

SOULBURY NEWSLETTER

No 270

March 1999

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the recent Council meeting the Chairman, Mr Alf Peacock, wished to thank those parishioners who took the trouble to telephone the Clerk when street lights were not functioning properly. This is the quickest way to get the lights repaired, as the Clerk can instruct the maintenance team immediately he has the details. The Clerk's telephone number is (01525) 370094.

The Council heard that Orange P.C.S. Ltd had sent a request to set up a microcell project in Soulbury, for which they needed a mast. It was agreed that this was not an acceptable prospect, especially bearing in mind that much of the village is a conservation area.

Liscombe Park have submitted final plans for the golf course and practice areas, a polo pitch and cricket pitch and car parking areas, amongst other things. The Parish Council have already objected on grounds of increased traffic on the Wing-Soulbury road, but it was hoped that pressure could be exerted on the County Council to include an access for the Club off the proposed Linslade bypass.

Objections had also been raised over the re-routing of footpaths and disturbance to established woodland with its resident flora and fauna, particularly badgers. Mr Nigel Smith, who was present at the meeting, was convinced that new ideas on these subjects would satisfy all the conditions which objectors had presented.

The gate to the children's playground has not been shutting for some time and Mr Cross agreed to fit some safe hinges which would cause it to shut, rather than springs which might trap a child's fingers.

The Friends of Soulbury Church have again submitted an estimate to cut the village green, playground and verges, which is being considered. It was agreed to purchase a new, bigger and sturdier ride-on mower, which should withstand the heavier use and ought to last rather longer than the original machine.

Jane Phillpot, secretary of the Soulbury Millennium Green Trust, gave a report to the Council on the progress so far, and presented them with an up-dated publicity brochure. She thanked the Council whole-heartedly for their support in the past and looked forward to their continued encouragement in the future.

Councillor Mr Luther Brazier had attended a meeting of the Stockgrove Park interested parties, where he learnt that Buckinghamshire County Council were determined to opt out of their responsibilities

towards the maintenance of the Park. The Park has a deficit of £46,000 at present and the car-parking charges have not been successful. The cafe may yet prove to be financially viable, but with Bedfordshire also selling off all their similar parks and sites, a more far-reaching solution is needed. There was some hope that a Trust might be formed to take over the running of the Park, using grants from the Lottery or Landfill Tax. This suggestion was the only positive one put forward and would need a great deal of support. No doubt a lot more discussions will take place before anything is finally settled.

Traffic through the village and calming measures were again discussed. This time the idea of setting a less than 30mph limit was suggested. It was agreed to investigate this possibility further.

The next Parish Council meeting was agreed for Monday, 15th March.

Parkinson's Disease Society

Mr Alf Peacock is again running a bric-a-brac stall on May Day, 3rd May in Leighton Buzzard for the Society and would be grateful for any donations for the stall. Books, videos, tapes and toys, all would be most welcome. Mr Peacock's phone number is 270541.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS

Church Cleaning - Help would be appreciated from 10am to 12noon on Saturdays, 6th March and 3rd April.

Grass Cutting - We earn some cash for the Church General Fund by keeping the village green, the playground and the verges in order. If you are able to help on an occasional basis with mowing or strimming, please register or re-register your willingness with Stan Morris.

A Spring Sale - will take place in the Clubroom on Saturday, 27th March from 2.30pm to 4pm in support of the Church General Fund. There will be a raffle, cake stall, bring and buy, etc. New ideas welcome. Admission will be 50p, including coffee and biscuits. More details available from Stan Morris, who will be pleased to receive offers of help to staff the stalls. Goods for sale can be delivered to 3 Stewkley Road on Friday, 26th March or to the Hall from 2pm to 2.30pm on the Saturday.

Coming Up - A Quiz Night and Supper at Liscombe Park on 7th May. Put the date in your diaries. More details in the April Newsletter.

RESTORATION NEWS

Phase 2 - At the time of writing the South aisle roof has been releaded and redecoration of the interior is in progress. The contractors should be off the site early in March. This leaves one major DIY job to complete the Phase. The work in question relates to the improvement of the perimeter drainage and the creation of new soakaways. Jim Cochrane, 270271, has recruited a number of volunteers and proposes to start this work on Saturday, 6th March. Additional volunteers would be welcome. Please contact Jim if you can help.

Bells - The contractors advise that it could be late summer/early autumn before the bells are back. There is a vast demand for clappers at the present time, hence the delay.

Cheese and Wine Evening - The Friends of Soulbury Church were delighted to receive £100 from this event, which was held by the WI in the Clubroom on 15th January.

Burns Night - Although support was not as good as in previous years, those who did attend enjoyed an excellent evening. Leo Doherty addressed the haggis, Mary Sayeed gave the Immortal Memory, Lorna Stephens played the fiddle, Jim Brown gave the toast to the lassies, Norma Doherty replied and Elspeth Sutton gave some cautionary tales. Chris Bryant carried in the haggis and gave a talk mentioning that Soulbury can boast 18 different groups or organisations within the village. Our 12-year-old virtuoso on the bagpipes, Richard Cebula from Northampton, again provided the traditional music. The evening was organised by the Cricket Club and ably chaired by Brian Mead. The food was prepared by the WI and £107 was raised for the Restoration Fund.

Hollington Safari Supper - This now traditional event was held on 6th February. Thanks to all those who opened up their homes and provided the food. The proceeds this year came to £285, plus a bonus of £50. Ian Parrott can never resist a challenge and had a sponsored very short back and sides. Now he knows what the sheep feel like after Cameron has finished with them! The Friends of Soulbury Church are very grateful to the residents of Hollington and Ian in particular.

Soulbury Safari Supper - This is the next event in the fundraising calendar and is due to take place on Saturday, 17th April. For those who have not been to a Safari Supper before, the idea is that volunteers offer to provide a venue and starters for 6 - 8 people, others make similar offers for main courses. All gather together for sweets and coffee at another venue. If you can volunteer and/or want reservations, please contact Jane Luxton on 270493 or Jackie Ridley on 270619.

Sale of Summer Plants - Once again, James Fairbairn is organising this fundraiser for the Restoration Fund. Details later.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

The Millennium Green tree planting got off to a very good start on Sunday, 21st February. Twenty-six people came along to help, some from the village, some from Leighton, Stewkley and Aylesbury, Let's Buzz members and friends. We planted ash, beech, oak, alder, blackthorn and gorse amongst other things. There will be other tree planting days - Sunday, 28th February from 10am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4.30pm; Saturday, 6th March and Sunday, 14th March at the same times and please bring a spade or trowel. When the trees are all in, it will be time to put down the bark mulching, do the fencing and make footpaths. It's healthy, helpful and good fun, so do come along. We need as many people as possible. The more the merrier.

We must apologise, however, to the owners of the houses on The Green, whose gardens have had newspaper blown over them. When the wind stops blowing, we will collect it up.

Could anyone suggest where we might get 300 sq. ft. of paving slabs? We want to pave an area near the pond to put seats on and are looking for paving. Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

Dave Miller has finished making all the bird and bat boxes for the Green and suitable sites have been identified for each one. Is there anyone with a particular interest in this or an ability for climbing trees, who would like to assist with positioning the boxes? Call 270545, if you would like to help.

On Monday, 3rd May at the May Day Fayre in Leighton, we would like to have a charity stall and sell cakes. We would be very grateful if anyone would bake a cake for us, to help make our stall a success.

Finally, we will not be needing any more newspapers for mulch. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

PARISH VOLUNTEER OF 1999

Following last year's successful awards scheme, when Colin Higgs of Aston Abbots was named the winners, AVDC is now looking for worthy local people to be nominated and considered for this year's awards. It could be someone from this Parish who deserves acknowledgement for their tireless efforts for the local community. Joyce Brooker of Wing was one of those recognised for her community work in 1998. Nominations must be in by 30th April, 1999. Let one of the Parish Councillors know if you would like to suggest anyone or telephone the Clerk on (01525) 370094.

BUS PASSES

New bus passes will be issued at the next Social Circle on Wednesday, 10th March from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. If you have not applied for a bus pass before, please bring your pension book or some form of age certification, e.g. birth certificate.

SCOUT CHALLENGE

On Saturday, 20th March, Scouts from the district will be using local footpaths for a night hike challenge. Teams will be taking part from Stewkley, Winslow, Buckingham and all round North Bucks.

A radio link will be set up in Soulbury where there will be a check point near the Clubroom. Most of the activity will be in the early evening, so local residents will not be inconvenienced.

LANDMINES AWARENESS WEEK - 1st March to 7th March

To celebrate the day the Ottawa Treaty comes into force banning anti-personnel landmines, which is Monday, 1st March, the UK Working Group on Landmines is hoping that church bells will be rung to mark the historic occasion. However, the problem of landmines is still not over, as anti-personnel mines still kill and maim innocent people every hour of every day. For further information, contact David Hillman of the UK Working Group on Landmines on 0171 281 6073.

LONDON MARATHON

Jim Brown from Hollingdon is experiencing the pain and effort of long-distance running for the first time as he trains to compete in the London Marathon on 18th April. On his runs so far he has only completed half the distance of the Marathon, which is 26 miles, so we wish him luck in his endeavours. He is running to raise money for "SPARKS" - Sport aiding medical research for kids and would be pleased to hear from anyone in the village who would sponsor him. Please telephone 270648, if you can help.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Richard Onslow, Architect, who was runner-up in AVDC's Design Awards Scheme. The Restoration of Manor Farm House was his submission.

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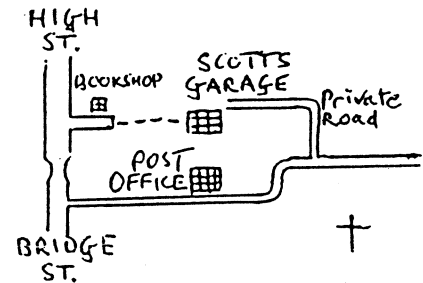
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH SERVICES

Vicar: Rev. Norman Cotton, The Vicarage, Stewkley - Tel: (01525) 240287

Ordained Local Minister: Rev. Peter Lymbery, 17 Hartwell Crescent, Leighton Buzzard - Tel: (01525) 371235

Sunday, March 7th	11.30am Sung Eucharist
14th	08.00am Holy Communion - Prayer Book 10.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service
21st	11.30am Sung Eucharist
28th	10.00am Palm Sunday Sung Eucharist - Preacher John Hammersley
April 4th	11.30am EASTER DAY Sung Eucharist

The Sunday Club will meet in the Chapel at 10am on the 7th and 21st. On the 14th they will be at the Family Service and on the 28th they will be in Church at 10am for the Blessing of the Palms, before going over to the Chapel. NO SUNDAY CLUB ON EASTER DAY. We would like to see more children at the Sunday Club. Bring your children along, stay with them and find out more!

Other Services - On 7th March and 4th April at 7pm there will be short services of Compline (music and reflection) at St Michael's, Stewkley. On 1st April (Maundy Thursday) there is a service at 7.30pm in Stewkley Chapel and the following day, Good Friday, morning service at St Michael's at 11am.

Stainer's Crucifixion will be performed in Drayton Parslow Church at 7.30pm on Good Friday by the Drayton Parslow Singers.

METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev. I. Banks, The Manse, Stewkley - Tel: (01525) 240251

Sunday, March 7th 10am, Mrs Fiona Brown, Family Service
 14th 6pm, Circuit Service, Trinity Church, Leighton Buzzard, Rev. Dr. Sandy Roger
 21st 6pm, Rev. I. Banks, Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 28th 6pm, Mr E Barnett

Mother & Toddler 10.30am - 12noon, every Tuesday
 Sunday Club Refer to Church item above.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - All in the Clubroom unless otherwise stated.

Sat.	Mar. 6th	Church Work Party and Millennium Green Work Party	on site
Tues.	Mar. 9th	WI	8pm
Wed.	Mar. 10th	Social Circle	2.30pm
Sat.	Mar. 13th	WI Meningitis Coffee Morning	10.30am
Sun.	Mar. 14th	Millennium Green Work Party	on site
Mon.	Mar. 15th	Parish Council Meeting	8pm
Wed.	Mar. 17th	W.F at Stockhall Cres, Stewkley Home of Mrs J Kellner	7.45pm
Thurs.	Mar. 4th, 11th 18th, 25th	Bowls Evening	7.30pm
Thurs.	Mar. 11th, 25th	AVDC Waste Paper and Recycling Collections	
Mon.	Mar. 8th, 22nd	Mobile Library - High Road - Stewkley Road	2-2.15pm 2.20-2.35pm
Sat.	Mar.27th	Spring Sale	2.30pm

DIARY DATES

Sat. April 17th Safari Supper
 Mon. May 3rd Leighton May Fayre -
 Charity stalls for Parkinson's Disease and Soulbury
 Millennium Green
 Fri. May 7th Quiz Night and Supper - Liscombe Park

Items for next issue by 21st March to: Mrs Miller, 270545, Mrs Bunyan, 270461, Mrs Norman, 270483 or Mrs Fairbairn, 270674

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