

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

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February 2007

Parish Diary

Regular Activities

Mon-Fri	9.15am – 3.15pm Pre-School	Pinchmill School
Thu	9.30am – 11.30am Parent & Toddler Group	Pinchmill Hall
Thu	11.00am (approx) Fishmonger in village – call 07803 201399 for details	

February

Sat	3 10.30am	Coffee Morning	
Sun	4 10.15am	Choral Communion - 3 Before Lent	St Mary's Church
Sun	11 10.15am	Family Service - 2 Before Lent	St Mary's Church
Sun	18 10.15am	Choral Communion -1 Before Lent	St Mary's Church
Wed	21 7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	St Mary's Church
Sat	24 10.00am	Offer surveying	Harrold-Odell Country Park
Sun	25 10.15am	Matins & Communion – Lent 1	St Mary's Church

March

Fri	2 7.30pm	PSA Quiz Night	Pavenham Village Hall
Sat	3 10.30am	Coffee Morning	
Sun	4 10.15am	Choral Communion – Lent 2	St Mary's Church
Tue	6 7.30pm	Yoga Club	Pinchmill Hall
Sun	11 10.15am	Choral Communion – Lent 3	St Mary's Church
Sun	18 10.15am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	St Mary's Church
Sun	25 10.15am	Matins & Communion – Lent 5	St Mary's Church

Priest in Charge: Rev Robert Evens (782000)

Assistant Curate: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Jane Wells (782462), Paul Keeble (782134)

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

Looking Forward

It seems a long time since the Christmas celebrations and festivities. Now we are back at work or school, looking forward to spring and the lighter nights.

Recently the organ has been dismantled, and much of it taken away for refurbishment. Many of us have been surprised at the great number of parts that went into the organ. While some parts of the organ are large, many of the parts seem to be quite small and insignificant, and yet each one is essential to the satisfactory working of the instrument.

Last Sunday, the organ was the subject of an Epistle from Paul where he spoke about the body being built up of a number of different members, each one having a particular function. Some parts were big and imposing, while others appeared insignificant. Each part, be it large or small has a part to play in the working of the body. Just as the organ would not be able to produce beautiful music without all of its parts, so the body would not function properly if parts were not functioning properly or were missing.

God has a purpose for each one of us, we are important in his plan. There may be times when we may think that we are of little use in the general scheme of things, but in God's eyes we are each important, we each have a role to play. Just as the correct working of each part of the organ is necessary for the instrument to produce great music, so it is important that we each realise we have a part to play in our family and community life. Just as the parts of the organ need checking and repair from time to time, so do our lives and the way that we are living them also need to be checked in the same way. The organ builder has manuals to check the organ and its components, to ensure that they work properly and as intended. We also have a pattern in Jesus and a manual to check our lives by - the words of the gospels.

Soon we will be entering the season of Lent, and traditionally this has been a time when Christians have taken time to examine their lives in the light of the gospel message. So as our organ is being examined and any defects in the mechanism put right, so let us submit our lives to our maker, and invite him to remove and repair those parts of our lives that are not working in accordance with his plan. Then, just as we hope that the organ will be ready to herald in Easter, so we may also be ready to rejoice at the great Easter message, and to take that great message in our lives and in our words to all who we meet.

Church Coffee Morning

The February coffee morning, raising funds for a toilet and kitchen facility for the Church, will be held at the home of David and Judith Folbigg, Felmersham on Saturday 3 February 2006 at 10.30 am.

The Coffee Morning for March will be held at the home of Jeff and Karen Stockley on Saturday 3 March at 10.30am

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

A huge thank you to all who hosted, supported and helped behind the scenes at the Church Coffee Mornings in 2006. Your generosity has been amazing and the total raised this year is £2008.48. This money has helped the Organ Restoration Fund, Bapatla, buying new cleaning items for the Church and latterly for the toilet and kitchen facility planned for the Church. Raising money for a toilet and kitchen facility will continue through 2007 beginning on 13 January and continuing throughout the year on the first Saturday of each month, with the venues being mentioned monthly in the Ouse News. If you haven't been to a coffee morning before do come along, it's a good way to meet your neighbours.

Free to a loving garden

Pete & Di Stephenson
1 tall chimney pot, 2 small chimney pots. None in perfect condition – it's the patina!!! We can deliver within Radwell & Felmersham. Call us on 782556

Flowers in Church

There is a new rota for the coming year in the Church porch. Please sign up if you are willing to do an arrangement. New people to help would be welcomed.

Alternatively, if you don't want to arrange flowers yourself, but would like to give a donation towards the cost of the flowers for a particular occasion or Sunday, or in remembrance of someone, please get in touch with one of the Churchwardens

Thursday Club

The Club started the New Year on January 11th with Paul Keeble playing a selection of light music which has been used as theme music for radio and films. We sang with enthusiasm as he took us back to Dick Barton, In Town Tonight and many others - great fun.

The February meeting will be on Thursday February 8th in the Village Hall at 3.00pm as usual and if you need transport please telephone Joan on 781722. We would love to see some new members. Why not come and give it a go?

There Are Otters About!

Rosemary Barrett
Saturday 24 February 10am–2pm Otter surveyors are wanted at Harrold-Odell Country Park to monitor their activity. Come to the training session. For this Ivel and Ouse Countryside Project Event contact Amanda Proud on 01767 626326 or email amandap@bedsrcc.org.uk

Holiday Activities

Bedford Modern School are offering over 30 activity courses for children during the Easter, Summer and Autumn half term holidays. For more details ring (01234) 332667 or go to www.bedmod.co.uk.

Parish Council meeting 2nd January

At this meeting: 4 Parish Councillors, the Clerk – Mrs Payne, 2 parishioners, Borough Councillor Brandon and County Councillor Mrs Gerson.

Villager Bus: the service has a new Manager and Treasurer. The finances are sound. Routes are being reviewed; less popular ones may be withdrawn eventually. Only bona fide community groups will be able to hire the Villager – there will be no private hire by individuals.

Highways: County Council has agreed to grind out the tree stumps on the green next to Felmersham bus shelter. The water leak south of Felmersham Bridge has been repaired. County Highways to be contacted regarding the verge along the footpath – Felmersham Road, Radwell and also outside Laburnum House, Radwell. During April 2007, County Highways will be looking at all speed limits in the county, as well as weight and lorry bans on certain routes. On 3 occasions between 15th January and 26th October the road from Felmersham to Odell Road will be closed for repair between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm.

We are awaiting quotes for the grass cutting.

Land alongside the Slipway, Felmersham: the original purchaser has withdrawn, The Margaret Alleway Trust has an option to purchase this plot of land for appropriate use by the community. The Parish Council has confirmed it would be prepared to undertake management of the site once all the preparatory work is complete (cut the grass, deal with trees, hedges and fences, install gates and seats). The Trust would retain ownership.

Councillors' reports: Both Borough and County Councillors reported their respective Council have put in bids for Unitary Status under the Government's White Paper on reorganisation of local government.

Parish Plan: The Steering Committee will be requesting updates from the various action groups by the end of January. Housing issues will be dealt with by the Parish Council. In the first instance the Clerk will obtain a list of both listed buildings and those within designated conservation areas in the parish.

Finance: As reported from the November meeting, the precept for 2007/08 has been set at £12,500, one of the lowest in the county.

First result from the Parish Plan Community Services action group, litter bins will be purchased for the three new bus shelters.

Our Parish Clerk has to obtain e-mail. Most local government correspondence is sent this way. As Mrs Payne is Clerk to other parishes the cost can be shared, but is still estimated at £11 per week to include all materials, time, etc. It was agreed she would report back on the reaction of her other parish councils.

Next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting on 6th March at 7pm in Pinchmill Hall.

Peter Hartop

Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park Conservation tasks

Come and join in with practical work to enhance the park
for wildlife and visitors on the following dates:

Monday 26th February 10am
Monday 26th March 10am

All tasks start at 10am and finish mid afternoon, but you only need stay as long as you want.

Thanks for the Christmas Gifts

Thank you once again to all who so kindly brought gifts for the children at the Bapatla home to the Carol Service. As ever, your generosity will be very much appreciated by the children, who look forward so much to their presents. We are visiting the home this month and are taking as many of the gifts as weight will allow, and are sending the rest by post. Thank you once again to all who so generously contributed.

Box files available

Five new and unused, twelve used but still in v. good condition. No charge - we just need the space! Call me on 782138.

Church Electoral Roll

A new electoral roll is due to be compiled before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April. If you are wish to stay on the roll you still need to fill in an application form, as will any new members. Forms available from me (782559).

The Mill Theatre, Sharnbrook

Now booking Breezeblock Park, a clever and moving comedy by the famous Liverpool playwright Willy Russell (Shirley Valentine & Blood Brothers). Tuesday 6th - 10th March, 7.45 pm. Tickets £9/10 from Sharnbrook Post Office (in person) or Bedford Central Box Office 269519* (credit/debit cards accepted). Advance Booking for Stephen Sonchheim's *A Little Night Music* (27th - 5th May) during Breezeblock Park, only at The Mill Theatre.

Felmersham Yoga Club

Our Spring yoga classes begin at Pinchmill Village Hall at 7.30pm on TUESDAY 6th March. You are invited to join us for eight sessions on successive TUESDAY evenings from 7.30 to 8.30. Please bring a yoga mat, large towel or blanket. All ranges of ability are welcome from beginner onwards. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any queries, please telephone me on 781340.

WI Christmas Party

Wendy Williamson

The annual WI Christmas party took place on December 19th at the Felmersham village hall. Parcels had already been wrapped and prepared for the residents of the 'Christian Family Care' - a charity supporting battered wives in Bedford. Fun, frolics, fine food and pressies were enjoyed by all, with the Christmas entertainment being supplied by those talented thespians Laurie Mills, Pat Hartop, Janet Welch and ME!!

Our January meeting turned out to be one of those special events when we were entertained by Susan Olney a farmer's wife from Shillington. At the age of sixty she cycled five hundred miles across the Canadian Rockies encountering Black Bear and other less dangerous wildlife on the way. She was a most enjoyable speaker and we all greatly admired such a brave lady.

At our next meeting on February 20th Roger Evans will speak on an 'Eastern Experience' (thatching). If you're sitting at home on these cold and shivery nights, why not wrap up and come and join the Felmersham and Radwell WI.

Yarl's Wood Befrienders

Anna McCrum

The Befrienders are a group of about forty trained visitors 'of all faiths and none' who visit detainees at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. They offer a listening ear, help to contact families and sometimes help to provide or chase lawyers and doctors. They need more volunteers and financial support. For more information ring 07789-520640. Yarl's Wood Awareness Week is 5th - 10th February and an exhibition on the group is being held at Bedford Public Library.

THE VILLAGER MINIBUS

The Villager is a community bus operated and driven by volunteers for the benefit of certain North Bedfordshire Villages including Felmersham & Radwell. The services from Felmersham are quite extensive and Bedford Borough concessionary permits may be used on all journeys throughout.

MILTON KEYNES (Shopping Centre)

Radwell Swan	Dep: 09:07	2 nd Tuesday	Return: Milton Keynes	Dep: 12:30
Felmersham Sun	Dep: 09:10		Felmersham	Arr: 13:13
Milton Keynes	Arr: 10:00		Radwell	Arr: 13:16

NORTHAMPTON (Town Centre)

Radwell Swan	Dep: 09:07	1 st Wednesday	Return: Northampton	Dep: 12:30
Felmersham Sun	Dep: 09:10		Felmersham	Arr: 13:22
Northampton	Arr: 10:00		Radwell	Arr: 13:25

PETERBOROUGH (Queensgate)

Felmersham Sun	Dep: 09:22	2 nd Friday	Return: P'boro Bus Stn	Dep: 14:00
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Peterborough	Arr:	10:45	Felmersham	Arr:	15:23
ST. IVES (Bus Station)					
Felmersham Sun	Dep:	08:50	St. Ives	Dep:	14:15
St. Ives	Arr:	10:25	Felmersham	Arr:	15:45
OLNEY MARKET					
Felmersham Ch	Dep:	08:55	Olney	Dep:	11:06
Olney	Arr:	09:24	Felmersham	Arr:	11:33
RUSHDEN (Budgens)					
Felmersham Ch	Dep:	09:05	Budgens	Dep:	11:35
Budgens	Arr:	09:45	Felmersham	Arr:	12:13
SAINSBURYS CLAPHAM					
Felmersham Sun	Dep:	14:15	Sainsburys	Dep:	16:00
Sainsburys	Arr:	14:35	Felmersham	Arr:	16:25

For complete timetable showing intermediate stops please telephone 781920.

Radwell passengers MUST book and it is advisable for other passengers to book for Milton Keynes, Northampton, Peterborough and St. Ives by telephoning the bus information line on 01234 228337.

