



Aley Green - Pepperstock
Slip End - Woodside
PARISH NEWS
March 2013
75p where sold

The Good Neighbour Scheme is launched!



After six months of planning our Good Neighbour Scheme is finally up and running! By the time you read this article our dedicated mobile phone number will be live, and our team of friendly and enthusiastic volunteers is waiting to hear from you!

This edition of the Parish News front cover shows just some of our 30 volunteers who are waiting to help you out!

Who are we?

We are a group of local volunteers who offer help to residents of Aley Green, Pepperstock, Slip End and Woodside who may be vulnerable due to age, infirmity, have suffered an accident or are undergoing (or recovering from) medical treatment.

We're not an emergency service but we are a friendly service!

What can we help you with?

- Shopping
- Errands
- Prescription collection
- Lifts to/from hospitals, clinics, doctors and other appointments
- Befriending / sitting with someone
- Light household duties around the house and/or garden
- Minor indoor repairs/light DIY
- Filling in forms and (non-legal) letter writing

Who can we help?

We can offer occasional help to anyone over the age of 18, who lives in the Parish of Aley

Green, Pepperstock, Slip End or Woodside.

There may be some requests we can't help with, but we'll let you know and see if we can help with an alternative. We will act as a signpost to other services and organisations within the Central Bedfordshire Council area which may be better suited to help with your request.

How does it work?

You call the dedicated helpline number and a volunteer will answer, take down all the necessary information about why you need the scheme and then, following your call they will find a volunteer to help with your request who will then contact you (on the same day) to make all the arrangements.

The helpline is available from Monday to Sunday between 9am and 5pm (out of hours there is an answerphone,

Helpline Number: 07513 37 24 15

If it goes to answerphone you can leave a message and one of our volunteers will call you back. If you are concerned about the cost of your call, please just ask the phone holder to call you back, it's no problem!

Car journeys may attract a scaled charge in order to cover the volunteers 'out of pocket expenses'. Details are available.

It is not the intention of the Good Neighbour Scheme to compete with or deprive local tradesmen, such as gardeners, handymen or contractors, of their livelihood. For more information you can contact our Chairman -

Simon Patterson on 1582 419 487 or e-mail him: smp@amida.fsworld.co.uk

Editors' Notes

Firstly an apology.... Somehow in copying dates from the Central Beds Website the dates for the bins got reversed on the lines as typed in the February issue I hope it didn't cause too much confusion!. Back to normal this month!

There seems to be lots to report for the March issue of the Parish News with the launch of the new Good Neighbour scheme which was first suggested in the Parish Plan, and is supported by many local volunteers. Good luck to them all and we wish the group well. There are also more new clubs opening and new licensees at the Rising Sun. Hopefully you will encourage all the new ventures with enthusiasm.

Don't forget there is a chance for a local youngster (or adult) to earn some money at the weekend by delivering papers to the Pepperstock area. When we were approached a while ago to advertise for someone to come forward and get involved in this venture we thought it would be snapped up by perhaps a future Lord or Lady Sugar in the making, but we are yet to receive any communication from such a person. Are all the youngsters of the village already doing Saturday jobs? I started work when I was 15, working in the local Woolworths store on Saturdays and really enjoyed earning my own money. Perhaps mums or dads reading this might pass the information on to their offspring.

Finally we would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Easter break and hope we get some well deserved sunshine by then.

Sue Briggs

Mothering Sunday 10th March

This was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptised or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food, flowers, or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. This has developed over time into our modern day celebration when people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.



Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. Lent is the period from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. During the Lent fast, people did not eat sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on that day.

A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake.

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Parish Council Notes

Farley Methodist Church

Just a couple of short news items to report on this month. Members of the Parish Council attended a briefing at the airport about the RNAV1 trial. This is a trial of a new navigation system similar to Satellite Navigation in cars.

Noise monitoring equipment was used by the Airport, midway between the incoming and outgoing flight paths, at the end of February before the trial began and will be used again during and after the trial period. For more details please see website www.london-luton.co.uk/rnav1 or the poster on the Parish Notice Boards. At present no further details are available since the briefing took place after the deadline date for this issue.

Figures received from the Police for the period 13 February 2012 to 12 February 2013 show that the camera van visited Church Road on twelve occasions for a total of 15 hours. This resulted in 26 drivers being reported for speeding. In Markyate Road there were 8 visits during the same period totalling 13:38 hours of enforcement with 125 drivers being reported.

Ken Crossett, Chairman

from the Friendship Book of 1986

Florence Nightingale, who achieved so much, once gave this advice: "Live your life while you have it. Life is a splendid gift – there is nothing small about it"

While John Dryden put it in poetry thus:

Happy the man, and happy he alone,
He who can call today his own –
He who, secure within, can say:
Tomorrow do thy worst, for I have
lived today.

The February Lunch Club with Valentine as the theme was very well attended and the members enjoyed the 'cheeky' Valentine cards on their napkin. The news booklet contained a potted history of Rudolph Valentino and a comical story about a young Scot and a girl called Fiona.

Our cook from day one, Iris Boucher is in hospital and just before lunch was served Ken Cameron telephoned Iris on her mobile in the hope she might be free and the good lady was. She was very pleasantly surprised to receive a call and hear all the members and helpers roaring 'Hi Iris' down the 'phone. With Gill receiving treatment and others absent it was a rather depleted team on Wednesday 13th but Julie R, Tina Sullivan plus some help from friends managed wonderfully and all enjoyed the sausage and mash.

On Saturday March 9th World Wide Church are holding their annual supper quiz in the FHM Church Hall, North Drift Way. Supper starts at 6pm and the quiz afterwards. All are welcome.

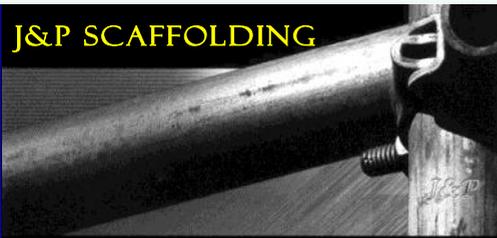
The March Lunch Club also 13th (oh dear) is lasagne and veg. As stated in the news booklet the lasagnes are all made in the FHM kitchen by Julie Robas.

The lunch Club is participating in the local Food Bank scheme and will be donating dry food etc each month for onward delivery to the Luton Food Bank.

The car park is being completely re-laid in March and the Fish Chip Quiz so much enjoyed last year will not take place, perhaps later in the year.

Ken Cameron
01582 456594 kenneth@xlnmail.com

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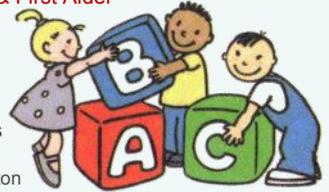
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Women's Institute

Darts! Yes, we did it.....from the bottom of last years league right to the TOP OF THE LEAGUE. Well done our Darts Team. We can't wait for the final in March and will be there supporting you. All that practising served you well.



In January we had a talk by Geoff Lambert speaking about a Campaign to Protect Rural England. Sue Martin gave the Vote of Thanks. Later we had a New Year Quiz, Competition of a New Years Resolution and our usual raffle.

In February we had a talk and pictures on 'Is your future in the Stars' by Tony Woodhouse. Our competition was for members to make up a limerick from Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Usual refreshments will be served. The Sales Table should be up and running and Sue will be doing a Picture Quiz.

For our March meeting we have a talk by Duncan Willcox on Family Law and Poetry. An Unusual Eggcup will be the competition so search your cupboards ladies!

Our Committee has started on our Programme for 2013/2014 with many suggestions and ideas made Rita has the job of putting it all together.

A Floral Extravaganza, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Speakers Day Auditions, the Resolution Conference, Shoe Sale with Lunch, and a 70's & 80's Evening are events some of our members will be enjoying. We have our Spring Federation Meeting and a Group Meeting coming soon.

That's all for now. Please join us. We meet on the third Tuesday each month at the Baptist Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. It's a very social evening, which you will enjoy.

Linda Edwards

Future Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 19th March - Family Law & Poetry
by Duncan Willcox
Tuesday 16th April - Visiting Speaker
Tuesday 21st May - Annual Meeting &
Woburn Country Foods

SLIP END GARDENING CLUB

Monday 18th March at 8pm

Slip End Village Hall

**Guest Speaker Russell Bowes
"Capability Brown"**

New Members Welcome

Valentine Special!



The above was found amongst the bag of potatoes that I was peeling today. Seeing as it is Valentines Day, I thought it was appropriate to send it to you for publishing in the parish magazine. From Julia Partridge of Crawley Close

Thanks Julia, a great find, Editor



Slip End & District Community Projects Group

Slip End Camera Club is launching this month! Norman Holmwood has been busy behind the scenes organising the first meeting, which is on the Tuesday 19th March at the Social Club, starting at 8pm – see the next page for more information.

The Youth Club has proved extremely popular, with the numbers of youngsters coming along increasing each week. We will not be running the club over the Easter break but our volunteers, Lise, Caroline, Karen and Ursula, are keen to organise various events for the club each week.

Entry is £1 per child per week. There is a tuck shop, and lots of things to do, including Wii games, crafts, bingo, competitions and soon we will be organising a trip to Dunstable for bowling.

Crawley Playground – the Parish Council and the Community Projects Group have agreed a joint venture to purchase some new equipment for the playground and we are very keen to get the children in the parish involved in this new project. We will be contacting the children direct to have a get together to discuss what equipment they would like to see in the playground. We will also be talking to the school, Mr Brown, the Head teacher, has already been in contact with Sarah to express his interest in helping with this



project, so we will be in touch in the next few months.



Our Good Neighbour Scheme has finally launched! Its taken 6 months of planning and lots of hard work by our committee, but especially our chairman Simon, and the 30 volunteers are now keen to hear from you, the parishioners.

Do you need a lift to the doctors, or a lift to hospital for an appointment, or need your medication from the pharmacy? Then give them a call - the dedicated mobile phone number is 07513 37 24 15

I would like to take this opportunity, as CPG chairman, to thank all the volunteers for their enthusiasm and eagerness to get our scheme up and running, to the committee thank you for your input and experience in helping to get to where we are now, and most of all to our chairman, Simon Patterson, who has taken on this new role within the parish, and worked very hard to move the scheme successfully from its early days to its launch date, thank you. The CPG will continue to support you and the GNS committee and volunteers.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th March 2013 at 7.30pm at the Social Club – everyone is welcome!

Sarah Minnighan, Chairman

Slip End Camera Club is launched!

For all those budding photographers out there we have a new Camera Club starting up in the Parish this month!

Launch night is at the Slip End Social Club on Tuesday 19th March at 8.00pm. Norman Homewood has been busy behind the scenes organising the start-up and has lots of experience, equipment and photographic expertise at his disposal!



If you have a camera and aren't sure how to use it properly, are interested in photography and want to learn more, want to get into photography but don't know where to start, then this is the club for you!

Everyone is welcome, including non-members of the Social Club, the only stipulation is that, if you are not yet a member of the social club, you join. Fee's are between £1 and £4 for the year, details are available from Lainey or Kevin at the Club on the night or before.

For more information please call Norman on 01582 452851 or e-mail him at andypany32@hotmail.co.uk.

We're on Facebook!

We have recently set up the Slip End Parish Community page on Facebook. Find us and 'like' us to be kept up to date with information from around the parish including the Youth Club, Community Projects Group, Peter Edwards Hall and Playing Fields, Village Hall and events running in the parish.



Also there will be news available from the Parish Council about planning, development, speeding issues and news on the glitter.

Whilst we have a forum on the website we are looking to use Facebook as a more modern way of enabling the community to be told about important events and things going on, and for you to be able to communicate back to the various groups.

If you are registered on the forum please be aware that it will soon close down (we will let you know when). If you are a member of Facebook then 'like' us, and if you are not, then check out the website, www.slipend.co.uk to be kept up to date.

If you have got any interesting photos of the parish that you'd like to see on the Slip End Parish Community page then please contact Sarah - s.minnighan@btinternet.com

Spring Carol

The sun streams through the window pane

My heart begins to sing,
A certain stirring in the air
And suddenly it's Spring.
Bluebells, tulips, daffodils
All show their dainty heads

While crocus cups and hyacinths
Adorn the garden beds.



The frothy pink of almond spray
Primroses in the lane,
Proclaim the season of new life
Is with us once again.

Whilst overhead on blossomed bough
I hear a blackbird sing,
Pouring out in golden notes
Its carol to the Spring

By Kathleen Gillum

St Andrew's Church Dates for March

- Sun 3rd: 10.30am: Informal Communion: "The Gift of Repentance"
Weds 6th: 10am: Little Stars "God Instructs" - Tablets of Stone
Sun 10th: 10.30am: Morning Praise – Mothering Sunday "Receiving Forgiveness" (Organ & Singers)
Tues 12th: 2pm: Caddington Care Home
Weds 13th: 10am: Little Stars "God Directs" - Pillars of Fire and Cloud
Fri 15th: 2pm: Woodside Care Home
Sun 17th: 10.30am: Holy Communion "Costly Worship" (Singers)
Weds 20th: 10am: Little Stars "God Gives Food" - The manna in the wilderness
Thurs 21st: 9.30am: Morning Prayer for Lent (a short quiet service of liturgical prayer)
Sun 24th: 8am: Said Communion "The gift of Humility"
Sun 24th: 10.30am: Morning Praise and Baptism – Palm Sunday "The gift of Humility" (Band)
Mon 25th: 7.30pm: Holy Week Service
Tues 26th: 7.30pm: Holy Week Service
Weds 27th: 10am: Little Stars: "The Serpent" - St Patrick
Weds 27th: 7.30pm: Holy Week Service

Thurs 28th: 7.30pm: Maundy Thursday Agape meal together

Fri 29th: 11am meet at the shop for a Walk of Witness around the village

Fri 29th: 11.45am – 1.05pm Children's Good Friday event in the family room (including simple lunch).

Fri 29th: 12noon – 1pm: Quiet contemplative service for Good Friday (Organ & Singers)

Do not forget to put your clocks forward before you go to bed Saturday night (British Summer Time starts)

Sun 31st: 10.30am: Easter Communion "But God raised him from the dead" (with all our musicians)



God at work during the “wilderness” times in our lives

By the time you read this we will be in the middle of Lent, the 40 day period that Christians have traditionally observed as a period of abstinence, of seeking to draw closer to God.

In part we are following the example of Jesus who spent 40 days in the wilderness, after he was baptised but before he started his public ministry. At his baptism everyone there heard the audible voice of God saying “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” This was a wonderful affirmation but straight away afterwards he was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he ate nothing during the whole time and was tempted to follow Satan rather than God.

There is another example of a time when God’s people were sent into the desert. After the Israelites were dramatically saved from slavery in Egypt they then spent 40 years in the desert before they were able to go into and live in the promised land.

We see another example in Paul who was converted on the road to Damascus and then immediately went into Arabia. There are silent years when we don’t actually know what Paul is doing.

There is a pattern here. After being saved or, as in Jesus case, receiving a wonderful affirmation from God, there are periods of trial or testing. Here are some words from the book of Deuteronomy describing what was happening to the people of God, “The Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to test you, to know what was in your heart... He gave you manna to eat, your clothes did not wear out and your

feet did not swell. He humbled you to teach you that people do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (See Deuteronomy 8)

God does lead us to choose periods of wilderness time deliberately, as in Lent, just as he led Jesus to fast and pray in the desert. However he is also very likely to lead us into wilderness experiences through the circumstances of our lives, may be a bereavement, or financial austerity, or difficulties in a relationship or illness, or a redundancy. It will be different things for each of us that will cause us to feel most hurt, alone or abandoned. Yet He is with us.

I had a period during and after theological college that felt like a wilderness time to me. Gradually I became aware of why it was so painful to me and began to let God into those areas of my life and bring me emotional healing. I also learnt to trust God even when I couldn’t understand what he was doing. I learned to serve him faithfully in situations that were very different from those I would have chosen.

God has come into my life so much more fully as a result of this time. I know a peace and joy in my relationship with God that I had not known before. I have a freedom to be myself and a confidence in God that is very empowering. I know now from personal experience that God works very great good in our lives even in the most difficult, “wilderness” experiences, if we look to him to help us.



May God bless you this Lent and in all the wilderness times of your lives.

Cathy

Revision of St Andrew's Church Electoral Roll

In 2013 we have to renew St Andrew's Electoral Roll. If you are already on it you will receive a renewal form.

If you are not on it and would like to be, please take a form from the back of the church, or contact Val Church on 458443.

Forms must be returned **no later than Sunday, 10th March, 2013** to St Andrew's Church or to 2 Summer Street, Slip End.

To be eligible you must have been baptised, be 16 years or over and either be resident in the Parish or a regular worshiper at St Andrew's church.

Being on the roll allows you to vote on church matters. It is not obligatory. It has no political connotations.

Val Church, Electoral Roll Officer

Missing Charity Collection Box

The Royal Marsden collection box, which has been in The Rising Sun for nearly eight years, disappeared sometime before its absence was discovered on Wednesday 23rd January. If anyone has any information please contact Katrina Doubleday on her email - PNAdverts@slipend.co.uk.

In the time that the box was in the pub, including previous landladies' Jan and prior to her, Carole, a total sum of £2005.37 had been collected and so it is with great sadness that this incident has to be reported.

More from the Friendship Book 1986

A little more kindness, a little less creed
A little more giving, a little less greed,
A little more smile, a little less frown,
A little less kicking a man when he's down
A little more 'we' and a little less 'I',
A little more laugh, a little less cry,
A little more flowers on the pathway of life,
And fewer on graves at the end of the strife.

Anonymous

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Gardeners Special

As the days start to lengthen and the weather improves we can at last get on with our gardening jobs and hopefully this year will not be so wet! Last year was an exceptionally bad year for gardeners but as most of you know, it happens, so if you are new to gardening don't be discouraged, dust yourself off and start all over again!

Lawns will need some attention after the rigours of winter, new lawns need a final raking of ground dug in the autumn to a fine tilth for sowing seed. Established lawns will benefit from a good scarifying with a lawn rake or an electric scarifier to remove dead grass, moss and thatch. Any worn areas can be reseeded and any sunken areas levelled and seeded to bring it back to a good condition for the year ahead. The first time you cut don't cut too short, lower the blades over the next few mowings. Trim and straighten edges angling the cut slightly away from you to avoid the edge crumbling away.

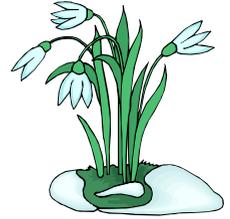
Plant roses early in the month and prune established plants during a frost free period, cutting out all dead wood and any branches crisscrossing to open up and shape the bush to a bowl shape. Don't be afraid of cutting a rose back too far as they benefit from a really good reduction of the previous year's growth to produce strong new shoots.

Dahlias and chrysanthemums over-wintered in the greenhouse will have shoots on them by now and cuttings can be taken when they are approximately 3 inches long.

Gladioli corms can be planted later this month and if sown over the next 6 weeks will give a longer flowering season. Sow between 4-6 inches deep and you will avoid the need of staking them. Sweet peas which were sown in autumn and over-wintered in pots or brought from a Nursery will need to be

planted out as soon as the weather permits. They make an effective display when grown in clumps and supported with pea sticks or a cylinder of netting.

If you have any large clumps of snowdrops they can be dug up and split into small bunches and replanted straight away, but this should only be done about every fifth year.



Tomatoes sown last month under heat will need pricking out now or they will become weak and spindly. Finish pruning established fruit trees and bushes as soon as possible in the month.

Main crop Brussels sprouts can be sown early in the month in drills ½ inch deep for planting out at the end of April. Parsnips can also go in as soon as the soil is dry in drills ½ inch deep and 15 inches apart. If you sow 3 seeds at 6 inch spacings, this will make it a lot easier when it comes to thinning out.

Early potatoes can be planted from the middle of the month 9-12 inches deep and 14 inches apart, but as they shoot above ground they will need to be protected from frost.

Onion sets can be planted towards the end of the month or early next month, but shallots should be planted as soon as possible if not already done.

Leeks can be sown this month for transplanting in June and summer spinach sown this month will be ready in May/June. Sow early rounded peas and broad beans until mid month.

Russell Sprout

(Sorry the above was sent in for the February issue accidentally, but it is in fact the news for March)

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A poem for Mothering Sunday...

SLOW DOWN MUMMY

Slow down mummy, there is no need to rush,
slow down mummy, what is all the fuss?

Slow down mummy, make yourself a cup of tea.

Slow down mummy, come and spend some... time with me.

Slow down mummy, let's put our boots on and go for a walk,
lets kick at piles of leaves and smile and laugh and talk.

Slow down mummy, you look ever so tired,
come sit and snuggle under the duvet and rest with me a while.

Slow down mummy, those dirty dishes can wait,
slow down mummy, let's have some fun, let's bake a cake!

Slow down mummy, I know you work a lot,
but sometimes mummy, it's nice when you just stop.

Sit with us a minute and listen to our day, spend a cherished moment,
because our childhood is not here to stay!

by R. Knight 2011



This poem was found by someone who wanted it to be written out as a reminder to take time for the family. We thought it was very appropriate for Mothering Sunday. We all need time for ourselves too and time to 'stand and stare' ... to quote another poem!



Everyday Roasts £6.95

Monday-Saturday 12-2.30 pm

Tuesday-Friday 5-8 pm

We are now taking bookings for:
Mothers Day Sunday 10th March
Easter Weekend
Friday 29th March - Monday 1st April

Traditional Sunday Roasts!

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& Roast Vegetable Lasagne (V)

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Saturday 30th March
10am - 1pm

For a stall please ring 01582 414796 or 723109

Names for the Senior Outing on Saturday 8th June
will be taken at the Car Boot Sale

Aley Green Methodist Church
Services and Diary dates for March

Sunday 3rd Lent 3

- 11.00am Morning Service - Rev Bob Forrest
11.00am Sunday School Communion

Monday 4th

- 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Course Meeting
Week 3 led by Mike Bull

Sunday 10th Lent 4

Mothering Sunday

- 11.00am Morning Service
All Age Sunday School

Monday 11th

- 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Course Meeting
Week 4 led by Mike Bull

Tuesday 12th

- 10.00am/12.00pm 'Cakes & Company'

Sunday 17th St Patrick's Day

- 11.00am Morning Service - Rev Phil Horner
11.00am Sunday School

Monday 18th

- 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Course Meeting
Week 5 led by Mike Bull

Wednesday 20th Vernal Equinox

(Spring Begins)

- 7.30pm Coffee Evening In aid of
Junior Mission for All

Sunday 24th Palm Sunday

- 11.00am Morning Service - Greg Obong-Oshotse
11.00am Sunday School

Friday 29th

Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness
!0.30am at Aley Green Methodist Church

Sunday 31st Easter Sunday

British Summer Time Begins

- 11.00am Morning Service
Rev Wallace Edwards
11.00am Sunday School

and many photos. People were very kind with their donations for lunch and we were able to send £135 to Keech Hospice. On January 20th we had to cancel our service due to the snow, as did other Churches. Our Coffee evening went ahead on the Wednesday when we raised £66 for Action for Children. You will remember all the rain we had on Saturday 26th, it rained all night and we found that the Aley Green end of Mancroft Road was flooded and the police had closed the road. So once again we had to close our Church as there was no access. (I have never had to do this in the twenty years I have been a Church Steward)

February was a little kinder to us weather wise, in spite of snow on the ground we went ahead with our Pancakes & Company. We were down on numbers, the snow and ice keeping some of our regulars away, but we managed to raise £250 for LAMP (Luton Accommodation & Move On Project) Mike Bull will be leading the five week Ecumenical Lent Fellowship course with members from the four village Churches joining together to study.

We invite you to come along to our All Age Sunday School service on Mothering Sunday. It is an opportunity to see how the children spend their time Sunday mornings and great fun joining in with crafts and painting etc.

The Ecumenical Walk of Witness on Friday 29th March will commence with a short service at Aley Green at 10.30am and then we will carry the cross to St Thomas', All Saints and finally the Baptist Church. Do join us at our Church or along the route.

~~~~~  
The weather was not kind to us in January but we did manage to hold our Bible Study and our Lunch Brunch which was held at Church. Kay from Charisma Hair Salon entertained us with an excellent talk on her Charity Sky dive for Keech, complete with a film of the jump

Easter Blessings to  
you all from  
Aley Green  
Methodist Church.

*Ann Meader*



## Village Hall

At the February meeting of the management committee, the hall décor and flooring was discussed in preparing a submission to the CPG for grant assistance. Secretary Simon Patterson presented a draft submission for interior decoration which was approved. The hall has not been decorated for many years and is looking quite tatty now; indeed, some potential hirers have been totally put off recently! The flooring also needs attention all round and it was decided to approach this in a piecemeal way, one area at a time as Village Hall funds allow.

At the CPG meeting which followed, our grant application amounting to £2500 was approved thus allowing plans for decoration work to take place in the summer.

*The VH committee is very grateful for, and encouraged by, this grant from the CPG. Along with drainage work in hand at the Playing Field, which attracted a grant of similar magnitude and smaller grants to many local groups, the CPG showed again great commitment to the development of Parish 'assets' and organisations.*

It was good to see Jill Acton back at our recent meetings, following her accident a few months ago, now well on the way to recovery



## Village Hall Management Committee

### Annual General Meeting

March 11th at 7.30  
in the Hall

*Several important issues are coming up at our Village Hall, so if you want to see how things work or would consider assisting in the running of the hall, come along.*

## Easter Trivia

Easter always falls between March 22nd and April 25<sup>th</sup>



According to widespread belief, Easter owes its name to "Eastre", the Anglo-Saxon goddess symbolising hare and egg.

Easter is a "moveable feast" as it does not fall on a fixed date in the Gregorian or Julian calendars. The full moon determines the date of Easter.

Chocolate eggs were traditionally given as gifts in Europe

According to the Guinness Book of World Records the largest Easter egg ever made was just over 25 feet high weighing 8968 lbs.

76% of people eat the ears on chocolate bunnies first.



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## Get composting this Spring and save a little more

As spring approaches and our thoughts turn to our gardens, make sure you take advantage of a limited offer to get a discounted compost bin.

Central Bedfordshire Council has teamed up with [www.getcomposting.com](http://www.getcomposting.com) to help you beat the price increase at the start of April.

Composting is a great way to help our gardens bloom and more than a third of household waste is made up of organic material which can be composted at home. Grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, unwanted plants, fruit and vegetable peelings, tea bags and even the contents of the vacuum bag are all ideal for composting.

Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services at the council said, “We want to encourage you to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. Composting selected kitchen and garden waste is an easy and effective way of recycling some of the waste we produce every day, while putting nutrients back into our gardens and the wider environment. It is simple to get started and you may be surprised at how empty your black bin is when you compost at home and use all the recycling services.

“While the new deal will still offer superb value, I’d encourage anyone thinking of getting into composting to buy a bin before the end of March to save a little bit extra!” Prices start at only £9 with a £5 delivery charge and a range of accessories to choose from. There is also a ‘Buy one get one half price’ offer for residents with larger gardens.

For information call 0844 571 444 & quote reference CBC01L.

Alternatively you can order your home compost bin and also

composting accessories online:  
[www.cbc.getcomposting.com](http://www.cbc.getcomposting.com)



## Trivia

Walking round the village, the writer amuses himself making sense or nonsense out of the car registration numbers. There is of course 5 NOV which presents no challenge. Then there are the two lovely ladies NE02OME and L15E PX on Summer Street. Round the corner, there’s TLC outside (and inside!) The Social Club. Close by, I have yet to hear the 12 decibel ghetto blaster in LL12OWD. Occasionally there is another overweight stammerer, TT02FAT. There has also been a completely pink car, appropriately named RY02SE (anagram). But who would want to buy a FR10AYY car which might break down on the H1WAY!

*Anyone noticed any more? Editor*



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# Pub Pages



## The Plough

We send our thoughts to the family of Connie Gibb who sadly passed away on 13 January 2013 at the age of 70. Connie and her husband lived on Woodside Park Homes. She sadly lost her husband Alec last January, she missed him dearly. She joined us for bingo every Monday after Alec passed away. It was always nice to see her as she was a lovely lady with a friendly face, and she thought a lot of her family especially her grandson. Connie's family and friends celebrated her life at The Plough. She will be missed and will



always be in our thoughts.

Betty Smith from Farley Hill held her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party with family at The Plough, with a Sunday Lunch, Dessert and Birthday Cake. She enjoyed the afternoon immensely. Her sons Terry and Michael and their wives who are customers and friends of Doug, the landlord, organised the celebration.

Classic car club meets every second Wednesday of the month and has been meeting at the Plough for 18 years. They chat about their cars and events and eat the buffet which I provide. I am sure if

anyone is interested they would welcome you. Ask for Doug or bar staff when you visit and we will introduce you. 18 members of the Car club from Caddington joined us for lunch this month. They all said they were impressed with their meal and enjoyed the afternoon.

It was lovely to see the Church Group from Aley Green. They all came for lunch and said how lovely the food was and they all enjoyed themselves once again.

Cheryl, who worked at The Plough and Minnigans, who also lived in Front Street celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday at Bricket Wood Social Club. The Plough organised a mini bus to go down and enjoy the evening with her.

Got nothing to do on a Monday afternoon? Come and join us for a game of bingo! Eyes down at 3pm and everyone is welcome.

Mothers Day Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March & Easter Weekend 29<sup>th</sup> March -1<sup>st</sup> April bookings are now being taken. Book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Everyday Roasts! Monday to Saturday and Sunday. Choices of beef, lamb, chicken or nut roast (v). All served with seasonal vegetables and Yorkshire pudding.

## The Frog and Rhubarb

Elvis Rivers made his annual appearance at the Frog & Rhubarb at the end of January. A pub packed with customers enjoyed the night, dancing into the early hours. There were some more modern songs mixed in with the hits of Elvis, King of Rock & Roll.

Love was in the air on Valentines Day at the Frog & Rhubarb. Customers enjoyed a candle-lit dinner and free bubbly with

their meal. The Pancake tossing was in full swing at the Frog on Shrove Tuesday with lots of people going along to enjoy free pancakes for their dessert.

Hold your next celebration at the Frog. The pub is available for birthdays, anniversaries, Christenings, wedding or any other party. Talk to Paul about the wide range of options available and there is never a hire charge.

Chatty Club is moving to the Frog & Rhubarb. The club is open to anyone over 55 and you don't need to go along every week. You get as much tea and coffee as you can drink plus a range of sandwiches, savouries and sweet treats all for just £2.50. The club will be meeting at 2pm every Tuesday from 5<sup>th</sup> March. Paul is already planning some exciting activities for the group including speakers, quizzes, meals and trips out.

Forthcoming Events — Mothers' Day is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March and there is a free glass of Prosecco for all Mums ordering a main course meal at the Frog. The pub is always fully booked on this day so make sure you book your table early to avoid disappointment.

If you missed the discount vouchers that came through your door in January, you can download them from the pub's web site [www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk](http://www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk)

## The Rising Sun

We have some good news from the Rising Sun, which is now being managed by Margaret Ratchford, her husband and son and daughter. They have moved from Stevenage to run the pub for the next few months whilst a decision is made regarding the refurbishment of the Sun. Margaret is used to moving around

and looking after pubs, and used to run the Bell and Shears in Redbourn a few years ago. It is hoped that once the refurbishment takes place they aim to serve traditional pub food and put on music nights for the community. Please drop in and say hello to Margaret and her family and make them feel welcome. They have a visit booked by Sky Sports in the next week or so, which will appeal to sports fans no doubt.

## Message from Lily

'Hello to everyone. I've now been away from Slip End for a few weeks and trying to get used to not being a landlady anymore. It seems very strange! However, it means I am able to spend a lot of time with the grandkids which is great. Dave and I would like to thank you for being so supportive during our time at the Rising Sun. It was difficult making the decision to move, which went well apart from the loss of the Royal Marsden charity box that had been in the pub for the many years. Whoever has taken it please send the money on to the charity concerned!



The farewell gifts, money and photo album are so appreciated and we have used the money to book a short break in the Cotswolds and are really looking forward to it. Thank you to the CPG for their gift also. Who knows whether we will return to running a pub, but in the meantime I am still doing catering and available on [lilyackrill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lilyackrill@yahoo.co.uk) if ever you need a caterer'

*Love Lily*

## Dunstable Rep Update

The Little Theatre in Dunstable, on High Street South, puts on six plays a year. This is a reasonably cheap way to see a variety of plays, performed by some excellent players!

The last production was a farce called 'Key for Two', which was very funny. It involved a lady who was mistress to two gentlemen on different evenings. However circumstances caused them to meet. When they added wives, a friend and her drunken husband to the mix, things got a little complicated!

The next play being staged, from 15th—23rd March, is a black comedy by Joanna Murray-Smith called 'The Female of the Species'. It is about a pioneering feminist and author called Margot, who is visited by a slightly disgruntled former student. This young lady

pulls a gun and handcuffs her to the desk... The odd rehearsal seen so far, has created much hilarity and it should be good. The set has been designed by a Slip End resident too!

Box office 07940 105864 (from 4th March)



Website [www.littletheatre.org.uk](http://www.littletheatre.org.uk)

Future productions are 'The Children's Hour' in May and 'Calendar Girls' in July.



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The new look Post Office is scheduled to open on Thursday 14th March at 9.00a.m. but the store will need to close for refurbishment a few days earlier on Monday 11th March at 5.30p.m. If you need the Post Office during the closure please use the Farley Hill Post Office on Whipperley Ring or the Arndale.

Not only will this mean another Post Office counter at this busy branch, but one of the serving positions will be situated at the retail counter and therefore will be open when the shop is open. You will now be able to use the Post Office from 6.00 a.m. until 9.00 p.m. on Monday to Saturday and even use it on a Sunday from 6.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

This is certainly good news for those of you who cannot get to the Post Office during normal working hours and hopefully will prove to be a great service for the community.

If you would like any further information - Customer Helpline is 08456223344 or email [comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk) You can also write to Mark Lawrence, Regional Network Manager, Post Office Customer Care, FREEPOST, PO Box 740, Barnsley, S73 0ZJ.

It will be quite strange after the strict rules about the opening hours of the Post Office to now be able to use it during shop hours.

*Sue Briggs, Editor*

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# MOTHERS DAY

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Memories of last month!!



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

### **MARCH**

- Mon 4th Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:00pm  
Fri 8th Big Brew at St Andrew's from 10—2  
Sun 10th Electoral forms to be in at St Andrew's  
Mothering Sunday  
Mon 11th AGM Village Hall meeting 7.30p.m.  
Tues 12th CPG Meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm  
Mon 18th Gardening Club—Visiting Speaker Village Hall 8:00pm  
Tues 19th Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7:30pm  
Camera Club at Social Club 8pm  
Sat 30th SEADA Car Boot / Table Top Sale Village Hall 10:00am—1:00pm  
Don't forget to put your clocks forward for British Summer Time  
Sun 31st Easter Day Services at Aley Green 11a.m.and St Andrew's Church 10.30a.m.

### **APRIL**

- Mon 8th Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:00pm  
Tues 9th CPG Meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm  
Tues 16th Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7.30pm

### **MAY**

- Sat 18th Gardening Club Plant Sale  
Tues 21st Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7.30pm

*Future dates for you to note—more details later*

### **JUNE**

- Sat 8th SEADA outing—names to be given in at SEADA car boot sale  
Sun 23rd Playing Fields Open Day (to include community stalls) From 2—5pm



**Wheelie Bins:- Black Bins & glass:** Put out on Friday 1st, 15th, 29th Mar  
**Green and Orange Bins:** Put out on Friday 8th, 22nd Mar



### **Don't forget to advertise your events here!**

Please contact us with details of events to add to our diary so that everyone in the community can read about what is on in the Parish and hopefully avoid any clash of dates for events!



## YOUR PARISH & CENTRAL BEDS COUNCILLORS

**Clerk to Parish Council — Peter Segal** 526594 (9am to noon weekdays)  
clerk@slipend.co.uk

### Parish Councillors:-

|                        |              |                                               |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Steve Baird</b>     | 738205       | Steven.Baird@cooperindustries.com             |
| <b>Paul Cooper</b>     | 07703 599006 | paul-cooper@indigo-tiger.com                  |
| <b>Ken Crossett</b>    | 414168       | kencrossett@slipend.co.uk ( <i>Chairman</i> ) |
| <b>Keith Holme</b>     | 07969 154783 | holme@keithjan.fsnet.co.uk                    |
| <b>Simon Patterson</b> | 07767 615714 | smp@amida.fsworld.co.uk                       |
| <b>Carol Brennan</b>   | 453049       | carolbrennan74@aol.com                        |
| <b>Sarah Minnighan</b> | 07868 742904 | s.minnighan@btinternet.com                    |

## WHO DO I CALL?

**Fly Tipping (CBC)** 0300 300 8000 [wasteservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wasteservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

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#### contact details



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[Ruth.gammons@centralbeds.gov](mailto:Ruth.gammons@centralbeds.gov)



**Cllr Richard Stay**

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Luton LU1 3AN

Email: [gavin@gavinshuker.org](mailto:gavin@gavinshuker.org)

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*Excellent sports changing facilities*

*Facilities for the Disabled*

*For Bookings: contact Deborah on 01582 767 916  
or 07956 463128 (not after 9pm)*

## SLIP END VILLAGE HALL

### Your Village Hall

for Dances, Receptions & Parties

Facilities for the disabled

*For bookings contact*

*Gill Plummer on 01582 723109  
9 Markyate Road, Slip End*

## COMMUNITY AND SERVICES

### Services:-

**At the Crossroads** 401069 Mon - Fri 7.00 to 21.00 Sat 7.00 - 21.00 - Sun 7.30 - 21.00  
**Slip End Garage** Markyate Road, 456888  
**Doctor** (Caddington Surgery) 725673  
**Doctor** (Markyate) 841559  
**Schools:** **Slip End Lower** 720152 **Caddington Village School** 726058  
**Streetfield Middle** 613421 **Ashton Middle** 663511 **Manshead Upper** 679400

### Churches:-

**St Andrew's Church**  
**Rev. Cathy Pullinger** 725061 or  
07425 148046  
**Wardens:** **Tony Willson** 482681  
**Susan Wiltshire** 727477

**Aley Green Methodist Church**  
**Minister:** **Rev Philip Horner**  
**Senior Steward:** **Ann Meader** 733668

### Sport:-

**Bowling Club** 412506  
**Darts League** 425323  
**Football** 01582 517042 or  
07515687160  
**Pepperstock Archers** 615216  
Email [LBP121@aol.com](mailto:LBP121@aol.com) (Lee Prebble)  
**Tennis** 733253  
**Gardening Club** 423622

**Slip End Stompers Line Dancing**  
[redhotstompers@googlemail.com](mailto:redhotstompers@googlemail.com)  
**Dance Classes** [dance\\_liana@hotmail.com](mailto:dance_liana@hotmail.com)

### Community:-

**Brownies** 723109  
**Beavers** 07956 833488  
**Cubs** 01582 429891  
**Scouts** 01582 429891  
**Allotments** 736892  
**Friendship Club** 452978  
**Mother's Union** 738435  
**Playgroup** 728865  
**S.E.A.D.A** 414796  
**Toddler Group** 405931  
**FoSELS (PTA)** 0789 603 7853  
**Youth Club** Lise 07772 198 275  
Caroline 07852 192 747  
**Women's Institute** 737036

**Chatty Club**  
[andyandy32@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andyandy32@hotmail.co.uk)  
Jean Anderson  
**Slip End Veterans Football** Wayne Leslie  
[wayne@dngsales.co.uk](mailto:wayne@dngsales.co.uk)  
**Forza Storm Youth Football** 849449

### Items for the next issue to us by 15th March (Adverts by 10th please)

Any delivery problems? Contact Alan BATTERY at 1 Claydown Way  
(01582 724527), [alanjan@battery400.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:alanjan@battery400.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 Alison Wilson, 23 Claydown Way, Slip End or e-Mail [parishnews@slipend.co.uk](mailto:parishnews@slipend.co.uk)

Advertising queries to Katrina Doubleday 07753 168443

or [PNAdverts@slipend.co.uk](mailto:PNAdverts@slipend.co.uk)

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- \* **Used Car Sales**
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- \* **Spares & Service**

**Markyate Road**  
**Slip End**

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Parts: (01582) 411421

Service: (01582) 481600

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located in Grove Road  
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