

The Parish News

EDITION

5
Aug 1998

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF SHENLEY BROOK END AND TATTENHOE

Shenley Brook End Emerson Valley Shenley Lodge North and South Furzton Tattenhoe Westcroft

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**WATCHING YOUR
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Here's how it's done

THIS PARISH newsletter, which is modestly supported by local advertisers to help with the printing cost, is delivered to every household in the parish. It is an ever-growing parish and we are printing 7500 of this issue of the newsletter.

In recent months the Parish Council, on behalf parishioners, has taken steps to prevent serious encroachment of its property in the village, has pressed for information and engaged in serious debate over the high cost of landscape maintenance, and has held several meetings with other parish councils and the Milton Keynes police about traveller waste dumping, and also the incidences of criminal damage within our beautiful parks.

Some of these matters of concern are expressed in this newsletter, but there are also many uplifting stories (from our schools), good news items (the city expansion), information (Howe Park Wood and Neighbourhood Watch) and local history (Bletchley Park).

If you have any comment, wish to participate or debate any of the issues raised in the newsletter, you are welcome at our parish meetings, or write to the Clerk at the address on page 5.

The Parish Council of Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe wishes to employ a part-time Clerk/Treasurer.

This post entails preparing papers and organising venues for meetings (3 to 4 per month), conducting the Parish Council's correspondence, keeping its financial records, controlling staff and contractors, obtaining, presenting and advising on necessary information for discussions within the council, and liaising with other local authorities' councillors/staff. Aggregate average income and expenditure of the parish council is in excess of £20,000 per annum.

Candidates are required to disclose in writing if they are related to any councillor or employee of the council and deliberate failure to disclose this will disqualify a candidate as does canvassing.

This position is part time with a minimum expectation of 15/20 hours p.w., and will attract a salary of between £4,000 - £5,000 per annum commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Applications to: Mr D. Mynard, 82 Blackmoor Gate, Furzton, Milton Keynes, MK4 1DB.

ENTER OUR POETRY COMPETITION FOR ADULTS: see page 22

Interesting Times . . .

The city grows, so must the parish council: Following recommendations from the parish council, MKC councillors at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 8 July endorsed the need for Shenley Brook End Parish Council to increase its number of councillors from the present nine to thirteen. Also the Committee heard a proposal that the parish should be warded along the same lines as for MKC councillors. Until now the parish had been unwarded – although councillors, when filling casual vacancies, have always endeavoured to co-opt people from under-represented areas of the parish.

And so it was agreed: The number of councillors for the Furzton Parish Ward will be seven, and for the Emerson Valley Parish Ward there will be six – totalling thirteen councillors. Elections for the Parish Council will be held in May 1999. These changes are to be put before the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, for approval.

Musical Chimes . . .

For several months the Parish Council and the Head Teacher, Mrs Vanessa Ray, and Governors of the new Shenley Brook End School have been engaged in talks which will enable the school to launch a music venture which eventually, it is very much hoped, lead to the formation of a school orchestra.

The Steering Group – including Nigel Mainard, Head of the Milton Keynes Music Service – will shortly determine the 'shape and direction' of this very exciting project. This may include children's music workshops, visits to events, concerts and venues for musical experience, special tuition, and certainly playing together as often as possible – but the intention will always be to involve as many pupils as possible.

Financial support from the Parish Council means that musical instruments can be purchased for the school for this Autumn term when the project gets off the ground. It is not the intention of the Parish Council to finance normal curriculum education at the school, but to encourage pupils who would not otherwise experience music beyond the basic level; this we feel will enhance the school's pride in achievement and develop a musical esprit de corps.

Derek Mynard, Chairman of the Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Your Parish Councillors are:

Derek Mynard	South Furzton	(Chairman of the Parish Council)
Fernley Rose	Shenley Brook End	
David Pickard	Emerson Valley	(Chair Community & Youth Committee)
Michael Tierney	Shenley Brook End	(Allotments Management)
Keith Sherman	North Furzton	
Bernadette Lake	Shenley Brook End	(Chair Planning & Environment Committee)
Maureen Mynard	South Furzton	
Anne Johnson	Shenley Lodge	
David Varley	Emerson Valley	
David White	Clerk/Treasurer	

We meet on the third Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Ridgeway Community Centre, North Furzton

Valuable council role - Minister, at Plymouth Conference

Parish Councils, as a tier of local government closest to the citizen have a valuable role to play, both in representing the views of their local communities and in delivering local services.

This was one of the key messages delivered to delegates at Plymouth by Hilary Armstrong, Minister for Housing and Local Government when she addressed the conference. A former Vice President of the National Association of Local Councils, the minister went on to say she welcomed the Local Government & Rating Act which 'has enabled communities for the first time to petition for a parish in an unparished area'.

"I have been pleased to give effect to three petitions so far," commented the Minister.

Dealing with democratic renewal, the Minister went on to say that she would like parish councils in the forefront attracting councillors from different strands of society to take up office by encouraging local people to take part.

"Democracy is more direct in a parish than in other tiers of local government, as every local elector for such councils has the right to raise any matter affecting parish business - including the conduct of council - at the annual parish or town meeting," she said.

After talking about the audit regulations and codes of conduct based on a national model for parish councillors, the Minister commented on the terms of participation. She said, "We are keen that all councils, especially parish councils with their responsibility for informing their communities and representing them at the most basic level, should engage directly with their communities. They must promote rather than prevent public participation. They must think creatively about the political structures most likely to capture the imagination and enthusiasm of the people. They must open up decision making and allow local people a real say for the governance of their communities".

No Elections Every Year (for the time being) . . .

The Government has said it has no plans to make parish council elections an annual event - although it has not ruled out possible changes in the future. According to a consultation document issued by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, entitled 'Modernising local government', local councils were the only tier of local Government where it was suggested that yearly trips to the polling station would not be successful.

It was one of just several measures proposed in the document, aimed at modernising local government and making councillors more accountable to their constituents. Says the paper: 'Parish council present additional difficulties to those such as district council, London boroughs and county councils'.

'They are a much smaller operation than county or district councils. Many parish council elections are uncontested. One fifth of parishes cover populations of under 200 and are too small to need a parish council. The benefits of annual elections do not seem great even for this tier of authority and the Government is not inclined to disturb current electoral arrangements for parishes'.

However, it did invite views on altering the existing system during the recent concluded consultation period. The National Association of Local Councils was among the bodies consulted on the issue.

Above articles reprinted with the kind permission of the Local Council Review.

New Neighbours for an Old Woodland

The long-standing plans for a range of developments of the Loughton Brook in Tattenhoe are making a significant impression on the local landscape. Houses are already built to the west of Howe Park Wood, some now occupied, and road and drainage connections forging ahead south of the wood. It is perhaps therefore a good time to make a little tour of one of the city's most precious woodlands...



Howe Park Wood: Howe Park Wood is managed by the Milton Keynes Parks Trust. It is a 40-acre relic of the ancient wildwood that developed to cover Britain after the last Ice Age. Ancient woodlands of the quality and size of Howe Park are habitats of such rarity, high nature conservation and historical value that it has been designated by English Nature as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Finding your way: There is a 'hard' path running east to west within the wood, and this connects with the links around the edges. The other woodland paths are surfaced with wood-chip or are simply grass, and they can be difficult or impossible for wheel-chairs or push-chairs. There is no provision for horse-riding in the wood, and cycling must be restricted to the gravel-topped paths.

A wealth of nature: The main trees in the wood are ash, field maple, oak and hornbeam - a very unusual tree for this area. Howe Park's very fine maiden (uncut) specimens of maple and hornbeam are a distinctive feature, as they are usually seen mainly as coppice - cut down every 15 years or so to harvest a crop of poles and to encourage strong regrowth.

More than 200 different plants have been found in the wood. In the spring the wood is particularly beautiful with extensive swathes of bluebells, wood anemones, pendulous sedge, meadowsweet, celandines, enchanter's nightshade and primroses. There are also rare plants within the wood including thin-spiked wood sedge, broad-leaved helleborine, herb paris, adder's tongue fern and greater butterfly orchid. The wood supports more than 300 moth species, including the buff footman, the slender brindle and pinion-streaked snout. Butterflies abound, and 30 different ones have been recorded, most notable the white admiral, the wood

... continued on Page 13

M K Parks Trust Events in Milton Keynes

AUGUST

Sunday 30th - Model Yacht Club Open Day - Furzton Lake - 2 pm to 5 pm.

Park in the lakeside carpark off Lynmouth Crescent, North Furzton. Members of the Two Islands Radio Yacht Club offer you the opportunity to 'have a go' at sailing a yacht yourself.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th - PARKS, RUN & RAMBLE - 9:30 am to 12 noon

Meet at Howe Park Wood car park, off Chaffron Way (H7), opposite Safeway, Westcroft. A choice of a gentle ramble of two to two and a half hours around Tattenhoe with the Parks Ranger or a fun run of 2, 4 or 10 km.

Saturday/Sunday 26th/27th - Model Yacht Racing - Furzton Lake - 10 am to 5 pm.

Park in the lakeside carpark off Lynmouth Crescent, North Furzton. Members of the Two Islands Radio Yacht Club invite you to watch the Karachi Cup race on Saturday and the Pugwash Trophy race on Sunday.

Tuesday 29th - Women's Walking Network - Furzton and Emerson Valley - 10 am to 12 noon.

Meet in Furzton Lake car park, off Chaffron Way (H7). A leisurely morning stroll around Furzton Lake and parts of Emerson Valley.

The Parish Council invited the Waste and Recycling Department of Milton Keynes Council to say a few words to residents in the parish about the work that they do on our behalf.

Dawn Kupczyk was kind enough to respond: My job as the Education Officer for the Waste & Energy Department of the Environment Directorate of Milton Keynes Council, entails much varied and interesting work. It is my role to promote the waste reduction, reuse and recycling messages to the people of Milton Keynes - from 4 year olds to 94 year olds!

Some of my current projects include:

i) Nappy Reduction Initiative: you can't have missed all the recent publicity about the problem we have in Milton Keynes with the use and disposal of paper/plastic nappies; with over ten million every year going into local landfill sites. Our campaign is to encourage parents and parents-to-be to look at the alternatives to disposables - cotton nappies. There has been very positive response so far, with various local and national television, radio and newspaper coverage.

ii) 'Cycler' schools programme: schools are a central part of the education programme, and many schools come to the Recycling Facility at Old Wolverton for a visit. There they can learn about the problem of waste and how rubbish can be reduced, reused and recycled. Some schools have also had a special visit recently from a rapping robot called 'Cycler', who is part of a national programme to promote waste reduction.

iii) Litter education project: a pack has been produced to encourage schools to think about litter and how it can best be avoided. Children from 40 schools are currently picking up litter in the city as part of this project, as well as designing anti-litter posters, which will be put up around the city

in September.

iv) Home composting initiative: so far over 5,500 people in the Borough have purchased compost bins in which to reuse their scrap kitchen and garden waste. As well as individual householders, schools have also purchased composting bins for use in their school grounds. A special education pack has also been prepared recently called "The Compost Corner Pack" to help schools introduce a composting scheme.

Dawn Kupczyk

DOOR-TO-DOOR RECYCLING

Milton Keynes has one of the most successful door-to-door recycling schemes in the country, which would not be possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of residents. Signing up for the red and blue box scheme is an easy way to start recycling your household waste.

Look below for a list of refuse which can go into the boxes:

THE RED BOX: Newspapers and magazines; office paper and computer bags; cards and cardboard packaging; telephone directories and catalogues; textiles: including clean clothing, shoes, handbags, etc.; sheets; duvet covers; towels, etc.

THE BLUE BOX: Food and drink cans; glass bottles and jars; household plastic bottles; rigid Polystyrene: e.g. yoghurt pots, coleslaw and cottage cheese pots; food trays: e.g. for mushrooms; drinks cartons; aluminium foil (larger than 4 x 4 cm).

Please do not put the following items in your boxes: Bottles over 5 litres; milk-bottle tops; bottles which have contained pesticides or engine oil; aerosols or paint cans; drinking glasses; Pyrex dishes; sheet glass or light bulbs; large cardboard boxes; margarine and butter tubs; expanded Polystyrene (the squishy stuff); duvets, pillows and cushions.

This newsletter is published by the Parish Council of Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe. Editor Mr D. G. Mynard.

Contact: Clerk to the Parish Council: Mr D. White, Rose Cottage, Whaddon Road, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes MK5 7AF. Tel: 01908 501310

Circulation 7000

B. R. PATEL & Partners

SURGERIES

**4 Bedford Street, BLETCHLEY &
67 Dulverton Drive, FURZTON
MILTON KEYNES**

SURGERY HOURS

North Furzton Surgery

Tel No: 501717

Monday to Friday

Receptionist on Duty

8.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 6pm

APPOINTMENTS

9am to 11pm & 4pm to 6pm

**In an emergency, patients can be
seen at Bedford Street Surgery,
and there is always a
doctor on call.**

CLINICS AT NORTH FURZTON

**Please check with reception for
up to date times.**

Ante Natal Clinic

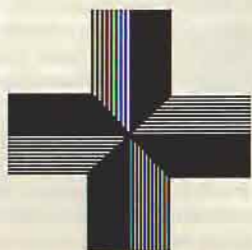
**Alternate Wednesday afternoons
and Friday mornings.**

Child Development Clinic

**2nd and 4th Thursday
Monthly, mornings.**

Also:

**Immunisation, Smear Testing,
Well Person Checks,
Family Planning Services and
Health Promotion Clinics**



jardines

For all your Pharmacy Needs

**Not only do we dispense your
prescriptions - we also offer
friendly help and advice on all
your minor ailments.**

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Printing**

Baby Products

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SO ASK YOUR PHARMACIST

Open 9.00am to 6.00pm

Monday to Friday

9.00am to 1.00pm

Saturday

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**65 Dulverton Drive, North Furzton
Milton Keynes MK4 1EW
Tel: 01908 505659**

Jack and the Beanstalk

The Shenley Brook End Village Hall was recently the venue for one of the city's most hilarious shows: 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. It was performed by the SBE Players in a completely sold-out two-night show last February – only the West End could have done it better. But even they couldn't have matched the local 'Spice Girls' performance live on the stage – see that picture!

The show was written, directed and produced by Rob Baldock. It was Rob's very first pantomime and it proved an absolute success. Everybody who performed thoroughly enjoyed themselves even,



● *Spice is nice . . . the SBE Spice girls – live!*

sightings of a Zombie-like creature wandering around the village at night. Mr Rose firmly denies that it is he, though hints that because his act was so terribly convincing there may be imitators out there.

A giant thank you to Bernard Groom who did all the stage and settings; and painted the scenery. Without his efforts we could not mount these productions every year so successfully.

This is our fifth pantomime and we welcome any newcomers to the village who wish to take part. If you do, please contact the Village Hall on: 504297.

We start rehearsals in December for the February 1999 panto.



● *Fee, Fi, fo, fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman*

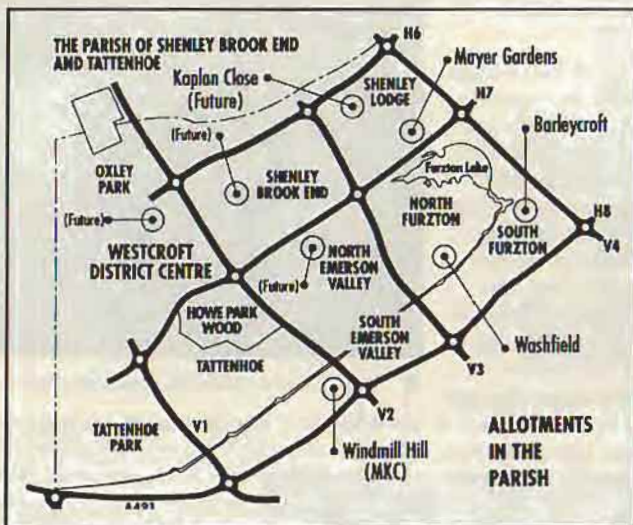
reports suggest, more so than the audience – knowing perhaps how superbly they improved on the script as the show progressed! It was the audience, particularly those sitting in the 'circle', who however, screamed with delight and craved for more as calls for encore after encore echoed around the village hall.

The Giant was played by our very own parish councillor Fernley Rose who dressed up in a 'Zombie' costume to make himself look larger than ever.

Since the panto there have been



● *Jack (Kath Keilor) climbs the beanstalk.*



Call Gabriella Smith on 252434 at the Civic Offices for information on plots, locations and prices.



The Parish Council wished to extend its grateful thanks to Peter and Francis Bohan, who live in Shenley Brook End, for attending to the village pond, making it so presentable and pleasant during the spring and summer months of this year.



Vegetable Gardening

Wednesday 22nd July, 6 pm - Special Treat of the Year...

My very first meal of runner beans from the garden, with new potatoes and boiled gammon, followed with home-made rice pudding complete with sultanas, nutmeg and, aah, a real skin - guess who got to scrape the dish.

I started the beans in the cold glass-house in mid-April, covering it with an old bed-sheet when there was a risk of frost; then planting out in the first week in June making sure the canes were secure (once plants have been blown over they make little or no recovery). Place slug bait under upturned nine-inch lengths of guttering around the edge of the plot, keep an eye out for black fly, give 'em plenty of water (not the black fly) and all should be well. The whole plot should be looking great by now; keep the hoe moving when the soil is dry and hand weed when it is wet.

While we are enjoying the efforts of this year, keep next season in mind: Plant out spring greens in September. Where potatoes have been lifted leave the soil rough for drainage and protection. Prepare next year's onion bed as soon as possible incorporating all the manure and compost that you can lay your hands on. Spring onions can be sown in early Autumn, short day lettuce should be sown under glass mid-October for cutting at Easter and broad beans can go in during November.

The advocates of healthy living say we eat too much red meat. I have come to the conclusion some people are enjoying green meat and two veg judging by the number of decimated brassica crops I have seen. The answer is genetics - or a good spraying programme.

The Parish Gardener

Breaking News... from your Parish Reporter - MILTON KEYNES - August

Last week a cavalcade of VIP Limousines swept through the city's fine landscaped boulevards heading for Fountains Brook in the West Flank of Milton Keynes, where an unusual event, possibly the strangest in the City's history, was taking place.

Experts from UK, America, Italy and Japan had come to this still-secret location to observe the dramatic inch-by-inch emergence from the blue-brown Bucks clay of the mediaeval church of St. Agnes. Mr Charles Marks, vice-chairman of the Archaeological Cadastre-Ectopia Society, the organisation investigating the phenomena, said: "This occurrence is very important, in fact it's only happened once before this century, and that was in far-off Leighton Buzzard. It's a unique opportunity to study, and we hope preserve, a mediaeval church complete with all its glorious trappings. Our seismic scans show St. Agnes to be largely intact, but the question is whether it will surface in one glorious piece or break up. We can't say just yet but we are optimistic."

St. Agnes' disappearance 65 years ago is well documented: On the night of 23rd October, 1933, the church sank without warning. One old man, 98 year-old Theodore Buttermann, the organ pumper on duty that Sunday, told me: "It was terrible. We had the beautiful Abbotsford sixty-pipe Grand at full pressure that evensong, the choir was singing a Milton revivalist hymn when all of a sudden the doors burst open and an avalanche of soil, turf and the like spewed in. We escaped by scrambling over the earth while it was pouring through the doors, a real struggle it was; and twenty minutes later it was all gone. All we could do was look on helplessly - and listen to the organ pipes asplutterin' and gurglin' as they were swallowed up. The vicar was really upset I can tell you."

The cause of the church's disappearance was established a few years later when Professor Calms - who lodged in Shenley Brook End village during World War 2, and who was an expert in soil mechanics - researched the event in his spare time. He had the theory that the sinking was due to puddle waddling. This was a cheap method of producing building material in the twenties and thirties: A stretch of water, usually less than nine

inches deep, would be stomped by a hundred or so villagers to produce an adhesive clay for house building and repairs.

The professor noted that a meteorological report for that October gave a rainfall of over 250 inches. He reasoned that the villagers had taken full advantage of the large puddles in the area and had overstomped their official quota, thereby starting violent vibrations between St. Agnes' stone foundations and the pseudonic blue-clay upon which the church rested, with disastrous results.

That St. Agnes is now the focus of international interest is largely due to nineteen year-old Jack J. Speeder. He'd found the 'active' church through the medium of his acoustic detector. JJ, a well known local researcher into terracoustics, explains: "Early in January I was sweeping the banks of Fountains Brook on the 3cm waveband when I heard the sound of bells ringing, sounded like church bells to me, and that was rather odd to say the least. After ten weeks I had pin-pointed the precise spot and set up my equipment for recording." He goes on to say that each day the ringing became louder until on the 28 June the spire of a church broke the surface. "I really wasn't expecting that," said JJ, "so I notified the police."

Charles Marks said. "We believe the resurrection of St. Agnes was triggered by the 1997 earthquake in Australia, the shock waves passing through the core of the earth. We have measured the rate of rise at one millimetre an hour, although this may increase after the crenellations break surface - then we predict a rate of two mill per hour. Therefore we calculate the church to be fully in view by December 1999."

Meanwhile, for the experts and the general public, a small listening chamber has been constructed four metres below the surface from where the bells can clearly be heard ringing as the bell tower moves upward. Groups and parties will not be admitted as the chamber is very small; but individual requests for a 'hearing' will receive every consideration.

Parish Reporter

WOUGHTON CENTRE
Chaffron Way, Leadenhall, Milton Keynes

SUMMER SPECTACULAR

CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST 1998

11 am — 4 pm

**Children's Entertainment · All Day Bar
Talent Show · Refreshments available
Go Kart**

Admission FREE

Stalls available for hire

Stalls will be £15.00 for the first table and an
extra £5.00 for any further tables.

For an application Form or if you require any further information,
contact Woughton Centre.

DO YOU HAVE STARS IN YOUR EYES?

RIISING STARS WANTED

for Lookalike/Soundalike Talent Show

(16 years + only)

SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST 1998

11 am — 4 pm

PRIZE £50

For an audition, please contact Woughton Centre

01908-660392

War is an act of violence intended to compel our enemy to do our will *Clausewitz: vom Kriege*

The First World War had scotched the expansionist tendencies of the Imperial German Government, but under the Third Reich the policy of expansion began again under the excuse of *Lebensraum*, or 'living room': this led to the treatment of the people of Eastern Europe as *untermenschen* or 'sub-humans' and their subjection to the frightful policies of forced labour and extermination at the hands of the *Wehrmacht* (the German army), the *Gestapo* (the secret state police) and *Organisation Todt* (the labour organisation).

Bletchley Park had decyphered many messages which indicated the German intention to invade the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941. Mr Churchill sent for the Soviet Ambassador and described to him how such and such German units were noted in Polish towns 'going in the direction of your border'. Indeed, Mr Churchill gave a complete account of the German Order of Battle against the Soviets: the Ambassador was shaken and passed the information to Moscow where nothing was done. This unhappily seems to have been the reaction to information passed to the Soviet Government: Russian historians now tell us that the information arrived too late. Having spent a little time in Moscow, I can well believe that there were delays, but that they may not have been on our part.

Two things helped. First, it seems that we set up a spy ring in Switzerland and supplied the Soviets with information which they thought came directly from Germany. So it did, but by the way of Bletchley Park! We had broken the Swiss codes and knew that they had no problems with us but every fear of a German invasion. Once, it is said, the British Consul in Geneva had the Swiss police arrest his own spy gang and keep them safely in a Swiss prison for a few days because he knew the *Gestapo* were on their way to their apartment with hand guns.

The other help to the Soviets was a certain amount of private enterprise by British civil servants. John Cairncross, who worked at the Park, took documents relating to German attacks on the Eastern Front which he found on the floor and passed them to the Soviet Embassy: he provided enough information to deal with the *Luftwaffe* before the Battle of Kursk in 1943. This was the greatest tank battle in history, with 3000 tanks moving at one time. The absence of 600 planes of the *Luftwaffe*, destroyed before the battle, gave the Soviets an advantage. Bletchley Park had also broken the Japanese diplomatic codes, so we advised the Russians that the Japanese were not planning an attack on their rear. The Soviets, commanded by Generals Zhukov and Vassilievsky, were able to move the Fifth Army from Siberia to Kursk just in time to destroy the German tanks breaking through their defences. It was one of the more dramatic rescues of military history, and one much neglected in the West. The destruction of the German armoured divisions led a step by inevitable step to defeat Hitler's suicide in the Chancellery.

One has to remember that although the means were irregular, Cairncross' action were aimed to help our allies and thus to the greater good. He did not continue to pass information after the War was over: hence his role as the Fifth Man was kept quiet in his lifetime. It has even been suggested that his superiors were aware and deliberately took no action at this time.

On the southern side of Europe the Germans had been led into trouble by their Fascist allies in Italy. The dictator Mussolini had entered the war against the British in June 1940 and invaded Egypt from Libya. He soon found himself in trouble, for many of the Italians did not want to fight the British and surrendered in large numbers. There are some very strange stories about Italians taking service with the British forces.

Mussolini appealed for help and Hitler gave it. This went against two of the cardinal maxims of Clausewitz: Never reinforce failure and Never advance beyond the command of your communications. The Italians had failed and the Germans reinforced them. More, they accepted Mussolini's assurance that he could supply them across the narrow sea between Italy and Libya.

Bletchley Park had broken the Italian merchant navy codes and received messages saying some such as SS *Proserpina* departing Taranto, expected time of arrival Benghazi 0800 tomorrow, cargo of ammunition

Continued on Page 23 ...

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHURCH? WE ARE YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES

The Church of the Servant King - Dulverton Drive, North Furzton
Serving Furzton (North and South), Emerson Valley (North and South) and Tattenhoe.

Sunday Service at 10.30am

An informal style of service for all ages with a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers. Creche facilities are available and there is a Junior Church for children during school term-time. The service includes Holy Communion twice each month (usually on the 2nd and last Sundays) and there is the opportunity to meet others over coffee after each service.

For more information call MK 502871.



St. Mary's Church - Shenley Road, Shenley Church End
Serving Shenley Lodge and Shenley Brook End.

Sunday Services

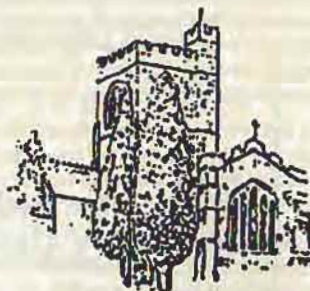
9.30am - Holy Communion

This service is fairly formal and lasts about an hour. There are hymns and a sermon and coffee is served afterwards.

11.00am - Family Service

This service is informal and lasts about 50 minutes. During the service there is a 'Sunday Club' for children of infant and junior school age, and also a creche for children under school age.

For more information call MK 505812.



We are part of the Watling Valley Ecumenical Parish, a local partnership between the Church of England, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union and the Methodist Church.

'Brought Together to Serve Jesus'.

... continued from page 4

white, the purple hairstreak and the extremely rare black hairstreak.

Over thirty species of bird are recorded as breeding in Howe Park, the most common are wrens, pigeons, blue tits, blackcap, dunnoek and chiffchaff. There are also breeding willow tits, willow warblers, green and greater spotted woodpeckers, sparrowhawks and tawny owls.

Mammals which use the wood include badgers, foxes, bats, rabbits, hares, muntjac deer, moles, bank voles, woodmice, stoats and weasels.

A team effort: The Trust are lucky to have a nationally important wood in its care, and to have the chance to care for it for everyone to enjoy, whilst safeguarding the wood and its wildlife. As the development increases and more people visit, Howe Park will be subject to lots of different pressures. We will need your help as local residents to assist us in caring for the wood. We need everyone's help in encouraging proper respect for its fragility and beauty. The sort of things that can easily damage such a sensitive woodland and its wildlife are fires, the collecting or trampling of the plants, vandalism, litter, the spreading of garden plants into the wood and the disturbance to the birds and other wildlife that live there.

So here are some basic guide-lines for getting the most out of this splendid woodland:

Only use the proper entrances to enter the wood and stay on the paths.

If you like your dog to accompany you, please keep it on the lead throughout your visit and clean up any dog mess.

Do not pick flowers and please leave no litter.

Become a volunteer for the wood, and help the park ranger.

If you would like more information about the wood, or are interested in helping the Area Park Ranger to look after the wood, please contact Colin Savage on (01908) 201545.

You don't need to be a child to want to play!

Milton Keynes Play Association is a local charity that supports playschemes and after school clubs.

They are looking for local people who are interested in starting up playschemes and fun sessions for children age 5 - 14 years. Thanks to the Community Trust there is money available for small start up grants. The Play Association can offer free training, equipment, information, ideas and support.

Anyone is welcome to contact us from any walk of life. The only criteria is that they must be over 18 and willing to undergo suitability procedures. Local people wishing to start up a scheme in their area should contact Sarah Long at Kiln Farm.



Milton Keynes Play
Association
2 Burners Lane
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
MK11 3HB
Tel: (01908) 263033
Fax: (01908) 261588

Calling all musicians . . .

Could you share your love of music with a group of pupils?

We are looking for an expert musician with a lot of enthusiasm to volunteer some time to help us establish - from scratch - a school orchestra.

We can arrange:

- a supply of new, high quality musical instruments
- pupils who want to play in an orchestra
- expert tuition for specific instruments

What we need is someone to bring all this together and make it happen!

If you can help, please contact Mrs Vanessa Ray, Headteacher, Shenley Brook End School, Wallbank Grove, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes, MK5 7ZT or telephone: (01908) 520264.



**EMERSON VALLEY
COMBINED SCHOOL**

Maths Week . . .

This last term we held a very successful Maths Week at Emerson Valley School. We dedicated a whole week of the curriculum to mathematics. During this week the children were able to work with several Maths Specialists, including visitors from local Higher Education, Secondary Schools and Primary Schools. As part of the week we held a workshops evening for parents; this was an opportunity for our parents to meet the Milton Keynes Maths Advisor and to have a go themselves at some typical mathematical activities which their children experience at school. The evening was very well supported and the feed-back from parents extremely positive. We look forward to future Maths Weeks.

CAROLINE HASLETT SCHOOL**Support for Children in Albania . . .**

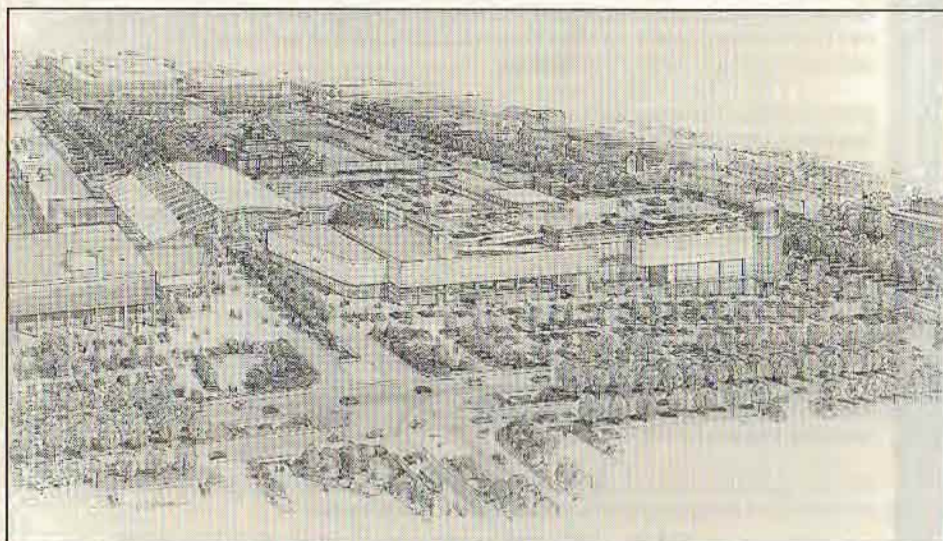
Earlier this year the children of Caroline Haslett School raised £3000 to help a village in south-west Albania. The children had heard how each morning and afternoon children in the village had to make a round trip of nearly three miles to fetch water because their own water supply had been damaged. The children thought it would be a good idea to help the village pay for a new water well to be drilled - and an oil company said that they would do the work for £2000.

The children ran a sponsored 'work-in' and, through the generosity of family and friends, soon exceeded the £2000 target. With the extra money the people of the village were able to buy a serviceable Land Rover which now provides a vital link from the village to important services such as hospitals.

Staff from the school have visited the village, and children at Caroline Haslett will play host to a 12-year old boy, Marcel, and his teacher when they come to stay in Milton Keynes next term. Mr Agim Fagu, the Albanian Ambassador to London, praised the children for their efforts when he visited them earlier this year. He spent the morning with children in the school and gave two interviews to Anglia News and Look East, both of which were broadcast later that day.

The village the children have helped in Albania is called Seman I Ri and the children have seen lots of photographs and a video taken by staff who visited earlier in the year. Two of the staff are maintaining a direct contact with the Village and we expect that Marcel's visit will enable us to continue a productive relationship with the village people.

Congratulations to everyone concerned for such a wonderful project.



£160 MILLION SHOPPING CENTRE EXPANSION - MIDSUMMER PLACE

In addition to a number of major projects already under construction, planning approval has been secured for the £160 million expansion of the shopping centre. According to Government Agency CNT (Commission for the New Towns) which has sold the land for the expansion, this will be the largest development scheme in the city for nearly 20 years.

Midsummer Place is being developed by London & Amsterdam Properties Ltd., and will provide around 430,000 sq. ft. of retail space including six large stores and 40 shops on an 8.4 acre site immediately adjoining the existing shopping centre. It has attracted leading fashion retailer Debenhams which will open a flagship store here, its first in Milton Keynes; the 130,000 sq. ft. store, will trade on three levels. Discussions are underway with other top quality tenants including major store groups and high street retailers.

The development is bounded by Saxon Gate to the west, Avebury Boulevard to the south and Lower Ninth Street to the east which is the hub for Milton Keynes' 70 local bus services.

Work is due to start in September 1998 with a completion date of Christmas 2000.

£14 MILLION 4 STAR HOTEL COMPLEX

Stakis plc has confirmed that it is investing £14 million to build a four star hotel and leisure complex in CMK. The site, which was purchased from CNT, is in Campbell Park, a prime landscaped development area earmarked for long-term city centre expansion.

Parish Councils' bigger say on phones . . .

PARISH and community councils are to be given new powers over the removal or resiting of existing BT-operated public payphones, following new arrangements by telecom watchdog OFTEL. The move comes in an effort to provide local authorities with more of a say in the provision of services for their communities.

Both the Office of Telecommunications (OFTEL) and BT, the most significant provider of payphones, have agreed that alternative rules, allowing greater flexibility and more local involvement, were needed - with the changes introduced widely supported by extensive public consultation. According to the new conditions, BT will now not be able to 'remove or resite a public payphone unless the relevant local authority and where they exist, the parish or community council, agrees in writing.'

In addition, there are new arrangements for the request of new call boxes - a move likely to win support in rural locations where currently no public pay 'phone facilities are available.

Previously, BT has installed new 'phones where they were expected to be commercially justified, however a change in this policy has now been agreed so that BT will install up to 500 uneconomic payphones in the next five years - subject to a design criteria currently under discussion between OFTEL and BT.

The new regulations, which only concern BT payphones which are accessible 24-hours a day and are normally in the open air, came into force at the end of October.

Above article reprinted with the kind permission of the Local Council Review.

Woodhill Visitors Centre Support Group

HAVING a close relative or friend in prison is something we all hope never to experience. But for many it is a reality that brings much pain and practical difficulty. The Visitors Centre at HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, seeks to inform visitors, and offer support where it is requested. Centre staff and volunteers do not condone the offences which have led to someone's custody in prison, but we do recognise how families can often become victims themselves, and how children in particular can have their worlds turned upside down.

The Visitors Centre Support Group is a registered charity which is funded partly by the prison itself, together with donations from charitable organisations. There has been much research into the implications for families as a result of imprisonment, and in the Centre we see too often the isolation and abuse experienced by families, as well as the personal and practical insecurity that follows - particularly where the offence has brought wide media coverage.

We welcome talking with anyone who might be interested in volunteering to help with the range of services we offer to the visiting public; whether assisting in the visits reception process, helping in our child's care facility, serving refreshments in the Centre's tea bar or linking with distressed friends or relatives who use our telephone help-line - all of these areas of work provide an interesting and sometimes challenging involvement.

There is always a member of the staff and volunteer team working alongside you until you feel confident enough to handle tasks on your own, and there is a regular programme of training and guidance provided also. If any of this interests you, please contact me at the number shown and I will be happy to meet with you and to discuss the Centre's work.

Cheryl Marshall - Visitors Centre Manager - Tel: 01908 501999 Ext: 291/503

Shenley Leisure Centre

Facilities Include:

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Gymnasium

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Aerobics Classes

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Function Room

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Special Events

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NO MEMBERSHIP OR ENTRANCE FEE

Supported by



Further Information from:

Shenley Leisure Centre

Burchard Crescent

Shenley Church End

Milton Keynes

Tel: 01908 502488



Who's who on the www.internet this month?

"You there, Four-by-Four?"

"Here Travellin' Man, what you got for me?"

"Big news. A flash garden city with tree-lined boulevards, beautiful lakes, lots of grassy parks. We ain't seen nothing like it, and it's all free: 'van parking, electric, water, garbage collection."

"Gerraway, I don't believe you. Open house?"

"You got my pics downloaded yet?"

"Half a mo . . . okay, go on . . ."

www.mk.travellin man/four-by-four. Pic 3



"What's them cylinders for in Pic 5?"

"Barbecue man. Gas-fired barbecue. Ha, on the house you might say, found 'em lying around."

"We got the lager out, had a sing-song, now the old lady says she want to stay until November. Better get your missus up here sharp, if she gets to know she's losing out . . . it's on your head!"

www.mk.travellin man/four-by-four. Pic 5



www.mk.travellin man/four-by-four. Pic 6



www.mk.travellin man/four-by-four. Pic 1

"First pic shows where we're at."

"I like the name: Tattenhoe."

"And in Pic 2 – as I said, free electric power for the taking."

"Wow! You're kidding me?"

"No! It's all laid on."

"What's that in Pic 3 then?"

"A wooden bridge. Firewood."

"What for? It's summer time."

"Camp fire man, like old times; had a real blaze, look at Pic 4?"

Pic 2



www.mk.travellin man/four-by-four. Pic 4



"Pic 6 Looks a bit messy to me, man?"

"Like pigs in the trough eh? The little perishers love it. Don't worry, they've got a great garbage service here, and that's free too. Dump it – they clean up in days. Nowhere else is there a better organisation . . . and the locals pick up the tab!"

"Blimey. And Pic 7, what's that?"

"Blanket on the ground, night under the stars!"

"See you at the weekend, Travellin' Man."

www.mk.travellin man/four-by-four. Pic 7



Barringtons

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Milton Keynes

Telephone: MK505607

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Treatment

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FOR EMERGENCIES**

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with

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Woughton Leisure Centre
Rainbow Drive, Leadenhall
Mondays at 7.30pm

Loughton Memorial Hall
Bradwell Road, Loughton
Tuesdays at 5.45pm & 7.30pm

Telephone Ann on MK 505943

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CHILDREN'S PARTIES

Includes Project & Food

£5 per Guest

Venue • CraftWorld's Craft Room

Different and Fun!!

*RSVP CraftWorld Units D&E, Westcroft Retail Park,
Barnsdale Drive, Westcroft District Centre, Milton Keynes
Tel: 01908 520000*

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IT'S DIFFERENT

For an hour, the kids make a project together.

You chose from a varied selection.

IT'S UNFORGETTABLE

The staff make it extra special and will also sing "Happy Birthday"
to your child!

Plus if you opt for Menu B, and there are 10+ kids - we will provide
a Birthday cake FREE!!

Mums and Dads please note, if you want to bring in extra catering of
your own, we don't mind. It is your child's Birthday, so please add
your own personal touches. Ghetto Blasters with
Spice Girls are actually welcomed!!

SO BOOK NOW!



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hobbies, arts & crafts

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY

SUNDAY & BANK HOLIDAY

TUESDAY

12 noon - 2.00pm & 5.00pm - 11.30pm

12 noon - 2.00pm & 5.00pm - 12.00pm

5.00pm - 11.30pm

Closed





Bletchley St. John Ambulance Division
is based at Blackmoor Gate, Furzton (next to the local shops).

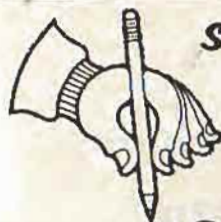
We are made up entirely from volunteers and provide full emergency cover for local events from school fetes to concerts at the National Bowl.

We are looking to recruit volunteers who would like to learn first aid skills and make a contribution to their community.

Interested?

We meet every Monday evening from 7:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Come along and meet us, or telephone 01908 502111 for more information.



***SHENLEY BOOK END PARISH COUNCIL
and DILLONS BOOKSTORE INVITE
ADULTS FROM THE PARISH TO
TAKE PART IN OUR GRAND...***

POETRY COMPETITION

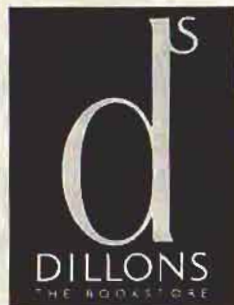
**PRIZES TO BE WON! 1ST: £20; 2ND: £15; 3RD £10
IN BOOK VOUCHERS**

Entry details...

***Send entries to David Pickard: 5 Leigh Hill,
Emerson Valley, Milton Keynes MK4 2BJ.***

Poems should be no more than 40 lines.

Closing date 30th September 1998.



... continued from Page 11

or petrol or food as the case might be. WE had submarines in Malta - that is why the Germans bombed the place so ferociously - and these would set out to deal with the Italian ships. As the Germans kept Malta short of torpedoes, we sank only ships carrying ammunition or petrol and the result was that half of what was sent to Rommel was sunk on the way.

In the event, when it came to the battle of El Alamein in October 1942, after some days of hammering with artillery, Rommel ran out of ammunition and had to withdraw. The faster he withdrew, the more men he left behind as they had not enough petrol. The Germans were losing men as prisoners at a thousand a day in that retreat, and no army can sustain losses like that for very long. In the end, Rommel got out, being sick, and General von Arnim and a quarter of a million men had to stand and surrender in Tunis because they had nothing to do and nowhere to go. It was a famous victory; in the popular mind the credit is entirely given to General Montgomery, but you might like to revise your views and wonder whether Bletchley Park might have had just a little to do with it.

Peter Jarvis ©
(to be continued)

Bletchley Park Events

YOU'VE READ THE STORY - NOW EXPERIENCE THE GLORY...

Bletchley Park is open to the public on alternate weekends, and you can enjoy a guided tour of the site, taking in all the important experiences, including the re-built Colossus, the world's first computer. Gates open at 10.30 a.m., with last admissions at 3.30 p.m. The site closes at 5 p.m. Catering and bar facilities are available. The entrance is at the end of Wilton Avenue, off Church Green Road, Bletchley. Admission is £3.50 for adults, with concessions at £2.50. Children under eight come in free.

Maybe you would like to become a Bletchley Park volunteer? All sorts of help is needed, ranging from collecting money at the gate to helping with the catering. If you would like to help, call Margaret Sale on 640404 for an application form. Many people from all over the world have become "Friends of Bletchley Park", and receive a regular Newsletter about Trust activity. Annual subs are Single Adult £7, Single Concessions £5, and Family Membership £13. Again, please call Margaret Sale for a form.

Events for 1998...	Aug 22/23	Open Weekend - Sunday Families Day
	Sept 5/6	Open Weekend -
	Sept 13th	Closed Event - Radio Club
	Sept 19/20	Open Weekend
	Oct 3/4	Open Weekend
	Oct 8th	First of the Fourth Series of BP Lectures *
	Oct 17/18	Open Weekend
	Oct 31/Nov 1	Open Weekend
	Nov 12th	Second of the Fourth Series of BP Lectures *
	Nov 14/15	Open Weekend
	Nov 29/29	Open Weekend - Christmas Sale, etc.
	Dec 10th	Third of the Fourth Series of BP Lectures *
	Dec 12/13	Open Weekend

* Subjects planned for these lectures include: The Testery; Polish contribution; Black propaganda, and one lecture will have a Japanese flavour. (At this time the dates for specific lectures have yet to be confirmed. Call Bletchley Park for details.) The Park is open during the week by appointment for groups of 20 or more, it is also possible to hire various rooms in the Mansion for functions.



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- Free convenient parking.
- Complimentary refreshments.
- Full bridal service always available.
- Late night opening for your convenience.

JUST INTRODUCED OUR "YOUNG STYLIST'S CLUB", CALL IN OR PHONE FOR DETAILS.

11 Blackmore Gate, Furzton, Milton Keynes. Tel: 01908 502629

Clynol
SALON EXCLUSIVE

HOW many of us have watched people behaving suspiciously and have done nothing about it? Keeping an eye on what is happening around our communities is probably the only way to maintain the environment in which we live. To aid this, the Neighbourhood Watch Organisation was started. This is now active in many countries and has offshoots such as Business Watch, Country Watch, Horse Watch, Pub and School Watch.

Neighbourhood Watches are successful in reducing crime in all the areas where they are active.

In conjunction with the Police, all Watches are run by volunteers. The local Police Station will have Co-ordinators tasked with organising Watches in the area. Currently, WPCs Caroline McLaughlin and Karen Marsh hold this post.

The voluntary organisation that runs the Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has a committee and produces a newsletter several times a year. The MK area is divided into sectors. The West Sector is the fastest growing and covers Two Mile Ash, Great Holm, The Shenleys, Furzton, Emerson Valley and Tattenhoe.

Our sector has some unique problems. We are living in an area that is on a long established 'travellers' route and they make encampments where they can make money. Secondly, due to the large amount of buildings and thefts from sites, the crime figures are somewhat distorted as this type of crime is tabulated with domestic burglary and other theft. Therefore the actual domestic crime figures for this sector are relatively low.

As the West Sector increases in size, more volunteer Street Co-ordinators are needed. This responsible job is quite easy to perform: It will be necessary to hold meetings with your neighbours and a representative of N.W. to watch a video and discuss how to run your scheme. Street signs can be issued and each house in the scheme will be given N.W. stickers and advisory information. It is advisable that the Street Co-ordinator have a note of everyone's telephone number and

their keyholder's telephone number, so they can be contacted in case of problems.

As a member of a Neighbourhood Watch you can benefit from cheaper house insurance. When at home, members are tasked to keep an eye out for any unusual activity and report it as necessary. Ask yourself, "Who is that person acting suspiciously around my neighbours house?" Well, better safe than sorry - call the Police and stop the crime. This actually builds communities, and communities improve their estates.

Other examples of Neighbourhood Watch activity are the reporting of cars left abandoned in the street. Vehicles are one of the worst forms of litter and once they have been reported, the Police will act. Report all overgrown hedges, graffiti and street lights not working to the Council. These things can be dealt with very quickly to reduce the number of potential problems in your locality. A clean and tidy estate is not appealing to the unwanted elements in our society.

Interested? Can you help? Neighbourhood Watch needs you! Please feel free to contact WPCs Caroline McLaughlin and Karen Marsh at the Neighbourhood Office on 01908 686169. Details can be found on the Internet at www.nwatch.org.uk/ or www.neighbourhoodwatch.co.uk/ The latter having a page for Milton Keynes.

If you have anything to report or require assistance, please telephone the Police or the Council on the numbers given below. The voluntary organisation (Milton Keynes Association of Neighbourhood Watch), would be pleased to accept donations. Contact the Watch Office for more details.

Emergency: 999; Police Main Office: 686000; Watch Office: 686169; West Sector Office: 686490; Crime Stoppers: 0800 555111; Milton Keynes Council: 691691.

Bob Stroud - Area Co-ordinator, Emerson Valley South.

(Bob is also the Chair of the Emerson Valley North Residents Association)

THE RIVER VALLEY CENTRE - Whitehorse Drive, Emerson Valley

Telephone for bookings: Call Lyn on 01908 376528

REGULAR USERS OF THE CENTRE: Weightwatchers, Playgroup, Parent and Toddler, Guides, Brownies, Childrens Dance Classes

THE RIDGEWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE - Dulverton Drive, North Furzton

Telephone for bookings: Call Mrs Luxon on 01908 503974

REGULAR USERS OF THE CENTRE: Tots 'n' Toys, Over 50's, Dulverton Playgroup, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts, Folk Dancing, Square Dancing, Rosemary Conley Fitness & Diet, Mind (counselling), Church Drop-in every Tuesday 10:30 - Noon, with creche.

THE SHENLEY LODGE CENTRE - Faraday Drive, Shenley Lodge

Telephone for bookings: Call Mrs J Joyce on 01908 674998

REGULAR USERS OF THE CENTRE: Playgroup, Shenley Christian Fellowship, Youth Group, Elan Vital, Bosom Pals, Childrens Spotlight Theatre Group

THE SOUTH FURZTON COMMUNITY CENTRE - Blackmoor Gate, Furzton

Telephone for bookings: Call Karen on 01908 692760

REGULAR USERS OF THE CENTRE: Rainbows, Womens Institute, Kick Boxing, Brownies, Keep Fit, Mums and Tots, Baby Clinic, Dancing Lessons, Kids and Co

SHENLEY BROOK END VILLAGE HALL - Church End Road, Shenley Brook End

Telephone for bookings: Call Mrs K Yates on 01908 504297

REGULAR USERS OF THE CENTRE: Mums & Tots. 10.00 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays - and see below

THE WESTCROFT CENTRE - Wimbourne Crescent, Westcroft

Telephone for bookings: 01908 253632

REGULAR USERS OF THE CENTRE: MK Gymnastics, Ducklings Pre-School, Playgroup, MK Pipe Band, Elan Vital, Ismalis Group, MK Society of Artists, Jesus Fellowship Church, Parent & Toddler Group, Whizz Kids

SHENLEY BROOK END VILLAGE HALL - FORTHCOMING EVENT

The Famous Village Fete - Bank Holiday Sunday, 30th August

The ever-popular, the ever-wondrous - surely the entertainment event of the year! As usual the Fete will be held on the Village Green and the organisers report a vast number of extra stalls this year, with a live band playing from 2 until 4 pm. All in the excellent cause of keeping the village hall going - so your support is vital.

The Fete starts at 2 pm. We'll hope to see you there.

SPECIAL SUMMER OFFERS AT FURZTON LAKE

HENRYS



TABLE

KIDS EAT FREE

For each adult main course meal ordered in the restaurant a child can eat from the children's menu. Only available to children under 14 years.

Monday — Friday 5:30 — 7 pm

Furzton Lake Club — Free membership

Free offers on some return visits — as staff for details.

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All offers are subject to availability

Furzton Lake, Shirwell Crescent, Chaffron Way, Furzton,
Milton Keynes. Telephone: 01908 520200

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RUNES

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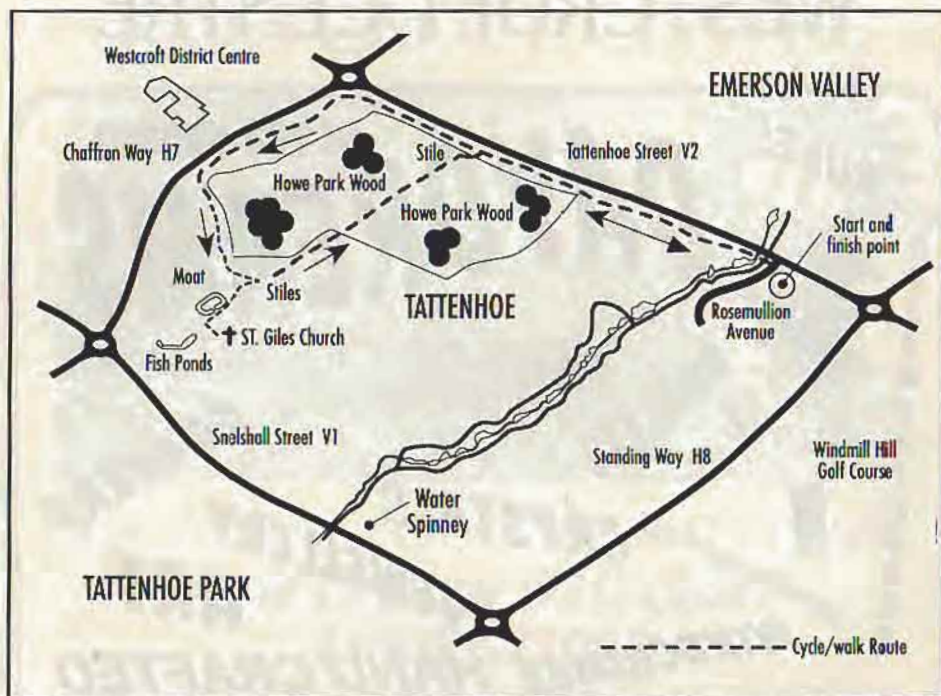
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COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL UPDATE

GP SURGERY FOR THE WEST FLANK OF MILTON KEYNES



Milton Keynes Community Health Centre would like to thank all the people who completed and returned our questionnaire in November last year. Out of 800 questionnaires delivered in the areas of Westcroft, Tattenhoe, Emerson Valley North and South and Shenley Brook End, 354 questionnaires were returned before the cut off date of 17 November. The 44.3% was a very good response rate for a survey of this kind, and provided a good indication of local opinion.

A study report containing all the statistics and relevant information was produced and submitted to the Bucks Health Authority, recommending the establishment of a GP Surgery in the West Flank area of Milton Keynes. The BHA have now approved this and are awaiting final approval from the NHS Executive in London. When approval has been granted an advertisement will be placed in the appropriate medical journal and a GP will be offered the post, probably this summer. The Practice will, hopefully, be up and running by the beginning of 1999.

A copy of the study report can be obtained from the CHC office by writing to: Milton Keynes Community Health Council, 231 Queensway, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK2 2EH, or by telephoning (01908) 631040.

Cycle Ride or Walk to St. Giles Church, Tattenhoe (See to route map opposite)

In the last edition of the Newsletter we mentioned the small church of St. Giles at Tattenhoe. Although there has been a church on this site since the 12th century, the present church dates from 1540. It was built with material from Snellshall Priory - now commemorated in the name of the nearby Grid Road (V1 - Snellshall Street). Thanks to a small group of dedicated people, the church has remained in use despite the low population in the area. Because of the remoteness of the church, there is no electricity supply and all services are held by candlelight. In the winter, you are also advised to wear warm clothing as the church is unheated. Evening prayers are held on every second Sunday at 6:30 pm. Further details can be obtained from the Church of Christ the Servant King on Dulverton Drive, Furzton, which now provides the ministry for St. Giles. Contacts are given elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

When I first visited the site some fifteen years ago, the only access to the area was along a rough farm track that ran from Whaddon Road along what is now a Redway on the western side of the Westcroft District Centre. When the church was built, there was a small community around it but over the years this faded away. Apart from a few cottages adjacent to Howe Park Wood and Howe Park Farm, the church was quite isolated. The church is almost invisible from any direction as it is hidden amongst trees.

This walk/cycle ride begins on Tattenhoe Street (V2) at the junction with Rosemullion Drive. Take the Redway to the north-west along Tattenhoe Street towards Westcroft. The path takes you along the side of Howe Park Wood, a site of Special Scientific Interest. The wood is very old and is, perhaps, a remnant of the ancient forests that covered this part of the country before man arrived. After about three-quarters of a mile, the Redway drops down and turns right to an underpass.

At the bend, take the gravelled leisure route to the left. This continues along the north side of Howe Park Wood past some small ponds and a car park. An information board is placed just before the road to the car park is reached. There are also some picnic tables in the area and, if required, supplies can be bought at the District Centre across Chaffron Way (H7).

Follow the Leisure Route to a junction with a Redway that comes under Chaffron Way from the north. Turn left and the Redway soon joins a narrow road that skirts the north-east edge of the wood. New houses are being built here so some care may be needed to avoid obstructions and nails, etc. Continue to a small group of old cottages on the left of the road. Opposite them is a fenced grass area. Bicycles are best left here. At the far left hand end of the fence there is a stile. Cross over and walk along the path through a small wood with several ponds and a moat until the church is reached. The ponds were probably used to supply fish to the mediaeval village.

Adjacent to the church is an information panel giving more details of the history of the area. Some new gravel paths have been constructed that will, when the development of the area is complete, connect to the Loughton Valley Park.

After visiting the church, return along the path to the road. From here there is an alternative return route through Howe Park Wood. Since, however, it will mean lifting bicycles over two fairly high fences, cyclists may prefer to return the way they came. To take the route through the wood, cross the road and pass through the gatestile. Walk along the path with the wood to the left and grassland to the right. After about a quarter of a mile the path enters the wood. Cyclists must keep to the hard surfaced paths in the wood to avoid damaging the fragile environment. Keep straight ahead for about half a mile until a gatestile at the edge of the wood is reached. A Redway bridge crosses Tattenhoe Street here but take the path down to the right to rejoin the Redway back to the starting point.

Happy walking/cycling.

George Boston, Milton Keynes Cycle Users Group.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

HEARTH & HOME

FIRES

FIREPLACES

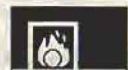
STOVES



"READ THAT PIECE ON GLOBAL WARMING TO ME AGAIN..."

Wonderfire

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