five times more water than a dishwasher!

**Use the microwave:** Microwaving is a very energy-efficient way of heating small portions and reheating leftovers.

**Keep warm for less:** Turn the thermostat down by 1° and wear an extra layer or have an extra throw on your bed. Most heat escapes through the windows so draw the curtains as soon as you can. Seal gaps around doors and windows with foam strips.




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## PUZZLE CORNER

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With traffic and parking concerns on our minds in this issue, here's one for you algebra freaks.

*In the simple addition sum below if  $S = 3$  what are the other values?*

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{C R O S S} \\
 + \text{R O A D S} \\
 \hline
 \text{D A N G E R}
 \end{array}$$





## **PLAYGROUP & TODDLER GROUP**

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a good Christmas. We enjoyed the Christmas activities including the party where we welcomed Bixie Bear and of course Father Christmas who interrupted a busy schedule to visit the children.

The children are settling in well to the January/February term. We had three new children who started playgroup in January and are expecting another couple this term

This month we learned about and celebrated Chinese New Year, 2009 is the year of the Ox. We are also hoping for a bit more snow as we did enjoy playing outside in the snow at the beginning of term.

The Playgroup is low on numbers at the moment and we would be pleased to welcome new children. We are open each morning except Wednesday. The contact number is 01582 728865, or 01582 416201.

Toddler Group is open on Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall. It is a 'drop-in' group so you can call in any Tuesday. Entrance for both groups is through the door from the car park at the back of the hall.

Our lunch club meets on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:30-1:30. The cost is £3 per session. Children bring their own packed lunch and we provide a drink.



## ***DANGER - GREEN FINGERS AT WORK!***

It may now be the middle of winter, but planning and work is under way for a popular springtime event here in the village.

Alternating annually with the Open Gardens Day is the equally popular Plant Sale which is organised by "Plant People". The date of the event is not yet fixed but as soon as PP decide Parish News will keep our readers informed.

However, work needs to start now and Val Church is seen here sowing some seeds. Over many weeks these will be lovingly tendered, pampered and protected against the dreaded frosts which can go on in June here in the Chiltern foothills!



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**GRACEFUL AGEING ...**

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My body was getting a bit out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my leotard on, the class was over!

*The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.*

I'm getting old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded and subject to blackouts. I have bouts with dementia and poor circulation; I hardly feel my hands and feet anymore and I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. I have lost all my friends but, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

*It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.*

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'



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**CAN YOU HELP?**

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A Golden Retriever bitch similar to the one pictured, was found in Hicks Road on 15th January. The Dog Warden thinks the dog is 4 or 5 years old, it is not micro chipped.

If you have any idea who the owner might be, please contact Beth on 0785 4023765.



# **THE PLOUGH**

**UPPER WOODSIDE**

☎ **01582 720923**

**TRADITIONAL FOOD**

**BLACKBOARD SPECIALS**

**DINING ROOM, GARDEN & MARQUEE AVAILABLE FOR ALL TYPES OF PARTIES**

**BREAKFASTS, LUNCHES & BAR SNACKS**

**AFTERNOON TEAS & EVENING MEALS**

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

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

**BAR OPEN:**

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

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

**SUNDAYS: 11AM TO 10PM**

# DIARY

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

## January

*27th Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home*

## February

*7th County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12 noon*

*10th Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home*

*9th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*

*13th Last day of Playgroup, half term begins*

*23rd Playgroup resumes after half term*

*24th Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home*

## March

*2nd Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*

*8th County Councillor's Surgery at Heathfield School, Caddington. 10 - 12 noon*

## April

*1st Mid Beds Council starts here!*

*6th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*

## May

*4th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*

*Next issue will be at the beginning of March.  
Items for inclusion should be in by 15th February.*

If you would like a copy of Parish News delivered each month, contact Alan Buttery at 1 Claydown Way (01582 724527), alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk. Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holidays, etc? Please contact us, letters and e-mails are encouraged. Views expressed by our contributors are not the Editor's own. Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to Sue Briggs, 4 The Oaks, Slip End or e-Mail parishnews@slipend.co.uk.

**Parish News is grateful to our advertisers for their contributions. Please support them!**

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

**NB: Jan 23rd Black Bins, Green & Orange on 30th.**

## Bin Days February 2009

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

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







