

Aley Green Pepperstock
Slip End Woodside
PARISH NEWS
May 2016



Editors' Notes

Driving through the lanes around the village, you can't help noticing the piles of hardcore and other rubbish dumped with alarming regularity at certain locations.

The blight of flytipping has undoubtedly increased since our neighbouring Hertfordshire County Council reduced the opening hours of its community recycling centres, and tightened up rules on commercial waste.

This problem is commonplace in the St Albans district, and now unfortunately it has spread across the border into Central Beds.

Landowners are left picking up the bill to clear this rubbish, and villagers are greeted with the unwelcome sight of heaps of waste, but nothing seems to be done to prevent those responsible.

To report flytipping on public land, call 0300 300 8000 or email

wasteservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The council will need to know your name, address and a contact phone number, but this information

will only be shared with their contractors and officers investigating.

Those responsible for ruining our countryside should be hit where it hurts—in their pockets!

On an unrelated note, I spent a recent Sunday morning rolling around in mud to raise funds for Rennie Grove Hospice in St Albans, a vital service to local communities including people living here. The five-mile Muddy Mucker was a gruelling obstacle course which involved a lot of freezing cold water and a great deal of mud, but it was all in a good cause!

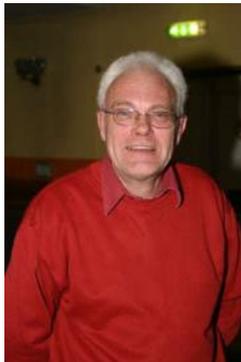


Notes from the Parish Council

Thank you to all those who have been in touch in response to the item in last month's Parish News about airport parking.

In case you missed the item it can be seen online at www.slipend.co.uk and then select the Parish News tab.

If you haven't already, please tell us of your experiences. It may be that cars parked outside your house while the driver flies off from the airport is causing you a problem or it may not be an issue for you. Either way we would like to know. If there is a problem, a solution could be the



introduction of a Residential Parking Zone and again we would like to have your views for or against. So please do continue to send in your thoughts. As always our contact details are at the back of this magazine.

Recently, I heard from Central Bedfordshire Highways that the new speed ramps in Markyate Road and Front Street are likely to be installed during the summer months.

Unfortunately, there is no news yet as to when the white centre line in Front Street will be taken out.

Ken Crossett, Chairman

Viv Porter (1925—2016)

Viv was born in Greenwich on 19th March 1925, the second eldest of 5 children. Her father worked on the Thames as a pilot. When she left school aged just 14 she went to work at United Dairies in London. The family often visited her Grandparents who had retired to Front Street in Slip End, renting 11 Front Street for their visits. They moved permanently during the Blitz. Her eldest brother Roland joined the merchant navy when the war broke out and sadly lost his life in the war. His name is on the memorial in the church. Her sisters have predeceased her but her younger brother Raymond still lives in Front Street.

Viv found work at the original Sainsbury's shop in Luton, serving on a counter. She loved her work and made many good friends.

She met her husband Robert, or Bob as he was known, when he was working at Vauxhall. They were married in 1947 at St. Andrew's Church and lived in Peel Street, Luton where their only son Robert was born.



When Robert was 7 they moved back to 10 Front Street, opposite Viv's

parents, where they stayed for the rest of their lives.

Viv started helping at the Friendship Club when her Mum, who was a member, said they needed someone to make the teas. This was the start of a very long association. Bob also joined the club when he retired and together they – organised many trips, outings and holidays for the members. Thursdays continued to be Friendship club day

throughout Viv's life - until her health began to fail. It was a huge part of her life. Viv and Bob also enjoyed going out to visit many interesting places in the car. In later years she joined the Chatty Club (*she is shown here with Lily from the Rising Sun and former member Fred Bodkin*)



They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1994, the same year as The Queen which meant that they were invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party to celebrate. Bob sadly died in 2001, they had enjoyed a long and very happy marriage.

At home, Viv liked knitting for herself and the family. She also liked to bake. She was a very caring person looking after family and friends. She was, along with Bob and their great friend Joan Austin, one of the original trustees of the Grace Cook Trust, a fund for the benefit of elderly parishioners providing taxi hire to the hospital. Viv felt that she had had a terrific life, enjoying very good health for 89 years and managing well around her illness for the last years until she had to go into a home. She died just before her 91st birthday.

She meant a lot to our community in the Parish and will be sadly missed.

(adapted from the notes for the tribute at Viv's funeral in March, with thanks to Cathy Pullinger)

NEWS IN BRIEF

1st Woodside Brownies

March was a busy month for us – we visited Pets at Home as part of the Pet Lover Badge, and held snakes, rabbits and guinea pigs. We also had visits from Lona (Denmark) Sharma (Pakistan/India), Lotti (Switzerland) and Alice (The Caribbean) as part of our work towards the World Culture Badge. They talked about their countries, some were wearing their national costumes, and the girls enjoyed the food they brought with them.

In May we are looking forward to taking part in Jump Rope for Heart sponsored skip. On Sunday 5th June guiding will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. As the hall is booked for the actual date of 19th June we are going to have a tea party on the 5th, and parents and friends of Brownies are all invited. If you are 90 or will be this year and would like to come, please ring Wise Owl on 01582 723109.

Gardening Club

Planning for the 2016 Parish Open Gardens is ongoing and we are looking for more people to open their gardens. (See more details page opposite.) The first garden visits of the year were made to Hatfield House West Gardens in March and The Abbots House, Abbots Langley in April. At Hatfield House, the visitors enjoyed the spring bulbs in the lime walk, sundial garden and view of the famous Old Palace garden, childhood home of Queen Elizabeth I. The adjoining woodland garden was at its best with masses of naturalised daffodils and bluebells (*pictured above right*).

Members of the gardening club enjoying their refreshments following a look around a delightful garden in Abbots Langley. A one and three quarter acre garden with some unusual trees and shrubs. There was something for everyone to enjoy and the owners were most hospitable, a good time was had by all.



Smalls for All

The ladies of Slip End and surrounding villages have now donated a total of 261 bras and 70 pairs of knickers to Smalls for All. Most of the recent donations have been as a direct result of the mention in the Parish News, and Nikki West is continuing to collect donations.

Jason Cunningham

Jason's next fight is confirmed for Saturday 14th May at Doncaster's Dome Arena when he will be taking on a European opponent from Latvia in a six rounder. This match will form part of an intriguing and very busy 10 fight bill for which doors open at 6pm with the action due to commence an hour later. A few standard and ringside seats are still available, call Tony Strong on 07739 295228 for further details. Tickets are also available from Pete Ray on 01582 414796.

At present we are still awaiting news of Jason's forthcoming title fight, which could see him challenging for the British Bantamweight Crown following his successful landing of the English title recently, when his form was both exciting and impressive.

We hope to have more news on this next month, and in the meantime Tony will keep the social club advised of any upcoming events as soon as they are announced.

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 May 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

Prayer Room set up at St Andrew's for Holy Week

For Holy Week this year we set up a Prayer Room (pictured). This was the culmination of our Lent series on God's grace which I wrote about in February, when we were learning about God's gift of love given to us in Jesus and how through his grace he gives us everything we need to follow him.

The prayer room was set up in Iain's log cabin in the vicarage garden and the idea was to create a space which would help us to come into God's presence. There were different areas focussing on different themes: the cross and Christ's suffering for us; the way in which he is a good shepherd to us and leads us beside still waters; there was a small enclosed area in which to draw close to God; a table with resources – ideas for prayer and materials for drawing or colouring; there were boards on which to write prayers and share prayer requests and a map to help you pray for the Parish.

There were refreshments available and people could come and go at will. We didn't do much praying together but there was a sense of fellowship as we each benefited from the prayers and contributions left by others. As the week went by there was a greater and greater sense of the presence of God, I felt more and more drawn to come and spend time with him as time went on – sometimes praying for others and sometimes just enjoying spending time in his presence.

The Archbishop's of Canterbury and York have called



on Christians to spend the week before Pentecost, when we remember the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in prayer. The first disciples spent the ten days between The Ascension and Pentecost in Jerusalem praying for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. So we are planning to set up the log cabin as a prayer room for these ten days, (Thursday 5th – Sunday 15th May) the themes and images will focus on God's throne of grace and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

We will be praying for the Holy Spirit to come afresh to help us share the good news of Christ. We will be praying for those in need and praying blessings on our Parish as well as simply enjoying God's presence. If you would like to come please talk to someone at church, or send me an email or check out our website for opening times, you would be very welcome. Or you could email me a prayer request if you would like us to pray specifically for you.

With love and prayers, Cathy

Don't forget Village Day on Saturday 9th July

Raffle tickets will be on sale in the next few weeks with some great prizes to be won including a round of golf for four people at Luton Hoo, open air cinema tickets also at Luton Hoo, tea at the Houses of Parliament, a family entry to Woburn Safari Park, meal vouchers, beauty vouchers and many more.

Stalls are being booked by local groups and small businesses with a good selection of things to purchase and games to try. For the younger people in the villages we have pony rides and bouncy castles. There will be refreshments including a barbeque, teas and coffees, the beer tent and an ice cream van. There is still time to book a stall.

We are still working on arena entertainment so more about that next month.

People are starting to offer their help for the weekend – and we will need lots of help to set up and clear up after the event- could you be one of those people? If you could our contact email and phone numbers are below.

slipendvillageday@yahoo.com or phone us on 01582 728865 or 07958587595.

Keep the date: Saturday 9th July, 11am to 4pm at Slip End Playing Fields

Dates for St Andrew's Church — May



- Sunday 1st: 10.30am: Informal Communion – Living by faith in the Son of God
- Thursday 5th: 7.30pm: Ascension Day – Will He not graciously give us all things: with guest speaker Liz Griffiths
- Sunday 8th: 10.30am: Cafe Church – Celebrating the completion of our Images of Worship banners with guest Cathy Pritchard (band)
- Sunday 15th: 10.30am: Morning Praise: Pentecost – Receiving the promise of the Spirit (organ & singers)
- Sunday 15th: 4pm: Joint Churches Together in Caddington Service at Aley Green
- Tuesday 17th: 11.00am: Woodside Care Home service
- Sunday 22nd: 8.30am: Said Communion – Sons of the Father
- Sunday 22nd: 10.30am: Family Service: Trinity – Celebrating our Children (band)
- Sunday 29th: 10.30am: Holy Communion – Justified by Faith (organ & singers)

Little Stars for May

- Weds 4th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: The Ascension
- Weds 11th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: Pentecost
- Weds 18th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: Trinity
- Weds 25th: Refreshments from 10am with a 10.30 start: Little Stars: The Sermon on the Mount



Little Singing Stars meet Tuesday mornings at 10am prompt



Celebrating HM The Queen's 90th birthday

St Andrew's will be holding a special service on Sunday 12th June at 10.30am to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, followed by a Garden Party at the Vicarage.

Why not brush off your posh hat, or dress in red, white and blue and join in the celebration? Perhaps you'd like to bring a royal souvenir to show others?

You are welcome to both the church service and party or either event. The garden party will kick off from 12.30pm. We'll meet in church for lunch if the weather is inclement.

There's no need to bring anything but if you want to contribute food – or bring a blanket to sit on or folding chairs that would be wonderful.

To help us with catering if possible please let us know you're coming by contacting Cathy on: (01582) 480391 or 07425 148046 or email cathy@rwh.org.uk



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Slip End Photography Group Exhibition



Saturday 7th May
Slip End Village Hall
12 - 4 pm



Also featuring Caddington Art Club

Congratulations to Tony and Teresa Willson

We recently celebrated the Golden Wedding anniversary of the young couple shown here at the Caddington Club.

There were lots of friends and family present for the delicious meal in the function room and see below a lovely photo of the proud grandparents with their five grandchildren.



Teresa and Tony are well-known in Slip End and both attend St Andrew's Church where Tony was a church warden for many years. They helped run the successful Shoebox Campaign for years in Dunstable as the

warehouse managers in some of the large premises on the Woodside Estate.

They moved to Slip End after they were married and later moved to Aley Green and now live in Chaul End Lane, Caddington.

Congratulations Teresa and Tony on the last 50 years.

Sue Briggs



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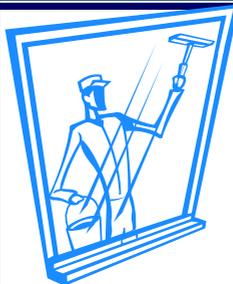
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PHILIPPINE ENCOUNTERS

Sylvia and Andrew with Justine (third from right) and her family



Last summer as I realised that my 60th birthday was approaching, I wondered how I could celebrate this milestone. Then I had an inspiration!

For several years my husband Andrew and I had been supporting the work of Hands of Mercy International, a Christian charity whose ministry is focused on the needs of the poor living in Mandaluyong City, Manila, and whose UK office is in Luton.

Through them, I had been sponsoring the education of a seven-year-old girl named Justine. Why not take a trip to Manila to meet Justine and her family and see the work of the charity at first hand?

So it was that in early February we braved the flight of nearly 8,000 miles (via Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong) and arrived at Manila Airport where we were warmly greeted by Sally Escoto, the

director of Hands of Mercy in the Philippines, and her husband Joey.

Mandaluyong is one of 14 cities within Metro Manila, and has a population of about 310,000. It is home to many urban poor communities and Hands of Mercy has teams working in 10 of these.

The staff comprise of volunteer Filipinos (mostly women) who experience the same living conditions as those they are seeking to serve. Through their efforts, the charity is able to run a supplementary feeding program for undernourished children and a therapy programme for children with disabilities.

Besides this, the charity funds family support, home improvement, surgical treatment and prescription medicine programs.

On our first full day in Manila, Joey took us on a tour around some historic parts of the city, and

also told us about some of the corruption that goes on in both local and national government, which is sadly one of the main reasons why millions of Filipinos remain impoverished despite a growing economy.

The following day was our first incursion into one of the urban poor communities, or shanty towns (**pictured right**).

Hidden behind a busy dual carriageway, this was a self-contained community with its own shops selling food and cheap clothing and household goods. Overhead there were clothes lines suspended from windows and across the alleyways, as well as a chaotic tangle of electric wires.

We learnt that, sadly, fires are often caused by families illegally tapping into the electricity supply. In the streets, groups of children greeted us, curious at our presence. Besides street dogs, we noticed many cockerels caged up or chained to posts by the roadside. Joey told us later that the bloodthirsty sport of cockfighting is a popular pastime among the men, who sadly squander meagre family incomes by placing bets.

In a simple room used as a church by the charity, we were introduced to 30 or so of the women from the staff team. We were then taken to visit a rebuilding project in an area where six months ago a huge fire had destroyed about 4,000 flimsily constructed shanty homes. Thankfully there was no loss of life, but the charity are appealing for funds for the building work. The government rightly



insists that replacement homes must be made of brick to prevent a recurrence of the disaster, but it is only contributing a small proportion of the money needed for this.

One couple whose home had somehow survived the fire intact explained to Andrew that they couldn't afford a bed, so had to sleep on a cold stone floor in their tiny one room shack.

On the following days, we visited two of the other communities where we saw the feeding program in operation and were privileged to help with distributing the food – a simple meal of rice, pork and vegetable stew, and bananas – to some of the children.

Our first meeting with Justine was rather unexpected: as we entered the building where one of the feeding programmes was taking place (**pictured left**) we saw a tiny, shy little girl seated to one side and realised that it was she.

At first she was rather overwhelmed with our presence, and nervous about communicating in English, as Tagalog is her first language.

We were introduced to her mother, Alelyn, and were very touched when she told us that our visit was “like a dream come true”.

They took us along a narrow alleyway to their home. On entering, we had to ascend a couple of ladders, bypassing two other homes occupied by their extended family, to reach their third floor “apartment”.

The living space shared by Justine, her parents and her two little brothers is not much bigger than a kingsize double bed. Into this are squeezed cooking equipment, clothes and other essentials. Their communal bed is





a large mattress on the floor, which provides seating in the daytime.

A blanket suspended from the ceiling was their only form of “air conditioning”.

Justine’s father, Vevencio, is a construction worker who, although skilled in metalwork, only earns the equivalent of £3 per day. He told us that he currently has to make a six-hour round trip to and from work each day – by bus and on foot.

Justine gradually became more relaxed with us, and settled down to her favourite occupation – drawing, with a gift of paper and crayons which we had given her. It was so good to be able to spend time with this family and gain some insight into their daily lives. However, we began to be choked by the cooking fumes coming up from the homes below, so had to take our leave, though realising that the smoke and the heat are a daily reality for these families.

On the following day, we were privileged to see something of the disabled therapy programme in action. This took place inside the church building. The staff who participate have received professional training from a qualified therapist.

I was moved to see the face of an 11-year-old boy with cerebral palsy light up with pleasure as the team members gently manipulated his limbs, sang to him and helped him to clap his hands in time to their music.

On the day before our departure from Manila, we were invited to the office to say ‘farewell’ to the team. We arrived to discover that they had made me a beautiful iced birthday cake with candles (only two!) and also a buffet feast of delicious Filipino food (**pictured above**)!

We came away feeling that we had truly joined hands with the team in Mandaluyong, and inspired by the love and service of these amazing women to the people in the squatter communities.

From Manila we flew on to beautiful tropical island of Palawan for the second part of our holiday. Here we stayed for most of the time in El Nido, whose scenery certainly lives up to its description of “a paradise within a paradise”. One of the highlights was a one day boat trip around the Bacuit Archipelago off the coast of El Nido.

Sylvia and Andrew Harland

Anyone for tennis? Join Slip End club today

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



Parry on Fridays and costs are £4 for members £4 and £5 for non-members per session. Coaching for beginners is from 5-6pm and intermediates 6-7pm. Senior coaching is on Tuesdays from 6.30-7.30pm. Ladies and

small friendly club with approximately 75 members. Membership costs are: juniors £20 (Those in full time education), adults £35 and family £60 (There is a reduction for new members). 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 Wednesday evenings at 7pm (when not a match night) and Sunday mornings, all members are welcome.

Junior coaching is provided by LTA coach, Sally

private coaching is also available. Give Sally a call on 01582 413501.

The club enters 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



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Good Neighbour Scheme Tea Party



The latest GNS Tea party in March had an Easter theme and Carol Beeton can be seen here in her Easter bonnet with all the cakes she had baked for the occasion. As usual a good time was had by all who attended and one lucky lady, Sue Strong,

won an Easter Egg for best Easter bonnet in our Easter Bonnet Competition, judged by Ken and Lorraine Crossett. The tea parties are a popular event so keep a look out for the next one and come along and join in.

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Aley Green Methodist Church

Services and Diary dates for April

Sunday 1st - Easter 6

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

Tuesday 3rd

7.30pm - Bible Study led by Rev Bob Forrest

Sunday 8th - Easter 7

10.30am - Morning Service - Ben Williams
10.30am - Sunday School and Youth Group

Tuesday 10th

10.00am/12.30pm - 'Cakes and Company' -
Brunch & Browse for Christian Aid

Sunday 15th- Pentecost Sunday

10.30am - Morning Service - Rev Andy Melvin
10.30am - Sunday School and Youth Group
4.00pm - Ecumenical Service for Pentecost -
Led by Rev Phil Horner

Monday 16th

7.30pm - Fellowship led by Mike Bull

Sunday 22nd - Trinity Sunday

10.30am - Morning Service - Peter Baker
10.30am - Sunday School and Youth Group

Wednesday 25th

7.30pm - Coffee evening in aid of church funds

Sunday 29th

10.30am - Morning Service - Rev Julie
Bradshaw
10.30am - Sunday School and Youth Group

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Our young people and Youth Leaders ran our March Coffee Evening in aid of Junior Mission for All. It was a happy, chatty evening, where we enjoyed each others company, ate hot cross buns and raised £78.80 for the charity. The Walk of Witness on Good Friday was well attended, starting at Aley Green with 30 people and finishing at the Baptist Church with 40! People joined us en route at St. Thomas' Catholic Church, on the Village Green and at All Saints Caddington. We were all ready for



refreshments at the Baptist Church at the end, coffee tea and hot cross buns.

Our Choir led a 'Celebration of Easter' on the evening of 29th March. A full and varied programme of words and music was enjoyed by all. After we all tucked in to a very nice supper and chatted to friends from other churches. An offering was taken for A-Rocha and raised £185.

On Tuesday 10th May 10am to 12.30pm we are running a 'Brunch & Browse' Cakes and Company for Christian Aid. This is our fourth year so it must now be an annual event! We will be serving bacon rolls, warm sausage rolls, cream teas and cakes. Do join us for a late breakfast or an early lunch, there will be stalls, preserves and a grand raffle. Have a browse along our book shelves and select your spring reading books, plenty to choose from. Aley Green will be hosting the Ecumenical Pentecost service on May 15th at 4pm followed by afternoon tea. As it is the start of Christian Aid week there will be an offering for their work during the service.

When our church had its Quinquennial inspection some three years ago we were told that the whole church needed re-pointing in the next five years. We have managed to raise the funds to pay for the improvements and the work started in April, so we hope it will be all completed for when the inspector returns.

**May God Bless You and lift  
your hearts this Spring Season**

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## **Gardening Tips** *by Russell Sprout*

Hopefully by the time you are reading this the weather will have settled down and we will be having some warm, dry days so we can get on in the garden, especially as it is 'Open Gardens' this year. Make a note in your diary for Saturday 16th July, and support this local event.

Daffodils, tulips and hyacinths will need dead heading as they finish flowering and if they need to be removed to make way for other plants replant them very close together out of the way and let them die back gradually.

Dahlias can be planted out from the third week of this month when we should be finished with frosts.

Roses will come under attack and are best sprayed with a systemic insecticide which is absorbed by the plant and into the sap stream killing greenflies that feed on the sap.

Alternatively spraying with soapy water will also get rid of greenfly but has to be done on a regular basis. Check for black spot or mildew and spray if necessary. Remove rolled up leaves containing tortrix caterpillar or sawfly grub and destroy (but don't put them in the compost heap). Gladioli need to be kept weed free and a good mulch 2 inches thick will keep the moisture as the plants depend on dampness at the roots to flower well. If you have any alpine trim those which have flowered to prevent seeding and prolong flowering period.

Hostas are in leaf now and will need some form of slug protection as they can devastate plants in a very short time. Be aware that slug pellets can be dangerous to other animals and don't scatter them where dogs or cats may try to eat them.

There are several alternatives to slug pellets, you could try crumbled egg shells, the slugs get stuck to them and don't like it, a small bowl containing beer which they drink and then can't get out again, you can also use bran flakes (not the breakfast variety) which again they stick to and will avoid for that reason. Chrysanthemums can go in about the second week in May and stake tall varieties as you plant them. In the border pompoms and Koreans should be planted 12-18 inches apart in each direction, as these grow they will bush out and fill in the gaps.

Lawns will benefit from a light nitrogen feed at



this time of year, it comes as liquid or granulated fertilizer and will give your lawn a lush green appearance. Make sure the blades are sharp on your mower and if the weather is dry leave about an inch of growth to stop the lawn from drying out and going brown. If planning a new lawn cultivate now, leave rough for the summer and sow in the autumn.

Make further sowings of herbs such as chervil, dill, fennel, hysop and parsley for culinary use. Keep an eye on the weather and be ready to cover potatoes if frost is forecast. Erect runner bean frames and plant seed from the second week of the month. Marrows, courgettes, squashes and pumpkins can be sown outdoors from the third week of the month. French beans can be sown from the second week, continue sowing lettuce, beetroot and carrots for a fresh supply of tender young vegetables. Sweetcorn can be planted towards the end of the month one and a half inches deep and 18 inches in each direction, preferably in a square to aid pollination.

A layer of grit in the top of flower pots will reduce the amount of water evaporating and lessen the amount of water required to keep plants healthy. Cut off dead flower heads and thin out weak shoots from shrubs that have finished flowering. Remove dead wood and thin shoots to keep old forsythias shapely.

That's all for this month, happy gardening!



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## GOOD FRIDAY CRAFT SESSION



Children enjoyed a the craft session on Good Friday while the Hour at the Cross service was on in church. They did some craft work, wrote prayers, played Easter Bingo, designed their own Easter biscuits and prepared their own lunch. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Charlotte and Julie for leading the group.

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# Pub Page



## Slip End Social Club

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## The Rising Sun

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## The Frog and Rhubarb

[www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk](http://www.frogandrhubarb.co.uk), 01582 452722

## The Plough

Just a catch up of what's been happening recently... In early January we had the car club in for breakfast and they enjoyed there morning get together.

We have had numerous funeral wakes, birthday parties and baby showers in the last few months, In January Mr Beri booked a children's party with us a great time was had by all especially the children. Linda Wyres celebrated her 65th birthday so many happy returns to her. February 13th was Michelle Vandyke's birthday party everyone had a great time celebrating with her.

In March Tom celebrated his leaving party as he was moving to Shropshire with his girlfriend Helen to be near her mother. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on the birth of their baby daughter and wish them all the best for the future.

We also had Lorna Martin's dinner party with her friends on the 7th March and a very nice afternoon was had by all who attended.

On a sadder note we said farewell to our former bar staff Cindy Brooks who passed away. We had her wake on 8th March and our thoughts and love go out to all her family and friends at this sad time. On 11th March we had the wake of Patricia Wood from Woodside. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this difficult time. We celebrated one of our bar staff's 40th birthday. Frankie had a great time and would like to thank all who came and celebrated with her and her family.

Mother's Day we had a very good turn out and we filled the restaurant twice over. There were some very spoilt mums out there that day - I am sure they were all very happy. It was the landlord's 73rd birthday on 25th March and Doug celebrated his birthday with his family on the 26th. He had a lovely time and is very grateful to all who wished him happy birthday. Elisha and friends celebrated her pregnancy with a baby shower on the afternoon of 26th March.

The position of manager has now been filled by Frankie. She looks forward to meeting you all in the future and is very grateful for all the support shown by the customers so far.

Spring is here and summer is finally in sight so why not come down and take advantage of our lovely restaurant and garden complete with children's play area. We would like to thank all of our customers for their ongoing support and hope to see you all soon.

For more information please call 01582 720923 or see

[www.theploughwoodside.co.uk](http://www.theploughwoodside.co.uk)

In March our Members Night Committee gave us a splendid evening with much laughter and fun. We had our usual business to start with including Sue Martin's report on seeing Michael Portillo speaking about his life of politics and trains. Bunyan then took over and presented each of our darts team with a primrose plant. The final was due to be played shortly and this was to wish them good luck. A really good quiz took place with groups of six and eight playing. We also had to guess the number of stones in a jar, pictures of biscuits to guess their names and an intelligence test to build something using dried spaghetti and 'flumps'. This caused a huge amount of fun as the spaghetti kept falling down! Stephanie Horn thanked Joan and her committee, Joyce Parker, Jean Turner and Sallie Stonestreet for a very good evening.

Our darts team was top of the league and came third in the final. They have this year's itinerary and are practicing for the new season. If you would like to join the darts team do come along to one of our meetings and meet the ladies.

We have Frank Batt speaking on Bedfordshire Verse in April and our Annual Meeting in May. Sally Ball will be attending to speak about Denman College. In June we have the History of the Rose with Beverly Bond.

We meet at the Baptist Church Hall, Luton Road at 7.30pm on Tuesdays.

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# Patricia Wood

Well-known locally, sadly Pat lost her fight against pancreatic cancer in March. She was 82 years old and had lived in Lower Woodside all her life.

Pat was an enthusiastic Gardening Club member, came on many of the club's garden visits and looked forward to attending meetings at the village hall. She was also a stalwart volunteer distributor of the Parish News, delivering it for over 20 years. A quiet, gentle person she was a popular lady and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.



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

**May**

- 7th Photographic Club exhibition in Village Hall, 1-4pm  
9th Parish Council Annual General Meeting and monthly meeting  
10th Chatty Club meeting at The Frog and Rhubarb, 2-4pm  
16th Photographic Group Annual General Meeting  
17th Women's Institute Annual General Meeting  
17th Chatty Club meeting at The Frog and Rhubarb, 2-4pm  
24th Chatty Club meeting at The Frog and Rhubarb, 2-4pm  
29th Gardening Club visit to NGS Gade Valley Cottages in Great Gaddesden, meet 1.30pm in The Rising Sun car park

**June**

- 12th Gardening Club visit to NGS Cublington Gardens in Leighton Buzzard, meet 1.30pm in The Rising Sun car park.  
21st Women's Institute - History of the Rose with Beverly Bond  
29th Gardening Club visit to NGS The Ridgeway, St Albans, meet 1.30pm in The Rising Sun car park

**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 Deric Newman talking about Civic Trees, 8pm

**Bin collections**

- Black bin and Glass Friday 6th and 20th May  
Orange bin / garden Friday 13th and 27th May



**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)

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| <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                        |
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Cllr Richard Stay  
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