

**SLIP END & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS**  
**MARCH 2010**



**WE SAY 'NO TO LUTON WEST'**  
(**'BUSHWOOD'**)

*Last month, Slip End & Caddington residents turned in droves to register their opposition to schemings for a large area of green belt, not in Luton but here in South Bedfordshire! You will find more pictures of this remarkable demonstration inside this issue of Parish News.*











### *Crawley Close Sheep Watch*

*(What a difference an hour makes!)*

Felix's sheep grazing on Black Pitch field must be wondering as we all do, just what is going on with the weather?

*NB: Both of these photographs were taken within 1 hour.*







### *Roly comes to St A's*

- Ordained in 1978 (C of E)

- Co-founded Holy Fools 1982: [www.holy-fools.org.uk](http://www.holy-fools.org.uk)
- Clowns International Clown of the Year 1994
- Clown Impact Award (USA) 2001
- Full-time, free-lance, worldwide clown ministry
- Circus school 1990-91
- Clowns International Slapstick Award 1999
- Member of College of Evangelists, 2003
- Member of Clowns International



# **The Parish @ Large**

## **SCHOOLS**

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

## **SPORT**

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

## **HALLS**

*Village Hall: 723109  
Peter Edwards Hall: 767916*

## **COMMUNITY**

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

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

*Stephen Fuell: 417792  
stevefuell@f2s.com  
Philip Penman: 455185  
PhilipPenman@aol.com  
Geoff Daniel: 424363  
geoffdaniel@btinternet.com  
Ken Crossett 414168  
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**

*Peter Segal: 526594  
(9am to noon weekdays)  
parishclerk@slipend.co.uk*

**CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL: 0300 300 8000**

## **CENTRAL BEDS COUNCILLOR**

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

## **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

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

## **CHURCHES**

### **St Andrew's Church**

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

### **Aley Green Methodist Church**

*Minister: Rev Philip Horner  
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668*

## **SHOPS & SERVICES**

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

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



### ***Easter Egg Hunt***

Building on the success of last year's Easter Egg Hunt, the Frog & Rhubarb is running the event again on Easter Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Starting at the School, clues will be found around the village to collect a secret code word. Finishing at the pub, each child will receive an Easter Egg and snack lunch. All ticket money will be donated to Slip End School or Playgroup & Toddler groups. Tickets, available from the School, Playgroup or the Frog, must be purchased before 27<sup>th</sup> March, £2 per child.

### ***Mother's Day***

Treat Mum to a day without cooking on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The Frog & Rhubarb is giving every Mum, ordering a main course, a complimentary glass of Bucks Fizz! The full menu will be available, also a selection of roast dinners. The pub has launched a new Kids Menu with meals from just £1.99, best value venue for your Mother's Day meal.

### ***Handy Internet access in the village***

Free Internet access and computer use is available at the Frog. Bring your laptop to make use of the Wifi connection or use our computer which is available for everyone, to order shopping, access your bank account or surf the web for the latest holiday deals.

### ***Events at the Frog***

A touch of Las Vegas came to Slip End when Elvis Rivers performed at the Frog and Rhubarb. Everyone enjoyed a great night of music, food and dancing on a very busy evening.

Last month on Valentine's Day every lady dining at the Frog received a red rose and gift in the romantic atmosphere of the candlelit dining area.

On Shrove Tuesday diners feasted on free pancakes to mark the start of Lent. What have you given up this year?

### ***Chatty Club***

At the Rising Sun, many Chatty Clubbers turned out to celebrate the first birthday of Isaiah, Lily's little grandson and one of their youngest members. They all enjoyed plenty of food and delicious birthday cake. Isaiah is seen here with Maureen and Emma.



Community Police were called out last month, not for an emergency but to discuss questions or other issues in order to help and advise members. Our CPSO's call in on the Club from time to time, so if you do have anything you want to discuss with them why not go along on a Tuesday afternoon from 2pm. You'll find plenty to eat with tea or coffee for only £2, including a free raffle.

### ***A New Celebration for Slip End***

With the pub decorated with lanterns and paper tigers, Lily hosted a special evening to celebrate the Chinese New Year. For the year of the Tiger, Lily went to town with huge portions of Chinese food which was delicious. Well done Lily.





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## ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

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March is the month when things really start to move in the growing season, in fact the start of the year used to be 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation, until 1752 when Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar and started the year on the 1st January.

### ***Harvest***

Any leeks left standing should come up now : you can freeze them for use in soups and stews. Parsnips also should come up in early March before they try and re-grow.

You may have spinach, beet and chards available, the last of the late Brussels sprouts, winter cauliflowers, kale, Swedes, salsify and scorzonera. Don't forget to keep checking the purple sprouting! *(NB: a big favourite of the sub-editor.)*

### ***General Jobs in the Garden***

Have a good tidy up and finish those odd construction jobs because you are going to be busier still later in the year.

If you have any horticultural fleece, you can peg that onto the ground a week or so before you plant. The small rise in temperature of the soil can make a big difference

### ***Sowing, Planting & Cultivating***

If the weather permits you can plant your onion and shallot sets. March is usually the right time to establish an asparagus bed if you are starting from crowns. Mid March should let you start planting those early potatoes you've had chitting. Talking of root crops, you can plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers now.

### ***Things to Sow***

Beetroot, broad beans, early peas (but they may do best started in a gutter in the greenhouse then slipped into a trench), Brussels sprouts (early varieties like Peer Gynt will be ready in September), kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, radish, parsnips, spinach, beet and early turnips.

***Sow in Heat:*** Windowsill or a propagator in the greenhouse will come into use now to start off your tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and cucumbers.

***Under Cloche:*** Summer cabbages and early cauliflowers, early carrots will get away best under a cloche. If you set your cloche up a week or two beforehand, it will warm up the soil so you will get even better results.

Many seeds which you can sow directly will also benefit from cloching and then planting out later.

### ***Fruit: Planting & Pruning***

There is still time to finish planting bare rooted fruit trees and bushes, especially raspberries and other cane fruits.

Early this month you can prune apple and pear trees while they are still dormant. It's also time to prune gooseberries and currants. With currants, shorten the side shoots to just one bud and remove old stems from the centre of the bushes. They benefit from some compost spread around the base as well.



March is a good time to take on an allotment, so if you want some good exercise and fresh air and benefit from good home grown vegetables, contact Derek Worsley at 56 Front Street, 736892 and check availability.

## **ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH**

### **Services & Diary Dates for March**

#### ***Monday 1st 7.30pm***

Ecumenical Lent Course week 2  
'Jesus Teaching about the Kingdom'  
led by Rev Bob Forrest & Mike Bull

#### ***Sunday 7th 11am***

Morning Service  
Rev Bob Forrest - Communion  
11am Sunday School

#### ***Monday 8th 7.30pm***

Ecumenical Lent Course week 3  
'God's Kingdom is come'  
led by Rev Bob Forrest & Mike Bull

#### ***Tuesday 9th 10am - Noon***

'Cakes & Company' Coffee Morning

#### ***Sunday 14th 11am***

11am: Mothering Service - Robert Gray  
11am: Sunday School

#### ***Monday 15th 7.30pm***

Ecumenical Lent Course week 4  
'The outcasts are welcomed'  
led by Rev Bob Forrest & Mike Bull

#### ***Sunday 21st 11am***

Morning Service - Sheila Kay  
11am: Sunday School

#### ***Monday 22nd 7.30pm***

Ecumenical Lent Course week 5  
'The heirs of the Kingdom'  
led by Rev Bob Forrest & Mike Bull

#### ***Wednesday 24th 7.30pm***

Coffee Evening in aid of Junior Mission for all.

#### ***Sunday 28th Palm Sunday 11 am***

All Age Service - Rev Phil Horner

#### ***Monday 29th 7.30pm***

Ecumenical Lent Course week 6  
'Challenge and Choice'  
Led by Rev Bob Forrest & Mike Bull

#### ***Good Friday 2nd April***

10.30am: Ecumenical Walk of Witness  
Starting at Aley Green

Join us in Lent for a service, fellowship or other event. Adults and children have both chosen to fill Lent Smartie Tubes with money for Haiti, stricken by earthquake. Everyone is invited to Walk in Witness from Aley Green Methodist Church on Good Friday at 10.30am

Thank you to church and village friends who supported the January coffee evening and raised £77 for Action for Children and the New Year meal which made £200 for Methodist Homes for the Aged.

We are pleased to welcome two new children to our Sunday School, Abi and Eathan, who seem to be settling in nicely.

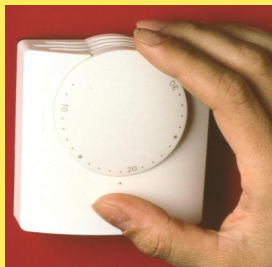
***What we are is God's gift to us?  
What we become is our gift to God?***

We hope to see you soon  
at Aley Green Methodist Church

*Ann Meader*







Your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre will be providing residents in the Parish with free impartial advice to help stop wasting energy and save money. A typical house with no loft insulation can expect to save around £150 a year if loft insulation is installed to the current recommended standard, a house with unfilled cavities can also expect to save around £115 a year if cavity wall insulation is installed.

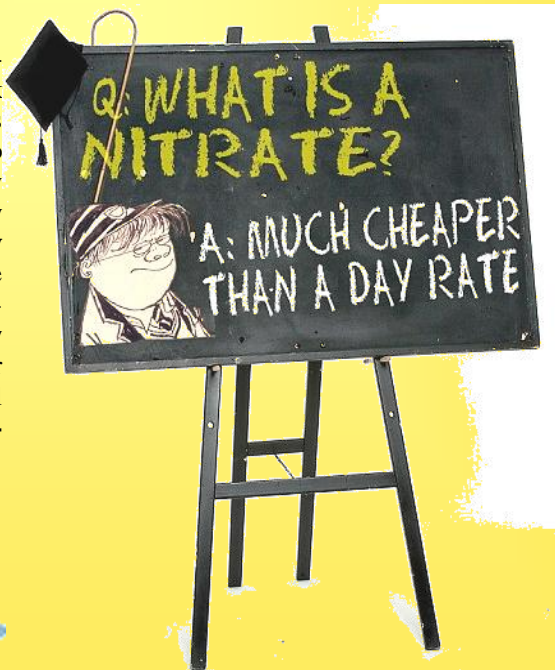
Partial and full grant funding is available now to help reduce the costs of installing energy saving measures. For those of you over the age of 70 or in receipt of an income related benefit; you may qualify to have loft and cavity wall insulation installed for free.

### **FREE standby saver or a FREE real time electricity monitor**

If you are 70 years and over or in receipt on an income related benefit, your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre can also help you to stop wasting electricity by giving you either a FREE standby saver to help prevent electrical items being left on standby or a FREE real time energy monitor to show you how much electricity you use in your home, in real time, in power or in pounds and pence.

### **FREE impartial advice**

Call your local Energy Saving Trust advice centre free on 0800 512 012 to speak to one of our expert advisors about grants and funding available in your area or to see if you are eligible for a FREE standby saver or a FREE real time electricity monitor quoting “**Slip End – Energy Advice**”. Why not ask your local advice centre for a free personalised home energy report which will show you how much money you could save every year on your home energy bills? Simply call free on 0800 512 012 or email [enquiries@est-eofe.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@est-eofe.org.uk).



## St Andrew's Services and Events in March

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

Wednesday 3rd	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Ukulele Concert in St Andrews Church
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday 10th	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 11th	8pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Café Church for Mothering Sunday
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Transforming Luton Prayer @ True Vine Church
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion Service
	12.00 noon	Annual church meeting at St Andrew's
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Songs of Praise at Caddington Hall
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Little Stars meet in the Family Room
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Footsteps meet in the Family Room
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Songs of Praise at Woodside Home
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Praise
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Holy Week: Evening Prayer in St Andrew's
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Holy Week: Evening Prayer in St Andrew's
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	7pm	Holy Week: Evening Prayer in St Andrew's
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7pm	Maunday Thursday Agape in St Andrew's
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11am	Good Friday walk of witness around Village
	Noon	Quiet service in church
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Easter Day Holy Communion

# £100

## extra discount!

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**Join the Club!**

Call Adriana Lokman  
01582 873079

**THE UTILITY WAREHOUSE**  
DISCOUNT CLUB

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

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

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

**YOU SAVE MONEY, WE RAISE MONEY!**



## ***Parish Weekend: April 24th - 25th***

'Resource' is an Anglican group which exists to help churches, Deaneries and Dioceses wishing to engage with mission in the power of the Holy Spirit. Its aim is to see the church grow in this country and 'Resource' people will be coming to us for the weekend for our spiritual refreshment and uplift. Book the dates in your diary.

Those who would normally take part in the annual Unlock Walk in London need not be disappointed by the clash of dates. Later in the summer the Historic Churches Walk will take place, providing an equally interesting day out. Pertinently, the HCT has been very generous in providing about 25% of the funding towards the costs of the church roof repairs and therefore more than qualifies for our support in September.

### ***... and talking of the Roof***

*Tom Shutlar and his team have been working hard 'up on the roof' and the job is nearing completion!*

Notwithstanding the bad winter, they are not much delayed over the planned timescale. Next time you are in the churchyard, drop by and see how well spent our money has been well spent. The spire looks particularly impressive, rather less fragile-looking to withstand another century!

Hopes are that costs will be within budget, enabling further work on the 'electrics', to provide improved audio and lighting inside the church.

The work will be completed in March and by then the number of replacement tiles will be known and the winner of the Guess the Tiles competition will be announced. The winners will enjoy dinner at Luton Hoo!

Plans are in hand for the Bishop of Bedford to visit on June 13th, to re-dedicate our refurbished building.

## ***Roly A big Hit!***

Roly was a great hit with children and adults who came in great numbers to last month's Café Church at St A's. The



funny clothes concealed an Anglican priest whose clowning is rooted in the Gospel. In his entertaining presentation were thought-provoking messages. His brilliant 'slack-rope' act was his party piece, plus humour, bits of circus, pathos and slapstick mixed in with story telling to amuse, challenge and teach.

Roly has clowned all over the UK, throughout Europe, USA, Canada and Australia. Asked why he wanted to be a clown his response was that he thinks that is what God wants him to be, he loves it and could not think of anything better, ever, anywhere. All that with full blown breakfast thrown in. Quite a morning!

### ***From 3;16 to 'Energize'***

Our 3;16 Group for middle school children has been replaced by "Energize" which has a wider range of activities for young people from several Churches in our area.

'Energize' youngsters meet on Monday evenings at St Hugh's Lewsey, from 7.30 to 9.30 and transport is available from Slip End. Get more details from Sue on 414127, Paula on 738205 or Joy on 424363.

The spring programme includes a Movie Night, an Easter Sleepover as well as Bible Study to capture the interest of 11 to 16 year olds. Activities are led by the Youth Workers at St Hugh's, Karen and Paul.

There is always plenty of fun with food, drinks and activities, along? 'Energize' is a warm and friendly group, so why not come along?

## **FARLEY HILL METHODIST CHURCH**

Carefully laid plans and arrangements for Christmas and January were 'snowed away', but all is getting back to normal. The February Community Lunch Club went ahead in usual jolly fashion, members delighted to see each other again and catch up with the news, having missed out on January. It was helper Margaret Woolston's birthday and she was given the 'treatment'.

FHM's Christmas Lunch was held on February 21st. This was the second consecutive year the event had been postponed!

The Lunch Club meeting in March will say farewell to helper from day one, Judy Harper, who is returning to Wales, Judy will be missed by all, particularly World Wide Church of God. Despite her cheerful self, Judy played a magnificent Grumpy Lady in Waiting in the FHM pantomime which drew expressions of sympathy for husband Tom.

Two summer concerts at FHM have been finalised. Cantata will entertain on Saturday 22nd May with their usual fine array of songs and 'stuff'. On Saturday 10th July The Beds Police Choir arrive at North Drift Way for the annual Charity Concert. Both concerts commence at 7pm so I suggest you make the necessary additions to your diaries!

Ken Cameron 07960257218  
khubsurat1@xln.co.uk

### ***Creative answers to ambiguous exam questions ...***

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed? At the bottom

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements. Learning to speak Latin.

The race of people known as Malays come from which country? Malaysia

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears  
~~Three~~ Four Seals

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common? Unusual names



With over 210 soldiers killed in Afghanistan and MoD figures showing that in the month of July 2009 alone there were 94 injuries associated with the war in Afghanistan, the time was right for a charity dedicated to the welfare of those directly involved in the conflict. The mother of a soldier who died in an explosion in Afghanistan in July had the idea to set up a charity to provide support for those directly involved in the conflict.

Afghan Heroes was launched by a group of mothers with the aim of helping our service personnel directly on the front line; the families of those who have fallen and our returning service personnel who have witnessed these horrific losses of their fellow comrades. Afghan Heroes is independent of other charities. It deals specifically with members of the British forces and their families that have been affected by the military operations in Afghanistan now and into the future. The intention is to operate until a minimum of five-years from the cessation of our military presence in Afghanistan.

### ***Afghan Heroes delivers support by:***

*The "thank the troops" initiative.*

*The provision of home comforts to those serving in Afghanistan.*

*Motivational and morale boosting support directly to our forces on the front line via your letters and news letters.*

*A support network for the families of the fallen, creating an open environment where families can give support to each other.*

*Supporting the many returning soldiers who have witnessed these horrific atrocities in the course of performing their duties.*

**Support  
Afghan Heroes  
locally!**

**Contact  
Katrina Doubleday  
or  
Lily at the Rising Sun.**

**[www.afghanheroes.org.uk](http://www.afghanheroes.org.uk)**



## VERGE SMASHING - LATEST



Some residents take care to keep their patch of Slip End looking decent but fight a rearguard battle against inconsiderate motorists holding beliefs in their off-road territorial rights. Sadly, many verges are now mud-baths, beyond recovery, degenerating into dust bowls.

One day last month, extreme, crass driving by a council sub-contractor wrought great damage to the green outside the bungalows in Crawley Close. He embedded

his white van immovably, up to its axles in mud. His apologies did little to assuage verbal haranguing from one resident (me) who takes care and consideration in trying to keep the neighbourhood somewhat decent.

Motorists, think: parking on the verge not only causes damage to the grass but is unnecessary in Crawley Close. *When parking there, keep all four wheels on the road.*

David Kingston



It's all  
happening  
at St A's!

Café Church at St Andrew's presents ...

## MOTHERING SUNDAY CELEBRATION

*Sunday March 14th at 10.30*

Join us for Hot Breakfast with a Message  
and a gift for Mum!

*All Mums welcome, Dads & Carers too!*

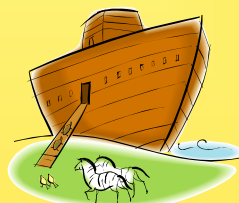
To be sure of your breakfast please call Mary on 738435 or Julie on 413912.  
We suggest a minimum donation of £1 to meet food costs.



**Plus! Coming up@ St A's...**

*Sunday June 20th:  
Father's Day Café Church*

*and .. 29th May: Noah's Ark BBQ  
at the Vicarage 12-3pm*



As parish residents, we all qualify attend group meetings, along with a number of 'core' members. Meetings are held monthly at varying venues, so watch this space for information and drop by to learn what is going on and contribute your feelings and wishes for the community.

### ***Village Fun Day***

Major event and fund raiser is the Village Day, which will be held again in 2010 on 31st July. Planning is well in hand to repeat the previous success of this great local event.



*On a grotty day in February, PN editor indulges in looking forward to warmer, sunnier times at Fun Day 2010. Come and meet with local friends & neighbours and some who visit from much further afield, like Roy Bartlett and daughter Claire. What a picture, just look at the Tug-o'-War goings-on in the background.!*

### ***Carbon Footprint***

Some members of the Project Group have had meetings with Lisa Wakefield of the Energy Savings Trust. See EST item elsewhere in this issue for more information.

### ***Community Grants***

Advisory letters to Parish Groups, which had submitted grant applications, were sent out in mid-February. Grants will become available in May, when the Project Group will publish a list of all those local organisations which will benefit.

## ***Bus Service Review***

Central Beds Council is looking to save £140K on bus services in the area. Paul Cooper and Sarah Minnighan have visited the Chatty Club, the Friendship Club, Slip End & District Association and the Youth Club to discuss with them their requirements in terms of bus services here in the Parish.

Paul Cooper produced a report outlining bus services where it is felt that savings could or could not be made: see opposite page. The report was discussed then agreed for submission to the next stage, the Parish Council for its review prior to submission to Central Beds for final agreement.

### ***Equipment 're-cycling'***

Peter Smith suggested that information could be posted on [slipend.co.uk](http://slipend.co.uk) and in the Parish News asking Parish groups to list items they may be looking for in a bid to assist them with their requests. His school disposes of various good quality items quite regularly (overhead projectors, chairs, desk etc) and it seems a shame that they are good quality and serviceable, yet disposed of when they could be passed on to some of the groups.

Dates and revised venues for the remainder of the year appear on the Diary page in this issue of Parish News.

***Keep an eye on***  
***[www.slipend.co.uk](http://www.slipend.co.uk)***  
***in order to keep track of***  
***latest local issues, events, etc..***

*The website contains lots of information covering all activities and groups in the Parish.*

*Webmistress Sarah Minnighan & Webmaster Peter King have been working hard over the apst months in order to update information and improve presentation.*



### *Bus Service Review by Paul Cooper & Sarah Minighan*

These findings will be submitted to Parish Council for discussion prior to further submission to Central Bedfordshire Council for its considerations relating to Bus service provisions.

<b>Red Rose 231</b>	Sun & Bank Hols	Dunstable - Caddington - Slip End - Luton It is felt that this service could be reduced from 2 hourly to 3 hourly
<b>Arriva 4</b>	23:05 Mon - Sat	Farley Hill - Slip End - Woodside - Caddington We found no indication that this service is required.
<b>Red Rose 231</b>	20:31 Thu - Sat	Luton - Dunstable Leave as is.
<b>Red Rose 231</b>	21:00 Thu - Sat	Dunstable - Luton We have found no indication that this service is required.
<b>Grant Palmer 202</b>	15:40 School Days	Manshead School - Harpenden No need to stop at Manshead, essential for transport from the L&D
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	07:50 Mon – Sat (School Days)	Luton - Dunstable via Manshead School Leave as is.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	8.05 Mon - Sat (non School Days)	Luton - Dunstable Leave as is.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	15.40 Mon - Sat (school days)	Manshead School - Luton Leave as is.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	15.40 Mon - Sat (non-school days)	Dunstable - Luton Leave as is.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	18:15 Mon - Sat	Dunstable - Luton Leave as is.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	8.20 Saturdays	Slip End - Dunstable Leave as is.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	18.10 Saturdays	Dunstable - Slip End Essential to transport of people to and from work and school. ???
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	8.34 & 10.10 Saturdays	Dunstable via Pepperstock Pepperstock diversion essential for Pepperstock residents.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	11.40, 13.10 & 16.20 Saturdays	Luton via Pepperstock Pepperstock diversion essential for Pepperstock residents.
<b>Grant Palmer 202</b>	08:02 Mon - Fri	Aley Green - Harpenden Leave as is.
<b>Grant Palmer 202</b>	08:30 Mon - Fri	Harpenden - Dunstable Leave as is.
<b>Grant Palmer 202</b>	11:30 Mon - Fri	Dunstable - L&D Leave as is.
<b>Grant Palmer 202</b>	15:45 Mon - Fri (not school days)	Dunstable - Harpenden Leave as is.
<b>Grant Palmer 202</b>	17:10 Mon - Fri	Harpenden - Dunstable (See note below) Essential service, the only link to L&D and directly to supermarkets
<b>Grant Palmer 231</b>	18:20 Mon -Sat	Luton - Dunstable Eessential service for people travelling back from work.
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	9:16 Mon -Sat	Diversion via Pepperstock - Luton Essential for Pepperstock residents
<b>Centrebus 231</b>	16:20 Mon - Sat	Diversion via Pepperstock - Luton We found no indication that this service is required.
<b>Herts C.C 46</b>	Peak hours Mon - Sat	Hemel Hempstead - Redbourn - Markyate - Slip End - Luton Essential link to Doctors, shops, leisure facilities & work in Herts. We found no indication that Slip End - Luton leg is required.

Note: A possible saving could be made by extending the 11:30 service ex Dunstable through to Harpenden and scrapping the 09:30 service ex Dunstable. Our consultation has indicated that this would provide a much more convenient service from hospital appointments and therefore is likely to get more use.

## **RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL IS THE ROUTE TO A HAPPY HOLIDAY**

*Avoid airport check-ins, holiday the green way. Take a train to Tuscany or coach it to Cardiff, taking in the scenery on the way.*

It has been a long hard winter so the idea of a holiday or short break might help see you through to spring. You don't need to stay in mud huts or be confined to the UK to enjoy responsible travel. With a bit of forward planning, you could be enjoying an exciting, unique trip that gets you closer to the action and has a low impact on the environment.

### ***Train travel to Europe and beyond***

Train travel *may* be slower than plane, but its advantages more than make up for any loss of time. Train journeys get you much closer to the scenery and allow you to see so much more of a country. You can jump off at different sights en route or sit back and watch the scenery go by. You will also avoid the hassle of airport restrictions and check-ins.

### ***Across to Ireland***

Getting to Ireland from Britain by train and ferry is a lot cheaper than you'd think. Right now you can get a train and ferry to anywhere in Ireland from any station in Britain for just £30.50 or less each way, at all times.

### ***Round the continent***

Travel in Europe by train is easy, fast, fun and affordable. The great thing is that everything is so close together so you can fit loads of great destinations into one trip. European trains are known for being punctual, and most of the continent is covered by high speed networks.

The European high speed network is easily accessed on the Eurostar. The high speed network currently stretches from Paris across to Berlin and Vienna and down to Rome and the Marseille but extensions are expected soon.



***Wise words there from the Energy Saving Trust. Here, allow me to wallow in some cosy self satisfaction!***

Having flown the full spectrum from first class luxury to 'low cost carrier' nastiness, I am finally fed up with the plane and only fly when absolutely necessary. These days, for me, air travel is a waste of a good journey!

The EST is right about how quick, easy and comfortable rail travel is, suiting our travels in Europe. True, Eurostar has had its pains, with some living here in Slip End suffering just before Christmas. I get the impression that Eurostar tries to emulate air travel too much and made some mistakes along the way. For me it is a handy and inexpensive gateway to the European mainland e.g. £60 rtn to anywhere in Belgium is excellent value, especially with the new St Pancras set up, which is so handy for us. Connections are good for our ramblings down to France, Luxemburg, Germany and further on to Italy.

Last month, brandishing our bus and rail passes, we travelled down to Devon for a break. Trains fine and relaxing, just £50 each, first class to boot! Surely a better alternative than M's 1, 25, 4 & 5 and maybe cheaper?

Finally, last weekend we booked a cruise to, er ..... Berkhamsted, Hemel & Watford. Canals offer the ultimate in relaxation and eco-friendliness, with no check-ins, only a short drive by (diesel) car to Leighton Buzzard, then the Grand Union is our oyster.

*I hereby claim this month's EST  
Traveller of the Month Award.*

*David Kingston*



**energy saving trust**



***Dog fouling & parking at the school  
continue to cause us problems!***

**A nightmare scenario ...**

I suppose it all started on the Tuesday evening, when Jimmy's dad took the dog for a walk as usual around the streets of Slip End. As he turned into Crawley Close he was thinking of his hectic day at work, occasionally being disturbed from his musings by the tug of the lead as the dog stopped to sniff. He followed his normal route through the passageway into St Andrew's Close and Rossway; then along the main road where he stopped for a pint at his local before continuing on home.

At 8:45 next morning Mary, his wife, set off with their son Jimmy and little Susan in the push chair, she followed the same route on the school run as her husband had the night before. As they entered the footpath, Jimmy saw one of his friends and started fooling around pulling on the pushchair and generally showing off.

That was when it happened, Jimmy's foot was run over by the pushchair tripping him. Jimmy cried out as he hit the deck hard. Mary ran over to comfort her little soldier and as she picked him up the smell warned her there was worse to come: Jimmy had landed in a pile of poo. It was all over his left knee, which was bleeding and the remains of his torn trouser leg. The child howled louder and started to brush his leg with his hand.

Mary stopped him, turned and the little family headed back for home. In the kitchen she bent down to undo his shoes and looked up occasionally to console Jimmy. The last time she looked up she had to stop him wiping his tears with the same hand.



Jimmy was cleaned up and eventually they all set off for school again but this time the long way round. When she finally returned home anger set in as evidenced by the message left on the Parish Council answering machine. Quite clearly her point was "it is all the Parish Council's fault for not stopping dogs messing in the streets" Word of the incident spread and her message was added to by other residents, insisting that the Parish Council "do something". When Dad came home and heard about what had happened, well, suffice is to say, he lost it!

On Thursday, Mary was running late for her meeting before school started with Jimmy's teacher, she groaned at the thought of having to run the gauntlet of poo alley again. As she reached the end of the footpath she sighed with relief, picking up speed again she would just about make it on time. Jimmy was trotting along to keep up and Mary noticed he was becoming breathless and his cheeks were reddening up when down he went with a crash. There wasn't a sound or a movement. Mary was hysterical; someone from a house saw what had happened and ran to help, calling for an ambulance on her mobile .

The ambulance arrived at the junction of Rossway and Markyate Road, it managed to squeeze past the cars parked on either side of Rossway leading up to the school, but had to stop on the bend as the road was blocked by two large cars parked opposite each other. The ambulance driver deafened everyone with his two tones until an embarrassed Mum ran back to her car. The paramedic grabbed his bag and ran up Rossway and St Andrew's Close to reach Jimmy. The car was moved and the ambulance swung out to get to Jimmy. That was when there was a sickening thud and a jolt as one of the wheels went over the legs of a child who had run out from behind the other parked car. The Police were called and two more ambulances. The driver of the first ambulance was in shock and his ambulance no longer available until the Police had completed their investigation.

The paramedic was not aware of any of this, he reached Jimmy and examined him asking Mary if anything happened to Jimmy over the last few days or if he had shown signs of being ill. Mary relayed the tale and the paramedic diagnosed Jimmy as having caught a disease from the poo. He knew he had to get Jimmy to the L&D fast if he was to save the little boy's sight and a delay could even be life threatening.

Eventually, the other two ambulances arrived and both children were taken to hospital. Sadly by the time Jimmy got there it was too late, further delay had been caused by the throng of distraught parents outside the school, and their cars.

As the dust settled, the Parish Council received the brunt of resident's anger demanding to know why it had done nothing to resolve the parking problem outside the school.

At Jimmy's inquest the Parish Council was asked to explain what it had done to prevent dog fouling. *The Council explained how it had put signs up all over the place; the Envirocrime Unit at Central Beds had responded to its requests to visit the Parish and try to catch the perpetrators; articles had been written in Parish News.* At budget time residents did not support the Parish Council increasing the annual Band D tax of £50 by hundreds to pay for twenty four hour patrols or the installation of cameras and recording equipment.

Attention then turned to the inconsiderate and illegal parking outside the school. *The Council demonstrated how it had informed the Police of the problem and the Police attended when they could. However, their resources did not allow a presence twice a day, even though when they did attend the problem eased.*

The Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death as the dog owner had not been traced. Leaving the Court, Jimmy's Dad felt justice had not been done.

Jimmy's Dad then felt that feeling of cramp in his stomach as the penny dropped. On that Tuesday night it was his dog that pooped in the alley at the very spot Jimmy tripped, right under the sign. The drivers of the parked cars had to admit, to themselves at any rate, their actions had delayed Jimmy getting to hospital and the injury of another child.

I woke up from my nightmare thinking, "Thank heavens nothing like that could happen here in Slip End. For reassurance I went for a walk, through the passageway and there was the poo, I headed round to the school and there were all the cars parked as I had dreamt around the gates and the bend.

This story is of course fictitious. Most dog owners clear up, some don't. Many of those who bring their children to school by car park further

up Rossway and in St Andrew's Close, others don't. The text in italics outlines some of the steps the Parish Council has taken over the years to resolve both issues. More recently, it met with the school, police and officials from Central Beds to consider the possibility of turning one of the grass areas at the side of the school gate into a one way drop off zone. While this could be done, sadly there isn't the funding available.

Who would want to live with themselves in the position of Jimmy's Dad or be the person whose badly parked car or van blocked the way for an emergency vehicle or caused a serious accident?

Ken Crossett, Chairman

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### **A QUESTION FOR LUTON SOUTH PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES**

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Last month all eight Parliamentary candidates attended a Q & A Forum in Luton. One of our local residents who attended put a written question to them all and responses will be published next month. The question reads ...

*The Joint Planning & Transport Committee, made up of Luton Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councillors, responded with an agreed 'Core Plan' to Central Government needs for housing and transport in this area. Recently, proposals have been tabled for industrial and housing schemes on Green Belt land adjacent to the western edge of the M1 from Junction 10 to Chaul End, about 3 miles, hundreds of hectares, an area which the JPTC considered and rejected as being unsuitable and unsustainable.*

*How would candidates respond should the 'Core Plan' be ignored by one of those Councils and how would they represent, perhaps minority, interests in favour of maintaining Green Belt status in this constituency?*





# NO to 'BUSHWOOD GREEN'

As seen on the front pages of this issue of Parish News, hundreds of local people marched and rallied in bright sunshine on 30 January to launch the campaign against Bushwood Green - a scheme to build 5,500 new houses plus commercial properties on 800 acres of Green Belt to the West of Luton.

The event was organised by **CaSE4** which stands for 'Caddington and Slip End fighting for our communities'. **CaSE4** is a non-political action group set up by local people after well-attended public meetings in 2009. The aim was to raise awareness of the proposed scheme which would affect Slip End, Pepperstock, Woodside, Caddington, Chaul End, Aley Green and West Luton.

The march/rally was just the start of the campaign against this 'development' which would devastate the Green Belt and gridlock the roads in our area every day. The wonderful sounding amenities that the Bushwood developers are promising are just not affordable or deliverable. All we and the people of Luton will get are houses, more houses and traffic chaos!

## *This is how you can help:*

**Send the postcard you have received or write** to Lachlan Robertson, Joint Technical Unit, Regis House, 960 Capability Green, Luton, LU1 3PE stressing your opposition to Bushwood Green. Alternatively, use the form below and post it off in an envelope. Numbers count so make sure that everyone inside and outside the village sends a card or letter.

**Donate vital funds at** Barclays Bank plc, 28 George Street, Luton, LU1 2AD. Account Name: CaSE4. Sort Code: 20-53-30. Account Number: 13202003.

**Display a 'No Bushwood' poster or the larger placard** in your window or garden.

**Sign the paper petition** you will find in various places around the village.

**Sign the e-petition** to 10 Downing St at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/bushwood/>

**Write to local newspapers** and tell them why you oppose Bushwood Green.

**Find out more** visit [www.CaSE4.org.uk](http://www.CaSE4.org.uk)

**TAKE ACTION NOW!**

**To: The Chairman & Members of the Joint Planning & Transport Committee for the South Bedfordshire & Luton growth area.**

I write to register my strong objection to the proposal put forward for development across 800 acres of Green Belt to the west of Luton known as 'Bushwood Green'.

The scheme does not fit with the findings of your Core Strategy and poses insurmountable transport issues which the developers do not propose to resolve in their published plans.

The proposals would lead to the coalescence of Aley Green, Caddington, Chaul End, Woodside and Slip End with Luton and create a suburb of Luton with poor transport links. I urge you to take into account all the evidence you have collated over the past 5 years which does not support development to the west of Luton.

Signed: .....

Address: .....

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## **BUSHWOOD 'GREEN' MISREPRESENTATION**

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*Here at Parish News we refer to the proposed scheme as 'Luton West', a less idealistic but more representative term to describe what is afoot. One Parish resident has a further interesting slant on the subject and has expressed this in a letter to Parish News ...*

Dear Editor.

***How do these 'developers' have the nerve to call their scheme 'Bushwood Green'?***

This large area is already designated **Green Belt**, do they aspire to create something 'greener' on our part of Bedfordshire? Or do they joke at our expense?

'Woodside' refers to two areas near to us here. One, part of our Parish, is an attractive hamlet. The other is a nightmare factory 'development' in Dunstable. Such a nightmare would bode ill for us should 'Bushwood' become anything more than a scheme. At Woodside II, the road transport

arrangements provide for hundreds of 40-tonners, every day meandering along the busiest non-motorway road in the County, then gyrating around McDonald's and Sainsbury's car parks, roundabouts, junctions and traffic lights creating rush hour chaos and mayhem.

***Think on; Woodside II today, 'Bushwood 'Green'', tomorrow - another bad joke!***

Sprawling the area with thousands of houses, dozens of factory units, olympic swimming pools, velodromes, football stadia and other sops we neither want or require, concreting over hundreds of acres would, in no way, create a 'Green'.

I do not share the jokes and respectfully suggest that the Doyles & Boyles go away and have an honest rethink.

***To start their ball rolling, may I suggest a more ashen, 'Brushwood Grey' before the scheme is consigned to the waste bin.***

*Slip End resident  
Name & address supplied*

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## **EDITORIAL**

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***For many years this community has withered, neglected and unloved by neighbours the other side of the motorway, lost and forgotten, tucked deeply in South Bedfordshire, although sometimes we remain unsure which county we are in!***

It has taken a final master-stroke of insensitivity to awaken us. Enough is enough: we *do* need development to make good the deterioration of services and infrastructure over the years but certainly not to the extent of 'Luton West'! The demo last month was a great statement as we came together to express our strength of feeling. *Suddenly we are at centre stage, the media and budding politicians are taking note and dropping by to see what is going on. No opportunity should be lost to pick up on all that to our advantage.*

**At PN we are soundly against 'Luton West' and welcome any chance to promote moves against 'the scheme'!** An editorial opportunity was snapped up, when PN's Sue Briggs met political hopeful Esther Rantzen recently. Our hope is that Ms. Rantzen will slide off the fence and back the CaSE4 campaign. However, this may not be a great vote winner so we have our doubts. In her TV days, she represented hard done by consumers in dealing against major companies, institutions and rogues. We advocate our fight to her as a worthy, if not vote-grabbing ideal and would welcome her coming on-side.





## REPTILE CORNER & GENERAL PET STORE



Since January the Pet Shop in Grove Road has been under the management of Toni Harris. As well as pet food there is a wide ranging stock in store for all the usual all 'pet' needs and accessories. Anything a bit out of the ordinary can be brought in by Toni a short notice, so call by and chat to Toni about your pet and animal needs.

If you cannot get to the shop or you want bulky items, telephone Toni on 01582 725381 and she will arrange delivery within the Parish.



Our speaker last month was Christine Lees who is a garden designer. Living in Caddington she knows about local soil conditions, particularly where new houses are built. She showed us 'before & after' slides of gardens she had designed, taking us through the plants and colour schemes used.

After questions had been answered, we had a quiz of 30 jumbled names of shrubs and flowers, which was won by Rita Weber with 29 correct answers. Clever Lady !!

Our next meeting will be Members Night when two ladies volunteer to organize the evening, giving the committee a night off. So it will be a surprise. Hope you can make it to one of these meetings, our speakers are listed on the Diary page. See you!

*Sheila Coleman*

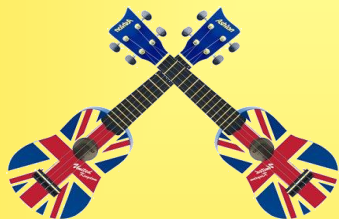
### Reptile Corner & General Pets Store

(Under new ownership)

*Food & Accessories for all Animals*

Dogs, Cats, Hamsters, Birds, Rabbits,  
Guinea Pigs, Horses, Snakes & Lizards!

Prebendal Farm - Grove Road - Slip End  
01582 725381



## GRAND UKULELE CONCERT

Saturday 6th March  
7.30pm at St Andrew's

Featuring the Ukulele Orchestra  
from the Dunstable Music Centre

*Funds in aid of St Andrew's Roof repairs*

Tickets at just £6 which includes Cheese & Wine from:  
David Kingston (416138) or via Slip End Store



The Slip End Cub Pack has had a busy term as far as working towards badges goes in a small number of meetings, but the result was a good number of both activity and challenge badges awarded out to the Cubs.

We had our pack holiday before Christmas, at Bromham Campsite near Bedford. Fortunately we were all accommodated indoors, so nobody got too cold at night. We had a bit of a first at this camp, as we decided that we would invest 5 of our new cubs on the first night around the campfire. The parents of those being invested were invited to stay for the presentations, a little cold for everyone except Akela, who boiled as he was only two feet away from the fire! The Cubs who attended all completed their First Aid badges at the camp.

We enjoyed a fantastic Christmas Dinner provided by Liz and Paddy, who were presented with a Christmas hamper as a thank you from the group for all the camps and holidays they have cooked at over the years. *(Akela remembers them cooking while he was a cub, all those years ago.)*

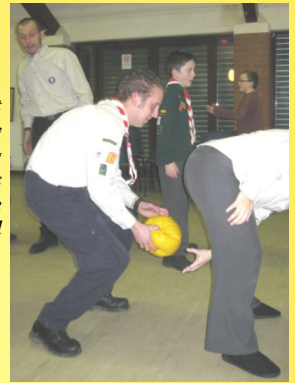
The Cub Pack has recently focused on completing their challenge badges. We are aiming to do one every term, so that when they leave to go on to Scouts, all of the cubs will hopefully have completed their Chief Scout award.

The Cubs enjoyed the Talent Night and Cooking Night this term, the latter with help from a few parents. Without them the evening could not have taken place, as we were short of leaders due to Akela being on holiday somewhere nice and warm.

As far as next term goes, we are hoping to have a visit from the local Police Community Support Officers. We also have a hike planned, now that evenings are beginning to

draw out. As we go to press, we have a special evening planned to celebrate Founder's Day, to which we have invited some local VIP's and top brass from Lea Valley District, and other Cub packs in the district, so it promises to be a good night.

*(Stop Press: A great evening was enjoyed by the PN Roving Reporter, more news next month, but just one picture of the fun and games for now....)*



Finally, we are pleased to announce an upcoming fundraising event. Lily and Dave at the Rising Sun have very kindly offered to hold a Curry 'n' Quiz night to raise funds for the group, on Saturday March 6th. Tickets cost just £5 per person and include entry to the quiz, as well as Curry. Teams of up to four people will be allowed, with a prize for the winning team. If this event is a success then Lily and Dave have agreed to make it a regular event, so I hope that as many of you as possible will come along for an enjoyable evening, while helping the local Scout group at the same time.

*We currently have spaces for new Cubs (and adult volunteers), both boys and girls aged between 8 and 10½ are more than welcome to join us. If your son or daughter is interested in coming along please contact Akela .*



We meet on Monday evenings 7 to 8.30 during school terms at the P.E. Hall.

*Akela*  
*(Jon Barker)jonnybegoode13@googlemail.com*



### ***Golden Wedding - Congratulations to Ita & Gordon Burton!***

*1966 was a great year! Not only did the England football team win the World Cup competition in June that year, there was also a big day at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Harpenden on February 6th, when Gordon Burton married his fiancé Ita!*

Ita had left her home in Caserta, Italy to work here in England, telling *mamma* that she would return home after a year or so. Ita is still here! She lived in Cheltenham at first before moving to become a chef at St. George's School in Harpenden. (*Lucky St. G's, Ita is a fabulous cook!*) It was in Harpenden where, one lucky day, she met Gordon.

Gordon's home was, as it remains, here in Slip End, although home was around the corner in Church Road in those days. After doing his National Service he worked in the motor industry in Luton, first at Commer Cars then at Vauxhall Motors. One day when he was in Harpenden, he met a lovely Italian girl: the rest is history! After they married, they set up home in Front Street where their two boys were born. Gordon, always a keen gardener and ace allotment man, carried on working for many years in Luton, then for some years before retiring, at the Rothamstead establishment. They visit Italy quite often and the PN junior sub editor and his signora enjoy lengthy chats with them about a country in which they share common interests.

Last month they celebrated at the Social Club with *Famiglia e Amici* and all of us at PN pass our sincere congratulations to Ita & Gordon!





### ***Volunteering opportunities in the North Chilterns***

We are keen to enhance the Society's support for the North Chilterns to provide better community facilities for residents. Here are a couple of volunteer opportunities we should like you to consider ...

***North Chilterns joint coordinator:*** We already have one volunteer but he needs help as he is only available for part of the year. Could that be you? The objective is to assist in building the Society's presence in the North Chilterns area, by liaison with other volunteers in the area and through networking with local communities, media and councils.

The threat from planning developments is stronger here than elsewhere in the Chilterns and we want to play our part to protect and shape the future of this area. Support is available for you through the Chesham office and contacts with the Society officers and director, who are available to help. If this opportunity interests you, our chairman, John Taylor would be interested in hearing from you on 01494-727852 or by email at [ejtaylor2005@btinternet.com](mailto:ejtaylor2005@btinternet.com)

***Path Maintenance Volunteers:*** The Dunstable Walking group led by Julian Clark-Lowes have teamed up with the Chiltern Society to form the Society's North Chilterns Path Maintenance Volunteers. They are now starting work on footpath maintenance in conjunction with the Central Bedfordshire Council and are looking for volunteers to make up their work teams. If you would be interested in finding out more please contact Julian on 07979 435856 or by email at [personal@julian.clark-lowes.info](mailto:personal@julian.clark-lowes.info)

Typically, a work party would meet at about 9.30 on a weekday morning before departing

to their job, work until mid-day before a pub lunch. If that or a similar idea appeals to you, please indicate how often you might be available, either monthly, fortnightly, weekly or just occasionally. Please indicate whether you might be available for occasional weekend work parties or weekday mornings or afternoons.

When we have gauged the response we will arrange a meeting of all those interested to discuss the project further. This will probably be in one of the community rooms at Dunstable Fire station.

The first project involves work on the steps where the Chiltern Way crosses the A5 at Chalk Hill cutting. Initially we will be replacing about 6 steps which have rotted away. Don't be too put off; this particular project will probably be quite a physical one, but other suggested projects, such as the maintenance of one of the greenway paths in Sewell should involve a range of work suitable for all ranges of skill and fitness.

Please get in touch with Julian if you need more information.





## PARISH NEWS

*Over the past year or so, we have been exploring possibilities for free distribution to all residences in the Parish.* Our pages now carry a lot of important local information and many of our contributors are keen that everyone should get a copy every month.

We have looked closely at how this may be achieved, by income from advertising and grants and by reducing our costs. Around £3000 per annum would be required from grant aid, which is presently outside the scope of what could be currently forthcoming from the Parish Council and Projects Group, both of whom appreciate the importance of PN in getting their messages across.

We are all committed to carry on with these ideas in the longer term and the situation will be reviewed periodically.

Looking forward to the coming year, the PN committee has decided to produce annually ten rather than eleven monthly issues in our 'financial year' from April. As things stand, there has been no issue in January for several years and in the future, there will be no issue in August. Not only does this give our hardworking teams some respite every six months or so, it also enables us to keep the subscription at just £4 for delivery to your home for a fifth consecutive year. The

subscription for postal subscribers is increased to £8, due to the increased cost of stamps over several years.

Parish News is well received and read. We appreciate those expressions of goodwill we get from time to time. We welcome criticism when we get things wrong and suggestions to provide wider local interest.

Finally, we thank all of our advertisers for their support. Most provide their services locally, so please use them where you can.

*Editor*



## BINGO

*at the Village Hall  
Thursdays at Eight*

*Slip End & District Association*

## WEDDINGS & CHRISTENINGS

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

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

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

*Samples available to view*

At our meeting in January, the constitution, and membership forms were available to those present. Annual membership for individuals is £5 and couples £8.

### ***Objectives***

- ◆ Meet to discuss gardening and exchange information
- ◆ Invite guest speakers
- ◆ Visit interesting gardens
- ◆ Plan and organise alternate annual Open Gardens Days and Plant Sales

### ***Visits***

We have looked through the Local Garden Scheme's Yellow Book and come up with an interesting series of visits over the Spring and Summer.

We plan to visit some gardens in the area, having already visited Seal Point in Stockingstone Road. The owner was Gardener of the Year (South East) in 1999. This garden is particularly known for hellebores & snowdrops.

On *Sunday 21st March* we plan to go to Thriplow, near Royston for the Annual Daffodil Festival. A slightly longer trip, we will be going by coach. Costs will be £17, seniors £16, children £12.

Then on the afternoon of *Saturday 8th May* we will go to The Hyde Walled Gardens in East Hyde. Meet 1.30, admission £3.

Nearer still, *Sunday 23rd May* is an Open Day at Luton Hoo Walled Garden, 11 to 5. We will meet at 1.30, admission £3.

On *Sunday 20th June* we are off to St Paul's Walden Bury, near Hitchin. Meet 1.30, admission £4, seniors £3.

*Sunday 18th July* sees us off to Chenies Manor Plant Fair, near Amersham. Admission £5. Meet 1.30pm



On Sunday 15th August we are planning a trip to Hever Castle and Gardens, near Edenbridge in Kent. This will be another run out by coach: cost £28, seniors £26, children £18. More information will follow.

### ***Presentations***

At our January Meeting we had two excellent presentations and demonstrations from Steve Wickens ('The Vegetable Garden') and Valerie Church ('Sowing flower seeds').

Steve, a keen allotment owner, gave advice on crop rotation, ground preparation, when and how to sow fruit and vegetables, taking cuttings from fuchsias and herb rosemary.

Val gave advice on buying or using own flower seeds, benefits of plug plants, annual, biennial and perennial plants. In addition, use of composts, drainage improvers, sowing seeds using various types of propagating trays, handling seedlings, re-potting into larger pots, and use of fleece for protection.

Both Steve and Val stressed the importance of labelling, with item name and date planted. General discussion took place where we swapped ideas, suggestions and useful tips, relative to our local situation, climate and ground conditions.

*PN Gardening Correspondent*



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

## March

- 1st Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 6th St Andrew's: Ukulele Concert  
 9th Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am to noon  
 22nd Community Projects Group - 7.30, at the Ruchi Indian Restaurant, Woodside  
 Gardening Club Village Hall 8pm

## April

- 3rd Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am to noon  
 3rd F&R Easter Egg Hunt in aid of Slip End Lower School and Toddler & Play groups  
 12th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 13th Community Projects Group - 7.30, at the Frog & Rhubarb, Slip End  
 18th Luton Hoo Walled Garden: Heritage Plant Fair  
 20th Caddington WI: 'The Bodyshop', Lynda Hawkins  
 24th St Andrew's Church - Parish Weekend  
 24th 'Unlock' Walk - Visit Churches in Newham & Tower Hamlets and see construction at the Olympic sites, in support of 'Unlock' ([www.unlock.urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock.urban.org.uk))

## May

- 1st Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am to noon  
 3rd Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 11th Community Projects Group - 7.30, at the Social Club, Slip End  
 18th Caddington WI Annual Meeting  
 23rd Luton Hoo Walled Garden: Open for National Garden Scheme  
 24th Gardening Club Village Hall 8pm  
 30th Luton Hoo Walled Garden: Classic Car Rally

## June

- 5th Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am to noon  
 7th Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm  
 8th Community Projects Group - 7.30, at the Rising Sun, Slip End  
 13th St. Andrew's Church - Visit by the Bishop of Bedford  
 15th Caddington WI: British Red Cross

## July

31st Village Day

### Items for the April issue to us by 15th March!

Want Parish News delivered monthly? Contact Alan Buttery at 1 Claydown Way (01582 724527), [alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:parishnews@slipend.co.uk)

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MARCH				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

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