

LINSLADE TENNIS CLUB

How many of you have visited Linslade Tennis Club, or even picked up a tennis racket? Well, there's no excuse anymore because Linslade Tennis Club are having their annual Give It A Go Open Day on 17th May, and everyone is invited.

The club was formed in 1960 and has its home within the Mentmore Road Playing Fields, Linslade. The site is also home to Linslade Bowls Club, and all adult members of the tennis club automatically become associate members of the bowls club and are able to use the bar facilities.

Juniors (U18) have court time allocated from 11am - 3pm for the open day, while adults can have a go from 2pm - 4pm. Don't have a racket? No problem, we will lend you one. Come along and watch the action with a coffee and a toasted sandwich, then have a go with everyone else. The sessions will be organised by our Head Coach Nick Boy and his team and will be fun. So even if you have never played before, you'll still be able to take part.

The club has three courts and is very family oriented, with lots of opportunities for beginners to learn and improvers to progress, no matter what your age. A full programme of coaching, social and playing events is run throughout the year so there is something of interest for everyone, even non-players.

If you want more information and can't wait until the Open Day then call Helen Nottingham on 01525 383712. See you there!

** NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP **

The Editorial team would like to thank all those who in the past have sponsored the newsletter. We have now exhausted our list and would like to ask if anyone would be willing to sponsor in the future. The cost is currently £57 per month, and 300 copies of the newsletter are distributed, as well as being published on-line. It is possible to share a month between two sponsors.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SERVICES

Priest in Charge : Michelle Morton : The Vicarage, Stewkley. Tel. 240287

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



Sunday	6th April	11:30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	13th April	11:30am	Family Service
Sunday	20th April	11:30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	27th April	11:30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	4th May	11:30am	Holy Communion

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesdays	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th	10am-11:30am	Lollipops Toddler Group	
Thursdays	24th	6:30pm	Youth Club	Clubroom
Fridays	4th & 18th	1:00pm	Mobile Library - Stewkley Road Bus Stop	
Tuesday	8th April	8:00pm	W.I. - "Swimming with Sharks" - Neil Stewart	Clubroom
Thursday	10th April		AVDC Collection for Recycling & Glass	
Monday	29th March	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Clubroom
Thursday	24th March		AVDC Collection for Recycling	

This month's newsletter was paid from funds.

If you would like to sponsor an issue, or submit items for publication by 20th April, please contact:

Mrs. Bunyan 270461

Mrs. Norman 270483

or email : soulburynews@dsl.pipex.com

SOULBURY NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 375 APRIL 2008

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A new local area forum has been setup which is part of the Wing & Ivinghoe Forum. This is working for the community in conjunction with AVDC and Parish Councils to discuss local issues. The first meeting was held on 27th March, Brenda Jennings will report back.

SOULBURY CRICKET CLUB

Despite looking out of the window at the pouring rain we can look forward to the start of the cricket season soon and with it some better weather. Soulbury Village Cricket Club starts the 2008 season with a new Club Captain, Jonty Stopp. The Club plays most Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the season with a few evening matches as well. On most Saturdays, the club plays in division 2 of the Marrant Four Counties League. Sundays are reserved for friendly matches. For 2008 the fund-raising Race Night will be held at the end of the season in October. More details later. This is the only dedicated sports facility in Soulbury, so your support is important. New players are always welcome, however if not feeling that energetic why not come and watch and join us for a sociable drink after the match. See the cricket club website www.soulburyvcc.org.uk or the link from www.soulbury.org to keep up to date with fixtures and results. Please contact Club Chairman Brian Mead on 01525 376606 or Jonty on 01525 382451 for more information.

YOUTH CLUB

Our last session before the Easter school-break was 27th March, we open again on 24th April. Remember that our new times are from 6.30 - 8.30pm with our younger members leaving at 8pm. Look out for next term's dates in the Newsletter and posted on the Clubroom notice-board. Enjoy your holidays and keep safe, we'll look forward to meeting again in April.

MILLENNIUM GREEN NEWS

The April Draw will take place on 14th April.

The Trust would like to encourage you to come along to an open meeting on 14th April at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. This meeting is being called to give you the opportunity to learn a little more about the Millennium Green and how we need to secure its future.

There has been much speculation, rumour and gossip as to what is happening to the Millennium Green. It is hoped that these can be addressed so that you are aware of the facts and can rest easy that there will not suddenly be a mass building program taking place. The Millennium Green was not established 10 years ago to be turned into a housing estate when things got tough. The Trust is solvent, the goals and aspirations of the existing trustees have not changed, we wish for it to remain for the purpose for which it was created and that was an open area in our community for all to enjoy and co-exist with the existing wildlife that it enjoys.

However in order for this to happen we do need a little more hands on help from those within our community. We are not asking for anyone to give more than they are able or willing to give, but help is needed with grass cutting (as we use a ride on mower this would have to be persons 18 or older) and the pathways to be kept clear of overhanging vegetation. What would be nice is to know that when volunteers are needed that there are some within the parish that will help small work parties which as a group can get a lot done, and these work parties are about 4 times a year. The trust does appreciate the help that is given by the same few who when asked will help if able to. As has been mentioned several times both in the LBO and Newsletter we are looking for 2 new trustees and 1 secretary to enable the Millennium Green to carry on unchanged. Ideally the existing trustees do not want to consider alternative means to secure the Millennium Greens future. If you care or want to have your say, ask questions or offer to help in anyway please come along to this meeting. If you are unable to come along but would like to make known your view then please email me, Jane Phillpot, jane@soulbury.org or drop a note to 4 Andrews Close, Soulbury.

ACTION AID COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to everyone who supported this . We made £74.00

MR JACK JONES

We are sorry to learn of the recent death of Mr Jack Jones. We send our sincere condolences to Margaret and the family.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SOULBURY GARDENS

SAFARI SUPPER

TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER NEWS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS

Easter Sunday was a very special day for the Bonsor family from Liscombe House. Sir Nicholas and Lady Bonsor hosted a family party for the baptism of their first grandchild Cosmo James Bonsor, born on 15th December 2007. Cosmo, although only three months old, was beautifully behaved and charmed everyone with his blue eyes and his sweet alert little face. He lay in the arms of his young mother, dressed in a white christening robe, fearlessly enduring the cold water poured onto his head at the font, seemingly considering it to be a perfectly normal occurrence. Parents Alex and Jane Bonsor must have been delighted with him. About 60 people attended the Easter Day service which was led by Rev. Peter Lymbery. It was a truly joyous occasion for everyone.

It has come to our attention that a large heavy cross on a family grave in the corner of the churchyard by the north fence boundary with the Old Vicarage has broken and fallen down. Most people will know that graves, stones and monuments are the responsibility of the surviving relatives of the deceased. Names on the monument concerned include John, Laura, Maria, Alfred and William Gaul with a date of 1941. We would ask anyone who knows of the present whereabouts of, or remembers the Gaul family, to contact the church warden Christine Sheppard on 270377 so that family members can be informed of the situation. In time, if the present family cannot be contacted the PCC will be obliged to take the necessary steps to clear away the broken stone and wooden cross.

The Family Service will take place on Sunday 13th April. Families, please remind one another of this date. We are lucky to have Andrew and Lesley Berry coming again to take the service and there will be refreshments once again after the service.

On Tuesday March 25th the Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held in the church. The Rev. Peter Lymbery took the chair. Harry Ayris and Christine Sheppard were re-elected as wardens. Michelle Wilde and Debbie Kellner were voted on to the P.C.C. which now consists of 12 people. The Treasurer, Christine Bryant gave a report about the financial situation, which unfortunately is not good and said at the moment she thought it unlikely that we could afford to pay the full amount of the Parish share this year, which amounted to £8000. She hoped to pay £6000 at least.

SOULBURY GARDENS

Soulbury gardens will be open on the weekend of 21st & 22nd June. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to take part. The money raised will go to the Friends of Soulbury Church for the upkeep of the fabric of the church. We need plants to sell on the day, so if you are splitting any plants from your garden, please pot them for us. Contact Jane Luxton on 270493.

STEWKLEY PLAYERS

Stewkley Players presents Canterbury Tales at St. Michael's Church, Stewkley on the 24th, 25th and 26th April. Tickets priced at £6.00 are available from Monday 31st March from Jean Carter Tel: 01525 240236 or Sue Neale Tel: 01525 240761. All profits from this production will be divided between St. Michael's Church and The Village Hall, Stewkley.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club group met on Wednesday 26th March when Edith Wharton's book of short stories "Roman Fever" was discussed. The next meeting will be on Friday 2nd May at 2:30pm and the book that will be discussed is called "And when did you last see your father?" written by Blake Morrison in 1993. If you would like more information about this group please phone Rita Marks on 270687.

SOULBURY SAFARI SUPPER

It is intended to hold this event on Saturday 10th May. If you have not taken part before this is a very popular village event that lets you meet people whilst enjoying a great evening out in the village. You will visit one house for starter, another for main course and then everyone meets for deserts in the Barn at the Cottage, opposite The Boot (courtesy of Mr & Mrs Pargeter). Please come along, the cost is £15 per head and all proceeds are in aid of the Friends of Soulbury Church. We also require volunteers to provide a starter or main course for 4-6 guests. The last event we held was supported by over 80 people so please do join us for a fun and sociable evening with good food and fine company.

To reserve a place please contact Sam Mardlin on 270292 or email sammardlin@aol.com. Please also let us know if you are willing to provide a starter or main course.

MRS HILARY ASHBURNER

We are pleased Mrs Hilary Ashburner is out of hospital and feeling better. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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c/o Charity Farm
The Green,
Soulbury.

March 2008

Dear Resident of Soulbury,

Help save All Saints Church

As trustees of the Friends of Soulbury church we are sending this letter to all the residents of the village because we need your help and support to raise funds for your church.

Perhaps you do not use the Church very often – maybe not at all. But even if you never come to a service the Church is an important part of the village scene which makes an impressive and attractive contribution to our landscape. Soulbury without its church just wouldn't be Soulbury.

The building is loved by many but keeping it standing and watertight is a significant financial burden for a small village.

In 1994 the village faced the daunting prospect of having to find nearly £200,000 to cover essential repairs which reflected a lack of proper maintenance that went back many years. This charity, the Friends of Soulbury Church was formed to raise funds to cover these urgent costs. The charity is separate from the Church of England and Parish Church Council so the costs of maintaining the church are ring fenced from the day to day running costs of the parish. We hoped this would make it easier for those of different religious persuasions – or none – to support the charity.

To our surprise we raised the funds needed to keep the church going. But the problem continues and the church architect has identified more work which, with fees are budgeted to cost around £112,000.

Our aim

To keep the building going regular and proper maintenance is required together with a programme of appropriate restoration. To achieve this we need to ensure a steady

Name	
Address	
Telephone number	
E mail address	
I am interested in becoming involved in the Friends of Soulbury church fund raising.	Yes/No <i>(delete as necessary)</i>
I enclose a donation of :-	£
I am a UK taxpayer and I would like the Friends of Soulbury Church to claim gift aid	Yes/No <i>(delete as necessary)</i>
Signed	
Date	

.....
To the Manager

.....Bank

Address.....

Postcode

Name of account holder(s)	
Your contact number	
Account number	
Sort code	
Branch name	
Please pay the Friends of Soulbury Church a standing order from the account detailed in this instruction :-	
£.....per <i>(Amount in words)</i>
Frequency	Week/Month /Year <i>(delete as necessary)</i>
Start date <i>(dd/mm/yyyy)</i>
Recipients account details	Account no 0136366 Sort code 30-14-71 Lloyds TSB Leighton Buzzard Branch
Signature(s)	
Date	

and regular flow of funds. This can be done through fund raising events in the village and, we hope, through regular planned giving.

Fund raising.

We want to revitalize this charity – bring in new blood and new ideas. Fund raising can be fun. The last big push in the late '90s brought the village together in a special way. So our first call is for volunteers to help us run the charity and raise funds. We will be inviting the whole village to an open meeting in the church soon. Please try and attend so we can tell you more of our restoration and fund raising plans.

Planned giving.

This can make a significant contribution as it enables the charity to set annual budgets and, if you are tax payer, helps us recover tax. We are aiming to establish a system of voluntary "tithes". There are 300 households in Soulbury. We want to raise an average of £25 per annum per household – 50p per week. That would give us a fixed yearly income of £7,500.

That £7,500 is actually worth more than that to us. We can reclaim basic rate tax which will increase this sum to £9,375. For major work a contribution by the village of £9,375 is likely to be matched several times over by grant aid that is available which could increase that sum to around £50,000 - well on the way to cover the costs.

What next.

Please let us know if you are interested in getting more involved with the Friends. To help you can complete the enclosed form which can also be downloaded from the village website (www.soulbury.org) and return it to one of the trustees or leave it at the church.

If you can contribute to our voluntary tithe then please complete the standing order form. We will do the rest. £25 per household per year average is our target but we will be grateful for all donations whatever the size.

Finally we thank you for your patience in reading this far.

Yours sincerely,

John Pargeter, Ian Parrott, James Fairbairn.
Trustees for and on behalf of the **Friends of Soulbury Church**