

**WHERE'S
WALLY?
SCHOOL
STAFF ON
WORLD
BOOK DAY**

Parish Council
update p9



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

Editors' Notes

Greetings to our readers. We hope you have had a happy Easter and that those on holiday from their studies are having a well earned rest.

As I was preparing to write this, it looked as if Spring was finally arriving, though we were then plunged back into dull, damp and more wintry weather. Roll on the return of the sun and the longer days!

In case any new readers of the magazine are not aware, Parish News is put together by a team of volunteers. There is a committee which oversees the organisation, advertising and printing and two editors who alternate, thus allowing a bit of a break. The Parish Council and CPG now give us grants to allow delivery to be global within the area they cover. This helps these bodies to ensure distribution of information and reports to all parishioners.

Information needed...

As editors we can only include material in the magazine if it is given to us and sent in good time. We take articles and information provided, then insert them into a space in the pages wherever they fit best. We would also wish to remind you that we attempt to be independent of any organisation.

Each of us has connections to different churches or other groups, which does mean that we sometimes fill empty space with photos, poems or interest items from these. Should any reader have an item of general interest to others, please send it to us and we'll include it when we can.

We also welcome correspondence from anyone with a concern or a comment about the local area as well as items congratulating someone on an achievement or a special birthday... *Over to you please!*

Correspondance

One item of correspondence received is below. This is a topic that has been covered several times recently in Parish Council items and is clearly of a concern to some residents.

Attention all dog owners!

There is someone who walks their dog regularly after dark along the top end of Front Street and they are letting it roam into people's gardens to do its business!

I don't blame the dog, it is doing what comes naturally, blissfully unaware that it is doing anything wrong. It is yet another example of an irresponsible owner who clearly cannot be bothered to clear up after their pet. As a dog lover (and owner) it makes me extremely angry that some people don't take their responsibilities seriously. So, if you walk your pet along Front Street in the evenings and let it wander into people's gardens to do its toilet, will you please STOP IT!

There are dog walkers too who let their pets foul the public footpaths and then leave it to be walked in by other pedestrians, this is equally disgusting, if you don't want to clear up after it don't have a dog in the first place!

Angry resident



Schools' Update

April heralds the time when many of our school students are starting the last term at their current school. Those who are moving on will soon have had their places confirmed. Some students will be preparing for exams and we wish them the best of luck!

Children in our Parish attend schools in many different areas since we are so close to the county boundaries. Parish News usually has a report from Slip End School in the July issue at the end of the school year and we have been sent an article for this issue but what of the others in the area? We'd like to include a few comments and information about the schools our children attend and some of their events. Some of the schools feature in the local press when they have news to report.

We would be delighted to publish an article or photos of events or activities—especially anything written by the children themselves. **NB If you have photos to include, please ensure that parents are happy for their children's pictures to be published.**

Changes in Education can be a contentious political subject - not one we should enter into here. However, there are changes coming in the Dunstable and villages area as some schools are becoming Academies and changing their age range. If in doubt, ask the schools, they can explain. To help parents to understand the educational path available for their children in the future, we hope to have a brief explanatory article in a future issue.

Local schools

Slip End Lower School, Caddington Village School and Manshead are the main schools

attended by our children. They are all part of a wider learning partnership made up of local schools, founded on the principles of working together for the benefit of the children.

This month we have comments from the Head at Manshead and an update from Slip End (p16/17) telling us what they have been doing recently. We hope to include an update from Caddington Village School soon. In the mean time, to find out more they have a good website:- www.caddingtonschool.net

Manshead Upper School was pleased with its results last year and especially so when finding out that it had come out well in the published league tables...Well done to students and staff!

Jim Parker, Head Teacher at Manshead said,

“Did you know that Manshead School ranks 19th in the country for A-level points score performance when compared to all other non-selective schools? If we were to include the selective schools, we are inside the top 250 - just 20 places behind Eton! We are really proud of our Sixth Form performance and if any student is thinking about where to study, they should really visit Manshead before making a final decision. Many of our students continue their education at University and this year, 6 of our sixth form students gained places at either Oxford or Cambridge! Please feel free to contact Manshead's Sixth Form Office tel: 01582 679400 to make an appointment to visit us and you will be made to feel very welcome.”

More news from our schools soon.

Alison Wilson

Café Church

On the 24th February St Andrew's held a very successful Lent Café Church titled Embracing the Cross. After a frugal breakfast of toast and preserves with hot and cold drinks, the children were able to decorate their own crosses with beads, stickers or coloured pens. There was also a word search on each table. Gayle Storey had kindly prepared some clay and different shaped moulds for everyone to make their own ceramic cross which turned out to be great fun. *See Photos.*



Slip End Carpet Bowls

Come and join us for a social evening and try your skills at carpet bowls. Every age group is welcome.

We play at the Village Hall every Tuesday evening from 8pm until 10pm. - from September until May. Why not come along and have some fun.

Contact Shirley Knapton on 412506 for any information or just turn up on the night. It only costs £1.50 a session – so is a very cheap evening out.



The crosses will be assembled, by Gayle, into a display in the prayer room for Easter.



Joan King - 06.02.1932 – 22.02.2013



Joan was born in Aley Green to Victor & Isobel Banks on 6th February 1932, the third of four children, sister to Jack, Babs and Rob, she was christened at St Andrews Church, Slip End and she attended Sunday School at the Chapel at Aley Green, where her parents were the caretakers.

She went to Slip End School in Front Street until she was 11 and then she was able to go to the High School, which back then was a great achievement. Joan was a Girl Guide along with her sister, Babs, and they both enjoyed sewing which eventually led to Joan taking an apprenticeship in dressmaking with Molly Burrows in Chapel Street, Luton.

Joan met Peter, her husband, on an outing to the seaside, she was 15 and Pete was 18 and it was love at first sight! They married in 1952 at Caddington Baptist Chapel, where Joan eventually became part of the choir. They moved to Hyde Road in Caddington, where they had their three children, Glenys, Dave and Derek. When the children were older Joan went to work at Delarue's in Dunstable, after a stint at Blundell's and the children's wear department of the Co-Op store in Luton. Her sewing skills afforded her the opportunity to make hats and wedding and bridesmaids

dress for her younger brother and his wife-to-be, and other relatives, as well as clothes for Glenys.

In the early 1980's Joan helped Pete's relatives to set up The Leaside Hotel in Luton, which then became a full time job as Head Housekeeper for about 20 years, when Joan eventually retired aged 72.

Joan, Pete and Glenys moved to Slip End in 2000 where she became involved with her allotment plot with Glenys, and she and Pete were then closer to their dear friends Bob & Eve, and Pete's work colleague Ray and Ray's wife Meg with whom Pete and Joan enjoyed UK holidays over the years. Joan liked to travel and managed trips to Australia, Italy and France.

Joan enjoyed singing, progressing from the Baptist Chapel Choir to the Dunstable Ladies choir, she liked walking, was a lifelong member of the RSPB, she enjoyed sewing, she spoke with her sister Babs every week, she was happy helping others, and was always delighted at the prospect of a family, friends or neighbours get together. Family and friends celebrated Joan and Pete's Diamond Wedding Anniversary and Joan's 80th birthday last year.

Joan leaves behind husband Pete, Sister Babs, daughter Glenys, sons Dave and Derek, daughter-in-law Jen, grandchildren Lucy and Lloyd, and great-granddaughter Sophie. Joan's funeral was on 21st March. She is sorely missed by all her family, her friends and her neighbours.

J&P SCAFFOLDING



Phil Johnson

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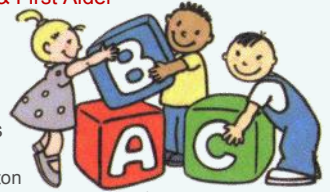
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Aley Green Methodist Church

Services and Diary dates for April

Sunday 7th

Easter 2

11.00am Morning Service - Liz Higgins

11.00am Sunday School

Monday 8th

7.00pm Lent Fellowship Supper

Tuesday 9th

10.00am/12.00pm 'Cakes & Company'

Sunday 14th

Easter 3

11.00am Morning Service & Communion

Rev Phil Horner & Fiona Arscott Smith

11.00am Sunday School

Wednesday 17th

7.30pm Coffee Evening in aid of
Keech Hospice Care

Sunday 21st

Easter 4

11.00am Morning Service

Rev Jenny Spouge

11.00am Sunday School

Sunday 28th

Easter 5

11.00am Morning Service Colin Quine

11.00am Sunday School

Just before Christmas we had to have asbestos removed from our premises. The panelling at the front of the church proved to be contaminated so it had to go, leaving part of the old balcony showing which looked very shabby. Our friend Mick Burton, who put in our new kitchen three years ago, has started to smarten up our worship area. Part of the platform has been taken up to make easier access to the school rooms for wheelchair users and those with walking sticks. The vestry will be turned round with access from the platform and matching doors each side. The platform will be extended on the right hand side to accommodate the organ and organist. When all the work has been completed, Peter Burton will be painting the sanctuary. Meanwhile it's 'business as usual' as the work continues with services, Sunday school, studies and coffee evenings/mornings taking place as usual. We hope you will pop along and have a look at our new look worship area.

This month's Coffee Evening will be raising money for Keech Hospice Care, do come along and stock up on books and preserves, we still have some pickled onions left and they are just right for eating. Treat yourself to a cake or two, as always tea and coffee are free.

The money raised for our Lent projects, Water Aid, Christian Aid, LAMP (Luton Accommodation and Move on Project) and the Methodist Church World Mission Fund is still on going and there will be an update in the next newsletter.

Don't forget there is always a warm welcome waiting at Aley Green, come and see!



Yours in Christ,

Ann Meader

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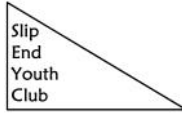
We are extremely pleased that over twenty people from the four village churches have met weekly for our ecumenical Lent Fellowship, led by Mike Bull. Much discussion, study and friendship was shared and enjoyed by those attending. The meetings will conclude this month with the Fellowship supper for all those who attended the Lent study.

The February Coffee Evening raised £65.00 for LWPT. (Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust)



## Slip End & District Community Projects Group

For more information call Norman Homewood on 01582 452851.



**The Youth Club** is going from strength to strength. We have seen as many as 30 youngsters through the

door some weeks. Please note that club doesn't run in the school holidays so it will only be open on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

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

### The Good Neighbour Scheme



launched last month and our 30 volunteers are eager to take your calls to arrange assistance for you to get to the shops, doctors, hospital and other places.

This scheme is for anyone within the parish who is over 18. It is not aimed at a specific age range and could prove useful to anyone who may live alone and has broken a leg or arm, or anyone who can not drive at the moment due to an accident. Likewise if you have a relative who lives in the parish but you live further a way it could prove to be the peace of mind you need knowing there is a group that can help when you are not available.

**The dedicated contact number is 07513 372 415**

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at the Social Club. Everyone is welcome!

**Sarah Minnighan  
Chairman**

Another busy meeting took place in March, thanks to everyone who turned out. We got through the agenda quite swiftly, and can confirm that a few more grant applications were agreed for SEADA, Friendship Club, Bowls, Brownies and Scouts. Everyone will get confirmation through shortly if you have not received it already.



Thanks to Pete Smith and his collaboration with Slip End Lower School, some of the children are learning to play the ukulele. The CPG contributed funds to enable them to purchase enough for each child to take one home to practise on.

### The CPG is holding a Ukulele concert on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Village Hall

so the band that Pete is involved with and the children that he teaches at his Saturday morning music school can showcase their musical talents.

**There will be a fish 'n' chip or chicken 'n' chip supper, bring your own drinks, tickets are £8 per person and available from Carol Patterson on 01582 419 487.** Due to village hall capacity there are a limited number of tickets – see the poster within this edition of the parish news for more information.

**Slip End Camera Club** launched successfully on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at the Social Club, and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month.



## The Chatty Club

The Chatty Club has resumed after a short break, and we now meet at The Frog & Rhubarb, every Tuesday, 2pm till 4pm, for anyone over 55.



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 was our first get together of the year, 15 members were able to make it, and Paul did us proud. There was a lovely selection of sandwiches, hot snacks, tea, coffee and gateaux, which everyone enjoyed, all for £2.50 per head.

Paul is looking into organising some trips out for us and is happy to arrange a hot lunch some weeks. We were made to feel very welcome, and were able to lounge on the sofas at the pub, enjoying the food and company.

We are open to anyone over 55, so if you would like to come along to meet us you are more than welcome. For more information you can call Paul at the pub on 452722.



### 1st Woodside Brownies

According to records at Guide Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road, London, our Brownie pack will be celebrating its Diamond Anniversary this year, in May.

There have been no records found before 1953. However since then we have heard from a former Slip End resident who says

that she was in the Brownies in 1943, maybe it will be a 70th anniversary instead!

We are hoping to hold some kind of celebration for the occasion.

*Paula Fowler & Gillian Plummer*

*Brown Owl*

*Wise Owl*

Congratulations to the Brownies!

After receiving this from Gill I looked up Brownies on the internet and found that while the Girl Guide movement was formed in 1907, the Brownies started in 1914, first being called *Rosebuds*. This means the organisation will be celebrating a Centenary next year.

Parish News will publish more details of any events when these are available.

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## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

### Stop Press

Slip End Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £70,000 from the Chiltern Transport Plan, subject to being ratified in a four week public consultation period. The money is to be spent on a pedestrian crossing with a speed table, close to the junction of Church Road and the lane to the playing field and Church.

Full details in next month's Parish News.

*Ken Crossett, Chairman*

## St Andrew's Church Dates for April

**Weds 3rd: 10am:** Little Stars “The story of the Resurrection”

**Sun 7th: 10.30am:** Informal Communion: “Resurrection Joy”

**Weds 10th: 10am:** Little Stars “The road to Emmaus”

**Sun 14th: 10.30am:** Morning Praise “Follow Me” (Band)

**Weds 17th: 10am:** Little Stars “Special Names – Queen Elizabeth”

**Sun 21st: 10.30am:** Holy Communion “He opened the scriptures”

(Organ & Singers)

**Tues 23rd: 11am:** Caddington Care Home (New time)

**Weds 24th: 10am:** Little Stars “George and the Dragon”

**Fri 26th: 2pm:** Woodside Care Home

**Sun 28th: 8.30am:** Said Communion “Blessing the next generation”

**Sun 28th:10.30am:** Morning Praise “Special service to celebrate our children”

(Piano & instruments)



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St. Andrew's  
Church



"Things break  
down without  
the capstone."

## St Andrew's - Cathy's Page

During our Lent observance this year, picking up on the wilderness experience of Lent, we built a Cairn – a pile of stones that marked various aspects of our Christian journey. Cairns are generally built on the tops of mountains, or at significant places to mark a route or something of importance that had happened there.

When God rolled back the waters of the Red Sea to enable His people to cross safely to the other side and to escape the armies that were seeking to re-enslave them, the people then built a cairn of 12 stones to remind them of God's deliverance. There are many examples of symbolic stones in the Bible. There are the stones representing the temptation Jesus faced when the devil suggested he turned them into bread; there are the twelve precious stones that the Old Testament Priest wore on a garment over his heart representing the tribes of Israel, so that he could figuratively carry them into the presence of God; there are the living stones representing the lives of Jesus followers; there is the capstone or cornerstone that the Apostle Peter writes about in his first letter. **"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."** (1 Peter 2v6) Peter then quotes from a Psalm, **"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone."**

This stone that the builders rejected is Jesus, this rejection led to his death by crucifixion. The reasons he was rejected are many and all played a part. Some religious leaders were afraid that his popularity would destabilise the fragile peace with Rome, others were jealous of his popularity, others were affronted by his interpretation of God's Law, his claim to be the Messiah. Pontius Pilate lacked

the will to seek and implement justice, the ordinary people in the end chose someone who represented human revolution rather than trust in God.

At the same time as this human rejection was being worked out there was something else happening on another level. God was leading Jesus to take upon himself all these failures, in fact all the failures and sins of the whole world and to suffer the consequence of them in his own body, so that we may be free of them. Jesus was choosing to go to Jerusalem, to allow himself to be handed over into the hands of those who wanted him dead because this was his calling, this was the will of his heavenly Father whom he trusted. This was the reason he had come to live on earth, and he loved the people he was dying to save.

This rejected stone, that represents the death of Jesus for our sakes, is now the cornerstone, or capstone. The most important stones in any building. The capstone makes an arch strong and secure. The cornerstone is the first stone laid in a building that all the other stones then have to align with. The church, made up of the living stones of his followers, is always to be aligned with the stone of the crucified Jesus. We are called to follow his example of self giving, of forgiveness, of trust, of living for others. We are always a group of those who have been and are being forgiven through Jesus, and who seek to share that forgiveness with others.

That is what today's cairn, or cornerstone reminds us of, the deliverance that Jesus won for us and wants to give to others. "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this and it is marvellous in our eyes." (Psalm 118v22-23.)

Bless you, *Cathy*



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## Gardeners Special

Complete pruning of roses as soon as possible and apply fertiliser 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.

Still time to repair impoverished lawns this month, a light mowing followed by scarifying and then aerate to improve drainage. Overseed any bad areas and rake in well, apply a Spring fertiliser and level any bumps or hollows.

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. Divide any large clumps of herbaceous plants that are unsightly and replant the outer strongest shoots discarding the middle weaker ones. Dahlias started in boxes can be divided with a sharp knife, making sure that cutting has a bud or shoot on it. Carry on planting gladioli for a succession of flowers. Many border annuals can be sown directly into the soil this month to provide a good display of colour and help to suppress weeds. Carnations and pinks will benefit from an application of fertiliser 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.

Re-plant any alpiners which lack vigour, or which have been lifted slightly out of the ground. Dig the ground and apply a general fertiliser after lifting these plants. Be careful not to damage self sown seedlings around any short-lived plants. 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 and 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 wrinkled 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.

Happy gardening folks and let's hope for a better season than the last one which must have been disconcerting for new gardeners, old hands know you have to take the rough with the smooth as no two seasons are the same.

*Russell Sprout*



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## Gardening Club

At the March meeting a very interesting presentation, on Capability Brown, was made by Guest Speaker Russell Bowes. The presentation focused on the life and career of Lancelot "Capability" Brown - a man who changed the face of England forever. Born into poverty and obscurity, he became renowned across the world as the father of the English landscape garden movement.

Planning continues for the 2013 Village Plant Sale, to be held on Saturday 18 May.

Forthcoming garden visits are given below:-

Sun. 28 Apr. - Millhouse. 31 Mill Lane,  
Welwyn

Sun. 30 Jun, - NGS Mackerye End  
Harpenden

(Meet 1.30pm Rising Sun Car Park)

*PN Gardening Correspondent*

## SLIP END GARDENING CLUB MONDAY 15 JULY

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## Slip End School Update

Welcome to the latest news from SELS, we hope you enjoy hearing about what the children and staff have been up recently.

### Staff Updates

Another year is flying by at SELS. In September we welcomed Mr Brown as our new Headteacher and he is thoroughly enjoying working with all the wonderful children at Slip End.

In January we also welcomed Mrs Jarvis and Miss Perry as new Early Years Assistants to support our youngest children in the Nursery. Both are enjoying their new roles and are a welcome addition to the school.

### Website

Our current school website had been very kindly created, updated and maintained by Sandra Collins and she has done a fabulous job with it for many years. However, with ever changing technology we have recently invested in the creation and development of a new website and we are very excited to announce that it will be launched on April 2nd. Please go and have a look at it for regular news updates and also to see many of the wonderful things we do at Slip End.

[www.slipend.beds.sch.uk](http://www.slipend.beds.sch.uk)

### World Book Day

On 7<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day was celebrated by over 100 countries globally and thousands of children up and down the country were dressing up as characters from books. Every child (and adult) at Slip End

went to great efforts to join in this celebration and we were greeted by a vast selection of characters ranging from Red Riding Hood to Harry Potter, from Mr Bump to Mr Twit.



Mr Twit is a favourite from Roald Dahl

The day started with the children being asked ‘Where’s Wally?’ and after some surprise appearances all over the school it soon became apparent that SELS was dotted with 11 Wallys in the shape of the staff team! Observation skills were tested throughout the day and great fun was had by all! The children talked and wrote about their characters sharing wonderful stories and books. The whole school came together for a class costume parade and discussed their character with pride.



Can you spot “Wally?”

## Year 4 Trip to Norfolk

The highlight of any child's time at SELS always seems to be the residential trip to Norfolk which takes place in Year 4. This year was no different and our intrepid children set off to Hautbois House in Norfolk on a cold, snowy March morning for their 4 day adventure. While they were away they had some wonderful experiences and learnt many new skills. The first day was spent making up their beds, unpacking and exploring the vast grounds all set in beautiful woods and open countryside.



### Developing teamwork & trust

Throughout the week their hearty appetites were met with a superb selection of local produce and home cooked food. A treat which was enjoyed by all was their final night campfire bonanza of bananas stuffed with chocolate buttons. This ended their visit in wonderful style. They had spent the afternoon building the campfire and then enjoyed eating and singing songs around it whilst reflecting upon the fabulous week they had all shared together which will remain in their memories for a very long time. They arrived home tired, but happy and with a real sense of achievement and in Joel's words everyone had had "a bucketload of fun!"



Year 4 on their Norfolk trip

The children soon discovered the "muddiest hill in all the world!" according to Chloe and spent many a happy hour sliding down it. The following days were filled with rock climbing up a tower, archery, low rope climbing and whizzing down the amazing zip wire. The children faced these challenges with enthusiasm and each one of them developed a sense of pride for tackling each and every activity. For many it was their first time away from home and family and they all grew in confidence and became more independent whilst demonstrating their ability to solve problems and work as a team.



Year 4 really bonded during their fun filled time away together

*Emma Peppiatt & Sandra Collins*

## Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) was re-elected at last month's AGM with the welcome addition of Simon Patterson who replaces Steve Fuell as Secretary.

At the VHMC meeting following the AGM, many improvements to the Hall were considered. The Village Hall is well used by many local groups and parties as well as lettings from outside the Parish. Today the hall is looking a bit weary internally but plans are already in hand to re-decorate the main body of the hall in the summer, very largely funded by the welcome grant from the Community Projects Group. The contractor was appointed and the VHMC will soon be getting out the colour charts. Encouraged by this, the VHMC drew up a list of further works which will be planned for the 'not too distant future'.

Many of the local organisations have representation on the VHMC and their needs were being considered in making up the following, not fully inclusive, list of improvements:

- **Flooring: refurbishment all round**
- **Heating: is old, noisy and inefficient**
- **Lighting: not up to today's standards**
- **Gent's Loo: needs refurbishment**
- **Kitchen: ditto**
- **Roofing: needs checking over and under**

Earlier plans approved by the VHMC are also going forward to improve the grounds around the hall, funded by external grant aid.

The VHMC welcomes any constructive suggestions on needs from local groups and interested individuals, so please get in touch with your thoughts and wish lists. All this will take time and money, but the VHMC is determined to seek further substantial grant assistance and is already actively looking at opportunities. As well, the committee will be reviewing letting rates to take into account relentless increases in utility costs and routine maintenance.

*David Kingston*  
*davidgoodmankingston@gmail.com*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Slip End Friendship Club

We are planning our next lot of Spring and Summer coach outings and if you would like to join us please give Pam King a ring on 452978.

You don't have to be a member to enjoy any of the excursions but of course you are always welcome to join us on a Thursday afternoon at the Village Hall between 2 and 4pm.





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## Caddington WI

Congratulations go to our darts team who were runners up in the final at Stewartby. Sixteen teams competed against each other and Caddington and Kempston Rural

were the finalists.

We were the runners up with both teams

fighting for a final double. A shield was presented by our Chair, Ruth Gill. Well done to the ladies, Lou Cobb, Joan Bean and Sue Taylor. This has put Caddington on the map in the Darts League.

Our February meeting was enthralling, with Tony Woodhouse speaking to us about Astronomy – the study of celestial objects in the universe. On screen, Tony showed us the universe and explained the different planets. He told us about happenings in the universe which are going on today and things to look out for in the future. He touched on the subject of Astrology where ancient civilizations predicted the future. This still continues today and we were all interested in our own birth signs and our personalities. The ladies were asking Tony so many questions I had a job to give the vote of thanks.

Helen Turner ran our sales table. Christine Allsop won the picture quiz. The



competition, a Limerick beginning “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star...”, was won by Sue Taylor with Rita Weber second and myself third. There were our usual refreshments and then we drew the raffle.

We have a group meeting, a trip to the Arboretum, a talk and afternoon tea at Ashridge to look forward to.

March’s meeting was Family Lore and Poetry with Duncan Willox. Competition: ‘An Unusual Eggcup’ with a surprise during refreshments!!!

‘The Hidden Truth about Bletchley Park’ with Gillian Ashwell will be our topic for April, with the Competition: Wartime Memorabilia – one item each ladies to receive a ‘point’ for the Rose Bowl. You can bring along a few extra items if you want to and we hope to get a good display.

That’s all for now. Do join us – we meet on the third Tuesday each month at the Baptist Church Hall in the Dunstable Road at 7.30 p.m.

*Linda Edwards*

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# Pub Pages



## The Plough

We had a group of 18 walkers in for lunch. They started from The Plough and walked for two and a half hours. The group then enjoyed their meals which they had pre-ordered before setting off. They all said what a wonderful afternoon they had and would be back again soon.

Cliff & Janet Pilling from Markyate, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary here at the Plough with their two daughters and grandchildren. They all enjoyed their meal and had a lovely evening.

Mothers' Day was a busy day here at the Plough, with a fully booked restaurant and customers coming through the doors on the day. We had excellent feedback. They all said what an enjoyable time they had had and said they had enjoyed the food and the service.

On behalf of all of the staff here and the customers of the Plough we would like to wish the Landlord, Doug, a very big **Happy 70th Birthday**. He celebrated earlier in the month when his wife Caroline treated him to a once in a life time trip to Dubai. He had a fantastic time and saw some wonderful sights. He also celebrated the weekend before his birthday with a party here at the Plough with friends & family. Music was provided by DJ Jim Caraway from Diverse FM and a wonderful BBQ and buffet enjoyed by all. Everyone enjoyed themselves, especially Doug.

Any party or special occasion catered for. The venue is free. For more information please ask to speak to Doug or Melissa.

Bored on a Monday afternoon? Drop in for a game of Bingo. Eyes down at 3pm, everyone is welcome.

## The Frog and Rhubarb

**Chatty Club** is now meeting at the Frog & Rhubarb every Tuesday at 2pm. The group is open to everyone over 55, so pop along with friends or to make some new ones. You don't have to go every week so it can be an occasional social for you. There are sandwiches, savouries and cake and as much tea and coffee as you can drink for just £2.50. On 9<sup>th</sup> April there will be a fun quiz and the questions won't be too taxing. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April the group is having a St Georges day celebration. They will be enjoying Bangers & Mash to celebrate our patron saint's day and the price will still be the same with tea and coffee included. If you want to go along on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, you need to let Paul know by the Friday before (452722). Check the Parish News each month to find out what other special events the club has planned.



**Huge congratulations to the Frog & Rhubarb darts team** who have won the Markyate and District league competition. The boys fought off stiff competition from 10

other teams in the area to emerge victorious. If you would like to join the darts fun, go along to the pub on a Thursday evening and see if you can beat some of the best players in the area.

**The Friendship Club** has recently celebrated its birthday at the Frog. Over 30



members met at the pub and enjoyed a fish & chip lunch followed by ice cream. The Friendship Club has been running since the early 1950s and meets at the Village Hall at 2pm every Thursday and is open to anyone over 55. They play bingo and enjoy a good chat with a cup of tea.

Barbara has lived in the village all her life and has been heavily involved in many local groups and activities including Brownies and SEADA. Big congratulations to Barbara on this milestone birthday.



Sarah Burt of Church Road had a huge party at the pub to celebrate her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. There was a disco and dancing



late into the night and all had a great time. Mark and Nadine Moorhen started their wedding celebrations at the Frog. After their ceremony at St Andrew's Church they had drinks and nibbles at the pub before moving on to the Rugby Club for the evening reception. In addition to these events, the Frog & Rhubarb has played host to 50<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays, ruby wedding and retirement parties and meals. If you are planning a celebration, speak to Paul at the Frog to see what they can offer.

On Mothers' Day the Frog's dining area was buzzing with activity. Well over 100 people enjoyed dinner at the pub and, to celebrate the day, every Mum was given a free glass of Prosecco.

## **Social Club & Rising Sun**

Don't forget that we have two other "watering holes" in the village too. The Social Club welcomes new members—just ask them for details.

The Rising Sun, as mentioned last month, is to be refurbished soon. More details when we hear from them.

### **Birthdays and Celebrations**

A real Slip Ender celebrated her birthday with a fantastic meal at the Frog. Barbara Ray and her family enjoyed some culinary delights and a few drinks to mark her 70<sup>th</sup>.

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## Farley Hill Methodists

By the time you read this it will have been a very busy Easter for all at FHM and other churches on the Farley Estate.

On Thursday 28th March World Wide Church held their Maundy Service (the washing of feet), Friday 30th saw all four churches take part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness involving St John's new Vicar Rob O'Neil - St Margaret's Catholic Church's Father Mirak - World Wide Church Pastor Harry Sullivan and Farley Methodists' Rev. Julie Bradshaw. The walk commenced at St. John's led by Mr David Davies of St John's carrying the cross, this being the twelfth consecutive year that David has performed this task, proceeding to the shopping precinct for a short service with all four clerics reading a lesson. The group walked on to Farley Methodists for refreshments and fellowship.

On Wednesday April 10th, 12.30 for 1pm, we have the annual St George's celebration lunch of roast beef with all the trimmings and a last night of the Proms sing-a-long led by Sheila Lathwell on the piano. Cost £3.50

Saturday 20th April sees the start of the entertainment programme with the return of Peter Smithers and his Luton Road Ensemble who were such a 'hit' last year - great entertainment. The time table is as follows:-

6:30pm Short service of celebration in Church, 7pm Buffet and Fellowship then 8pm Entertainment. Admission £3.00.

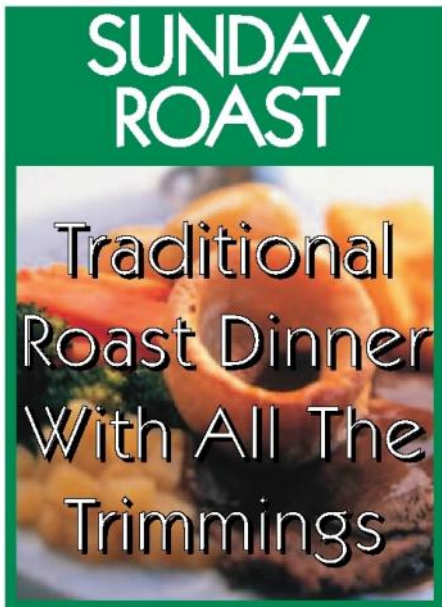
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**DIARY** - *If you would like your events included please contact the Editor*

**APRIL**

- Wed 3rd Youth Club CLOSED*
- Mon 8th Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:00pm*
- Tues 9th Chatty Club Quiz - Frog & Rhubarb 2-4pm*
- Tues 9th CPG Meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm*
- Wed 10th Youth Club CLOSED*
  
- Tues 16th Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7.30pm*
- Tues 16th Camera Club Slip End Social Club 8pm*
- Wed 17th Youth Club—Peter Edwards Hall 6:00—7:30pm*
- Tues 23rd Chatty Club St George's Day lunch—Frog & Rhubarb 2-4pm*
- Wed 24th Youth Club—Peter Edwards Hall 6:00—7:30pm*
- April*

**MAY**

- Mon 13th Parish Council Meeting & Annual Meeting Village Hall 7:00pm*
- Tues 14th CPG Meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm*
- Sat 18th Gardening Club Plant Sale Old Bakery, 2 Summer Street*
- Sat 18th Ukulele Concert Village Hall 7:30pm*
- Tues 21st Caddington WI Annual Meeting Baptist Hall 7.30pm*

**JUNE**

- Sat 8th SEADA outing—names to be given in at SEADA car boot sale*
- Tues 18th Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7:30pm*
- Sun 23rd Playing Fields Open Day (including community stalls) From 2—5pm*

**JULY**

- 15th Gardening Club—Visiting Speaker Village Hall 8pm*

**SEPT**

- 27th Harvest Supper—Village Hall details TBC*



**Wheelie Bins:- Black Bins & glass:** Put out on Friday 12th, 26th April  
**Green and Orange Bins:** Put out on Friday 5th, 19th April, 3rd 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

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### Parish Councillors:-

|                        |              |                                               |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
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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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**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)  
**Zumba** [theduncans2@sky.com](mailto:theduncans2@sky.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 April (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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