



## SOULBURY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

No. 271

April 1999

### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

It was announced at the recent Parish Council Meeting that elections will be taking place in May for a new Parish Council. Anyone wishing to be nominated should contact the Chairman Alf Peacock (270541) who has the necessary papers.

There was some good news for Soulbury in that there is now money to repair the bridge at Wing, which has caused the diversion of heavy traffic through our village. It is unclear when this will be done but AVDC have set the money aside.

Our County Councillor Mrs Brenda Jennings was present and gave a report. She has been very concerned with budget matters particularly in education, social services and road maintenance. Some reference was made to the possible expansion of Milton Keynes to twice its present size by extending further into Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. Apparently developers are buying options on any green field sites which become available. Mrs Jennings felt there is a need to mount a combined fight against this proposed expansion, otherwise many villages surrounding Milton Keynes are likely to be swallowed up.

Stan Morris reported on the latest situation regarding Neighbourhood Watch. There have been some problems over releasing information on crime figures because of the Data Protection Act.

A member of the public pointed out again the unacceptably poor state of upkeep of local footpaths across Liscombe Park. He wanted to make a complaint about tanks being driven across the footpaths as this has made them impassable in several places. He also felt that although the estate may make improvements in the long term to the footpath network, at present the paths were hazardous, badly maintained and difficult to follow, and should not be allowed to stay that way.

The next Parish Meeting will be Monday, 19 April .

### **ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** The Church's AGM will be held in the Church on Monday 12 April at 8 pm.

**CHURCH CLEANING** Help would be appreciated from 10 am to 12 noon on Saturdays 3 April and 1 May.

**QUIZ NIGHT AND SUPPER** A General Knowledge Quiz will be held at Liscombe Park, by kind permission of Sir Nicholas and Lady Bonsor, on Friday 7 May at 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Proceeds will be for All Saints General Funds. Teams should consist of four people but do not be afraid to buy individual tickets as teams can be made up on the night. Tickets are £5 per head and the price includes supper. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Get your tickets now from Stan Morris (270577) or Norman Cotton on (240287) before the event is advertised more widely.

### **MINIBUS FOR LOCAL VILLAGES**

A community minibus service for Winslow and surrounding villages will start in the spring for use by the public, community organisations and local groups. Hilary Gooch of Buckinghamshire Community Action, together with Bucks County Council, put together a bid for the bus from the Government's Rural Bus Challenge Competition. Support also came from Thames Valley Police and Parish Councils.

The successful bid is worth £100,000 and will pay for the bus, an office and general running costs for three years. The bus will provide a conventional service as well as being available for hire. For more information on the Winslow Bus contact Hilary Gooch of Bucks Community Action on 01296 421036.

### **WI NEWS**

The coffee morning for the Meningitis Trust on 13 March raised £100. Thank you to all those who attended and generously donated.

April 13 at 8 pm Mr High Granger will be the speaker - "I've always wondered why we say that!".

New members are always very welcome. Please contact Margaret on 270355 or Andrea on 270474 for further information on any of our events.

Looking ahead there will be day trips to Brighton on Tuesday 13 July and to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 21 September.

### **STEVEN SWAN**

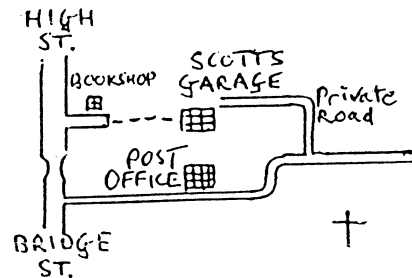
Some of you may remember Steven (who was staying with the Luxtons at the time) raising funds in the village in 1997 to finance his conservation expedition to Vietnam. Steven has written on several occasions to say thankyou to all those in the village who supported him and to give details of his work in Vietnam and plans for the future. Liz Miller has a copy of his latest newsletter "Frontier - Vietnam" and if anyone would like to read it, please contact her on 270545.

**HELP REQUIRED** with housework. Please telephone 270091.

### **VEHICLE REPAIRS, SERVICING AND MOT TESTING**

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### **GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICE**

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**McCONVILLE BOWDEN** At last a local estate agent with massive coverage of prospective purchasers wishing to buy your house. 44 High St North, Stewkley. Tel 01525 240055. Offices in Herts, Beds and Bucks.

**CHURCH FETE** The Committee has been meeting to plan the Fete to be held on Saturday, 12 June. New ideas will be welcome as well as the old favourites. Stan Morris will be pleased to hear from you.

#### **RESTORATION NEWS**

**PHASE 2** The plasterers and painters have now completed their work on the interior and by the time this newsletter sees the light of day the new drainpipes should be in place on the south clerestory and the huts and scaffolding should have been removed. This leaves the completion of the DIY work on the drainage. A large number of volunteers led by the intrepid Jim Cochrane spent the first two weekends of the month (the first very wet) digging trenches around the church walls. The next step is to dig three deep soakaways, then to lay drains and to fill in with shingle. It is hoped that most of this work will have been completed on the 27 and 28 March, but please keep in touch with Jim on 270271 as the work may run over into April.

**BELLS** The bellfounders are being pressed to complete the drawings for the strengthening of the bellframe to the approval of the architect and English Heritage so that the preliminary work is complete by the time the bells are ready for rehangng.

**SAFARI SUPPER** The next event on the fund raising calendar will be on Saturday 17 April, taking the form of a Safari Supper. For those who have not been to one before, the idea is that volunteers offer to provide a venue and starters for 6 or 8 people, others make similar offers for main courses. The composition changes for starters and mains. All gather together for sweets and coffee at another venue.

Please contact Jackie on 270619 or Jane on 270493 to make your reservations for a very pleasant evening. These suppers are an excellent way to meet people you have not met before or do not see very often. The cost is £10 per head inclusive of wine.

#### **MILLENNIUM GREEN NEWS**

Work on the Millennium Green is progressing well. All the trees are now planted, apart from a few for hedging round the children's playground. 70 cubic metres of bark chippings, from the Shrewsbury area, has also been put down round the trees. An excellent team of a dozen or so RAF cadets put most of this down on a very hot Tuesday, March 16. They were very efficient, polite and helpful.

However, there is now another 70 cubic metres of chippings to be wheelbarrowed around and spread on the ground. So still plenty of work for willing hands to do!

The bird and bat boxes have also been put in place. We hope to attract owls as well as the more common small birds, so keep a look-out for any prospective inhabitants. A heron has already been seen inspecting the pond!

A fine-looking jetty, made by Gavin Stewart and other Lets Buzz members is also in place.

Paul Ross, the gardener at Liscombe House, who gave us some yew trees and helped plant trees, has offered to put up fencing, but he could do with help, so anyone who has experience with this and could help him, please contact Liz on 270545.

A mini-digger has been booked for the week-end of Saturday April 10 and Sunday 11 April to dig out the paths and the paving area near the pond. We need volunteers to help on that week-end from 10 am - 12.30 pm and 2 pm - 4.30 pm.

Sunday, April 18 will also be another volunteer day when we will need help same times as above.

Call 270545 if you can help on any of these days.

Finally we have still not located any paving slabs. We need 300 sq ft to pave the area near the pond. Any suggestion will be gratefully received.

And we still need offers of cakes for May 3 - May Day Fayre in Leighton!

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Neighbourhood Watch Administrator for the Aylesbury Policy Area, John Daish, is putting on a Crime Prevention Evening for Soulbury NHW members in the Clubroom at 8 pm on Wednesday, 5 May. This will be an opportunity to have an update on the local crime situation and to raise issues with the local police. In the meantime the local NHW co-ordinators will be updating their registers of members. If residents of the outer fringes of the village wish to become involved in NHW please speak to Stan Morris on 270577.

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH** Vicar: Rev. Norman Cotton, The Vicarage, Stewkley. Tel. 240287  
Curate: Rev Peter Lymbery, 17 Hartwell Crescent, L Buzzard. Tel. 371235

All Sundays in April and 1 May 11.30 am Sung Eucharist  
April 1 (Maunday Thursday) 7.30 pm Service in Stewkley Chapel  
April 2 (Good Friday) 10 am Morning Service at St Michaels Stewkley  
7.30 pm Stainer's Crucifixion at Drayton Parslow Church  
April 4 (Easter Sunday) 7 pm Compline (service of music and reflection) at St Michaels

**METHODIST CHURCH** Minister: Rev Ian Banks. The Manse, Stewkley. Tel 240251.

Sun April 4 9.15 am Rev Ian Banks. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Sun April 11 6 pm Mr D Harbey  
Sun April 18 6 pm Rev M Ryan  
Sun April 25 6 pm Mr T Wales  
Mother & Toddlers 10.30 am - 12 noon Every Tuesday

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS** (meetings in the Clubroom unless otherwise stated)

Sat April 10 & 10 - 12.30 pm Millennium Green Working  
Suns April 11 & 18 2 - 4.30 pm Party on site  
Mon April 12 8 pm All Saint's Church AGM at Church  
Tue April 13 8 pm WI  
Wed April 14 2.30 pm Social Circle  
Sat April 17 Safari Supper  
Mon April 19 8 pm Parish Council Meeting  
Wed April 21 8 pm Women's Fellowship Talk by Rena Stewart at home of  
Daphne Booth  
Mon April 19 2 - 2.15 pm Mobile Library (High Road)  
2.20 - 2.35 pm Mobile Library (Stewkley Road)  
Thurs April 8 & 22 A.V.D.C Waste Paper and Recycling Collections  
Thurs April 1,8,15,22,29 7.30 pm Bowls Evening

**DIARY DATES**

Mon May 3 Leighton May Fayre, Charity Stalls for Parkinson's Disease and Soulbury  
Millennium Green  
Wed May 5 Crime Prevention Evening  
Fri May 7 Quiz Night and Supper, Liscombe House  
Sat June 12 Church Fete  
Tues July 13 WI outing to Brighton  
Tues Sept 21 WI outing to Buckingham Palace

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Items for next issue by 22 April to: Mrs Miller 270545, Mrs Bunyan 270461, Mrs Norman 270483 or  
Mrs Fairbairn 270674.

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