

SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS

MAY 2009 50P WHERE SOLD

80 youngsters turned out with mums, dads & carers for the latest 'Community Event' organised by the folks at the Frog & Rhubarb.

**EASTER
EGG
HUNTERS!**





Our Safer Neighbourhood Team, PCSOs Claire Young (seen here) and Paul Clark, was at the Village Hall last month checking and improving car number plate security. A goodly number of locals turned up to have their cars attended to.

And (below), who's a happy boy then? Sky Sports cameras were on hand to capture Slip End's Ian Crossett as he gave vent following Luton's winning goal. Partner Sam remains seated while, not understanding what all the fuss is about, is nonetheless applauding demurely.





A new Slip End arrival is tucked up in the warmth of a barn, out of the rain which hit after Easter. Ewe and lamb are Dorpers, a rare breed. (Have you noticed that all sheep are rare breeds these days, like all pools are of Olympian proportions!) Meanwhile, outside and before the rain struck, farmer Felix does some impressive ploughing in Black Pit field between Crawley Close & Pepperstock.

Signs of Spring and renovation at Easter time. The car park at the F & R has been spruced up, some new plants have been put out and the bulbs are flowering. A real improvement which gives a more open view now from this point looking out over the fields towards Upper Woodside. (Note the repair to the roadway, where the virtual potholes were hastily removed after pressure from motorists, who felt that any move to impair their zoomings away from the traffic lights down Church Road was against their 'civil rights'.) Below right is Daisy, one of the youngsters who had been face painted at the party in the F & R



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

CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL: 0300 300 8000

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

NB: District & County Councillors below are acting in 'shadow' capacities until elections in June 2009.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Philip Penman: 455185
PhilipPenman@aol.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Richard Stay: 724685
Richard.Stay@bedscc.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 725984

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



St Andrew's Church Roof Blast-Off!

Many of us in the area have been aware that the roof at St. Andrew's is in poor shape. Time has come to fix the problem and at St Andrew's they are committed to getting work done this year.

They have kept the calendar open and the work will be slotted into a timescale window where there are no weddings. They have considered the financial costs

These amount to £100,000!

Astronomic?

Local 'church people' thought so a while back when their groups and committees started getting to grips with the problem.

*Already they have raised
over one third of the money!*

Now they are approaching various external bodies for charitable grant aid, which they expect will bring in further significant sums.

In May we in the parish will be asked, as individuals and businesses, to consider the value of the church building within the community and consider donating towards the costs. Whilst many of us are not regular church goers we feel an affinity with those who are and would not wish to see the building slowly fall into disrepair.

ROCK BAND GOES TO WEMBLEY

It was a great day out for the Imperial Vipers and Luton Town Football Club. The band arrived at Wembley along with 40,000 other fans and went to meet the 100 children that had been chosen to go to the match (courtesy of the band, Eminence Record Company, the Luton North Rotary Club and Dunstablians RUFC). The youngsters were taken by coach to Wembley for lunch before the match in one of the conference rooms, laid on as a special treat! It was great to meet them and the band signed flyers and gave out badges.



It was a great game of football, many ups and downs but a terrific result, much needed by Luton Town. Some TV stations and journalists have called it the best game so far at the new stadium (up the Hatters). All in all a brilliant day out.

Scott Cowell

The band was keen to give something back to the local community and when Luton reached the final of the Johnstone's Paint trophy it seemed the perfect occasion to be able to treat 100 youngsters to a day out that they would always remember. Also, they will be treating 30 teenage rock fans to free travel and tickets to their gig in London at the O2 Islington Academy on May 3rd.

The band's new album Broken, produced by the talented Steve Power should be on sale at HMV on 4th May or can be ordered online from RecordStore or downloaded from www.myspace.com/imperialvipers.

Well done Vipers - Well done Luton Town!

The Community Projects Group has now been set up!

The aims of this group with regard to local charitable and not-for-profit organisations are:

- ♦ To raise awareness of local organisations
- ♦ To explore the benefits of local organisations working together
- ♦ To distribute funds from Parish Council to local organisations
- ♦ To seek funding from external sources e.g. grants, business donations etc.

The group will also be providing administrative and managerial support for the Youth Club, Chatty Club, Village Day and other such groups from within the parish, new or already existing. We have access to significant funds but we need to know how best to use this money in support of local groups.

All community groups should have received a questionnaire and hopefully many have already responded. This will enable us to have a more in-depth picture of the groups in the parish.

We would also greatly appreciate your involvement with the group. This can be at any level that fits with your current commitments and need not take up a lot of time. Just attending the monthly meetings and putting in ideas and suggestions would be a huge benefit to the projects group. However if you would like to be more involved, there are also opportunities to join the committee.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 May at the Frog & Rhubarb. I look forward to your responses and hope to see you at the meeting. Many thanks,

*Paul Cooper, Acting Chair
paul-cooper@indigo-tiger.com
07703 599006*

We have received the following appeal for help from the chaplain with the Royal Marines in Afghanistan. Before PN decided to publish we checked authenticity and whether or not Rev Smith, having made this appeal has been overwhelmed! It appears OK and the appeal is still open, but you may wish to keep an eye on those points yourselves.

"Hi everyone, hello from a rather cold Afghanistan. Could I make a request from the Chaplaincy here for the Royal Marines? We are asking for books and sweeties for the lads from supporters at home. There is a lack of books and sweets always go down well. If you feel able, could you please ask among your friends if anyone has old paperbacks that the lads might like to read, anything really except Mills and Boon romances. Also sweets, the sort that come individually wrapped - like boiled sweets.

Packets under 2kg are posted free from any UK post office.

Please post any of the above to me,

Rev Peter Scott,
Chaplain, Cdo Log Regt Royal Marines,
Bastion, BFPO792.

(Please do not write Afghanistan anywhere on the address)

Many thanks indeed!

The Human Touch

‘Tis the human touch in this world that counts,
The touch of your hand and mine
which means much more to the fainting heart
than shelter or bread or wine.
For shelter is gone when the night is o’er
and lasts only a day,
but the touch of the hand
and the sound of the voice
sing on in the soul always.

*Spencer Michael Free
Sent in by Bud & Beryl Abbot*

SLIP END CUB PACK

We meet in term time on Mondays at the Peter Edwards Hall 7 to 8:30pm. We enjoy all sorts of indoor and outdoor activities like games, badgework, new skills and exploring our environment. We are planning a family camp in May and the boys are working at home help badges. Following the enjoyable event last year, we are planning another Fundraising Night, so watch this space.

A while back Slip End Cubs went to Lees Wood Campsite near Watford for a Pack Holiday. It was a cold weekend especially for the four leaders who had to camp out, with activities such as rifle shooting and archery. James Evers, one of our cub scouts, wrote a diary of the weekend....

Friday at Camp

After we had all arrived, Akela split us into our groups. We put all of our stuff ready for bed time and sorted out our warm clothes so we could go outside later. We decorated the main hall with paper chains, snowflakes and baubles. After that we played a wide game where 4 leaders each with a coloured pen went out and hid outside somewhere. We went to look for them and the first person to find them all and get the four coloured pen marks on their hands was the winner. Afterwards we had biscuits and hot chocolate in the main hall, then we went into our rooms to get ready for bed, and in half an hour we had settled down in the warm.

Saturday

We got up and dressed, then we went into the hall and sat at our tables for cereals and a cooked breakfast. I had bacon, eggy bread and beans. After Breakfast we did our keep fit outside with Akela and Kaa. After that we had our room inspection. Group 2 got the most points with 20. We split into 2 different groups. One group went off to do archery, while my group went on the nature trail, swapping round later. After lunch we did fire lighting and crossbows. Then we came inside

and made placemats for our dinner, cooked by Liz and Paddy Higgins. When it was ready, we stood behind our place mats and when everyone was there, sat down to potatoes, Brussels sprouts, roast chicken and vegetables. Afterwards we put our coats and hats on, went to the campfire and sang lots of songs. Back inside we played party games. Lauren, Charlotte, Thomas, Adam and I all won prizes. Then we did our secret Santa. I got a diary and some pens. Then we were told to go to bedrooms, where we ate sweets and played with our new toys until it was time to go to sleep. I was the last one asleep.

Sunday

I got up, dressed and woke up Corey, then off to the hall for cereals and cooked breakfast. Afterwards we tidied our rooms and washed for inspection. In the morning we went rifle shooting. We had shepherd's pie and cakes for lunch. In the afternoon we had free time to visit the providore and play. After the room inspection, we packed our bags. We had toasted marshmallows before our closing ceremony, then off we went home.

This was an action packed weekend and we thank Liz and Paddy, (their Christmas dinner is as good now as 18 years ago when I was a cub!) Thanks also to: Karen (Baloo), Wayne (King Louis), Aidan (Kaa), Mark (Won-Tolla), Adrian (Phao) and Graham (errr, Graham). **The Cub Pack Would also like to thank the folks at Slip End Garage, who lent us a van for the weekend. It made things much easier for us, avoiding making several trips by car.**

We have got lots of great activities planned, including hopefully, the unveiling of a group web-site.

Akela (Jon Barker)





Akela belting out a campfire song at our first meeting at Slip End playing fields, our new home.

We meet on Monday evenings during school term time, 7 to 8:30. We have got lots of activities planned and we are planning our Summer Camp in July. Hopefully Akela will come through it unscathed, as opposed to last year when he knocked himself out playing football so the kids could see the ambulance cart him off with shock and concussion!!!

We currently have space for a few more Cubs (boys & girls aged 8 - 10½) and would be more than welcome to see anyone who would like to join. We would also welcome any adults who would like to get involved with the group, either way, please contact me (Akela) if you would like to help out or join up: Akela@slipendscouting.co.uk

LAUGHTER

A new Sunday School teacher was having trouble controlling her class. Feeling frustrated she said "I want everyone who thinks they're stupid to stand up!" There was silence for a full minute and then little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "So you think you're stupid, Johnny?" "Er no" he said, "but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"



NEW RESTAURANT IN THE PARISH

The Harrow has been smartened up a lot, and is now the home of 'Ruchi, fine Indian dining'. The PN roving reporter called by for a pint recently (the bar remains open) to take a look. *Friends who were eating there were enthusiastic about the food quality and price.* It certainly looked good and the ambience is very smart. Give it a try!

**FANCY A NATTER
WHILE YOU KNIT?**

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

**We will be meeting on
5th & 19th May, 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!

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

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

Services & Events in May

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

Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday 6th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 7 th	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 10 th	10.30am	Morning Praise with baptism of Emily Watson
	6.15pm	3:16 meet in the Family Room
	2.30	St Andrew's Strollers: meet at the church
Wednesday 13 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Saturday 16 th	11.00-3.00	Village Plant Sale at Old Bakery
Sunday 17 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Dedication of the marriage of Paul and Laura
Wednesday 20 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 21 st	7.30pm	Ascension Day Communion
	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Saturday 23 rd	12.00-3.00	Family BBQ in Vicarage Garden
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Morning Praise
Wednesday 27 th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Friday 29 th	2.00pm	Woodside Home Service
	Noon to 6pm	Afternoon of Prayer in St Andrews
Sunday 31 st	10.30am	Pentecost Praise at St Andrews
	6.30pm	Pentecost Praise at COGIC Luton

Announcing ...

**Starting soon at St Andrew's,
Café Church**

**Starting on Fathers Day 21st June
Church like you have never known it before!
A prize for every child who brings a Father!
More news next month.**

St Andrew's Cookbook

Some recipes have been received already, but response has been shall we say, on the gentle side! We have decided to continue with this project but on a more relaxed timescale. Friendly persuasion will be brought to bear on those who have yet to contribute their favourite recipes. With thanks to Joan Duncombe who started this initiative, the gauntlet is passed to Lorraine Crossett. Please send your recipes by e-mail to lorraine.crossett@slipend.co.uk or to mariankingston@hotmail.co.uk or post your hard copy to 7 Crawley Close.

*When the book finally hits the streets ...
all funds raised will be put towards Church Roof Fund appeal.*

You are invited to the St. Andrew's



'Joseph' BBQ

Sunday 24th May

12-3pm

in the

Vicarage Garden

(or the Church & Family Room if the weather is bad)

For families with children up to 11 years old

£1 admission fee in advance to cover food costs

Call Mary on 01582 738435

or Jill on 01582 452539 to book your place

Dress to impress in your most Technicolour Clothes!

(Please bring a waterproof rug or mat to sit on)



Table for Two (or three)

Teresa Willson with grand daughter Amber and Dorrie Strong give the new

Café Church tables a try out after the Easter Sunday service.



ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you very much for supporting our Flower Festival in March. Over £1050 were raised which will go towards the costs of repointing the church building.

We would also like to thank all those who came along to our Spring Fayre in April. We are pleased that, by your generosity, over £700 were raised which goes to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice.

Aley Green Methodist Church

Good as New Sale

Saturday 9th May
from 12 noon

Books - Bric-a-Brac - Toys

Cakes - Preserves

Good quality clothing

Tea & Coffee

Simple lunches will be available in support of Christian Aid

Come along and support this worthy cause!

Aley Green Methodist Church



Coffee Evening

Wednesday 13th May from 7.30pm

*Books, Home Made Cakes
Jams, Jellies, Chutneys & Marmalade*

Come along, bring a friend!
Free Coffee, Cakes from 20p



Egg Hunt

The weather could have been better, but a great day was enjoyed all round. 80 tickets were sold raising £160 shared between the School and Playgroup. In addition the Frog & Rhubarb donated £140 in the form of eggs and the lunches.



Tuesdays - Pubs Community Day

The Chatty Club at the Rising Sun is going strong and now Spring is here they are looking to get out and about a bit. A visit to the Discovery Centre at nearby Stockwood Park took place at the end of April. Indoors at the Rising Sun in May, a talk will be given by a local Fire Brigade officer. As well as offering sound advice, these people have many interesting stories and anecdotes, not to be missed.

The Frog & Rhubarb is introducing three new initiatives on Community Day. There will be a Coffee Morning from 11am to 12.30pm with coffee or tea and cake for £2. All are welcome but this is an ideal opportunity for mums to get together for a natter before collecting the kids from Playgroup or School.

On Tuesday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm, the pub is offering a special Over 55's Menu with a varied choice of nine meals including scampi, pies, liver & onions or pork & leek sausages. Each with peas and a choice of potatoes plus a tea or coffee for just £3!



Then in the evening, the F&R Dart's Team will be playing in the summer league. Anyone who wants to join the team should pop along and have a chat with Rick, the team captain.

*From Katrina Doubleday ...
Over £400 raised on Red Nose Day!*

This was achieved by a darts knockout competition held at The Rising Sun.

For those people that attended dressed in Pyjamas, Lily donated £1. A raffle was also held helping to boost the funds. Two of the ladies walked to the Frog and Rhubarb, yes in their pyjamas! There was a warm welcome and the customers donated generously. The winner and runner up of the darts kindly donated their winnings.



So all in all a good night was had by all raising money for a very worthy cause. Well done everyone!

Hanging on tight, this young LTFC supporter has a tight stranglehold on his dad, as they wait for the Team Bus to come by during the recent celebrations in George Street!



CALLING ALL EX-PATS

There are quite a few ex-Slip Enders out there who read Parish News.

We send out about a dozen copies by post and a special ex-Pats PN edition is published and sent by e-mail to others. It would be great to hear from them: their recollections, anecdotes and photographs would be welcome. Just send them by e-mail to parishnews@slipend.co.uk, maybe a recipe for the St. A's Cookbook?

This suggestion is prompted by Rex and Sue Horton's input from Buckinghamshire which is printed in this issue. Rex was one of the thousands who turned up at Wembley to see Luton Town last month. I was dragged there too by the male members of my family who slapped a three line whip on me. I'm glad I went, it was a great day. However, I suffered hypocritical pangs as one who opposes LTFC related developments in our back yard! Rex is a keen supporter and I fondly recall many times standing on the Oak Road terrace with him and the late Chris Albon, cajoling 'the Town' to higher efforts!

Rex & Sue, thanks for getting in touch with PN, it was great to hear from you again, best wishes to you both. Here's a picture to remind you of distant days in Slip End.

Slip End & District Association

Senior Citizens Outing Saturday June 6th 2009

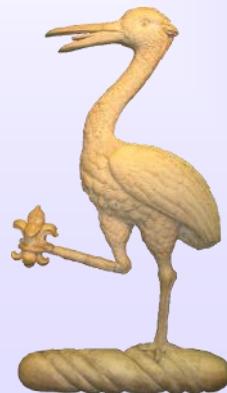
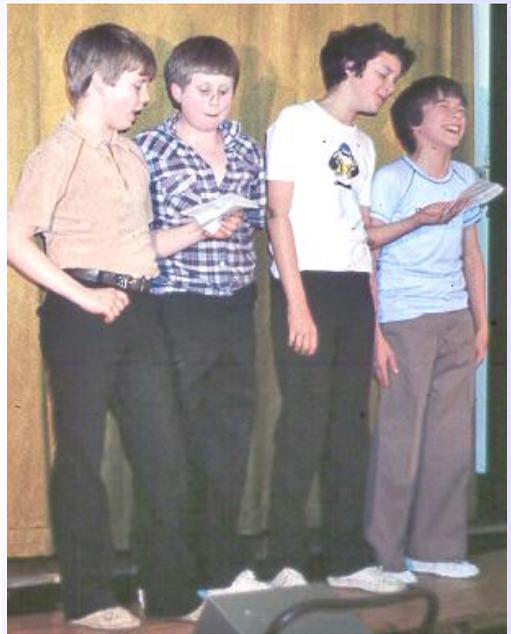
Put your name down for this popular free trip by calling Gillian on 01582 723109. Let us know your meal preference, Fish & Chips or Ham Salad.



This is one from the archive, a shot of some youngsters performing at one of Dulcie Bailey's Gang Shows in the Village Hall back in the '80s. Chris Horton is the one in stitches, with Brian Stokell, Tim Kingston and, would you believe it, a young Paul Cooper with hair!

The colourful ex-Pats issue of PN is posted on slipend.co.uk, take a look if you can. Did you know you can browse past editions of Parish News on slipend.co.uk? It's interesting to see what we were up to over the past 10 years or so.

David Kingston





SLIP END YOUTH CLUB

Parents Needed!

We know how much you appreciate the peace and quiet for a few hours a week when your little darlings are at the Youth Club, but to help maintain peace and quiet at home we need some more volunteers at the YC!

If you can offer your services for just a few hours a *month* then Shirley Garner on 07866 215453 or garn_s@tiscali.co.uk would love to hear from you!



The youngsters have been out and about recently. Ice Skating at the Rink at Hemel Hempstead is always popular and we went there again last month.

As this issue goes to print we are looking forward to an interesting visit to Luton Airport and we will report on that next month. We are so grateful and thankful to Simon Earles and Adam Divney at London Luton Airport for their help with our funds as part of their community effort.

Later in the year, during the school holidays, a group of us will be going to Hindleap Warren in the Ashdown Forest for a three day residential activity break. Staying in log cabins, we look forward to enjoying all the fabulous facilities there.

Shirley Garner





***Neighbourhood Priority
April 1st 2009 – Jun 31th 2009***

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

Inconsiderate Parking, Slip End: This remains a continuing priority. Patrols have been carried out around Slip End Lower School in the mornings and afternoons due to problems caused by parents parking without consideration to other road users and pedestrians. Tickets were put on vehicles deemed to be parked illegally or inconsiderately and their details added to a database, and parents also advised verbally of where they could park.

We must again emphasise that double parking, parking in front of a dropped kerb, blocking a driveway and parking too close to a junction or on a corner is not acceptable and details will be taken.

A letter drop was carried out at residences around major junctions in Slip End advising residents of where not to park.

Environment

We been working with the Envirocrime unit to remove fly tipping from Half Moon Lane, Pepperstock. The area now looks clean and respectable once again. If you spot anyone fly tipping please make a note of the vehicle registration number and pass onto us so that we are able to prevent the amount we have seen in the past.

Theft & Burglary

Incidents of theft from motor vehicles have seen a significant rise in the last couple of months and we strongly recommend that you remove everything on display out of your vehicles and take into your homes.

We do whilst out and about check vehicles to see if there is anything on display and we

will take the details of these vehicles and a letter will be sent to the Registered owners highlighting the above.

Burglary is as ever a concern and, now that the lighter & warmer nights are nearing, you must ensure that all belongings from vehicles are removed or at least out of sight and please be conscious about securing doors, windows and sheds on your property. Crime Prevention advise is always something we can offer if you require.

Bikes & Mini-Moto nuisance

This is a continuing issue due to noise and the illegal ways they are ridden. Contact us about offensive riders, giving as much information as possible. A patrol officer is not always available to attend immediately so details are passed to your SNT team to carry out further enquiries. Warnings are and can be issued to riders caught riding in an anti-social manner. Persistent offenders will have their vehicles seized with strong possibility that the vehicle is crushed.



PCSO Claire Young



PCSO Paul Clark

Welcome!

We would like to introduce the new area Neighbourhood Police Officer (NPO)

PC Wesley Hall has been an officer for about 5 years and joins our local Safer Neighbourhood team from Leighton Buzzard Police Station.



Anyone for Tennis?

Slip End Tennis Club was formed in 1987 and is affiliated to the Beds Lawn Tennis Association. It is a small friendly club with approx. 50 members. It caters for both social and competitive tennis, and for all ages. It has two new hard courts, built last summer, and is sited at the Playing Fields, Church Road, Slip End.

Membership costs are as below. (There is a reduction for new members)

Juniors £15 (in full time education)
 Seniors £28
 Family £40

Club members have priority in the use of courts, except when matches are to be played or when group coaching takes place.

The public are welcome to use the courts, when not in use by club members, at the cost of £1 per person. Club night is on Monday evenings and Adult night on Wednesday evenings from 7pm, to which all members are welcome.

Junior coaching is provided by our qualified Lawn Tennis Association Coach, Sally Parry, on Fridays, £3 per session, non-members £4. (Beginners 5-6pm and Intermediates 6-7pm) Ladies and private coaching is also available. If you have any queries about coaching please give Sally a call (413501)

We field a Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles Team in the South Beds Leagues also a Men's Indoor and Mixed Outdoor Team in the Winter Leagues.

Any enquiries about the club to:

Chairman: Peter Smith
 01582 733253

Treasurer: Steve Lyons
 01582 414162



The Children's Centre Opened in September 2008 and runs services for families with children 0-5years. We are located at Slip End lower school, where we run services on a Monday and Tuesday.



We recently had an Open day where the local community was invited to come and see what was going on at the centre. We have also just named the centre 'Bluebells' with the help of our families

The timetable is changing regularly as we develop the services to meet the needs of families.



We meet on Mondays and Tuesdays, mornings 9.30 to 11 and afternoons 1.30 to 3 at Slip End school. If you want further information, call by and see us at Slip End school on Mondays or Tuesdays, or contact South Bedfordshire Centre on 01525 384368

Your local SureStart Children's Centre

Making a difference



MP's Surgeries

Margaret Moran MP holds a Surgery 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

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Margaret Moran visited the Parish in November last year and Steve Fuell and I raised a number of issues which have previously been discussed in PN. However, I recently received correspondence from her concerning two outstanding points.

The first relates to the Post Office closure and the removal of the free cash machine. Margaret took this up with Pat McFadden Minister of State for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform, who wrote, "With regard to the closure of Slip End Post Office, Post Office Ltd carefully considered all representations received during the consultation period but decided to proceed with the closure of the branch. Slip End Post Office was a very small branch with low customer numbers, averaging 100-199 sessions a week. Alternative branches at Markyate and Farley Hill are within two miles and car ownership is higher than average in the area with a limited bus service between Slip End and Markyate. I understand that there is a non-fee charging ATM 200 yards away from the Markyate branch. The network change programme is implemented by POL at a local level and Ministers play no part in decisions on individual post offices".

I note that there has been no response to my suggestion that the Government uses its influence, as a major shareholder in some banks, for free cash machines in rural communities who have lost their Post Office.

The second issue related to Police response times to non emergency calls. Inspector Steve Barrett responded on behalf of the Chief Constable. "The standards of the Policing Pledge, aim for police response in Slip End within twenty minutes. This standard is met 92% of the time.

Officers are not necessarily deployed from Leighton Buzzard Police Station and are as likely to be patrolling much closer to the Village". Officers covering the Parish were

relocated from Dunstable to Leighton Buzzard two or three years ago.

Steve Barrett attended the April Council meeting and told us of new equipment which enables Call Centres to see at a glance the location of individual Police vehicles. This means that operators will be able to task the nearest available officer and should have a positive effect on response times.

To see these two items of correspondence in full, they are posted on www.slipend.co.uk.

At the moment we are going through the transition of Central Beds Unitary Authority as it takes over from the previous South Beds District and Bedfordshire County Councils. Generally, the transition seems to be going well although there have been a couple of hiccups with phone numbers as residents have tried to reach particular departments.

We have had some calls about the recent grass cutting of the verges where some spots have been missed. Previously, South Beds were responsible for the cut inside the 30 mph speed limit signs and Bedfordshire County, outside the limits. To help Central Beds as they take over this task, Cllr Steve Fuell is arranging a meeting with a view to ensure that all the places previously cut continue to receive attention. Please let me know of any areas which have been missed if you have not already been in touch.

Finally, I understand the resurfacing works along Front Street down to the A1081 will get underway in May. Inevitably, this will disrupt us for a short time. At the outset my view is that this seems to be a small price to pay to finally have the holes and cracks sorted out. Assurances have been given by Central Beds that workmen will help residents as much they can with access and I understand advice has been given to those living in close proximity to the works and have essential journeys to make.

*Ken Crossett,
Acting Chairman*



UPDATE FROM THE HORTONS

It was great to get a note from Sue Horton who was Parish News treasurer and Toddler Group helper before leaving Slip End. Sue and Rex moved to Weston Turville a few years ago. They see the odd helicopter and light aircraft but nothing like the planes over Slip End which they are very thankful for. Rex has been able to get another allotment and is busy getting his crops in and some started in the greenhouse. Sue is a volunteer at the recycling centre along with some people who have learning difficulties. She says this is great fun and her colleagues are very friendly, although the work can be quite messy! She is also helping at the 'Holiday Club' which will be run by the church in Weston Turville for a week in the summer which should prove interesting, if somewhat noisy!

The Horton males remain keen Luton Town fans and they were also at Wembley to cheer on the Hatters, while Sue looked after their new addition to the family, five month old Harry, son to Robert and Jess. Sue and Rex send best wishes to all their old friends in Slip End and to the Parish News team with a message to 'keep up the good work!' They still read PN to keep an eye on what the village is up to. Thanks Sue, its good to hear how you are getting on.



Picture Page



Vipers at Wembley!

Wembley was the focus for many locals for the final of the Johnston's Paint Trophy. An exciting match with underdogs Luton Town beating Scunthorpe United by 3 - 2 after extra time. Local rockers Imperial Vipers are avid Luton fans and here is (front, from left to right) Corky, Ash, Scott, Wevs and Bim. Behind Harry the Hatter gets into the picture with other happy Luton fans.

A great day!



Easter Monday at the Village Hall: at SEADA'S Car Boot Sale funds are raised towards the annual day trip for senior citizens. Gillian Plummer is busy Raffling while Shirley Knapton, Sandra Liddle & Barbara Ray beaver away in the catering department.

Finally below, what's that all about? Not enough room to say, more next month. Get your order in for June's PN and find out!





Our speaker in April, Gill Farrington, who kindly 'filled in' for the pre-arranged speaker, was a real bonus.

Her subject was 'Chocolate' which had all guessing how the evening would develop. What a gifted lady! I couldn't possibly tell you all the details as they happened in France, Spain and Mexico. I find some English a problem – Nuff said! Short messages were taken from books after which certain chocolate was passed around for a taster, what a good idea and it all fell into place about its history dating back from the sixteen hundreds.

We were so pleased to hear members Betty Prior and Doris Scofield are on their way to recovery, you are in our thoughts ladies.

We ended the evening with a quiz. Next month is our Annual Meeting, Tuesday 19th May at the Baptist Church at 7.30pm.

Bedfordshire is the smallest shire county in the country, but we boast 88 WIs across the county, some based in villages and small towns, others around the more urban areas in the county. Each WI meets at least once a month with a speaker or demonstration. To decide if the WI is for you, just call the Bedfordshire Federation on 01234 359538 and find the times and venues of groups near you. WIs have different things to offer so you may want to visit more than one WI before joining. Here in Bedfordshire we get a great deal of friendship, learning and fun from our membership of the WI, so don't miss out!

Locally, we meet 3rd Tuesday in the month at Caddington Baptist Hall at 7.30pm.

See you there!

Patricia Crick

***The Dunstable Ladies Choir
will be singing on 12th May
Tickets £3 including refreshments.
They are a real treat!***

PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

The committee held its first meeting at the Rising Sun in April and were joined by Jemma McLean who works for Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity. Jemma has been assisting with our Parish Plan. The Plan involves everyone who lives in the parish and is an opportunity for the whole community to voice their opinion on actions they would like to see taken in their area for the future. Its aim is to look towards the next 5 to 10 years as well as responding to immediate action and to provide a collective view of what people want in the village, supplying evidence to influence local authorities and grant organisations.

Adriana Lokman, who lives at Woodside, was chosen as Chairperson for the group and for those who don't know her, Ade is Lily's daughter from the Rising Sun.

Jemma started the meeting by explaining the first steps needed to set up the Parish Plan and we were informed that would involve getting a profile of the groups already in the community. A questionnaire will be sent out to everyone in the near future which you should all be encouraged to complete in order to prioritise peoples concerns.

One interesting idea that Jemma told us about is called 'Planning for Real' and involves large maps of the village which are put together with houses etc on, and these can be attached to large polystyrene blocks. The maps come complete with suggestion cards which can be slotted onto the finished

article showing ideas etc. for improvements suggested by the community. The maps would include the entire parish boundary. All the committee seemed in favour of this idea and Jemma will be contacting the Council to order the maps for us. Other ideas include suggestion boxes, flyers, questionnaires with likes and dislikes and going along to talk to some of the groups already formed within the village.

More ideas could involve villagers getting involved by joining guided environmental walks around the parish, along with youth consultations. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity at local events (Village Day, open days etc) to tell you more about the plans for the future and get some feedback. We will be applying for grants to help with setting up the Parish Plan from different sources and I will be reporting further when we have any more news for you. A vote of thanks was passed for Lily who supplied some excellent refreshments (for those who have never tried them, her chips are delicious)

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20th at the Plough, Woodside at 7.30pm and if there is anyone interested who would like to come along please contact Adriana to confirm on 07942818128

Sue Briggs

Photo taken at the meeting shows some of the committee along with Ken Crossett from the Parish Council, Adriana Lokman 5th from left and Jemma McLean from BRCC far right.



Village Weekend

(a sneak preview)



Join us for a Gala Evening ...

Friday July 24th

Village Hall Centenary Party

Old Tyme Music Hall!

Buffet!

Community Singing!

Theatricals!

*Watch out for ticket availability later,
seating will be limited.*

Then the big one ...

Saturday July 25th

Village Fun Day

Tug o' War - Games

Hog Roast -

Grand Raffle - Ices

Teas & Cakes

Sales Stalls

And lots more

*Then wind down and lick the wounds during Fun Day evening when special
Fun Day fare will be on offer at the Rising Sun and Frog & Rhubarb!*

VILLAGE HALL

1909 - 2009!

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.

PLANT SALE

Bedding & Vegetable Plants

SATURDAY 16th MAY 11am - 3pm
THE OLD BAKERY, 2 SUMMER STREET



For several months now some keen local Plant People have been hard at it, getting their plants and perennials into peak condition for the Plant Sale on 16th May.

There's been a few anxieties with frosts (which are possible here throughout May and into June) but these people know their stuff and the seedlings, plants and perennials are looking good and healthy.

All the hanging baskets were planted in late April but they still need protection for a while after and they take up quite a bit of space! As Parish News goes to press Plant People continue their work and here we see Rosemary Wickens checking over Steve's runner bean seedlings on St George's Day. Still quite small, they will have put on significant growth come the day of the Plant Sale.

So get along to the Old Bakery in Summer Street, just around the corner from the Frog & Rhubarb on 16th, pick up bargains and pick the brains of people who know well our local soil and growing conditions. There'll be Tea & Chat as well all in aid of the St A's Roof Fund and towards further Village enhancements.

Hanging Baskets

Perennials - Produce

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

May

- 2nd *Charity May Ball at the Frog & Rhubarb*
- 4th *Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*
- 5th *Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home, 1.30 - 2.45*
- 8th *Citizen's Advice at Caddington Surgery - Call 725673*
- 9th *Good as New Sale at Aley Green Methodist Church*
- 10th *St Andrew's Strollers gather at church 2.30 for a short local walk*
- 15th *Christian Aid Week Coffee Evening at Aley Green Methodist Church*

Watch Out!
Road resurfacing will
take place in the Parish
in May.

16th Plant Sale at 2 Summer Street

- 19th *Women's Institute: Annual Meeting*
- 19th *Knit & Natter at Julie Taylor's home, 1.30 - 2.45*
- 20th *Parish Plan Steering Committee meet at 7.30 at The Plough*
- 22nd *Citizen's Advice at Caddington Surgery - Call 725673*
- 23rd *Family BBQ at St A's Vicarage*

June

- 1st *Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm*
- 5th *Citizen's Advice at Caddington Surgery - Call 725673*

6th SEADA: Senior Citizens Annual Outing

- 13th *FoSELS: Summer Fete at Slip End School*
- 16th *Women's Institute: 'From Chef to Clergy', Rev. R. Winslade*
- 19th *Citizen's Advice at Caddington Surgery - Call 725673*
- 21st *Father's Day - Café Church at St Andrew's*

July

- 6th *Parish Council meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm*
- 25th *Village Weekend: Village Centenary Evening*
- 26th *Village Weekend: Village Fun Day*

Items for inclusion in next month's issue should be in by 15th May

If you would like a copy of 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.

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Bin Days		May 2009		
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Put out Black Bins & glass on Fridays high-lighted above. On other Fridays, put out Green and Orange Bins, not Black Bins.