



April 2001

No 293

SOULBURY NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter

You may have noticed that the newsletter has not been delivered by the beginning of the month for the last two months. This has been caused by the fact that we are a very small team producing the newsletter and rely on a very few volunteers to type and copy each month. If anyone is ill or on holiday we have great problems in meeting the deadline of having the newsletter delivered by the beginning of the month.

We are very grateful to the few volunteers who help on a regular basis but it is unfair to expect the same people to give up their time every month.

We would like to set up a rota of people who will type the newsletter with the intention that if anyone is unable to type the month they have been allocated, they will swap with someone else on the list. We depend solely on one person to photocopy the newsletter each month. We cannot afford to have the newsletter copied commercially and we are very grateful to Sharon for taking this job on. However, we would like to know if anyone else is able to share the responsibility for copying, again possibly on a rota basis, so that no one person has to be available every month. If you have a photocopier, or access at work to one, perhaps you would be able to volunteer your services even if only once or twice a year.

We can only continue having a village newsletter if more people come forward to help. We are holding an open meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 23 April at 8 pm to see whether there is support in the village for the newsletter to continue. It does not have to continue in the same format and if anyone would like to take over editing the newsletter they would be very welcome. Please attend and make your views known. If you do not attend – do not be surprised if your newsletter no longer drops on to your doormat as often as it has in the past!

Parish Council News

The Parish Council met for its March meeting on Monday 19th. There had been a further deterioration in the regularity of emptying the dog waste bins. The team involved were under increased pressure throughout the area because dog owners were not able to use fields and footpaths to exercise their dogs and were using parks and the like. The local authority had promised to address the problem.

A new central heating boiler had been installed in the Clubroom and it was agreed that arrangements should be made to enter into an ongoing maintenance arrangement for both boiler and associated pipe work and radiators.

A grant application had been formulated in the hope of getting financial assistance to upgrade the children's playground together with the creation of a cycle track therein.

AVDC had offered villages the opportunity of entering a draw to select a number of villages to participate in a programme of a Sunday afternoon's entertainment in the summer. It was agreed to ask AVDC to put Soulbury "in the Hat".

It was mentioned that local children were riding their bikes up and down the pathway AND STEPS between Mount Pleasant and the High Road. This was deemed to be highly dangerous for the elderly occupiers of the adjoining bungalows as well as for the children. Parents are asked to have a gentle word with their offspring and also discourage them from riding through the daffodils.

There seemed to be a lack of information concerning bus passes for senior citizens. This was to be taken up with Aylesbury Vale.

Railtrack had written to say that their contractors would be working at night on the upgrading of the West Coast Mainline. Local inhabitants likely to be affected would be given three days notice of the dates involved.

There had been an offer of fifty good second hand chairs for the clubroom at a bargain price. These have now arrived (plus an extra ten for the price of fifty) and very good they look too. At least all the chairs will now be the same at the majority of functions.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 17th April at 8pm in the Clubroom.

Millennium Green News

The trustees are pleased to see that the Green continues to be used a lot, particularly by people walking their dogs. Some dog owners have expressed relief that there is at least somewhere to exercise their dogs in Soulbury, now that the outbreak of foot and mouth has shut all the footpaths. Our thoughts are with our local farmers and we hope and pray they will be spared any disasters.

We would like to remind people about picking up their dog's excrement. It is a bit of a revolting chore, but one that most dog owners these days are good and co-operative about and resigned to doing. But just occasionally some little pile of you know what is left behind on the grass and we would like this not to happen at all. The Green should be clean and pleasant at all times for everyone.

People using the Green will no doubt have seen the pair of mallards on the swale/pond. Maybe we shall see some ducklings later on.

There are at least three pairs of stock doves in the area and one pair looks as if it might have taken up residence in one of the nest boxes on the Green. If you're not sure what these birds look like, look them up in your bird guide books. They are similar to wood pigeons, but are smaller, more compact and don't have the white wing bars nor the white neck patch which is so distinct on a wood pigeon. Stock doves look darker, a blue grey all over. It's good we've got a pair nesting, because the numbers of stock doves fell dramatically in the last 10 - 15 years due to pesticide use etc. They are now on the increase and it's good to see them around here again.

Church News

Church cleaning - is due to take place on Saturday 14th April from 10am to 12 noon. Help would be appreciated even if only for part of the time.

A Coffee Morning - in aid of the General Funds of All Saints Church took place on the 24th March in the Clubroom and the sum of £203.66 was raised. The PCC thanks all those who provided goods and refreshments, looked after the stalls and those who came along and supported the event. It was good to see our MP, John Bercow, in attendance, to see his performance as an auctioneer and to know that he later took the time to see Ian Parrott to talk about the Foot and Mouth crisis.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting - is to take place in the Clubroom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th April for the election of churchwardens and PCC including treasurer and secretary. The PCC discusses with the Vicar and Curate matters relating to the Church in the village and the promotion of its mission as well as wider matters concerning the Church of England in the field of religious or public interest. It liaises with the Diocesan and Deanery Synods.

Lenten Evenings - The last in the Vicar's series of four episodes on "the History and Meaning of the Bible" is on Thursday 5th April at 8pm at St Michael's Stewkley.

Gift Aid - Whether you attend Church regularly, occasionally or just want to make the odd donation now and again it is now very simple for us to claim back tax on money donated. Only a simple declaration has to be completed and there is no commitment to amounts or periods of time. Contributions to the Friends of Soulbury Church can be made in the same tax effective way. Details are available from the Vicar, Churchwardens or Treasurer.

Drayton Parslow Singers - will be performing Stainer's crucifixion in St Michaels Church, Stewkley on Tuesday 10 April at 8 pm.

Neighbourhood Watch

Warning - Residents, particularly the elderly, are asked to be wary of people, apparently travellers offering to do tree cutting or tarmac work. They are very plausible and suggest that they are associated with the Highways Department, that the law is being broken because electricity or telephone wires are obstructed by trees and generally say that they have to charge high prices for tree cutting because of the landfill tax, when in fact, the cuttings are left when the travellers and their caravans move on. Do not be conned. Be suspicious if there is no address on advertising and the telephone number appears to be a mobile. Do not make instant decisions. Talk to a relative or neighbour. Better still deal with local tradesmen and get a written quotation.

The Thames Valley Police Aylesbury Vale Watch Update - is being circulated. To keep cost down the idea is that in the central area of the village there is one copy to go round ten, or so, houses. When you get it please read and pass on quickly. If anybody in the more outlying parts of the Parish is interested in Neighbourhood Watch, please contact the Area Co-ordinator Stan Morris on 270577.

Foot and Mouth - Please if you go away and take your dog with you, be careful where you exercise it and be doubly careful when you return. Also be aware that if you go into or out of a farm or similar property ordinary disinfectant bought in the shops may not be effective. Consult a local farmer who will put you right.

Neighbours!

Sometimes neighbours don't get along with each other. To help with this situation a charitable group has been set up in the Vale of Aylesbury called Vale Neighbour Mediation, who offer a free, confidential and impartial service to any resident in the Vale who has a problem. Mediation is a way of dealing with these disputes.

If you would like more information, or if you feel you would be able to become a volunteer to help people get together and talk about their differences (you would be trained before taking on the task of Mediator - all expenses paid) then please give the group a call or write to Vale Neighbour Mediation, PO Box 336, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7TT, phone 01296 424343.

Freelance Hairstylist

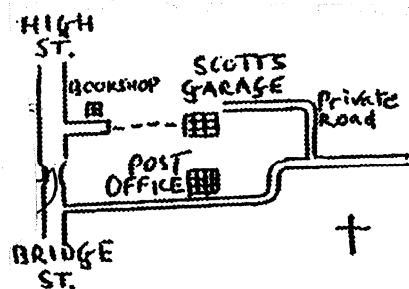
Freelance hairstylist in Soulbury. Hours to suit you! Cuts, perms, colours at affordable prices. OAP special rates. FULLY QUALIFIED. Ring Karen 01525 270552.

Garden Machinery Service

Repairs and Sales by RGC Machinery, Station Road, Mursley, MK17 0SA. Most leading makes supplied. Free local collection and delivery. Reconditioned mowers usually available. Also suppliers of ATV's & Farm Machinery. Tel 01296 720066.

Vehicle Repairs, Servicing and MOT Testing

High quality workmanship from a friendly establishment. Convenient to Leighton Buzzard High Street. David J Scott. Tel. 01525 373628.



Forthcoming Events for April 2001

(in the clubroom unless otherwise stated)

Monday	April 2 & 30	2.00 – 2.15 pm 2.20 – 2.35 pm	Mobile Library – Bungalows lay-by, High Road Stewkley Road Bus Stop
Wednesday	April 9	7.30 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Tuesday	April 10	8 pm	WI – Beads and Beadwork (Mrs Ashwell)
Wednesday	April 11	2.30 pm	Social Circle
Saturday	April 14	10 am – 12 noon	Church Cleaning
Tuesday	April 17	8 pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	April 18	7.45 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday	April 5,12,19,26	7.30 pm	Bowls Evening
Thursday	April 5		AVDC Waste Paper & Recycling Collection
Friday	April 20		AVDC Waste Paper & Recycling Collection
Monday	April 23	8 pm	Open Meeting – Village Newsletter

Diary Dates

Saturday	May 19		Safari Supper
	July		Pig Roast

All Saints Church Services

Vicar: Rev Normal Cotton, The Vicarage, Stewkley – Tel: 240287

Curate: Rev Peter Lymbery, 17 Hartwell Crescent, Leighton Buzzard – Tel: 371235

Sunday	April 1,22,29 May 5	11.30 am	Sung Communion in Church
Sunday	April 8	11.30 am	Palm Sunday Sung Eucharist and Blessing of Palms
	April 12	11.30 am	Sung Communion for EASTER DAY in Church

Methodist Church

Minister: Rev Cowburn, The Manse, Stewkley – Tel: 240251

Sunday	April 1		No service
Sunday	April 8	6 pm	Rev Arthur Cowburn Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Friday	April 13	2.15 pm	Good Friday Meditation
Sunday	April 15	9.15 am	Rev Arthur Cowburn Easter Communion
Sunday	April 22	6 pm	Mr Mike Owens
Sunday	April 29		No service

Items for next issue by 17 April 2001 to: Mrs Miller 270545, Mrs Bunyan 270461, Mrs Norman 270483, Mrs Fairbairn 270674, Mr Friswell 270918, Mrs Hulston 270349, Miss Wegener 270284 or Mrs Stevens 270514. Or email: debbie@dbegroup.co.uk