



SLIP END ALEY GREEN

PARISH NEWS

PEPPERSTOCK WOODSIDE

JUNE 2011

75P WHERE SOLD



David & Mary visit St. Andrew's on Easter Day. Angela King and Jacky Shaw have a visitor to their allotment, the Go Compare scarecrow.

Ian Wilson carries the Scout flag at Windsor Castle. Easter Egg hunters pause for a



The Parish @ Large

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Darts League: 425323
Football: 418494

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Scouts: 07780 676861
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Friendship Club: 452978
Slip End Assoc: 414796
Mother's Union: 738435
Playgroup: 728865
Toddler Group 405931
Allotments: 736892
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Police: 473211
Aircraft noise: 395382
Water leaks: 0845 7823333

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CHURCHES

St Andrew's Church

Rev. Cathy Pullinger: 725061 Mob 07425 148046
Wardens: Tony Willson 482681
Susan Wiltshire 727477

Aley Green Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Philip Horner
Senior Steward: Ann Meader 733668

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GREETINGS FROM CATHY PULLINGER

Hi Everyone,

Greetings from St. Andrew's

June is an important month in the Church's calendar this year. During June we will be thinking about and celebrating the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and his return to his Father in Heaven, this festival we call Ascension Day. Then ten days later, we celebrate the birthday of the Church on Pentecost Sunday.

After Jesus rose from the dead he spent forty days among his disciples talking to them, explaining to them why he had had to die and rise again. Although he had told them often about what was going to happen to him in Jerusalem they hadn't really grasped it or expected it, and after his death they were left in shock and dismay. He came to them again and again in his risen body, he stood amongst them and showed them his hands and his side, he ate with them, he offered them his peace and reassured them that they could still serve him even though they had failed him badly. He commissioned them to continue his teaching and his ministry.

Then the time came for him to return to his heavenly Father. He led them out of the city, he lifted up his hands and blessed them and while he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. I think that God has given us a beautiful picture here, that he leaves us, while he is blessing us. That is his attitude in heaven. While he was with them he told them about the Holy Spirit, that person of the Godhead who comes and resides within us. He urged the disciples to wait and pray until this "gift" as he called it was poured out upon them. They returned to Jerusalem, with great joy, and they worshipped in the temple and prayed together for this promised gift.

It was received during the Festival of Pentecost – a Jewish Festival that Celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount

Sinai. It was the fulfilment of a promise that God had given to his people five hundred years before when he had spoken through his prophet Jeremiah and said: The day is coming when I will make a new covenant... I will put my laws in their minds and I will write them on their hearts and I will be their God and they will be my people.

The disciples received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and they were changed for ever, for they had the living God within them. They had his word, his living word written on their hearts, they knew that they belonged to God, they were his people. They were empowered and emboldened. They went out and shared the good news of the gospel and thousands came to faith in Jesus. This was the birth of the church, and it has been growing and going out with his love ever since. This bold love has not been experienced evenly all over the world or throughout the church's history. But wherever Jesus disciples wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, wherever they receive him into their hearts, wherever they are guided by his living word within, that same bold love is experienced and shared.

It's over two thousand years since that first Pentecost and the birth of the Church but God is still the same, and he still pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people today, whether in a secret house church in China or an open village church in Bedfordshire.

You are very welcome to join us as we welcome Him into our lives once again on Pentecost Sunday.

Bless You, Cathy

Contacting Cathy: Correction to the details given out in last month's Parish News: The Church Telephone Number is 01582 725061 (apologies for the error, there was some confusion with BT over whether we would be able to get our old number back.) Cathy can also be contacted on her Church Mobile 07425 148046.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH DATES: JUNE 2011

Wednesday 1st: 10.30am: Little Stars: Celebrating God's wonderful world with a Bug Hunt

Thursday 2nd: 7.30pm: Ascension Day Service

Sunday 5th June: 10.30am: Special Service for Environment Sunday, followed by a Bring & Share Lunch (see poster for more details)

Wednesday 8th 10.30am: Little Stars:

Sunday 12th : 10.30am: Morning Praise: Pentecost

Wednesday 15th : 10.30am: Little Stars

Sunday 19th : 10.30am Holy Communion: Trinity Sunday

Wednesday 22nd : 10.30am: Little Stars

Sunday 26th : 10.30am: Morning Praise with visiting speaker: Jo Robinson

Wednesday 29th : 10.30am: Little Stars



It was lovely to welcome David and Mary back to St Andrew's after their travels. They are in the UK for a short break before heading back to Burma and are able to catch up with family and friends. Their family are all well and their youngest son Christopher has been training to take up the Ministry like his father and will be inducted in July. We wish Chris and all the rest of the family the very best for the future.



The Church looked especially beautiful on Easter Sunday and David is seen admiring Val's decorative transformation of the wooden cross whilst talking to both her and her husband, Brian Church.





Summer holidays with St Andrew's Little Stars



Each Wednesday of each week in the school holidays we will meet at various public venues to have a grand morning out!

27th July @ Stockwood Park

Meet at the play area inside the Discovery centre

3rd August @ Dunstable Downs

Meet on the grass near the front of the visitor centre

10th August @ Ashridge

Meet at the monument

17th August @ Wardown Park

Meet at the children's play area

24th August @ St Albans Abbey

Text/contact Charlotte if you go
and she will advise you of the meeting spot

31st August @ Dunstable Downs

Meet on the grass near the front of the visitor centre

We aim to arrive at about 10:30 am

Looking forward to your company

for further details –

including help with transport (if needed)

Please contact Charlotte on 07850126021

Or Lynne on 07967509314.



LITTLE STARS

Little Stars meet every week at St Andrew's Church in the Family Room. Recently they had some visitors from Thailand (Mary's cousin and her husband).

Robin & Rosemary are involved in church planting and Bible translation with the Pwo Karen people in Kanchanaburui Thailand and showed some photos and talked about their work there.

They have been in Thailand for over twenty years and were able to talk to Orawan (Bo) who comes from Thailand and is living in Slip End with her little baby daughter Evie and Evie's dad Scott. She was very impressed by their knowledge and their ability to talk in Thai and tried on some of the typical Thai clothing that Rosemary had brought from Thailand.



Little Stars would love to welcome any new mums and babies/toddlers in the village. Just turn up around 10.30a.m. on Wednesdays and make new friends at the same time.

LETTER TO CATHY PULLINGER

Cathy has asked if we could include this letter from David Kingston, previous editor of the Parish News. His mother died on Easter Day, he writes this note of God's care shown to his family through many people, throughout this experience. He is grateful for the prayers and good wishes of people in the church and parish.

We have been aware that we have been in the thoughts and prayers of St Andrew's people; God's response has been bountiful! The death of my mother brought tears, but joys shone through. We were especially touched by all the loving care mum received from so many in her last days. These included family, friends and neighbours as well as doctors, clergy, district nurses, domestic carers, the Warden at her home and others no doubt. She received communion a couple of times and anointing. Mum's wish was to pass her last days at home in Wallingford where she was visited by all her children, grand children and great grand children by Palm Sunday. She seemed to be ticking them off, then when she had seen them all she declined then passed away peacefully on Easter Day.

She had planned her funeral service and with input from Rev Nigel Hawkes, the vicar of Warborough, we put together a beautiful funeral service last Monday. Another blessing was the beautiful spring time weather over these weeks: God's timing was impeccable!

We returned home on Tuesday afternoon then on Wednesday I attended Harefield Hospital for a cardiac check up as a prerequisite for surgery. Prayer has also been put in at St Andrew's about my knee which has slowed me down over the past six months or so. After the 'procedure' the doctor explained that there had been no change in my cardiac condition which was great news and should mean I'll be under the surgeon's scalpel soon.

.....I look back over the past month or so with much gratitude that God's guiding hand has been especially with us.

David Kingston

DISTRIBUTORS' HOLIDAY!

Note: Parish News for July is the 'Global Issue', delivered by our Parish Council to every house in the parish, so, unless especially asked, our noble distributors, who we thank for their sterling efforts, will have a short leave.

SLIP END GARDENING CLUB

At the meeting held on Mon. 21 March, members were advised of the year's programme of events and also given a card programme for easy reference. A presentation "Good in Bed" followed, given by Anne Godfrey of Daisy Roots Nursery, Hertford Heath. The presentation was very interesting, informative and showed various perennial plants which grow throughout the year. Anne brought a supply of both popular and unusual perennial plants, which members were able to purchase at the end of meeting.



On Sun. 17 April, members visited the Swiss Garden, Old Warden. Biggleswade. Designed in the 1820's, a 9-acre miniature landscape garden with winding paths, interwinding ponds, wrought iron bridges, fernery grotto and tiny buildings. Peacocks wander around splendid trees and shrubs, with daffodils, rhododendrons and roses in season.



The programme of visits for the next three months is given below:-

Sun. 5th Jun. - Ashridge Gardens, Berkhamsted

Admission £4 (Meet 1.30pm Rising Sun Car Park)

Sun. 26 Jun. - The Gardens of the Rose. St Albans

Admission £5 (Meet 1.30pm Rising Sun Car Park)

Sun. 17 July. - Chenies Manor Plant Fair, Weather permitting.

Admission £6, House £4 extra.

Sun. 24 July. - Hitchin Lavender Farm - Weather permitting.

Entrance to field £4

PN Gardening Correspondent

Next meeting:-

**Mon 18th July
8pm Village Hall**

**Guest Speaker Jude Hirstwood
(Bedfordshire Bat Group)
Followed by local Bat Walk**

New members welcome
Guests/Visitors £2 each





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FRIENDSHIP CLUB

On 9th May we all boarded the coach for Clacton and what a great day it was! There were no hold-ups either way and the sun shone all day.

We are now looking forward to our next outing which is to Bourton on the Water on 21st June.

It was lovely to have a visit recently from Cathy Pullinger the new Priest in Charge at St Andrews, she is welcome at the club any time!

Pam King



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ALEY GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

Services and Diary dates for June

Saturday 4th

10.30am/2.30pm Brunch & Browse

Sunday 5th

11.00am Morning Service - Rev Bob Forrest

11.00am Sunday School (Communion)

Monday 6th

7.30pm Fellowship Meeting
'Pentecost' led by Gerry Buckle

Wednesday 8th

7.30pm Coffee Evening
In aid of Methodist Homes

Sunday 12th

11.00am Morning Service - Melvin Corby

11.00am Sunday School

Tuesday 14th

10.00am/12.00pm 'Cakes & Company'

Sunday 19th

11.00am Morning Service - Darren Morris

11.00am Sunday School

Sunday 26th

11.00am Morning Service - Rev Anne Brown

11.00am Sunday School (Chair of District)

Tuesday 28th

7.30pm Bible Study led by Rev Bob Forrest

Saturday 2nd July

Caddington Village Carnival

Sunday 3rd July

11.00am Morning Service - Rev Bob Forrest

11.00am Sunday School

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Our April Coffee Evening was well supported and raised £71.34 for Keech Hospice Care. The tombola stall held at the April Cakes & Company, run by Ben Sowley, a member of our Sunday School, raised £33.00 for Junior Mission for All.

Some of our Church members were able to help at the Caddington Allotment Sale on Saturday 7th May in the refreshment hut. Preserves and cakes were on sale as well as tea and coffee and we raised £210.00, which was added to the plant and produce sales. All the profits went towards the repayment of the toilet cost, a very welcome addition to our allotments!

The Ecumenical Lent group supper found most of those who attended the course sat around the table sharing food and friendship together. Our final meeting entitled 'Pentecost' will be held on Monday 6th June.

Make a note of the date of our Brunch & Browse, Bacon Butties, Jacket Potatoes with various fillings, Home Made Soups, Sausage Rolls & Cakes will be on the menu. Toys Bric a Brac Books and preserves will be on sale. You might even come across the odd white elephant!

It's always good to get out on a lovely summers evening, so please take a stroll, cycle or drive down to our June Coffee Evening on Wednesday 8th June. No charge for tea and coffee and you can have a look along the book shelves and stock up for holiday and lazy day reading.

We are very excited at Aley Green to have the Rev Anne Brown, the Chair of Beds, Essex & Herts. District, leading our service on Sunday 26th June and look forward to giving her a warm welcome.

*Spirit of the living God  
Move among us all  
Make us one in heart & mind  
Make us one in love  
Humble, caring  
Selfless, sharing  
Spirit of the living God  
Fill our lives with love*

With love & prayers from all at Aley Green

*Ann Meader*



If you have passed through Dunstable recently, you may have spotted a familiar name! Mittal's Supermarket is in the space that used to be Woolworths before their demise. Dropping in, I noted they have a wide variety of goods ranging from food and drink to magazines, books and clothes. We wish them well in this new venture!

## LAUGHTER

### Bible Study Humour

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Ricky was excited about the task but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous.

When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly,

"The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

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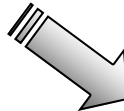
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Our Darts team has played its first match of the season and had great fun (although they did lose). We could do with a few extra players if you are interested.

Jerusalem was sung to start our meeting on 17th May and Sallie read the minutes of our April meeting. Any other business included outings, group report, sick visitors report and arrangements for our June meeting.

We then went ahead with our Annual Meeting which was attended by our WI Advisor, Sylvia Eastwood. We welcomed her and she read the 2011 Resolutions explaining all about them. Our Delegate, Helen Turner, will be representing us this June at the WI Annual General Meeting.

Sallie read her Secretary's report giving details of our past years events, including outings, charity events etc. A copy of our Financial Statement for 2010 was given to our members to look at and Linda proposed acceptance, Lorna Kalisz seconded. It was then Sue's turn to read her President's Report. She thanked all the Committee for the past years work they have put in. Sylvia then took over to preside over the Election of a President and Committee for 2011. Sue was voted on again as President - keep the good work up, Sue. Two new members came on the committee which will help us spread the load. Thank you Ladies.

The Children's Society was our talk from Christine Graham. Christine informed us that she has been with the Society for 30

years. We were all very impressed with the story of the Society and its ideas and fund raising. Some of our Members went home with boxes to do collections. Any foreign coins or used stamps are also worth giving to Christine as they all bring in cash which is always needed to run this huge organisation. Sheila thanked Christine for coming along and giving us such an interesting talk.

Our competition was "The Prettiest Fan". Sue Martin was first with Joanne Sherwood, second and Helen Turner third. Well done ladies.

Our Annual Rose Bowl Competition was won by Helen Turner with Sue Martin second and a tie between Rita and Sallie for third. They were all given Marks and Spencer Vouchers for prizes. Again, well done. It is always worth entering the Competitions as you get a Point for entering. At the end of the year all the points are totalled up and The Rose Bowl presented to the member with the most points.

It was a very busy and entertaining evening for us and we all enjoyed the refreshments.

The Dunstable Choir will be entertaining us on June 14th at 7.30 p.m. please come along. There will be the usual refreshments which we all enjoy.

You are welcome to join us at our meetings which are held every third Tuesday of the month at the Baptist Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Our next meeting is June 21st when we will be having a horse racing evening. Please dress up for this occasion as it will make the evening go with a splash!

Look forward to seeing you all.

*Linda Bartlett*



*FoSELS is the "Friends of Slip End Lower School" and over the years they have raised a good amount of funds to provide activities and equipment that the school would not otherwise have had. Well done!*

Further to our entry in the last issue of the Parish News, we wanted to update you on a few changes within FoSELS and feedback from our hugely successful Indulgence Evening held on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Firstly, since we announced that Nicky Shah would be taking over as Chairperson of FoSELS, due to unforeseen personal circumstances Nicky has made the reluctant decision to step down and hand the position over to another FoSELS member. Naomi Negus is now the new Chairperson and has made a mighty start in her new role, with a huge list of inspiring ideas. She will be backed by Debbie Newsome who has taken the role as Vice

Chair. Nicky will continue as an active member of the FoSELS team.

We would like to say a huge Thank You to everyone who attended the Indulgence Evening on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. It was an outstanding success and the event made a total profit of £1,200. There was a great atmosphere on the night with a whole selection of treatments on offer.

The Medium was a sell-out and the popularity of this attraction has sparked the idea of hosting a Psychic Night in the near future – so watch this space. Well done to Claire Penney, Emma Sweetman and Debbie for organising this event.

Look out for the SUMMER FAYRE on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

It is shaping up to be a great day out – with a 'Top Gear' radio controlled car racing game – prizes will be Top Gear related. There will be stalls galore, games, competitions, Raffle and much, much more!



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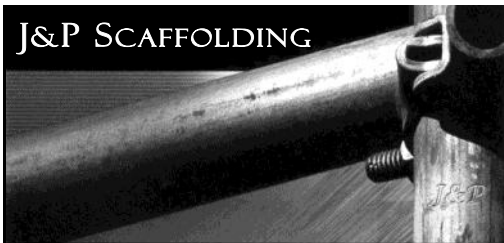
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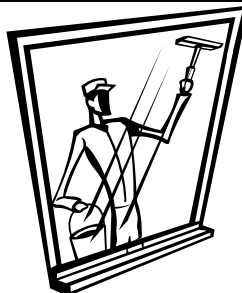
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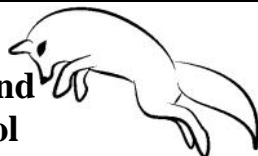
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If the weather is dry raise the height of your mower blades and leave the cuttings on the lawn to conserve moisture. Spike the lawn well to allow the rain or water to penetrate to the roots and keep the grass looking green.



As dahlias that have been planted out start to grow, pinch the tips of main shoots out to produce a more bushy plant. Chrysanthemums can be treated the same way until the middle of the month, do not allow the roots to dry out and apply a mulch after a down-pour to retain the moisture. Gladioli will start to bud-up towards the end of the month so keep well watered. Irises will be in bloom this month so tie tall stems to stakes to prevent wind damage. Stake border Carnations and take cuttings of Pinks. Sweet Peas will benefit from a spray of water in the morning and evening in dry weather, rather than soaking the soil, which leads to bud drop if the roots get waterlogged.

Sow Wallflowers and Sweet Williams at the end of the month or early next month for flowering next spring. Tulips need to be lifted when the leaves have yellowed and the bulbs dried ready for planting in the autumn. Daffodils can be left in the ground unless the clumps are becoming too large, then lift, divide and replant them straightaway.

Plants in pots will need watering up to three times a day in dry hot weather and green-houses will need damping down regularly to

avoid infestations of red spider mite. As soon as Brooms have finished flowering cut the shoots hard back but avoid cutting into the old wood.



Plant brussel sprouts, sprouting broccolis and winter cabbage and protect from pigeons with netting. Marrows, courgettes, squashes and outdoor tomatoes can all be planted out now. Continue to sow salad crops and lift new potatoes when ready. As the ground is cleared plant out leeks as the soil will be easy to make holes to plant the leeks in.

Early in the month self blanching celery can be planted out 12 inches apart and in rows 18 inches apart and keep well watered. Strawberries will need protecting from birds and slugs, destroy any fruit attacked by grey mould.

Tie in new shoots of blackberries and loganberries. Gooseberry bushes usually carry a heavy crop, so thin them to improve the size of the remaining fruits. Watch out for gooseberry sawfly which can defoliate a bush quickly, this can be controlled with Derris Dust. You may also need to spray against powdery mildew, which can make the fruit inedible.

Unfortunately my e-mail address was incorrectly printed last month, so if anybody was unable to contact me we will ensure it is correct this month, so try again if you need any questions answered and I will reply next month.

[russell.sprout1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:russell.sprout1@hotmail.co.uk)

*Russell Sprout*



**Frog and Rhubarb**

The Wii Championship at the Frog & Rhubarb took place in March. There were plenty of children trying to drive cars, chase zombie rabbits and even plunge toilets! The winners of the day were Ethan Drew and Joe Hanlan who took the two prizes of £15 to spend at Toys ‘R’ Us.

The Frog & Rhubarb was again fully booked on Mothers’ Day at the beginning of April. Mums were treated to free Bucks Fizz as they enjoyed their meal from the pub’s extensive and ever changing menu.

The annual Egg Hunt took place on Easter Saturday. The Egg Hunters followed clues around the village to discover the secret code word that they used to claim a Free Easter Egg and Snack Lunch. This event was a



great hit with the children and raised much needed funds for the School and Playgroup. All the ticket sales money went to support these local groups and the day raised £150.



Also on Easter weekend the pub raised £140 for Macmillan Cancer Care with the raffle of a giant Easter Egg. This takes the pubs total charity fundraising total over the £11,000 mark!

The Royal Wedding of the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge was celebrated at the Frog

with a £2 drinks night. The pub was decorated in a most patriotic manner and the large number of people taking part had a great time.

**Forthcoming Events @ The Frog**

A Night At The Movies will take place at the Frog on Saturday 18 June. Live music is to be provided by Sing Out Sisters who will be singing all the biggest tracks of the silver screen. There will be free hot dogs and free popcorn for that genuine cinema feel. During the evening the Frog Academy Awards will be presented. Voting forms are available at the pub now with categories such as best dressed, best couple and best comedian.

Sunday 19 June is Fathers’ Day. The Frog & Rhubarb are offering a special steak menu on the day. There will be 14oz rump, 8oz sirloin or 8oz rib eye all at just £10 each including chips, peas and mushrooms. The pubs full menu will also be available on the day.

The Frog & Rhubarb charity quiz takes place on the last Wednesday of every month. The next one is on 29 June. There is a mix of questions, picture and more unusual rounds. First prize is £40 in vouchers and second prize is £20 in vouchers. Entry is a £1 per person donation to MacMillan Cancer Care and teams can be up to 5 people. Make sure you get here early as seats fill up quickly.

The Frog’s annual Darts Tournament takes place on Thursday 7 July. It is open for anyone to enter and costs nothing to take part. There will be £40 in vouchers for the overall winner plus £20 for every 180 scored. No matter how experienced you are, come along, take part and enjoy the free buffet. To get involved just be at the pub by 8pm on the night.

Look out for details of the Frogs full day of events on Saturday 23 July!!!! Up to date information on events and offers can be found on the website [www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk](http://www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk)



Royal Wedding fun at the Frog and Rhubarb

## Rising Sun

On the day of the Royal Wedding lots of people came along to join in the fun and watch the ceremony on the big screens then enjoy a barbecue. About 30 children were there, some of them in fancy dress as princesses or knights. *Some can be seen inside the back cover.* They played games outside and had fun on the bouncy castle, and raised funds for the Playgroup.

## St George's Dinner at the Rising Sun



At very short notice, Dave stepped in to be MC for the evening and did a very good job of it.

The evening was attributed to 'all things English' in recognition of St George. About 30 people, dressed in suitable evening wear, enjoyed a delicious 4 course meal cooked by Lily. In-between the courses a very difficult quiz about England and the English was given to the diners and brains were stretched and pulled this way and that to try and solve the questions. It was a very close thing but eventually the team of the Buttery's, the Lyons and the Briggs was victorious and won by just half a point over the St Andrew's

team. Some English champagne was given to the winning team.



Well done to Lily, Dave and their team for an entertaining evening.

## Events at the Rising Sun

Elvis is coming 3rd June 8pm . Food will be available prior to the performance and bookings can be made in advance. We will also be doing 70's retro basket meals as a special for that night.

Sun 12th June 2pm Poppy Appeal Party for the British Legion 90th Anniversary (part of a national event) There will be a tea party and two "WW1 Cavalry" will be present and join us for the National Toast at 4pm. Tickets at £7.50 including food and the toast.

**Quiz Nights** On 15th June at 8pm we are holding the first in a series of Fun Quiz Nights with prizes to be won. Proceeds of the first one will go towards the Poppy Appeal and thus the entry fee on this occasion will be £10 per team.

Thereafter the entry fee per team will be £5 to cover prizes and the events will be held on the second Wednesday of the month. Teams should be made up of 4 people.

**Fun Fete and Mini Beer Festival** A date for your diaries - Saturday 16th July at 11:00am. There will be Pimms, face painting, bouncy castle, burger/hotdog stall, a live band in the afternoon...and more.

If you would like to have a stall at the fete or you would like more information about any of the events, just ask at the pub.

# The Rising Sun

*The Community Hub*



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## **ROYAL WEDDING DAY AT MIGNONETTE**

The 'official' invites were sent out. The chapel suitably decorated - the garden was decked in red, white and blue flowers - bunting was hung from the roof - flags were available to wave at crucial times - a huge screen displayed all the wedding details. Delicious food was available including two wedding cakes and the champagne flowed freely all day. There were also orders of service and details of the Abbey and the morning papers on the tables (a welcome touch).

Jane and Hugo from Mignonette were the ultimate hosts and with the help of friends and family provided a magnificent party atmosphere, fit for a dashing royal prince and beautiful princess.



Hilda and May from Church Road, pictured on the back inside cover, were there too enjoying the festivities alongside many other villagers. Well done to Jane and Hugo - a wonderful day was had by all.

*Sue Briggs*

## **ST GEORGE'S DAY—HELP FOR HEROES**

On a lovely sunny day in April it was a real treat to see some Knights of the Realm complete with horses, serving wenches and supporting young money collectors arrive at the Slip End Social Club—their first stop on a busy day visiting all the pubs and clubs in Slip End and Caddington in aid of the very worthwhile charity Help for Heroes.

As shown on the cover page Sir Chris Lancelot (Chris Phillips) riding Ed, and Lord Terry the Tree (Terry Buxton) on Roo looked a real picture in complete realistic costumes from Knights of Arkley, St Albans.



Girlfriends Rebecca Smith and Charlotte Norris were there to help with the horses, and with the assistance of their children collect the money from anyone who turned up at the Social Club, The Frog & Rhubarb, Rising Sun in Slip End and then on to The Plough, Caddington Club, The Chequers and The Cricketers in Caddington. A very busy day for all concerned and a grand total of £420 raised for Help for Heroes. Well done to them all and to the very well-behaved horses who must have been very hot in their outfits.

Don't miss Chris and Terry next month when they will be back dressed at 1st World War Calvary men for the 90th anniversary of the Poppy appeal on June 12th.

*Sue Briggs*



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**VANDALISM**

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Parish News received a letter from Slip End Garage requesting us to ask the following:-

Would the kind person who inflicted over £1,000 worth of malicious damage to two of our vehicles, whilst parked legally in Clay-down Way, contact us to explain why they thought it necessary to vandalise these vehicles in this manner.

Regards.

Dennis Flitton

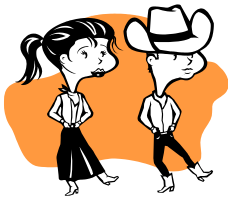
Unfortunately there seem to be very few areas of our country where there is no vandalism. It is always a sad thing to see that a few thoughtless people think that it does not matter if they spoil people's property or the environment that others enjoy .

If you should see anyone you think may be carrying out acts of vandalism, please report it to the police. Any information will always be treated in confidence. Never tackle them yourself—think of your own safety first.

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**LINE DANCING**

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Line dancing classes take place in the Village Hall in Slip End every Wednesday at 10am. It is great fun, helping the dancers to

**BINGO**  
*at the Village Hall*  
*Thursdays at Eight*  
*Slip End & District*  
*Association*

exercise as well as memorise the different routines.

Rita, who comes from Malta, has been attending the classes for seven years and is now moving from her house in Dunstable to live nearer her daughter in Dorset. She will be greatly missed .

The class bought her a cake, balloon and flowers to wish her every happiness in her new home and say farewell.



Rita is pictured second from the right with some of her fellow dancers.

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**LAUGHTER**

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**Unanswered Prayer?**

The preacher's five year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

'Well, ' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.'

'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.

\*\*\*\*\*

.....and they say that children always speak what they believe is true..... Perhaps we should listen to them more often!

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18 June  
Night At The Movies

19 June - Fathers' Day  
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29 June  
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7 July  
Darts Tournament

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# NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



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Sing Out  
Sisters

Frog Academy Awards  
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## RAGS WALK

On Saturday 14th May, after sorting out with Alan what we wanted for lunch, 17 walkers set off from Cross Keys pub in Pulloxhill, Beds.

The weather was perfect, a glorious day, a gentle breeze blowing. We rambled through fields of broad beans and wheat. Fields with various varieties of sheep and rams with intricately twisted horns, glared at us. One tried to eat my cap! We carefully avoided the result of their grazing.

We passed a field with white horses too. In the distance we saw a fierce looking bull and vistas of yellow rape shimmering in the sunshine. We stopped in wonder to listen to the snores of sleeping badgers in their set. My husband says I must take him to the vet for a bovine TB test on Monday!

Despite the parched, cracked ground all along our way, the fields were alive with

growth and life. We by-passed Silsoe and Flitton back to the Cross Keys to enjoy lovely food and fellowship.

As it was Elora's birthday, her Grandma had organized a surprise for her. We sang happy birthday to her and after she'd blown out the candles, we enjoyed sharing her cake and company.

*Jean Forrest*



## **SCOUT ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADES**

The Scout Association hold parades on or near St. George's Day every year. This year St George's Day was actually on Easter Saturday so the local Districts held their parades before or after the school holidays.

Several hundreds from Luton's three Districts including Beavers Cubs and Scouts from the local villages, paraded through Luton on 10th April. About 30 young people from the Slip End Scout Group took part, joining the rest of the Lea Valley groups at Luton Central Baptist Church for a service, during which promises were renewed.

Nationally there is a parade and service held at Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel. The parade is for recent Queen's Scouts (about 200-300 of them each year). There is also a morning service for adult leaders who have achieved special awards or especially long service.

## **IAN WILSON—WINDSOR COLOUR PARTY**

Ian started out as a Beaver and Cub at Slip End then joined school friends in Dunstable District since the village had no Scout Troop.



He gained his Queen's Scout Award last year and was part of the Colour party this year. He carried the Scout Association flag, watched by proud parents, as well as other family and friends. It was a really wonderful day for us all.

*Alison Wilson*

## **My Colour Party Experience**

St. George's day is an important day all across Scouting and each year there is a special parade for a very special, select group of people. Each year the Queen opens her castle and the private area, known as the Quadrangle, for the people who have earned their Queen's Scout Award to parade and show off their achievement. I think it barely needs saying that this is an incredible event and the people that get to go are both very lucky and have earned the right.

However amidst this select group there is an even more lucky and special group of people. These are the service planning team and the colour party. Anyone who is entitled to go to the parade can apply for these positions but it isn't easy. The parade leader runs selection days and for the colour party picks the six people they think are best for the job. I was lucky enough to be picked this year and it led to some of the best moments of my life so far.

The colour party is a serious job at the Windsor parade. The six people must work in a perfect team, appearing as one unit and above all making the job look easy. To achieve this we had 4 scheduled training weekends before the event itself, spread over several months. These weekends were spent team building, learning the basics of marching and then going over the parade route and manoeuvres until we could do it in our sleep, also getting accustomed to holding the flag for long periods of time as these flags are not light. Over these weekends we progressed and grew as a group, becoming good friends in the way that only an experience like this can cause.

Then of course came the final weekend, the event itself. Saturday was spent going over the last few things and making sure we were in tip top shape before spending the afternoon and evening relaxing, sorting uniforms and having a final formal meal. Sunday morning came along and nervous tension was high. Off to the Victoria Barracks at 8.30 to practice to set an example for the arriving Queen's Scouts before heading up to the quadrangle for a final practice there, followed by a mad rush to change into our parade uniforms before a final practice inside the St Georges chapel, followed by another mad rush to the Mews for the start of the parade.

From there it was a simple route up to the quadrangle, parade there while the VIPs did the inspection and then down to the chapel for the scout service.



*The VIPs were Chief Scout, Bear Grylls and The Hon. Mary Bayliss, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, as the Queen's representative.*

I don't know how to describe the mix of emotions that we experienced through this simple short journey. Extreme nerves to start with until we started and then all the training kicked in and my body went through the

steps. We followed the amazing Guards' band up to the quadrangle and waited while everyone took their positions and then it was our biggest moment.

Picture this, all is still and a strange quiet has settled over however many thousand people are in the quadrangle, parading and spectating. All of a sudden a shout from under the archway and the only thing moving is the team of six members of the colour party and the flags streaming out in the wind. The moment we stepped out from between the two bands and started the walk up the lawn was one of the most incredible moments of my life. The wave of pure emotion sweeping over me was unlike anything I have experienced. No performance can compare to the setting and magnitude of what we were doing there. To be honest most of the parade went by as a complete blur, once it got going it shot past and the end appeared in no time at all.

I have to say that I had a weird mix of feelings afterwards, relief at it being over and the release of all the nervous tension followed by exhilaration at pulling it off and doing the best performance we had ever done followed by sadness that our time together had come to an end and we would never get the chance to do the same again.

I have to leave you with the advice that if you are in scouting and are close to or have achieved the Queen's Scout Award it is definitely worth trying to get into the colour party, as only six get to do it every year and it really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Life isn't about the number of breaths you take but the moments that take your breath away, and this was truly one of them.

*Ian Wilson*

**Scouting in the local area** Slip End has groups of Beavers (6-8years), Cubs (8-10+) and Scouts (10-14). If you think your children may be interested, then you will find contact details on the front page.



## ANYONE FOR TENNIS ???

Slip End Tennis Club was formed in 1987 and is affiliated to the Beds Lawn Tennis Association. It has two hard courts and is sited at Slip End Playing Fields, Church Road, Slip End. It is a small friendly club with approx. 50 members. Membership costs are: Juniors £15 (Those in full time education) Seniors £30 Family £45 (There is a reduction for early payment of subscriptions) Club members have priority in the use of courts, except when matches are to be played. Club night is on Monday evenings and Adult night on Wednesday evenings both from 7pm, to which all members are welcome. Junior coaching commenced 8 April and is provided by our LTA coach, Sally Parry on Fridays, £3 per session. Beginners 5-6pm and Intermediates 6-7pm. Private coaching is also available. Give Sally a call (413501)

We have a Men's Doubles and Mixed Team in the South Beds League also a Mixed Team in the Winter Indoor League.

Any enquiries about the club can be made by telephone or e-mail to:

Peter Smith, Chairman

Steve Lyons, Treasurer

(733253) peter.smith813@tesco.net

(414162) SteveSueLyons@aol.com



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A pilot series of Let's Talk Together meetings took place across Central Beds in each of the seven Safer Neighbourhood Areas during January to March. These were well received by both Elected Members, local residents and public service organisations such as the NHS, Fire and Rescue and Police. A further series of meetings based on three per year in each of the seven areas is now being arranged.

The next meetings will take place in June and July, starting at 7pm and finishing at 9pm.

The one for our area (the Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Rural area) is on Thursday 23 June at Dunstable Fire Station.

Part 1 - is the market stall part of the meeting where visitors can drop in between 7:00pm and 7.45pm and have informal discussion with a range of public service providers.

Part 2 of the meeting follows at 7.45pm where the policing priorities for the area are agreed and will now include an additional presentation covering a local topical issue and discussion time to agree how issues can be tackled together.

For any further information about Let's Talk Together or community engagement please contact Sarah Hughes 0300 300 6166

or by email:-

[sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)



The first meeting of the Parish Council since the election took place on 9<sup>th</sup> May and coincided with the Annual Meetings of both the Council and the Residents.

The election was the first to be contested since the Council began in 2001. You may recall an uncontested election takes place when there are either just enough or insufficient candidates to fill the available seats. Personally, I much prefer seeing a contested election: for it ensures residents have a choice of candidates and thereby a say in who is running their Council rather than having someone in place by default.

My fellow Councillors are: Steve Baird, Paul Cooper Vice Chairman, Janet Crawley, Steve Fuell, Keith Holme and Sarah Minnighan. I particularly welcome Steve Baird who lives in Woodside and broadens our representation as the other Councillors live in Pepperstock and Slip End. We would all like to thank you for your votes.

At the previous Council meeting in April we said farewell to Philip Penman who stepped down after over twenty years' service to both the Parish and District Councils. I am sure everyone in the Parish will join me in saying a very big thank you to Philip.

There is not very much else to report just now, a number of projects: parking, speeding, and the possible purchase of a road gritter are all in hand. An eye is being kept on the condition our roads are left in, following the extensive work being carried out on the water mains. However, we are looking forward to the delivery of the Parish Plan, in which I am sure you will have given us plenty to be getting on with.

In the meantime if you have any concerns please do feel free to speak to any of us, our contact details are at the front of every issue of this magazine.

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

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Sadly, Slip End has lost two well known characters recently, Michelina Hussey and Bob Strong.

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### **MICHELINA HUSSEY**

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Michelina Hussey 11.4.1930-19.4.2011



Michelina, better known to villagers as Meg, was born in Italy in 1930. She came over to England with her sister Ita in 1955. The sisters were then separated. Meg lived in Harpenden, working as a domestic worker at St George's School while Ita was sent to Cheltenham. A year later they were reunited by their dear friend Maria. Meg then met Raymond Hussey and was introduced to the village of Slip End. They met in Harpenden High Street while looking in a shop window! She was with her sister Ita, while Ray was there with Gordon Burton.

The couple courted for two years and went on to marry in 1959, living in the same house in Front Street for the whole of their married life, 52 years! The four friends enjoyed holidays abroad together also visiting Meg's home village in Italy.

Meg thoroughly enjoyed life, especially her earlier years when she loved to go dancing at the Village Hall. Also she loved fairgrounds and would so love to drive the bumper cars!

She worked as a machinist for J. Alberts Hat Factory in John Street, Luton for many years. She then became a home machinist after bringing two children, Tony and Rosemary, into the world. She was a devoted wife and mother to her family who loved and adored her in return.

She was well known for her love of food, mainly cooking and sharing it with all who loved her. She was especially known for her pizzas, porpettes and scotch eggs!

Unfortunately Meg passed away on 19th April aged 81. Meg you will always be truly loved and sadly missed but never ever forgotten.

*Words and pictures provided by Rosemary Hussey*



*Meg, Ray, Gordon and Ita on a trip together*

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Meg's funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday 10th May and was conducted by Chris Barnes. The hymn, Amazing Grace was sung and readings included the 23rd Psalm.



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**ROBERT STRONG**

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Robert Francis Strong 29.7.47—21.4.11



Bob, as everyone knew him was born in Bricket Wood before moving to London Colney where he grew up with his two brothers Dave and Tom. He started work as an apprenticeship with EAC Sheet Metal, also joining the football team there. He married and had two children, Alison and Christopher and later changed jobs to start work with Securicor which is where he started driving HGV's.

Bob was a fun outgoing person who enjoyed life and was looking for a soul mate when he met Sue at a Singles Club in Markyate. From then on he became one of the family, readily accepting Sue's daughter Beverley as his own. Sue and Bob were married at St Andrew's Church twenty two years ago when Rev David Bolster was there and had a wonderful day, with live music in the Church and many friends and family present.

Golf was one of Bob's first loves after his dad introduced him to the game. He became Captain of Batchwood Hall Club in 1982 and won many trophies until his illness made it difficult for him to play.

He loved gardening, pool, snooker and bingo and watching Wolverhampton Wanderers. With Sue they travelled all over the world visiting many places including Alaska,

Hawaii, Canada, Egypt and the Norwegian Fjords, to name but a few.

He had seven grandchildren and loved spending time with them.

Gardening became a firm favourite, excelling in growing tomatoes and cucumbers and even making more friends through it. However, even in Bob's later days he was still able to sit in the conservatory to admire the garden and tell Sue what needed doing.

He especially enjoyed the family get togethers with some of his extended family and a few beers with Andy and Paul, his sons -in-law.

Bob will be remembered for his humour and the happy times he spent living in Rossway, Slip End with the love of his life Sue and will be greatly missed.



Rest in Peace Bob

*The life that I have is all that I have  
And the life that I have is yours*

*The love that I have of the life that I have,  
Is yours and yours and yours*

*A sleep I shall have a rest I shall have  
Yet death will be but a pause*

*For the peace of my years in the long green grass  
Will be yours and yours and yours*



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## THE PRESENCE OF HENS

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*"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.  
We have only today. Let us begin."*

*Mother Teresa*

3 years ago, I suddenly had the urge to keep chickens, preferably 'rescue hens'. I knew absolutely nothing about looking after chickens, and got in touch with the British Hen Welfare Trust, a charity who re-home commercial laying hens and educate the public about hen welfare. The BHWT have developed a relationship with the farmers they deal with, which is based not on blame or anger, but on patience, support and understanding. These farmers now trust the BHWT volunteers to come to their farms on the dates when their battery hens would otherwise be released for slaughter, and to fill their vans with the hens, whisking them off to their farm centres, from where they are re-homed.

I put my name down for 3 hens and my two children and I drove to collect them, armed with cardboard boxes. A large number of hens, who had been released that very day, were standing in a sheltered area, dazed, clucking and laying the odd egg. In a nearby building, in what looked like a little 'hospital area', there were several particularly weak hens, lying under heat lamps or resting quietly. The atmosphere was festive and joyful – we could smell sudden freedom in the air – and yet the sight was also shocking: many of the hens were largely bald and were having trouble knowing what to do with their legs; they looked very confused and drained. Their combs were pale and floppy. They had never before seen daylight, eaten solid food or walked about, and had had very limited access to water.

We were given our 3 ladies, and we got back into the car, feeling slightly stunned and tearful at the realisation of the life all these creatures had led so far. Once we got home and introduced the birds to their new house and run, some of God's miracles began to unfold...

Soon after their arrival, dusk fell, a time of day they had never previously experienced, and they somehow sensed it was bedtime. Off they went, gingerly, and earnestly put themselves to bed.

Over the next days, they blossomed like flowers, and became what they truly were. They learnt to: use their legs, comically stretching one in front of the other; bury themselves deep in a therapeutic, cleansing dust bath; scratch around for grubs and

worms; cluck proudly to herald newly laid eggs; and to bask briefly, on their sides, in the sun... They quickly established a strict, and at times distressingly vicious, pecking order. Their feathers grew back and began to change colours with each season. Also, having barely noticed us at the beginning, in their bewildered state, they learnt to react to us, nervously at first, clucking back when we talked and greeting us joyfully each time they saw us.

They were simply *being*. The past had gone. They were there - *now* - learning how to live. There is something therapeutic about watching hens pottering, possibly because it brings one into the simplicity of the present moment, where they always are.

Once they became really confident, they began stampeding off through the hedges to neighbours' gardens, so that I finally decided to build an enclosure for them, to keep them safe - and to save my reputation, having chased indignant hens around various gardens! The neighbours, far from complaining at the clucks and flaps, were delighted at the characterful energy and sound these birds brought to the atmosphere.

'Rescue hens', like many animals, have wonderful, healing relationships with humans. Jane Howorth, from the British Hen Welfare Trust, was kind enough to pass on some lovely stories: A wheelchair-bound lady who adopted hens and said that they transformed her life, enabling her to spend time with them at the bottom of the garden; a severely autistic young girl whose parents report that their hens have a profoundly positive effect on their daughter; and a lady who had suffered from depression for years, and whose hens gave her back enjoyment in life.

It feels to me that we humans have created for ourselves a world that can be similar to a battery environment, to varying degrees, being trapped in a fast-paced energy of anxiety, fear, negative news reports and pressure. All of this is so very far removed from our deepest instincts and intuition about what is beneficial or harmful for us. When we make time to be still, leaving the past aside, our inner voice can guide us on how to proceed, how to evolve into who we really are: God's powerful, loving, creative beings, capable of practising kindness towards all life and of building new, healthier patterns.

*Natasha Church*

## **FARLEY HILL METHODISTS**

The first concert in the season at Farley Hill, given by Cantata Ladies Choir, was well attended despite other big events happening on the same night elsewhere. There was a raffle and refreshments and a pleasant evening was had by all. The members of the choir would like to say thank you to Farley Hill Methodist Church for inviting them back again.

The concert included a varied selection of music ranging from Rutter's "Look at the World", the opening number, to Jazz classics such as "Ev'ry Time You Say Goodbye" and medleys from the shows "Les Miserables" and "Phantom of the Opera".



*Ken Cameron introduces Cantata*

Ken Cameron told me that the next concert in the series this year is the Annual Charity Concert on Saturday 16th July at which the Beds Police Choir will be performing.

For details please contact Ken on 07852 474628.

Cantata currently has about 40 members and most concerts are in aid of local charities, churches or organisations. There are a few residents of Slip End involved in the choir (myself included). If you, or any organisation



you support, would be interested in Cantata performing at a fund raising event on your behalf, please contact our Chairman Liz Craggs on 01582 619964. Otherwise send an email to parishnews@slipend.co.uk and we will pass on the message.

*Alison Wilson*

*To keep track of latest local issues,  
events, etc., visit .....*

***www.slipend.co.uk***

*Our website contains lots of information covering all activities and groups in the Parish. Web mistress Sarah Minnighan & Webmaster Peter King have been working hard to update information and improve presentation.*

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**Environment Sunday**

**5th June 2011**

**Join us at St Andrew's Church  
in**

**Celebrating  
Food**

**with special speaker  
Steve Hughes of A Rocha UK**

**10.30am Food for Thought -  
with fun activities for all ages**

**12.00 Food for the Body -  
'Bring & Share' Lunch**  
Try to bring seasonal, locally grown or Fair Trade food

**1.00pm 'Flowers, trees, birds & bugs'**  
A nature walk in Kidney Wood for all the family

**Welcome to any  
or all the events**



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

## June

- 3rd *Elvis is coming! - Rising Sun.*  
4th *Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am to noon*  
*SEADA Senior Citizens Outing*  
5th *Environment Sunday at St Andrew's Church*  
*Café Church*  
12th *Poppy Appeal Tea Party & National Toast 2pm - Rising Sun*  
15th *Fun Quiz Night 8pm—Rising Sun*  
18th *Night at the Movies — Frog and Rhubarb*  
19th *Fathers' Day Steak Meal - Frog and Rhubarb*  
25th *Slip End School Summer Fayre 12—3pm*  
29th *Charity Quiz — Frog and Rhubarb*

## July

- 2nd *Meet Central Beds Councillors: Heathfield School Caddington, 10am to noon*  
7th *Darts Tournament— Frog and Rhubarb*  
16th *Fun Fete and Mini Beer Festival 11:00am - Rising Sun*  
18th *Gardening Club— 8pm Village Hall followed by Bat Walk*  
23rd *Day of Events - Frog and Rhubarb*  
27th *Little Stars at Stockwood Park 10:30am*

## August

- 3rd *Little Stars at Dunstable Downs 10:30am*  
10th *Little Stars at Ashridge 10:30am*  
17th *Little Stars at Wardown Park 10:30am*  
24th *Little Stars at St Albans Abbey 10:30am*  
31st *Little Stars at Dunstable Downs 10:30am*

**Wheelie Bins:** see below

**Black Bins & glass:** Put out on Friday 10th and 24th June  
**Green and Orange Bins:** Put out on Friday 3rd, 17th June and 1st July



**Items for the next issue to us by 15th June (to email or Sue Briggs please)**

Want 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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Royal Wedding celebrations at the Chapel and Princesses and a Knight at the Rising Sun





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