

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



As new arrivals!

**Lily...
Parish News
Villager
of the
Year !**



Editors' Page

Happy New Year to all our readers. We have had a welcome break from the magazine and are now back with you to keep you up to date with what is happening in your Parish. Please accept our apologies for the spread of festive pictures and reports but this is the first issue after Christmas and some people like to see the pictures!

There are quite a few changes around the community with the departure of Lily from the Rising Sun. She will be missed and we wish her and Dave well as she moves to live with her son and family in Uxbridge. A few new or revamped clubs and activities are also starting up. We have a new look Youth Club, a Camera Club and a lady from Slip End has told us that she is running dance classes after school (more details soon).

We are trying to update our diary pages with any relevant dates. We keep a file of future dates and insert them as soon as we can fit them in. If you want to try to avoid clashing with other events in the parish, send us your planned dates and we'll include them in the list.

The magazine received an email from a new resident of Brickhill Farm. He says...

"My wife and I recently moved to Brickhill Farm Park and note that it is not possible to have newspapers delivered... I wonder if any enterprising teenager, or bored adult, would be interested in earning a little pin money from Saturday and Sunday deliveries, probably only to Brickhill Farm Park and the adjoining Downlands. There are around 87

homes on these parks. If enough people were willing to pay an extra £1 per week to have papers delivered every weekend (Saturday and Sunday), it could prove to be worthwhile!"

Are there any willing volunteers? If you think you would be interested or know someone who might be interested, let us know and we'll pass on the information.

As you know we have a dedicated address for sending email to the magazine's editors (parishnews@slipend.co.uk). During the Christmas break, we created a dedicated email address for the Parish news advertising contact, (PNAdverts@slipend.co.uk). Please try to use this in future where possible, as it should allow Katrina, who deals with advertising queries, to keep the parish news material separated from her personal email.

Alison Wilson

Parish News Distribution

From this month Parish News will be put through your door by one of our splendid team of distributors once again. Our aim will be to match the recent 'professional' service, getting the magazine to you by the first day or so of each month. Any problems, please contact Alan Buttery (contact details at back), bearing in mind that we are all doing our best as volunteers, and relying on a quick turnaround by our print company, Printsmarter, who has a good record.

Thank you to the volunteers and if you could help us out from time to time (maybe as a back-up team member to use in emergencies) then please let us know.

Lily – Landlady extraordinaire and Parish News Special Award

*“2008 – February - Fears were that the Rising Sun would not re-open following closure before Christmas. Punch Taverns put up their sign to attract new management and, to the relief of quite a few in the village, Lily stepped forward! Moving up from West London, she brings experience and enthusiasm with optimism that she can run the business successfully. Plans are to offer a food menu including Sunday lunches and Theme Nights with musical entertainment every couple of weeks”.....*For those of you who were not living in the Parish five years ago, the above was how Parish News first reported the arrival of Lily and partner Dave. They have not disappointed and Lily soon settled into village life making friends with lots of the residents. She has thrown herself whole-heartedly into charity fund-raising, helping many different organisations – Help for Heroes, Cystic Fibrosis, Macmillan Nurses, to name but a few, plus charity events for the toddler and playgroup in Slip End. We certainly have a lot to thank Lily and Dave for, and shall miss them both.

The Burns Night suppers were spectacular with customers dressing glamorously to befit the grand occasion. Pipers were on hand to pipe in the haggis and speakers and poets booked. Delicious menus finished off the evenings in great style.

There have been too many events to mention but among them have been quiz nights, party nights, celebrations, anniversaries, music nights and special theme nights for different types of food e.g. Thai and Malaysian. One of her other achievements was the setting up of The Chatty Club for the Over 55's . It

encouraged men and women to go along on a Tuesday afternoon for a catch-up with friends and neighbours to enjoy a chat or a speaker with as much tea or coffee as you could drink, sandwiches, alongside chips or potatoes (and sometimes a small meal) with a cake to finish, plus free raffle ticket which resulted in the winner usually walking away with a bottle of wine or beer.

Whoever takes over at The Rising Sun will certainly have a hard act to follow. Lily and Dave are now moving back to Uxbridge to live with Lily's son Jonathan and wife Charlotte and the children. Lily and Charlotte are hoping to set up a joint venture catering for parties and different occasions and Lily would like to do some voluntary work .

We had a farewell evening with music and food supplied on Saturday 19th January and presented Lily and Dave with a photo album of 'memories' and money towards a holiday from her friends, the CPG group, gifts from the Gardening Club and a bouquet.

We wish them every happiness and good luck for the future and thank them very much for all they have done whilst living in our community. Congratulations Lily on being **Parish News Villager of The Year.**

Sue Briggs



CPG Report

By now the festivities are well and truly over, I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year! The December CPG meeting had a good turnout, with the Chairman buying everyone a Christmas drink and Lainey doing a great buffet for us after our meeting.

The Christmas biscuits were bought, stored, collected and delivered, and the Chair has received some lovely Thank You cards and e-mails from some of our parishioners, which is always great to hear, so we know that the biscuits are a welcome gift.



The biscuit gift is for those parishioners who are over 65 years of age and have lived in the parish 5 years or more. The gift is available for anyone who meets the criteria so if you know of someone who will qualify by next Christmas, then please get in touch with Sarah or any of the Core CPG Committee members to let them know, so they can be added to the list.

Our thanks go to fellow councillor Paul Cooper and Gary Admitt of Holdsworth Foods (www.holdsworthfoods.co.uk) for the sourcing and delivery of the biscuits, and to Sarah Minnighan, Andy Prothero, Brian Church, Paddy Higgins, Rosemary Wickens, Peter Smith, Ken Crossett, Carol & Simon Patterson and Pam King for delivering the 214 tins and cards in time for Christmas.

THANK YOU!!!

This year local businesses were extremely generous in their donations towards the cost of the biscuits and, thanks to them, we received nearly £900. We are extremely grateful as always and would like to take this opportunity to thank them:

DGK Engineering

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The Small Job Company

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The Youth Club started up again in January on Wednesdays at the Peter Edwards Hall. On the first night there was a good turnout. Karen Bracey and her team of youth workers have got a busy schedule ahead of them for 2013 and will be advertising up and coming events in the Parish News, on the website and on Facebook! Watch this space!



The third Good Neighbour Scheme volunteer meeting was held at the end of January to discuss the phone rota holders pack with those volunteers that wanted to be a phone holder. We also had to ensure that our volunteer drivers had all the necessary paperwork in place. Simon Patterson, the GNS chairman, is busy making sure everything is in place for a launch in March and in next month's issue there will be more info on our volunteers and what the scheme can offer our parishioners. If you would like more information you can contact Simon on 01582 419487 or e-mail him at:

smp@amida.fsworld.co.uk

Village Day 2013

Sarah confirmed she has stepped down as Village Day organiser this year – so there's a position available for anyone who would be interested in taking on the challenge! Sarah is happy to help and advise alongside a committee if one can be formed in the next few weeks – if you're interested get in touch with Sarah via e-mail at:

s.minnighan@btinternet.com

The Community Projects Group Grant Applications were sent out in December and those groups wishing to apply for a grant should have sent their grant forms back to Sarah by now for discussion at the CPG February meeting.

If you have a grant application but have yet to return it to Sarah please contact her immediately.



The CPG meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Social Club at 7.30pm – everyone is welcome, we're a friendly bunch, not too formal and there's always a drink and a chin wag afterwards – we'd love to see you, parish input is very important to us – come along.

Finally, on behalf of the CPG and Core Committee, I would like to wish our regular CPG attendee and allotment patriarch Derrick Worsley a speedy recovery after his recent knee operation – we hope to see you at the next meeting Derrick!

Sarah Minnighan, Chairman

New Club Starting in the Parish!

For all those budding photographers out there we have a new Camera Club starting in the Parish in February or March.



There will be a meeting once a month at The Social Club, dates and times to be agreed.

The idea behind the new club was Norman Homewood's and he's been busy behind the scenes organising the start-up.

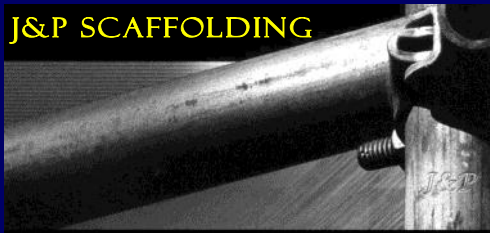
If you have a camera and aren't sure how to use it properly, or you are interested in photography and want to learn more, or you want to get into photography but don't know where to start.... then this is the club for you!

For more information please call Norman on 01582 452 851

or e-mail him at

andypany32@hotmail.co.uk.

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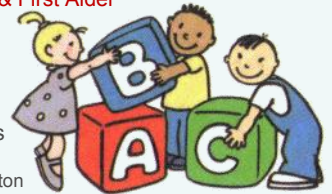
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Parish Council Notes

I would like to begin by saying “thank you” to all those who contacted Councillors following the traffic calming items which appeared in the last two issues. Thanks also to the seventeen residents who attended last month’s meeting. I think it is safe to say the debate about traffic calming has begun.

While there are those residents who are happy for the Parish Council Tax to be increased for several years by £25000 over what is normally needed, to pay for the measures, equally there are those who are against such a move. While there are those in favour of traffic calming again there are those against.

You will recall the background to all this comes from the Parish Plan which was produced as a result of a questionnaire being delivered to every home in the Parish.

The top two priorities identified by residents were speeding and parking. The full Plan document can be seen by following the link on the Community Projects Group page on www.slipend.co.uk a hard copy is also available to see in the Parish Pubs.

David Bowie, Head of Traffic Management at Central Beds Council attended the December meeting. The main points which David explained were that he and the Highways Department can devise a calming scheme using various methods to reduce the speed of traffic to whatever is wanted. He quoted two roads where traffic humps were taken out for resurfacing works to be undertaken; and subsequently put back following pressure from residents concerned that speeding had returned.

David confirmed we can consider a one way system in Summer Street, the Pepperstock, junction a residential parking scheme, putting in yellow lines around the school and other parking hotspots. He went on to say that with the new

Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera cars, parking enforcement could be carried out.

The meeting was told that at the moment Central Beds Council is match funding those Parishes which undertake such projects so we may not have to bear the full cost ourselves.

At the January meeting, Councillors felt it right to commission a feasibility study, which will be carried out by Central Beds Council, to produce two or three costed schemes covering all the issues mentioned. The fee will be around £3000 - £5000 and come from funds already held.

Full details of the schemes and the cost of each will be presented in a number of different ways so that residents can decide what, if anything, they would like to see implemented. Other than the undertaking of the feasibility study, no work will take place until after residents have been consulted.

It was also agreed by majority vote, 5 to 1, that the additional £25000 in Parish Council Tax will not be collected until after the consultation process has been completed. It is anticipated that both the feasibility study and subsequent consultation can all be completed before the end of this year.

In other words it is hoped that by this time next year we will all have decided whether to put up with the speeding and parking problems or put our hands in our pockets and pay to have the problems fixed. If it is decided to proceed, then the earliest the Parish Council Tax will be increased for the project is April 2014.

Some interesting data concerning the number of vehicles travelling at speeds in excess of 35mph in one week of April 2009, source Bedfordshire Police: Church Road 10,053 Markyate Road 11,018. In a similar week in June 2009, Front Street 3,582. No figures are available for Woodside Road at present. I shall endeavour to obtain up to date figures.

Ken Crosssett, Chairman

Parish News Photo Competition WINNER!



Well done to **Matt Ogier-Russell**

with his winning photo shown above :-

The road to Pepperstock

The judges decided he had “captured a moment”—frozen in time! Beautiful photo! His prize should be on the way to him.

We were a little disappointed that there were not more entries and none at all from youngsters. All entries received are shown here. We’d like to run another competition some time later in the year, maybe with an opportunity for summer photography!

Right— A New Year’s Arrival by Steve Wickens

This is definitely an example of catching a moment for a memory. Lovely!





Left—*Sunset over
Woodside Farm*

by Norman

Homewood

We thought this had captured a most beautiful sky and a familiar silhouette.

Right— Hands off my patch by Brian Church

We liked the idea of the rather ‘territorial’ cat in the snow.



Left— *Sunset over
Stockwood Park* by
Mervyn Wilson

One of those moments caught by chance. Another gorgeous sky.

It’s all to do with being in the right place at the right time, with camera in hand!

Happy photography to all!



St Andrew's Church Dates for February

Sun 3rd: 10.30am: Informal Communion: "Jesus Lord of Creation"

Weds 6th: 10am: Little Stars "God is in Control" - Baby Moses

Weds 6th: 7.45pm: Informal Prayer and Worship

Sun 10th: 10.30am: Morning Praise "Jesus Transfigured" (Band)

Sun 10th: 3pm: Healing Service (Organ & Singers)

Tues 12th: 2pm: Caddington Care Home

Weds 13th: 10am: Little Stars "God Speaks" Moses & the burning bush

Weds 13th: 8pm: Ash Wednesday Communion – True Fasting

Fri 15th: 2pm: Woodside Care Home

Sun 17th: 10.30am: Holy Communion "Overcoming Temptation" (Organ & Singers)

Weds 20th: 10am: Little Stars "God Delivers" The Escape from Pharaoh

Sun 24th: 8am: Said Communion "Embracing the Cross"

Sun 24th: 10.30am: Cafe Church "Embracing the Cross" (Band)

Weds 27th: 10am: Little Stars: "God Saves" God parts the Red Sea

Thurs 28th: 9.30am: Morning Prayer for Lent (a short quiet service of liturgical prayer)

Below—Cathy , husband-Iain and grand
daughter Freya



The Healing Nature of God

We are now well into the New Year but may I still wish you every blessing for 2013. So far during the new year at St. Andrew's, we have been looking at readings about Jesus from Luke's Gospel.

Luke was a doctor and his account of Jesus' life is full of descriptions of Jesus healing people because of his compassion for them. He heals people physically but he also heals people emotionally, people who had been outcasts for various reasons are accepted and loved.

In fact all the gospels testify to Jesus healing, it was a central part of his ministry reflecting the very nature of God. The first disciples continued to pray for the sick, and saw wonderful miraculous healings, and at St. Andrew's we continue this ministry.

We do this in a number of ways. We regularly pray in the church intercessions and in our own homes for people who ask for their names to be placed on the news sheet. If you would like us to be praying for you in this way please let us know and we will be glad to do so.

This year we have joined with Christians all over the UK to pray for a young lady who in her early 30's was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. After she had an operation to remove what they could of the tumour the cancer immediately grew back with new tumours in addition. Medically speaking there was no hope. However after continuous faithful prayers of many, over a many months she is now free from any sign of cancer, and what is even more wonderful, she has also come into a personal relationship with God. We continue to pray for her and for others believing in God's goodness and power to heal.

We also have a prayer ministry team who will pray for individuals after each service about any concerns they may have, including prayers for healing. We do not always see physical healing, sometimes I think because we have much to learn about how to pray, but sometimes because God answers our prayers in other ways, giving peace or strength, or a knowledge of his love.

On February 10th at 3pm we will be holding a healing service. This will be a quiet reflective service with the singers leading our worship. We will focus on healing in its widest sense including physical healing but

also spiritual and emotional healing. Everyone is very welcome to this. During the service there will be opportunity to come forward and receive anointing with prayer for healing, but you are also welcome simply to come into God's healing presence by just being there in the atmosphere of worship.

Often it's as we worship that we are healed. Last Sunday someone had a picture, an image from God, of the congregation singing and praising and as they sang bandages came off them. The bandages were representing hurts, pains through ill health, sins and ungodly behaviour that each person might have in their lives. When we focus on Jesus and worship him, he is able to take these from us.

The Bible says that it is by his wounds that we are healed. When Jesus died on the cross, all our sickness and shame was given to him as well as our guilt and sinfulness. It is through the cross of Christ that we receive healing.

That brings me to another special service that we are holding during Lent. We are holding our next Cafe Church on Sunday 24th February during which everyone will be helping to create a new focus for our prayer room. Everyone will be invited to make a ceramic cross as a way of identifying with the cross of Christ. The individual crosses will then be formed into one cross to remind us that Christ died for us all. As usual this service will start with breakfast, a simple breakfast this time as it's during Lent, and once again everyone is very welcome.

Have a blessed Lent, *Cathy*





Bradley started at Slip End Lower School going on to Streetfield Middle and then Manshead Upper. He is now living in Sheffield and making a career there.

Parents Andy & Debbie must be proud!

Footpath Improvements



Thank you to Dacorum Council for installing this gate on Pepsal End Lane where the old stile was broken and dangerous. From there it is now (even in snow!) a pleasant walk across fields to 'Fantastic Fireworks' and Brickhill
Brian Church

Graduation Well done to another Parish member, Bradley Prothero graduated in November 2012 at Sheffield Hallam, with a 2:1 in Creative Arts Practices, specialising in computer generated graphics.


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In Memory of
Allan 'Roy' Knapton
1931-2012

Roy was born in Slip End and attended the local school. On leaving school, he decided to follow his father in the building trade, serving an apprenticeship at Moody's to become a plumber.

When called up to do his National Service, Roy joined REME, where his skills were put to good use and he learnt to drive. He had a great friend while doing his training, Ray Keen. While visiting Ray's home in Aylesbury he was introduced to Shirley and their friendship began. Roy was posted to Germany. He played football for REME and he was spotted by a scout for Ipswich Town but, because he had had cartilage problems, they would not sign him.

He kept in touch with Shirley while he was in Germany and they married on 27th March 1954, making their home in Markyate Road. They went on to have three daughters, Sandra, Lynne and Julie.

Roy also worked for SKF Co for 35 years. He was a keen gardener, loved playing darts, indoor bowls and dancing. He helped Shirley organise dances at the village hall.

About seven years ago it was discovered that Roy had three aneurysms of which one was operable, one harmless and the third too dangerous for an operation. Roy spent many months in and out of hospital and at home he was cared for by Shirley. Even though he was suffering, he still found times to have a joke!

Roy passed away peacefully in his sleep at home. He leaves a loving wife, three daughters, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren who will sadly miss him as will his other relatives and friends.

Thanks to Gillian Plummer for this tribute.

Gardening Club

The Club AGM was held on Mon. 21 Jan. (details next month) followed by a presentation from Guest Speakers, Ruth Sneath and Kathy Doyle on the Beds Wildlife Trust. Planning has started for the 2013 Village Plant Sale, to be held on Saturday 18 May.

The first visit of the year is given below.

Sun. 28 Apr. – Millhouse, 31 Mill Lane Welwyn (Meet 1.30pm Rising Sun Car Park)

PN Gardening Correspondent

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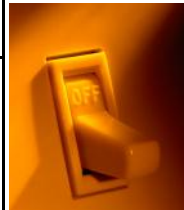
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Farley Hill Methodists

December was a very busy month for FHM the highlight being a well attended Carol Service followed by the children's party which also included games for adults. The service was led by Rev. Julie Bradshaw, readings by Julie Robas (World Wide Church) Mrs Rose Knight (Mayoress) the Sunday School Team, Iris Boucher and Lord Bill McKenzie. The recently formed FHM Singing group sang for us.

Refreshments were enjoyed after the service and the children enjoyed games and warmly welcomed Santa with his bags at the end of the afternoon. The Christmas Lunch was also well attended with some carols, cracker pulling and usual Christmas fayre.

January's lunch club was equally well attended and had the theme Robert Burns which meant, of course, a starter of haggis and neeps the Address to the Haggis by Ken and the Selkirk Grace both written by the bard himself. (Burns not Ken) The ceremonials were followed by an enjoyable meal of minced beef and dumplings with potatoes and veg followed by fruit pie and custard.

February's lunch club has Valentine's Day as the theme and the starter will be a glass of Passion Juice which should set the tone for the day. Sausages Mash and Veg; followed by chocolate sponge and custard.

Following a hectic, exciting anniversary year, 2013 will start off in quieter mode for a couple of months. *Ken W Cameron*

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Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Peter and Margaret Smith who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, by holding a Barn Dance at the Village Hall with relatives and friends on Saturday 29th December.

They are among the original residents of Claydown Way, having moved into the village over 30 years ago. They have been actively involved in the village ever since.

Peter was Chairman of the School PTA and was instrumental, together with other members of the committee, in the launch of the Summer Fair. Many of you whose children attended the school will recall this very successful event over the years.

Margaret ran the Ladies Keep Fit at the school for several years, raising funds for the PTA. Both of their children, Caroline and Mark attended the local school and went on to Streetfield and then Manshead and Queensbury schools. Even after their children had moved on to Middle school, Peter performed as “MC” at the School Summer Fair for some years.

Peter started the Tennis Club at the Peter Edwards Playing Field over 20 years ago and is still Chairman. He is also Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee and has been for several years. In addition to teaching Maths at a senior school in Hemel Hempstead, as a day job, Peter has taught the guitar and the ukulele at Dunstable Saturday morning Music School for a number of years. Some young musicians

from the Ukulele Group provided the entertainment at the 2011 Harvest Supper, which was very well received. The Group is to be the entertainment again this year, so get your tickets early in September, ready for the 27th September!

Peter is soon to commence giving Ukulele lessons at Slip End School. Both Peter and Margaret are now semi-retired and make energetic use of their free time. Peter plays tennis regularly and Margaret attends Pilates and tap dancing classes. They also both enjoy tea dances, as well as regularly manning the bar at the Little Theatre in Dunstable. On their travels they enjoy visiting both National Trust and English Heritage properties.

Best wishes to them both and no doubt they will be looking forward to the “Golden Wedding Anniversary” in ten years’ time!





SEADA

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



Zumba in Slip End, now entering its third year!!!!

Zumba dance-fitness classes started in Slip End at the beginning of January 2011 and have proved popular with our local residents, as well as ladies from surrounding villages and the Luton, Dunstable and Harpenden areas. Zumba is a Latin-dance inspired fitness class which is tailored for all ages and abilities, easy to follow, no need to book the class, just turn up and enjoy yourselves! We are now starting our third year of Zumba and have lots of dedicated and regular ladies. However, we always welcome new participants. The classes are very friendly and the steps easy to pick up after a couple of classes. It is a fun work out and great for burning calories and toning up the body.

If you are embarking on a new diet and/or fitness regime for 2013, just want to improve your fitness, or simply want to get out and enjoy yourself for an hour, whilst doing yourself some good then give us a try. Some of our participants come along having never tried Zumba before and claim they have “two left feet” but pick up the steps quickly and say they love it. Other Zumba lovers have done it before at other venues and fancy trying a new class and always comment that they love the mix of music and have really enjoyed themselves.

Classes run every Monday and Thursday evening at Slip End Lower School Hall, Ross Way, Slip End 7.30pm-8.30pm (throughout the year, not just term time). Cost is £4. Zumba is suitable for all, so why not give it a try. It's great fun! (just ask the ladies of Slip End!) Steps are choreographed so you can pick them up easily, to music you enjoy.

Please call or email Karen with any questions, phone 07989 380040 or email: theduncans2@sky.com.



Spot the parishioner!...
Brian Church
as
King Herod!





**Christmas memories!
Nativity at St Andrew's and the Line Dancers partying in the Village Hall.**





**Aley Green Nativity and
Charitree festival**



Charisma Celebrates 25 years!

On Sunday 13th January, about 60 people joined in the celebrations for Charisma's 25 years in business. A slide show was showing on a screen and the photo albums were around the salon for people to browse through. It was a lovely 'hubbub' of chatting. Staff member Charlotte and her sister, Amy, had baked many cakes for the buffet. The two of them were also the main hostesses for the afternoon - fantastic.

Thank you to all the guests for their kind words, cards and gifts, and for joining me at the celebration. It was a very special day for me. Here's to the next 25 years!

Kay McIlroy



A lovely party! These photos show Kay (second from left) with some of her staff and family (including sister Lynn, below right—who first introduced me to Kay some 20+

years ago!)

Alison Wilson



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**Sunday
10th
March**

these gifts or presents with a main meal, excludes burgers, sandwiches, staves and legs, not in conjunction with any other offer or discount

Aley Green Methodist Church **Services and Diary Dates for February**

Sunday 3rd

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

Tuesday 5th

- 7.30pm Bible Study - Rev Bob Forrest

Sunday 10th

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

Tuesday 12th **Shrove Tuesday**

- 10.00am/12.00pm 'Pancakes & Company'
In aid of LAMP

Sunday 17th

Lent 1

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

Monday 18th

- 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Course Meeting
Week 1 led by Mike Bull

Wednesday 20th

- 7.30pm Coffee Evening In aid of
Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust

Sunday 24th

Lent 2

- 11.00am Morning Service - Mr Colin Quine
11.00am Sunday School

Monday 25th

- 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Course
Week 2 led by Mike Bull

~~~~~  
For some years now we have been sending Christmas boxes to Romania for families and older people. We packed some 30 boxes as full as possible with all sorts of useful items and sent them on their way. We are

grateful to those who donated the items and the money for the postage. In addition to the boxes this year we decided to support LAMP's appeal for items for a food hamper for each of their clients. We collected four large boxes of tinned and packet food, crackers, chocolate and other goodies. We were overwhelmed by the response from the staff at the LAMP office when we delivered the boxes. They were so thrilled and grateful for the gifts and we had a lovely letter of thanks from them.

A very big Thank You to everyone who visited us over Christmas and New Year. Our three day Charitree Festival was very well supported. As always there was no entry charge to get in but visitors were invited to give a donation to one of the twelve charities the trees represented. Added to those donations we raised money from lunches and refreshments, tombola stall and the offering at the children's Nativity Service and that was divided between the charities. Visitors voted for their favourite tree and the winning tree was tree number 1, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, decorated by Alison Wilson and Lorraine Law in aid of Aley Green youth work. Their charity received the £50 prize money donated by Colin Toten, of the Beds & Herts Car Club, who organises the Kensworth Rally. The Festival raised a grand total of £950 and a breakdown of donations to each charity can be found on our notice board at the church. Our Christmas Cake Raffle for Methodist Homes for the Aged, raised £101 and was won by Cindy. Grateful thanks to Jill Bracken for decorating the cake so beautifully. The Bible society Christmas card raised £50 and the offering at the Carol Service, for Action For Children, totalled £131.32. As always, our Christmas Day offering of £59.27 went to NOAH.

We would be pleased to see you at a social event, Service. Bible Study or Fellowship Meeting. You will be given a warm Aley Green welcome.

*Ann Meader*



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## Women's Institute



Once again we have been busy in the W. I. We trust you all had a good Christmas and we send you good wishes for 2013. Dunstable Choir presented their pre-Christmas programme and we all joined in some of the songs. This is always a very pleasant evening.

In November, Jeff Stray gave us a demonstration using flowers and leaves from the garden. Using dry oasis she made indoor arrangements suitable for the winter period. These can be made using wreaths, balls and glass holders. Many ideas were passed around including some using silk flowers. Later we had a quiz on flowers and four members all had top marks. Well done ladies.

Members and friends enjoyed a coach trip to London to see the lights together with a guided tour round Kensington, Trafalgar Square and the West End. We finished at the Ice Rink at Somerset House. We later had a meal in the Cittie of York which was a very interesting venue. It was originally an Inn of the Court. Thanks go again to Sue Martin for organising this successful evening.

Our Group Meeting was well attended with each WI reading poems, ditties and putting on their showpieces. Sue read a poem for Caddington and Lorna and Linda performed 'Once Upon a Time in Mid Life Crisis'. We had an in-house meeting in December. It was great fun, starting with mulled wine prepared by Carol Jones and a good spread of food brought in by us all. A big thank

you goes to those setting up and clearing. Games were played including Find the Santa on a map made by Sue. We played an Irish Raffle with Sallie, which brought out the competitive element amongst members determined to get the prizes! We each brought a wrapped gift and at the end of the evening we had a pick from Santa's Sack so we all went home with a present. The post-box was ready for our cards. Sue read the late Sylvia Kedge's poem to us. Lorna and Linda did their showpiece once again. It was a very happy Christmas evening.

Our Darts Team is waiting to hear from County organisers whether they are in the Final in March. They are keeping their practise going in the mean time.

In January we have Geoff Lambert speaking about the work of the Campaign to Protect Rural England and in February we have 'Is your Future in the Stars' by Tony Woodhouse.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Baptist Church Hall at 7.30 pm Do join us to meet new friends and enjoy the evening, and you get a cuppa! *Linda Edwards*

### *Snowy Fun in Slip End*





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# Pub Pages



## The Plough

We send thoughts and prayers to Rob Taylor one of The Plough's Dart Players, whose wife Lynn sadly passed away. Her friends and family celebrated her life at the Plough.

We would like to wish John Hagan a very Happy 70th Birthday! He had a celebration at the Plough and his family and friends all came along and had a great time.

Once Christmas and New Year were out of the way, the staff at the Plough went on their staff annual outing. They went into London for a lovely meal then followed on to see the show We Will Rock You. Everyone had a wonderful time.

We are now taking bookings for Mother's Day Sunday 10th March and also the Easter Weekend 29th March to 1st April. Book early to save disappointment.

Got a special occasion or a celebration coming up? Why not have it at The Plough? The venue is free! We can supply a buffet or you can bring your own food! For more information please ask for Doug or Melissa.

Bored on a Monday afternoon...come and have a game of Bingo. Eyes down at 3pm, everyone welcome.

See the advert for more details of offers and activities at the pub.

enjoying their Christmas meals at the pub.. Thanks must go to Lily for making them welcome and serving fantastic food.



## Social Club

The staff at the Social Club would like to say thank you to all their members for their support during the year and wish them a Happy New Year. The Club held a Quiz Night between Christmas and New Year as a fun occasion. Ron Howe and his family from Caddington were the winners and a good evening was had by all.

## The Frog and Rhubarb

## The Rising Sun

The pub served festive food for many groups and individuals. The photos here show firstly the Chatty Club and then the Line Dancers

Pam King has asked us to say thank you, on behalf of the Friendship Club, to Paul at the Frog and Rhubarb for an excellent Christmas lunch! (see Paul's photos)



2013 at the Frog enjoying a 70's and 80's disco with a fish and chip supper.

After working so hard throughout December, the staff at the Frog & Rhubarb let down their hair at the beginning of January. The pub was closed for a night to make time for the annual staff Christmas Party. It was a fantastic night with a free bar, massive Indian meal and a few drunken games of Pictionary.

Remember that you can enjoy special offers for 2 courses or for 3 courses at the Frog on Sunday to Thursday evenings. Choose from 10 starters, 15 main courses and 8 desserts.

### **Forthcoming Events @ The Frog**

Love pancakes but don't want the hassle of making them? Then pop along to the Frog & Rhubarb on Tuesday 12th February. To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the pub is giving free pancakes to everyone ordering a main course meal.

Thursday 14th February is Valentines Day. Treat your loved one to a meal at the Frog & Rhubarb and receive a free glass of Prosecco with a main meal.

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

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

What a fantastic month December was at the Frog & Rhubarb. Hundreds of friends, family and colleagues enjoyed their Christmas meal at the pub and many more popped in for a celebratory drink. The two dinner and dance evenings were new for 2012 and both were extremely enjoyable, with diners enjoying a party after their Christmas meal. Among those celebrating at the pub were the Friendship club and St Andrew's Church who both took advantage of the pub's huge discount available to community groups in the Parish.



Christmas Eve was celebrated with live music from 'Banned', which was a great success and a fantastic way to start the festivities. On Christmas Day, the dining area was buzzing with people enjoying the big day without the hassle of cooking or washing up. More than 100 people saw in

# You are invited to a Family Pancake Party

at St. Andrew's Church



on Tuesday 12th February



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## Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Management Committee has met each month as usual since our last report. Last summer our secretary, Steve Fuell moved to Norfolk, then in the Autumn we were pleased to welcome Simon Patterson who took over as secretary. Like Steve before him, Simon sits on the Parish Council thus continuing that vital connection. Simon's wife, Carol also joined us at that time and Tim Perry returned having moved back into the Parish after many years away. We welcome them all as they bring new energy and ideas and, in Tim's case, his experience from years back.

We have sadly missed Jill Acton at our recent meetings, following her accident a few months ago. We wish her all the best, hoping that her recovery continues and we see her again soon.

With Christmas and New Year festivities now distant memories, the Village Hall Management is looking to the future. We are becoming increasingly concerned about the downward drift in the financial situation at the Village Hall. A number of desirable improvements have been made in recent years which have been a drain on the accounts. The Village Hall has benefitted from grants from The Community Projects Group and will be submitting another grant application. Plans are to brighten up the hall internally in 2013.

The major source of Village Hall income is from letting fees, which have been largely unchanged for the past couple of years. In that time, outgoings have increased significantly; we are all aware of how hard our

personal pockets are being increasingly hit. The Village Hall Committee is grasping the nettle and increases in fees are inevitable at some point in 2013. As well, the committee will seek to reduce costs wherever possible and to look out for further grant opportunities.

2013 therefore presents some challenges. The AGM will be held at 8pm on Tuesday April 16th so come along and learn more about how this vital local asset ticks. *David Kingston*

### Support Spinal Injuries Charity

Want to do something different? ...Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 17th May 2013 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations, donation envelopes and additional fundraising ideas..

Since 2009 we have raised over £20,000 and it has become our flagship community fundraising event. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives. Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or to request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 0714350 or email: [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)



## Gardener's Special

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

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

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

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

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

make an effective display when grown in clumps and supported with pea sticks or a cylinder of netting.

If you have any large clumps of snowdrops they can be dug up and split into small bunches and replanted straight away, but this should only be done about every fifth year. Tomatoes sown last month under heat will need pricking out now or they will become weak and spindly. Finish pruning established fruit trees and bushes as soon as possible in the month.

Main crop Brussels sprouts can be sown early in the month in drills  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep for planting out at the end of April. Parsnips can also go in as soon as the soil is dry in drills  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep and 15 inches apart, if you sow 3 seeds at 6 inch spacing this will make it a lot easier when it comes to thinning out.

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

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

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

*Russell Sprout*



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

### **FEBRUARY**

- Mon 4th Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:00 (new start time)  
Tues 12th Pancakes & Company Aley Green Methodist Church 10:00am—noon  
Pancake Party St Andrew's Church 5:30pm — 7:30pm  
CPG meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm  
Tues 19th Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7:30pm

### **MARCH**

- Mon 4th Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:00pm  
Tues 12th CPG Meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm  
Mon 18th Gardening Club—Visiting Speaker Village Hall 8:00pm  
Tues 19th Caddington WI Baptist Hall 7:30pm  
Sat 30th SEADA Car Boot / Table Top Sale Village Hall 10:00am—1:00pm

### **APRIL**

- Mon 8th Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7:00pm  
Tues 9th CPG Meeting Slip End Social Club 7:30pm  
Tues 16th Village Hall Committee AGM Village Hall 8:00pm

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

### **MAY**

- 18th Gardening Club Plant Sale

### **JUNE**

- 8th SEADA outing—names to be given in at SEADA car boot sale  
23rd Playing Fields Open Day (possibly to include community stalls)



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



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

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



## YOUR PARISH & CENTRAL BEDS COUNCILLORS

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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                        |
| <b>Sarah Minnighan</b> | 07868 742904 | s.minnighan@btinternet.com                    |

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#### contact details



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01582 428398

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



**Cllr Richard Stay**

01582 402602

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## COMMUNITY AND SERVICES

### Services:-

**At the Crossroads** 401069 Mon - Fri 7.00 to 21.00 Sat 7.00 - 21.00 - Sun 7.30 - 21.00

**Slip End Garage** Markyate Road, 456888

**Doctor** (Caddington Surgery) 725673

**Doctor** (Markyate) 841559

### Schools:

**Slip End Lower** 720152 **Caddington Village School** 726058

**Streetfield Middle** 613421 **Ashton Middle** 663511

**Manshead Upper** 679400

### Churches:-

**St Andrew's Church**

**Rev. Cathy Pullinger** 725061 or  
07425 148046

**Wardens: Tony Willson** 482681  
**Susan Wiltshire** 727477

**Aley Green Methodist Church**

**Minister: Rev Philip Horner**

**Senior Steward: Ann Meader** 733668

### Sport:-

**Bowling Club** 412506

**Darts League** 425323

**Football** 01582 517042 or  
07515687160

**Pepperstock Archers** 615216  
Email LBP121@aol.com (Lee Prebble)

**Tennis** 733253

**Gardening Club** 423622

### 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

**Women's Institute** 737036

**Chatty Club**

andypany32@hotmail.co.uk

Jean Anderson

**Slip End Veterans Football** Wayne Leslie  
wayne@dnsgsales.co.uk

**Forza Storm Youth Football** 849449

redhotstompers@googlemail.com

**Slip End Stompers Line Dancing**

**Dance Classes** dance\_liana@hotmail.com

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

Any delivery problems? Contact Alan Buttery at 1 Claydown Way  
(01582 724527), alanjan@buttery400.fsnet.co.uk.

Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holidays, etc?

Please contact us, letters and e-mails are encouraged.

Views expressed by our contributors are not the Editor's own.

Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to Sue Briggs, 4 The Oaks,  
Slip End or Alison Wilson, 23 Claydown Way, Slip End or e-Mail parishnews@slipend.co.uk

Advertising queries to Katrina Doubleday 07753 168443

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