

Aley Green Pepperstock
Slip End Woodside
PARISH NEWS
April 2016



Editors' Notes

Spring is a time of change and renewal, and Parish News is no exception. This issue marks a changing of the guard, with Sue Briggs stepping down from the role after more than 15 years - allowing me the privilege of taking on her duties alongside fellow editor Alison Wilson. In recognition of her contribution, the Parish News team presented her with a lovely orchid at its recent AGM, as pictured on the front cover.

However, Sue hasn't completely disappeared from these pages, and we are fortunate that she will be continuing to pen the odd article, as evidenced this month with two contributions.

Having spent the last few weeks finding my way around the intricacies of the magazine's production process, meeting the team of volunteers responsible for putting it together and posting it through your doors each month, I must say that I'm pleased to be putting this issue to bed without too many hiccups.

As mentioned last month, in my day job I am the editor of the Herts Advertiser newspaper, based in nearby St Albans. I have been a journalist for more than 20 years, so hopefully will be able to bring some of that experience to what is already a remarkable production.

At the end of the day, the priorities of both my newspaper and Parish News are the same - to inform our readers about the things that matter in their community, and entertain them in the process, so it's not so different jumping between the two roles.

I'm a relative newcomer to the village, moving here with my family just over three years ago, after we fell in love with what eventually became our home on the first viewing.

My wife and I live in Summer Street with our almost four year old daughter Anwen, are regular patrons of both the Frog and the Sun, and can often be seen popping into the village shop for essentials (OK, and the discounted wine!), so we feel very much at home here in Slip End.

I took on this job to further immerse myself in the local community, so feel free to stop me in the street and chat about the magazine if you have any ideas for content or any comments in general.

Until next time, happy reading.

Matt Adams



Airport parking on our streets - just how big a problem is it and would you pay for a solution?

From time to time the Parish Council receives complaints about airport parking on our streets. This term applies to those vehicles that have been left while their owners have flown off from Luton Airport for what can be weeks at a time. While there have been reports of vehicles left like this in virtually all the roads in Slip End, the problem is felt worse perhaps in Front and Summer Streets where parking outside the terraced cottages is already at a premium.



Over the last few months I have heard from a Front Street resident, who lives towards the crossroads end, of problems he and his neighbours regularly experience. The question is just how widespread and big a problem is this? Is it just an irritation or has it developed to a level where the Parish Council needs to do something about it? All of us here at the Parish Council would like to hear from you whether it is to say “this is a problem that needs sorting” or “it is annoying but it is something we can live with” or even “it hasn’t caused me any problems at all”.

So what can be done if you feel there is a problem and you would like us to get to grips with it? The introduction of a Residential Parking Z (RPZ) is likely to be the most successful method for dealing with such an issue.

This would involve the Parish Council in applying for a Traffic Regulation Order (TPO) covering the whole parish. Parking restrictions could then be introduced initially in the worst affected streets. It is likely that this will cause the problem to migrate to other streets in which case they can gradually be brought into the scheme as the problem develops in their road. That would be easy to do because of

the TPO being parish-wide, all we would need to do is erect the relevant signs at the appropriate time.

To make it work, only residents would be allowed to park on streets within the zone during a particular time of the day. The length of time need only be an hour or so.

The Parish Council would consult with you and the local businesses to decide on the best time to hold that hour. The aim would be to cause

minimum disruption to businesses, residents and their visitors. Indeed the Parish Council would also consult with residents living in a road where it is perceived aircraft parking is a problem, to ensure they would welcome their road being included. Any such scheme would be run and enforced by Central Beds Council.

There would be a cost involved for those needing to buy a permit to park on the street within the zone, at a cost of £10 for the first vehicle, £70 for the second and £90 for the third.

By the time you read this item, the Easter weekend will be behind us and we will be in the middle of the school holidays, a popular time for our airport parkers. Now then is a good time for us to find out from you if there is a problem in the first place, if there is - how big a problem is it, in which case do you want the Parish Council to explore further the principle of introducing a RPZ?

All the councillors and myself would welcome your views either by you sending an email or letter for publication in Parish News or by getting in touch with any one of us. Our contact details are at the back of this magazine.

Ken Crossett, Chairman

Luton Hoo Walled Garden begins 2016 open day season



We begin the 2016 open day season at the Luton Hoo Estate Walled Garden with the Annual Fair for Plant Heritage (Herts and Beds) on Saturday 23rd

April from 11am-3pm.

Entrance is just £3 and tours of the garden can also be taken for an extra £2.

Our Open Wednesdays begin on May 4th from 10.30am-3.30pm each until the end of September.

This is an opportunity to show our progress to visitors when our volunteers, both gardeners and conservationists are at work. The garden has been revived by this enthusiastic team of volunteers and a wide range of research has been undertaken since the beginning of the project in 2001.

A £5 entry fee includes a guided tour of the garden and in addition a new tour of the Victorian farm buildings will be available.

Tours of the farm buildings have become an exciting new experience for visitors to the Walled Garden where there is an exhibition of the research done. There is a small extra charge for the tour and tickets can be purchased at the entrance kiosk. Produce from the garden will be on sale including Luton Hoo honey as well as plants. Refreshments will be available. Outside of the garden we have illustrated talks available for groups, at their selected venue, topics covering a history of the garden, Hoo's Farms, Hoo's

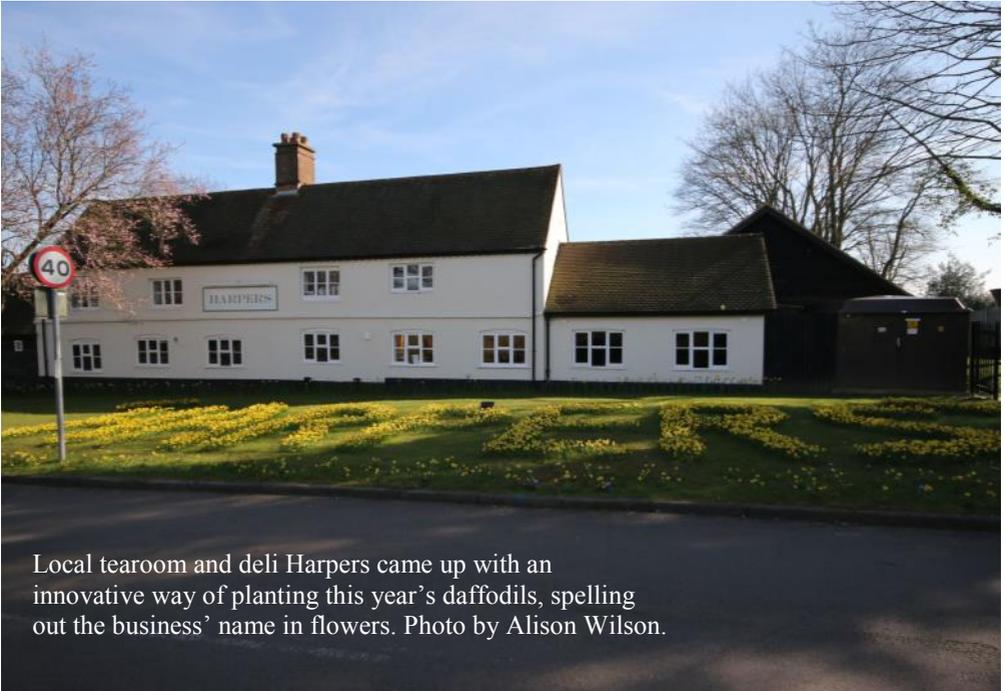
Who – 100 and 150 years ago and in the First World War, and Lord Bute who built the Walled Garden in the 1760s with landscape designer Capability Brown.

2016 is the latter's 300th anniversary and two study days are planned for April and May which will reveal how our research has discovered details about the unusual design of the garden and the botanical collection which it contained.

Full details of all our activities can be found on our website www.lutonhooestate.co.uk or by phoning 01582 721443.

Look forward to seeing you. Don't forget entry is via West Hyde Road not via the hotel.

Saying it with flowers at Harpers



Local tearoom and deli Harpers came up with an innovative way of planting this year's daffodils, spelling out the business' name in flowers. Photo by Alison Wilson.



Plans continue to take shape for Slip End Village Day and we hope that all village residents will support it and that the sun will shine.

We already have bookings for bouncy castles, pony rides, refreshments and various stalls. If you, or your group, would like a stall at Village Day please contact us at slipendvillageday@yahoo.com or phone us on 01582 728865 or 07958587595.

We are also having a Grand Raffle – so look out for tickets for sale at local hosteleries and through local groups as well as on the day.

Keep the date: Saturday 9th July

Dates for St Andrew's Church — April



Sunday 3rd: 9am: Said Communion
Sunday 3rd: 10am: Morning Praise incorporating the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10th: 10.30am: Morning Praise: Grace for generosity (band)
Tuesday 12th: 11.00am: Woodside Care Home service
Sunday 17th: 10.30am: Holy Communion: No other gospel
Sunday 24th: 10.30am: Family Service: Baptised into Christ (organ & singers)

Little Stars for April

Weds 6th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: Easter Themes – Road to Emmaus

Weds 13th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: Easter Themes – Selfish Giant

Weds 20th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: St George

Weds 27th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: The Donkey Who Talked

Little Singing Stars meet Tuesday mornings at 10am prompt



Living with a risen saviour

Last week we celebrated Easter.

At church we are now in an Easter Season, the risen Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples helping them to understand why he had to die and what it means that he rose again. On Good Friday we focus on how Jesus took all our sins, and the consequences of our sins, our shortcomings and mistakes upon himself when he died on the cross.

Somebody said to me, "It's like he threw himself in front of a car for you – you had strayed into the road - he was looking out for you – he took the impact so you were safe."

That image and the feeling of safety has stayed with me.

I am protected from the consequences of my wrong attitudes leading to unwise actions. I had strayed from God and now I am brought back to that place where I enjoy his love again.

But we are also saved by his life.

Paul said, "If we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more... shall we be saved by his life." (Romans 5v10)

As Christians we have an intimate relationship with a living saviour.

Eighty six times in the Bible it says that "Christ is in us" – or that "we are in Christ."

This experience of His life within is very precious indeed.

His presence brings us so many blessings, He comforts us, guides us, strengthens us, speaks words of love to us, helps us to pray, forgives us, refreshes us and fills us with joy



and peace, and give us hope for the future. We can all experience his risen life within us when we simply turn to him and ask him to come into our lives, as our Lord and saviour. The one who died for us and now lives for us.

Easter Blessings,
Cathy



The Christian life is a life
in which Christ is the One
living and doing everything
in us, with us, and through us.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smalls for All

A huge thank you for the mention in the Parish News - so many ladies in the area have been arriving at my door with bags of bras and pants!

Today we sent off another big box bringing the total to 176 bras and 40 pants. I have almost filled the next box.

I will keep you updated with the totals - it would be great to have sent of 1,000 items by the end of the year if we can!

Thank you again
Nikki West

Slip End Photography Group

The Club is holding an exhibition in the Village Hall on 7th May from 1 - 4pm.

There are always a good selection of photographs taken by our diverse group of members from the Parish and surrounding areas. More details next month but please make a note of the date.

At the March meeting we had a talk and demonstration of Photoshop by Jane Clark of True Colour Imaging in Luton. Jane has printed many of our images for previous exhibitions. She talked about some of the

features that she uses and showed examples of what can be done. It was a useful and informative evening. Now we just need the time to have a go ourselves.

Community Projects Group

The CPG will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at The Social Club, 7.30pm start. As well as the AGM, the group will also discuss the grants awarded by the Core Committee.

Gardening Club

Planning for the 2016 Parish Open Gardens Day has commenced and we are looking for people to open their garden. (See more details on page opposite.)

Forthcoming garden visits under the National Gardens Scheme are given below.

Wednesday 13 April. The Abbots House, Abbots Langley.

Sunday 29 May. Gade Valley Cottages, Great Gaddesden.

Sunday 12 June. Cublington Gardens, Leighton Buzzard.

(Meet 1.30pm Rising Sun Car Park)

PN Gardening Correspondent



OPEN GARDENS 2016

Slip End hosted its seventh Open Gardens' day in July 2014. This proved to be a popular event and was enjoyed by over 100 visitors. We are now planning for the 2016 event on **Saturday 16th July**. Put the date in your diary now!!

We are already looking for some new gardens, big or small and would emphasise that it is not a competition. Your garden does not have to be anything special; we just want you to be enthusiastic about it.



You would be surprised how many visitors pick up ideas and tips from most gardens.

If you live in the Parish and would be interested in opening your garden, please complete details

below and return by the end of April to: Rosemary Wickens, 86 Front Street, Slip End or e-mail to

rosemary.wickens@mypostoffice.co.uk

I would like to 'open my garden' on Saturday 16th July

I would like more information:

Name

Address

Telephone number

e-mail address

Local boxer knocks out comfortable win

Jason Cunningham takes on Ashley Lane
Photo courtesy of Stephen Buckley, SB Sports Photography, <https://www.facebook.com/sbsportsphotographyuk/>



Following the disappointment of his challenge for the British Super Flyweight Title last Autumn, Jason Cunningham returned to the ring on 27th February when he took on Ashley Lane for the English Bantamweight Title Doncaster's Dome Arena was the venue in his quest to regain the title he had won two years earlier.

It was a determined Cunningham who strode from his corner and started plying jabs and hooks to the body of his opponent.

From the beginning, Jason was well on top and dominated every minute of the early rounds, often making Lane look like a novice. On two or three occasions, Lane became trapped on the ropes and seemed likely to succumb, with an

aggressive Cunningham clearly seeking a stoppage.

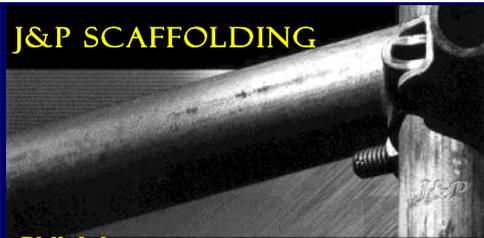
To his credit, Lane managed to survive and staged a comeback in the last couple of rounds. By then, our man had the points in the bag and, to the delight of the home supporters, had notched up a comfortable win.

It was both a cultured and confident performance from Jason who was in peak condition. A crack at the British Bantamweight Title could come soon. Meanwhile a return to the Dome on 14th May is likely.

Details awaiting confirmation. Please contact me on 07739 295228 for details or look for my next update.

Tony Strong

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Phil Johnson

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Open House in aid of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)

I would like to thank everyone who attended my Open House at the beginning of March in aid of the British Lung Foundation. We had lots of visitors, and with the help of many friends, served teas and coffees and plenty of cakes throughout the day.

The tombola had some great prizes with more than 20 raffle prizes on offer. The final sum, including some donations after the day totalled £415, a magnificent amount.

The British Lung Foundation helps many people suffering with lung problems, including COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and also assists with rehabilitation support. They encourage patients to attend local gym classes and provide specialist nurse care at certain times of the day to ensure exercises are done correctly. They offer group meetings throughout the UK and different events.

If you want to find out more details please check out the website—www.blf.org.uk

Sue Briggs



BIG BREW at St Andrew's Church



There was lots on offer at the Big Brew in aid of Traidcraft on Saturday 12th March. Some delicious scones, cakes and short-bread proved very tempting for the visitors and the refreshment team were kept very busy.



There were also handmade gifts to buy and a Fairtrade competition to enter and some crafts for the children reflecting Traidcraft. Evie made a nice slice of water melon and managed a word search about fruit. The total raised was £200.

Sue Briggs



Slip into a good book



I love reading, and as a relative newcomer to the village (we moved here 2 ½ years ago) I thought it would be great to see if there was any interest in setting up a book club in Slip End so that I can meet some more people in this friendly village and chat through a (hopefully) good read.

We are choosing our books based on recommendations such as the Simon Mayo Book Club, Richard & Judy book club, and awards such as the Costa Book Awards. So hopefully the books will be easy to get from the shops or library.

Our first meeting was in March, and we read *The Girl on the Train* (at the time of writing I haven't started it yet, but I've heard its good).

Please do join us! We will be meeting once a month, on a Tuesday at 8pm in the Frog, details as follows:

April – *Exposure* by Helen Dunmore – meeting 26th April

May – *A Place Called Winter* by Patrick Gale – meeting 24th May

June – *The Heart Goes Last* by Margaret Atwood – meeting 28th June

We have a page on Facebook, please let me know if you'd like to join and I'll add you to the group.

**Jo Tyler (email jobullen@hotmail.com)
Slip End Book Group**

Exploring the importance of E-Safety at special workshop

At Slip End Village School we take the issue of E-Safety extremely seriously and it forms an integral part of our school's curriculum.

The internet can be a fascinating place but is also something that concerns us deeply; we want to ensure that as a whole school community we have the knowledge and skills to help keep our children safe online. Over the last two months staff, parents and pupils at both Slip End and Caddington Village Schools have been looking at simple ways to prepare our children for online life.

We have run two E-safety workshops and special assemblies have been held for the children.

PC Richard Denton from Bedfordshire Police visited both schools to talk to parents and pupils about simple online rules to keep our children safe. These included:

Agreeing time limits for internet usage

Talking to children about their internet activity

Agreeing on sites to be visited
Knowing who children talk to online

Agreeing strong, confidential passwords

Encouraging children to be open, especially when things go wrong

Ensuring that consoles, tablets and mobile phones are used safely and considering whether such devices should be kept in bedrooms at night

The internet and online world



offers us a lot of benefits and as long as we know how our children are using it. It offers a motivational and engaging tool which helps children progress in their learning and helps pre-

pare them for life in 21st century Britain.

Mr Adam Burgess
Slip End Village School

SLIP END CRIME STATISTICS - what's happening in your neighbourhood?



Our local PCSO has been made redundant, which means crime statistics for the parish may not be available in future.

Statistics for February 2016

Violence with Injury – 0
Violence without Injury – 0
Robbery – 0
Burglary Dwelling – 1
Burglary Non Dwelling – 0
Vehicle Offences – 3
Bicycle Theft – 0
Other Theft – 1
Criminal Damage – 1
Possession of Drugs – 0
Public Order – 0
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society – 0
Anti-Social Behaviour - 3
Total – 9

Theft From Motor Vehicle

Vehicle broken into on Front Street overnight and tools taken.
Possible Airparks workers have used keys to

get access to a vehicle and steal money inside while owner has gone away
DJ equipment stolen from within a vehicle on Ross Way.

Burglary

Scaffolding company had tools stolen from their location on Woodside Road.

Other Theft

Courier has delivered a parcel to an address in The Oaks and seen that a box of wine has been delivered prior. He has then taken the wine and left location.

Criminal Damage

Vehicle has had tyres slashed and window broken on Markyate Road

Anti-Social Behaviour

Neighbour dispute in St Andrews Close.
Homeowner couldn't get out of his drive due to a parked car in Claydown Way.
Someone is reporting a suspicious vehicle in Summer Street.

Anyone for tennis? Village club is looking for members

Slip End Tennis Club was formed in 1987 and is affiliated to the Beds Lawn Tennis Association. It is sited at Slip End Playing Fields, Church Road, Slip End and has two good hard courts with floodlights. It is a small

friendly club with approximately 75 members. Membership costs are: juniors £20 (Those in full time education), adults £35 and families £60 (There is a reduction for early payment by 30 April).

Club members have priority in the use of courts, except when either matches are to be played or coaching taking place. Club night is on Monday evenings and adult night on Wednesday evenings, both from 7pm, to which all members are



welcome. Junior coaching is provided by our LTA coach, Sally Parry on Fridays from 1 April. Members £4 and non-members £5 per session. Beginners 5-6pm and intermediates 6-7pm. Senior coaching is on Tuesdays from 6.30-7.30pm. Ladies and private coaching is also available. Give Sally a call (413501) We enter a Men's Doubles Team in the South Beds League also in the Winter Indoor League.

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

Peter Smith, Chairman(733253)

peter.smith813g@gmail.com

Steve Lyons, Treasurer

(414162) stevesuelyons@aol.com

A photograph of the interior of a pub or dining room. The room is warmly lit with a large, ornate chandelier. The walls are covered in floral wallpaper. In the foreground, there are several tables set with patterned chairs and glassware. A white sign in the upper left corner reads "Frog & Rhubarb Country Pub & Dining" and "HOME MADE FOOD". In the upper right, the phone number "01582 452722" and the website "www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk" are displayed in white text.

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St George's Fun Day

Sunday 24th April, 11 am-4pm
The Heathfield Centre, Caddington

Last year's event was very popular and we hope to make it even better this year.

We are planning to hold a fancy dress pageant for the children of Caddington, Slip End & Woodside. This is for children aged between four and 14 years of age. They can use their imagination to create any outfit they wish, as there is no theme for the pageant. We just want lots of youngsters to come along & have fun! There will be prizes galore!

There will be many stalls for the adults, and lots of entertainment for the children during the day, such as a bouncy castle, a fire engine, police car and a petting zoo.

We can't do it alone, so if you feel you can

help in any way please contact us at the address below.

We are particularly looking for help on the day, as well as setting up on Saturday afternoon.

We need prizes for the tombola so if you have anything we would welcome it. We are happy to make use of your unwanted Christmas gifts - re-gifting is always a good thing to do!

We also need sponsors and help with printing, in exchange for a mention on our programme. Please us know if you are prepared to help in any way.

St George's Day Committee



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Aley Green Methodist Church

Services and Diary dates for April



Sunday 3rd: Easter 2

10.30am Morning Service - Rev Bob Forrest
10.30am Sunday School and Communion

Tuesday 5th

7.30pm Bible Study led by Rev Bob Forrest

Sunday 10th: Easter 3

Local Preachers Sunday

10.30am Morning Service - F Arscott-Smith
10.30am Sunday School and Youth Group

Tuesday 12th

10.00am/12.00pm 'Cakes & Company'

Sunday 17th: Easter 4

10.30am Morning Service - Rev Phil Horner
10.30am Sunday School and Youth Group

Monday 18th

7.30pm Fellowship led by Mike Bull

Sunday 24th: Easter 5

9.30am Morning Service - Colin Quine
9.30am Sunday School and Youth Group

Wednesday 27th

7.30pm Coffee Evening in aid of LAMP

Sunday 1st May: Easter 6

10.30am Morning Service - Rev Bob Forrest
10.30am Sunday School and Communion

The February Coffee Evening was quieter than usual but we had time to talk over a cuppa and raised £40 for Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust.

The Ecumenical service to celebrate Women's World Day of Prayer on 4th March was supported by all five village churches. The service was written by the women of Cuba and titled 'Receive Children, Receive Me'.

It was a very moving service with wonderful readings, hymns and prayers. After the service we joined together in the School Room where we shared a yummy supper. The collection taken raised £114 to further the work of the Women's World Day of

Prayer.

The Ecumenical Lent Course was well supported with representatives from the village churches.

It's good to share thoughts and spend time together. In April we will be back to our usual monthly Bible Study meeting on the first Tuesday, led by Rev Bob Forrest and Fellowship meeting on the third Monday monthly led by Mike Bull.

We were delighted to be asked by the St George's Fun Day organising committee to take part in this year's event at the Heathfield Centre on Sunday 24th April, 11am to 4pm. As well as running our preserve stall, Team AG will be in the kitchen serving refreshments. Do come along and support this village event, the committee have put a lot of time and energy into ensuring a successful day. Lots of stalls to look at and entertainment on the stage through out the afternoon. We plan to serve homemade soup, rolls, hot pasties and sausage rolls, toasted tea cakes, home made cakes and cream teas with a pot of tea or coffee.

Do join us for a service or event a warm welcome awaits along with a cuppa!

*There are many blessings, that each new Spring brings
you can see it bloom about and hear the song it sings.
With winters bleakness over, and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life Springtime loves to spread.
As God unfolds the flowers, and their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance grace in our hearts will
grow.*

May God Bless You
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problems



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What is a stroke?

A stroke is a 'brain attack' caused by a disturbance of the blood supply to the brain.

There are two main types of stroke, which require different types of treatment:

Ischaemic stroke

The most common form of stroke. It is caused by a clot narrowing or blocking blood vessels so that blood cannot reach a particular area of the brain. This leads to the death of brain cells due to lack of oxygen.

Haemorrhagic stroke

Caused when a weakened blood vessel in the brain bursts. This produces bleeding into the brain, which leads to damage.

What is a TIA (mini-stroke)?

Transient ischaemic attack (TIA) is called a 'mini-stroke'. It is similar to a stroke and has the same signs, but gets better within 24 hours. However, it could be a warning sign of a more serious stroke and it is vital that it gets the same F.A.S.T. action by calling 999.

What is F.A.S.T?

The main symptoms of stroke can be remembered with the word FAST: Face-Arms-Speech-Time.

Face – the face may have dropped on one side, the person may not be able to smile or their mouth or eye may have dropped.

Arms – the person with suspected stroke may not be able to lift both arms and keep them there because of arm weakness or numbness in one arm.

Speech – their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake.

Time – it is time to dial 999 immediately if you see any of these signs or symptoms.

Why you must act F.A.S.T.

A stroke is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention. So recognising the signs of stroke and calling 999 for an ambulance is crucial. The sooner somebody who is having a stroke gets urgent medical attention, the better their chances of a good recovery.

Rapid diagnosis of TIA (mini-stroke) allows

urgent steps to be taken to reduce the risk of having a stroke.

Reducing your risk

Some people are more at risk of having a stroke if they also have certain other medical conditions. These include:

High blood pressure

High cholesterol

Atrial fibrillation (an irregular heartbeat)

Diabetes

It is important that these conditions are carefully monitored and treated.

The risk of having a stroke is higher amongst people in certain ethnic groups, including South Asian, African and Caribbean. This is partly because high blood pressure and diabetes are more

common in these groups.

There are also lifestyle factors that may increase the risk of having a stroke. They include:

Smoking

Being overweight

Lack of exercise

Poor diet

Exceeding the recommended daily alcohol limit

- The NHS recommends women should not regularly drink more than 2-3 units a day and men should not regularly drink more than 3-4 units a day.

Leading a healthy, active lifestyle is vital to help reduce your risk of having a stroke.

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Gardening Tips *by Russell Sprout*

At time of writing we are still getting a lot of wet weather which is making it difficult to get on in the garden. Hopefully by the time you are reading this it will have dried up a bit and careful planning during the winter can be put into action. Complete pruning of roses as soon as possible and apply fertilizer at approximately a handful to the square yard, but leave a six inch circle around the actual plant itself, and hoe into the surface. After a good downpour mulch around the plants with a one inch layer of manure or bark chippings to hold moisture. Re-plant any alpine which lack vigour, or which have been lifted slightly out of the ground. Dig the ground and apply a general fertilizer after lifting these plants. Be careful not to damage self sown seedlings around any short-lived plants. There is still time to repair impoverished lawns this month, a light mowing followed by scarifying and then aerate to improve drainage. Over-seed any bad areas and rake in well, apply a spring fertiliser and level any bumps or hollows.

Carnations and pinks will benefit from an application of fertilizer to established plants, border plants should be planted by the middle of the month, tall growing varieties can be staked with twiggy sticks pushed into the soil so that the stems can grow up through them. Sweet peas sown in the spring can be planted out as soon as they are growing strongly. Divide any large clumps of herbaceous plants that are unsightly and replant the outer strongest shoots discarding the middle weaker ones. Rhododendrons and azaleas can be transplanted if they need moving or complete planting of any new bushes (water newly planted bushes if weather is dry).

Remove dead heads of early flowering varieties. Dahlias started in boxes can be divided with a sharp knife, making sure that cutting has a bud or shoot on it. Many border annuals can be sown directly into the soil this month to provide a good display of colour and help to suppress weeds. Carry on planting gladioli for a succession of flowers.

Plant onion sets in shallow drills and just cover the tops to stop birds pulling them out. Salad crops can be sown as soon as the soil is dry enough to work into a fine tilth but sow little and



often, every 2-3 weeks so that you get a continuous supply of crops such as lettuce, radish, spring onion and beetroot. Harvest as soon as they are large enough to eat, don't wait to get large woody ones.

Carrots can be planted this month, main crop can be sown the middle of next month, sow seeds of late summer cauliflowers and seeded varieties of peas which will be ready for picking in approximately 12 weeks. Sow winter cabbages for planting out in June and set out summer cabbages sown last month.

As early potatoes start to shoot from the middle of the month protect the leaves from frost either by drawing the soil over them or cover them with straw or newspaper.

Check rhubarb and remove any seed heads as soon as they appear, cut them off as near to the base as possible, if left the plant will stop producing edible sticks, they will become dry and woody very quickly.

Tomato plants can be planted in a cool greenhouse now and sow seeds indoors for outdoor tomatoes to plant out when danger of frosts has passed. Sow melons and cucumbers in a propagator, prick out as soon as they are large enough to handle. Keep an eye on fruit trees and bushes as they start to blossom and take action against pests and diseases.

Mulch beds and borders when they have warmed up, after destroying weeds with a hoe and making sure ground is moist. Ensure tender plants are protected from frost. That's all until next month, happy gardening!



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Caddington WI

Alpaca Experience was the title of Sue Watkins' talk for our February meeting. A well attended meeting - heard Sue's story of how she went to buy three alpacas and came home with 12! That was 11 years ago, and today she has 53 breeding females and three males. All are tagged and numbered and to get good stock you have to get a good genetics and fibre which is what she has worked on to get her good breeding. There seems to be a lot of competition in the alpaca world these days. Originating from South America, the survival of alpacas today was thanks to two families who fled into the hills with their animals during the Conquistadors' invasion, preventing the species from being wiped out.

We had the opportunity of buying scarves and wraps later and I must say the softness, sheen and amazing colours were beautiful! Our competition for the Jazziest Socks was judged by Sue. This was won by Brenda Stones, second was Elizabeth Nicholls and third was Enid Campbell.

Judith Husbands showed us the blankets and other items that had been knitted for international charities including Knit for Peace, Sisters of Mercy and the Neo-Natal unit at the L & D Hospital.

Caddington W.I. meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Baptist Hall, Luton Road, at 7.30pm. Do join us ladies!

Linda Edwards

Forthcoming Diary Dates

19th April: Bedfordshire Verse with Frank Batt

17th May: Annual Meeting

21st June The History of the Rose with Beverly Bond

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Friendship Club - Viv Porter

It is with great sadness that the Friendship Club has to report the death of Mrs Viv Porter.

Viv was the oldest member who had been with the Club since it first opened some 51 years ago.

She will be sadly missed by all and even towards the end and at the grand age of 91 she was still wanting to make the tea (no way!)

Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this time.



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

APRIL

- 4th Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall 7pm
- 12th Photographic Group – Digital Projection by Naomi Sael. Social Club 8pm
- 19th Caddington WI—Bedfordshire Verse Baptist Church 7:30pm
- 24th St George's Fun Day Heathfield Centre, Caddington 11am—4 pm
- 30th Entertainment "Jake & his Old Man" at Slip End Social Club

May

- 7th Photographic Club exhibition in Village Hall, 1-4pm

Future dates for your diary

July

- 9th **Village Day at The Playing Fields, 11am-4pm**
- 16th **Parish Open Gardens Day 11-5pm**
- 18th Gardening Club Village Hall with Guest Speaker 8pm



Bin collections

- Black bin and Glass Friday 8th and 22nd April
- Orange bin / garden Friday 1st, 15th and 29th April



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:-

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

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Your Central Beds Councillors

contact details



Cllr Kevin Collins
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