

Felmersham & Radwell Community Care

– Caring For Those In Need –

Short term help for anyone in the Parish,
Using the services of local volunteers.

Call us on **07786 344176**, leave your name

And number with the Duty Officer, and one of our local
Volunteers will contact you as quickly as possible.



Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

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April 2006

A Happy Easter

David G Mason

This year Easter is late, and we hope that by the time that it arrives spring will be in full swing. It's almost the first day of spring, but the weather is still far from spring-like. Although the daffodils are beginning to bloom there are few other signs of new life stirring. The winter seems to have been very long this year, and the continuing dull and cold weather makes us look forward all the more to the coming of spring. We hope that by the time Easter arrives we will be seeing more sun and warmer weather.

I find spring one of the best times of the year, with signs of new life abounding, with young lambs leaping, full of the joys of spring, fresh green leaves appearing on the hedges and trees, spring flowers bursting forth, and a general air of expectation for the future. Soon we will be celebrating the Easter Festival, giving thanks for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ after the terrible events of Good Friday. Rejoicing also at the good news it brings about the truth of eternal life. Spring is also a time of hope for the future, a time to look forward.

It is a time of great change in so many aspects of our lives, Even in our part of the country we can note the changes in the climate as a result of global warming. Although winter has seemed to be long and cold the amount of snow that has fallen here is very small, and does not compare with that which fell when we were young. Rainfall has been low, and there are concerns for our water supply. There are also concerns that the supply of fossil fuels that have our source of energy are being run down. It is right that we should be concerned, and that we should all take our part in seeking to conserve energy and strive to reduce our dependence on the diminishing supplies of the fuel that we have come to rely on. It is right that we should recognise that we all have a responsibility in seeking to use the resources that God has so wonderfully provided with care and concern for the future of the planet that is the home for all of us. It is important that we should recognise our duty as stewards, and not owners, of the world that God created. Let us heed the warnings that we have been given, learn from our mistaken belief that we can use the earth's resources wastefully, and work for a more sustainable management of the earth's resources.

It is my belief that God intended us to enjoy the world that he made but also to be stewards of his creation for this generation. Let us determine that we will work to maintain and develop the earth for the benefit of future generations.

Parish Diary

April

Sat 1	10.30am	Coffee Morning	The Freeman's, Pavenham Road
Sun 2	10.15am	Choral Communion Lent 5	St Mary's Church
Sun 9	10.15am	++ Joint Palm Sunday Service	St Peter's, Sharnbrook
Mon 10	7.30pm	Address and Compline	St Mary's Church
Tues 11	7.30pm	Address and Compline	St Mary's Church
Wed 12	7.30pm	Address and Compline	St Mary's Church
Thu 13	3.00pm	Thursday Club	Pinchmill Hall
Thu 13	7.30pm	Maudy Thursday Communion	St Mary's Church
Fri 14	10.00am	Good Friday Family Service	St Mary's Church
	7.00pm	The Cross of Christ	St Mary's Church
Sun 16	10.15am	Easter Day Choral Communion	St Mary's Church
Sun 23	10.15am	Matins and Communion Easter 1	St Mary's Church
Wed 26	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Pinchmill Hall
Sun 30	10.15am	Choral Communion Easter 2	St Mary's Church

May

Sat 6 10.30am Coffee Morning The Welch's, 1 The Tithe, Church End

** Note the changes to the service pattern in March due to Mothering Sunday

++ The Bishop of St Albans will be preaching – there will be no service in Felmersham

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Sally Carr (781225), Paul Keeble (782134)

Publisher: Felmersham PCC Editor: Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory, Felmersham, MK43 7HN (781967)

Any items for inclusion should be emailed to OuseNews@bigfoot.com, by the 25th of the month

The Annual Parish Church Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This meeting receives reports on the Church and elects the Parish Church Council. It is open for all members of the Parish to attend, and I hope that it will be well supported.

Dogs Fouling Footpaths

Simon Pearce-Roberts
We totally agree with Maggie Spoor's article on dog fouling. Please could we have dog bins as there are none within the entire village. We would suggest 2 bins, one at the top end and one at the bottom (away from houses), as many people follow the loop round, not only from Radwell but from Felmersham; 2) can we please have known boundaries for ALL to follow as apart from Moor End Road itself and the main road between Felmersham & Radwell, the surrounding countryside could be classed as "farm land".

When the top road in Radwell is covered with sheep poo, cow poo, horse poo & multiple "untidy" hedge trimmings (mainly brambles), and of course litter, it does seem a little unfair to only mention dog owners. The whole area needs a damn good shake up if you compare it with say 5-10 years ago and that was when there was a working dairy farm here!

We strongly believe that given known areas, there should be no "my dog(s) only go in the hedgerow", or "mine does it up a tree" etc, etc. A "poop scoop area" should include any dogs mess, regardless of where the offending article actually lies and also include horse poo which is a big nuisance during the summer.

We are great believers in keeping Radwell tidy and hope to join in once again in this year's litter pick - which will probably be the same few people who did it last year. How about litter bins?? Burnt out shed area & railway bridge in particular.

Also, where is our bus stop?? Children wait there in the pouring rain for their school buses as do OAP's who want to go into town or elsewhere. Do we pay our taxes or is Radwell an exception? How long have we been without a shelter??

Just airing a few views on what still is a very lovely village but needs a little attention and consideration to keep it that way. Come on Radwell - if there's going to be a shake up - lets do it properly with all involved, not just a few.

Songs of Praise in St Mary's Church

Lorraine Shrimpton
A "Songs of Praise" evening is being arranged for Sunday 30th July, in St Mary's Church. Do you have a favourite hymn, poem, reading etc or do you have any suggestions as to the content of this evening? At the moment I have a blank sheet just waiting for you to make your request! Please contact me on 781381.

Thursday Club

Jo Morris
The March meeting was competition time with Scrabble and a great picture quiz of personalities skillfully prepared by May Mills. We welcomed a new member, Christine Roberts, from Radwell and still have room for a few more. The April meeting will be on Thursday April 13th - please remember to bring a HARD BOILED EGG! If you need transport please ring Mary Freeman 781645.

BABUS Is Open for Business! **Beds Regional Communities Charity**
At long last bus users in the Bedford area have a say in how their services are operated following the formation of the Bedford Area Bus Users' Society (BABUS). BABUS has three main aims:

- to represent the interests of bus users in the Bedford area,
- to encourage people to use buses,
- to act as a focal point between users, bus companies and local authorities.

BABUS is the latest addition to a growing number of bus user groups across the country, and has an interest in all services operating from Bedford Bus Station. BABUS is affiliated to Bus Users' UK, the national watchdog for bus passengers.

A good working relationship has been established with the primary operator in the area, Stagecoach East, with liaison meetings being held on a quarterly basis. Some of the Society's suggestions have already been implemented, including an additional drop-off point in St. Peter's Street, Bedford on the X5 route. Stagecoach has also become one of the first corporate members!

Membership rates are £3 for adults, (concessions £2) and £5 for organizations. Members receive a regular newsletter and meeting invites.

For more information call the BABUS Enquiry Line anytime on 0870 486 1369 or Stephen Sleight, Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership Officer, on 838771 ext 115, or visit babus.org.uk.

North East Bedfordshire Conservative Association

Tony Morris

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sharnbrook Branch held at Sharnbrook Village Hall on Tuesday 21st February, the following members were elected to serve: President: Mrs Elizabeth Gibbs; Vice President: Mrs Brenda Mitchell; Chairman: Mr Tony Morris; Deputy Chairman: Mr Theo Gibbs; Hon Secretary (Acting) & Membership: Mr Theo Gibbs; Hon.Treasurer: Mr Robert Pearson; Committee: Cllr Mrs Phyllis Gershon. Executive Committee: Representatives Cllr Mrs Phyllis Gershon; Mr Theo Gibbs; Mr Tony Morris. Details of events & membership are available from Tony Morris 781430 or Theo Gibbs 782377.

Village Services

Building Services	Chris Poulter	781049
Chemistry/Science/Maths tuition	Peter Rankin	782897
Driving Instruction	Jeff Henman	782290
French Tuition	Marigold Sykes	781801
German/French Tuition	Gillian Whiteway	782686
Maths Tuition	Geraldine Hubbard	781413
PC Support (wireless networks, upgrades etc)	Clive Just	781967
Social Psychology/Studies, Management	Anthea Coghlan	782333

Stations North of Bedford (SNOB Link)

Richard Pill
Things are moving along nicely following our publication of results and the public meeting at Sharnbrook, which attracted 22 people.

Local elected councillors are also hearing and receiving supportive noises for 'something' to be done and this is also being passed to local MPs who are ever mindful of serving their constituents. The local elections are also looming and we need all the allies of whatever colour we can get for the cause we want at the top of the rural agenda – Stations North of Bedford please.

Our stance is as follows:

1. A park and ride off the Midland Main Line (MML) on the former Bedford-Northampton railway track-bed adjacent to the Oakley/Bromham/Stevington Road intersection.
2. Park and ride stations at Wymington and Irchester to serve Rushden
- 3 A new station at Burton Latimer to serve the growing industrial and housing areas between existing Wellingborough and Kettering.
4. A possible further station at either:

- a. adjacent to the Clapham Bypass
- b. Milton Glebe (as proposed in the late 1980's)
- c. Sharnbrook (old site approached from the eastern side of railway) or another site on another link road to the A6 further north.

The No 1 option would form the eastern end of a Bedford-Northampton rail link reopening. The site should be retained and not made into a minerals extraction site unless tracks will be relaid and the material brought out and infilled by rail from day one. We don't want more lorries on rural roads.

Nos 2-4 (which are complimentary to option 1) would be served by an extension of services to Corby which could initially be an extension of existing Bletchley-Bedford diesels to Kettering and Corby. This would provide an hourly service, but other rolling stock (trains) could be used such as former Midland Mainline Turbos to supplement. In addition in the medium term the time is coming for the Thameslink (to be known as 'Capital Connect') wires to be extended to Corby and this would provide a half hourly service. This would mean 3 trains an hour or every 20 minutes potentially. Having that from 6am through until 11pm would provide good reliable public rail base transport for rural North Bedfordshire and eliminate many long and unnecessary road journeys and free up parking in and around Bedford Midland Station for other rail users and reduce queues and overcrowding.

We will be holding an illustrated talk on "Stations North of Bedford" at 12.30pm on Thursday 13th April at the Harpur Room, North Beds CVS, 43 Bromham Road, Bedford (corner of Union Street/Bromham Rd). Free admission and light refreshments. If you agree with us, why not get involved in some way? Become a member! Phone 300815 for a membership pack.

Coffee Morning

Jane Wells
The Coffee Morning in April will be held at the home of Paul and Mary Freeman, on Saturday 1 April at 10.30am.

The Coffee Morning for May, to celebrate 25 years in Felmersham and in aid of the Church Organ fund, will be held at the home of Barry and Janet Welch on Saturday 6th May at 10.30 am. Come and help celebrate their first 25 years

Contributions of home-made cakes, toiletries, produce and bric-a-brac for the bring and buy stall will be greatly appreciated. All welcome

Save the Children

Eleanor Fox
Have you always promised to do something for charity? Bedford Save the Children Fundraising Committee are looking for enthusiastic volunteers.

Any time you can give is great, however small, and any money you can raise will be equally valuable: You could help out at various events throughout the year – e.g. collecting during Save the Children week; holding a coffee morning; selling Christmas cards. Alternatively you could organise your own fundraising event or get people to sponsor you for an event, e.g. taking part in a marathon.

Advice and support is available for anyone who has some spare time and would like to make a difference. Committee meetings are held bi-monthly and we always welcome new faces and ideas. If you are interested in volunteering or joining the committee please contact Andrew Evans, Chairman on 782523

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Theo Gibbs

Return to the Forbidden Planet - 12th–20th May 7.45pm Tickets available from Monday 27th March for Shakespeare's forgotten rock musical! – by Bob Carlton. High demand expected so book early! This cult rock musical is based on William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. Fasten your seatbelts, listen very carefully for 'Great Balls of Fire' and 'The Young Ones', then 'Shake, Rock and Roll' yourself through 1950's sci-fi. We leave you in the safe hands of Captain Tempest and his crew. Booking points: Sharnbrook Post Office - in person (cash or cheque), Bedford Central Box Office all payment forms (269519).

Are you a drug user?

Eleanor Fox, BRCC

If the answer to this question is **yes**, then we may be able to support you, CAN is an established drug treatment agency in Bedford and we are hoping to start a new outreach service covering the whole of the Bedfordshire (excluding Luton).

We hope to provide a range of confidential services varying from one to one support, group work and complementary therapies. If this applies to you and you would like further information, we can be contacted in the strictest confidence (feel free to reverse the charge) on 354193.

For Sale

Geoff Cambridge

Quality bench drill press for sale. Variable gearing. £20. Phone 782880.