

Sharnbrook School Farm Ltd.
TOP QUALITY FARM PRODUCE
Available from the School Farm Unit

We are a small scale producer with excellent facilities. Our livestock is reared humanely and traditionally on the School Farm. Our pork, lamb and beef 'Prime Packs', returned to school after expert butchering, are wrapped, labelled and delivered to your door. Students are involved in all stages of production. Availability is seasonal. Please contact us for further details.

Sharnbrook School Farm Ltd.
Odell Road, Sharnbrook, Beds MK44 1JX
Telephone: (01234) 782211

Parish Diary

February

Sat	6	10.30am	Coffee Morning	(The Knowles', Long Mynd, Pavenham Rd)
Sun	7	10.15am	Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
Sun	14	10.15am	Family Service	(St Mary's Church)
Tue	16	7.30pm	Women's Institute	(Pinchmill Hall)
Wed	17	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday - Said Communion	(St Mary's Church)
Sun	21	10.15am	Choral Communion	(St Mary's Church)
Sun	28	9.30am	Light House Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
		10.15am	Matins followed by Communion	(St Mary's Church)

March

Tue	2	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting and Open Meeting	(Pinchmill Hall)
Sat	6	10.30am	Coffee Morning	(The Wells', Riverside House, High Rd)

Priest in Charge: Rev David Mason (309737)

Churchwardens: Ken Shrimpton (781381), Rosemary Brough (782104)

Items for next month's Ouse News should be sent to Clive Just, 2 The Old Rectory by the 25th of the month, at the very latest. It would be most helpful if items were sent via email to CliveJust@bigfoot.com; on disk in plain ASCII; typed or printed. Phone 781967 for more details.

Felmersham & Radwell Ouse News

February 1999

Good News

It has been decided to mark the end of the millennium by distributing Ouse News free to all houses in Felmersham and Radwell. It is hoped that by doing so this will truly become a 'Village Magazine'. We are able to do this as funds have accumulated over the years, and also because the printing is done, whenever possible, at Sharnbrook Upper School at an exceedingly competitive rate. At which point I would like to thank the people in the Reprographics Unit at Sharnbrook for always managing to 'squeeze in' the printing of Ouse News. Because of the increased circulation we would appreciate the offer of a few more distributors. If you can help please call me on 781967.

The Editor

W.I.

Do you remember when a night out at the 'pictures' offered a 'B' movie or a short documentary as well as the main feature? Keith and June Paull produced an exceptional slide-show of Bedford's twin town, Bamberg, which brought to mind the 'Look at Life' series. The one-thousand-year-old Cathedral City, which was built on seven hills, grew on the river, fed by the twin flames of Church and Commerce. Having escaped the ravages of war-time bombing, the medieval town remains unscathed, but the rewards of modern Bamberg exceed its art treasures, museums and buildings. The busy out-door market is supplied by a surrounding Market Garden area which specializes in a white variety of asparagus, and of course a local wine is produced, though not exported. The river boasts a 'Little Venice', there is a Rose Garden, the Symphony Orchestra is world famous and there are numerous festivals throughout the year. Truly a romantic city, despite the fact that it has the greatest consumption of beer in Germany!

Planning your Spring wardrobe? Join us at our Fashion Show in Pinchmill Hall on Wednesday, 24th March when you can put your plans into practice! Tickets £2.50 from Celia Hulatt 781082 and Judith Smith 781430.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of David and Jennifer Knowles at Long Mynd, Pavenham Road on Saturday 6 February at 10.30 a.m.

Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries and produce etc. will be most welcome for the bring and buy stall. So please bring your friends.

Ron and Mary Watson

PARISH COUNCIL

Maggie Spoor

Notes from the meeting held on the 5th January 1999

7 Parish Councillors, the Clerk and one member of the public attended this meeting. There was no apology from our County Councillor.

Matters Arising There had been no reply from the Post Office to our letter requesting a larger post box. The County Council will be putting luminous strips to the edges of the Marriotts Close steps. A letter asking the Parish Council to reconsider the bollards along the High Road had been received. As reported before, the County Council say they have no money available for road widening, lay-bys or grass cretes to the verge (£8,000 - £10,000). Their offer to install bollards seemed to be one way of avoiding the present mud bath. The Clerk was asked to write to all residents once again to try to find a solution to this problem.

Question Time Mr Cardy queried why a grant made last year to Lincroft School did not show specifically in the accounts. The Clerk replied that such grants, under new audit regulations, are entered on a separate sheet. The audited accounts for 97/98 will be available for inspection once they are returned to the Clerk. Notices to this effect will be displayed in the villages.

Finance It was agreed that the Parish Council would take on the Village Hall insurance when it was due for renewal later this year. Likewise the grasscutting of the playing field - quotations are being sought. Any grant paid to the Village Hall would take this into account. Mrs Pipe agreed to act as liaison on the grasscutting. After a short presentation from Mr Smith followed by discussion, the precept for next year was set at £6,000.

Grasscutting The grassed areas within the 30 mph zones in both villages have been re-measured. Mr Smith and Mr Thomas are preparing a new map which can be used to obtain quotes for this grasscutting. **Street lights** It was agreed to ask Borland Lighting to convert the last 3 street lights to photo electric cell operation. Details of payments made and monies received will be in the Minutes.

The site meeting with Raglan Housing had taken place. The Parish Council's queries had been answered satisfactorily. Enquiries regarding letting of these houses should be directed to Deborah Pewsey of Pilgrim Housing - direct line 221360. The Parish Council will be asked to suggest a name for the new development. They felt this should be open to parishioners by way of a competition (prize to be decided!) Please give this serious consideration and pass your suggestions to any parish councillor.

The problems involving the acquisition of planning permission for the burial ground were discussed once again. The Council felt a meeting with the Chief Planning Officer might resolve the issues. Failing that, an appeal would be made to the Secretary of State via our MP.

Planning Reports Details of these will appear in the Minutes.

Year 2000 A flagpole and flag will be purchased for the parish. The Council also agreed to purchase mementos for all school-age children in the parish. This may take the form of a 'Felmersham mug'. Costings are being sought.

Roman times. The coastal defences protect the soft low cliffs of Norfolk and Suffolk, but diminish the silt that would build up protective salt marshes leaving low lying areas more vulnerable to storm surges. Flood peaks on the Ouse and other rivers are manipulated so that they do not enter the Bedford level to arrive at Kings Lynn on a rising tide, and cause a flood risk to the Fens. At the same time the construction of Milton Keynes and resultant fast run off leads to rapidly rising water levels that cannot always be accommodated in Willen lake. Add to that some ill advised building elsewhere on the flood plain, and we are back to the harmless Radwell floods again.

So short of scrapping Milton Keynes, eroding Suffolk and Norfolk, being prepared to sacrifice the Fens and undoing some of the last 20 years planing decision, we will just have to put up with them.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Ron & Judith Smith

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Save the Children Fund this Christmas.

Sales and orders from the two events in the village totalled £1051.48 and overall our sales exceeded £3000, which means that the Fund benefitted by more than £1500 (i.e. 50% of the price of the goods). We know that these desperately needed contributions are greatly appreciated by those who work in the field. They have the heart rending job of seeing children whose needs are so great.

A happy New Year and please continue to support us.

'Les Liaisons Dangereuses'

Sharnbrook Mill Theatre

Set in Pre Revolution France in the 1760's. 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' was first performed by the RSC in 1985 and swept the board at every major awards ceremony. Written by Christopher Hampton, the play was so successful here and on Broadway that it was adapted by him for the screen as the Oscar winning 'Dangerous Liaisons'.

'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' is the story of former lovers. the cunning Marquise de Merteuil (Kaye Vincent) and a seductive Lothario, Le Vicomte de Valmont (Barry Thompson) who devise a cruel and depraved game of romantic and sexual manipulation. At their mercy are the innocent convent girl, Cecile de Volanges (Kate Hunter) and the beautiful and pious Madame de Tourvel (Annette Codrington) who is ultimately the instrument of their inevitable doom.

This production. directed by Heather Pitt, promises to be very special indeed. She says -"The story has everything. but is perhaps best known for the almost satanic magnetism of the two conspirators. not forgetting that it is. in fact. a comedy edged with danger. Lives are ruined with the flick of a well turned phrase. This is a very complex play and I have been incredibly fortunate to have an enormously skilled and talented team of actors and production crew."

The play is on between March 8 - 13 1999 every night at 7.45pm. For more details phone 782474. Tickets available from The Village Trader, Sharnbrook.

Pancakes and Ashes

David G Mason

Easter is early this year: Good Friday is on April 2nd and Shrove Tuesday on the February 16th. We all associate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes, and I do not suppose that there will be many households in the Parish where they will not be eaten. It is a day for feasting and enjoyment, and in the gloom of winter I am sure that we are all ready for that. But perhaps we should reflect more on the origin of the name 'shrove' and what Christians used to do on that day.

The word 'shrove' comes from 'shriving', and Shrove Tuesday used to be the day on which the faithful made confession and received absolution as part of their preparations for Lent. Food which was in the house, but not supposed to be eaten during the Lenten fast, was prepared and eaten in order that it should not be wasted. Inevitably the feasting was enjoyed, but the faithful would be very aware of the imminence of Lent, and the period of fasting, repentance and preparation for Good Friday and Easter. The next day was Ash Wednesday, when the Lenten period began a service in which there was the imposition of ashes on the heads of clergy and people as a token of mourning and penitence.

Nowadays for most people in this secular society Shrove Tuesday is merely a time for feasting and enjoyment, and its original purpose has been largely forgotten. Many of those who regularly attend Sunday services do not attend Ash Wednesday services, whether with or without 'Ashing'. I find this very sad, Lent can be a very valuable time for looking at our lives, considering how they fit in with the ways of living proclaimed in the gospels, and what we need to do to make us more effective Christians. The attending of an Ash Wednesday service is a way of preparing for Lent, and for making a commitment to observe it.

The idea of observing Lent may be off putting if it is believed that all will be doom and gloom during the period. But the observance of Lent should be strengthening and encouraging. It is true that there may be some sorrow as we realise our own failures and lost opportunities. There may be some regret at the thought of having to change things that we consider pleasurable as we come to see that they are not in accord with God's plans for us. But as we spend our time in seeking God's way for us, and in deepening our relationship with Him, so we come to see a way forward to follow our Lord's way, and to know that it is the right way for us. In seeking to know God we begin to experience the truth and the depth of His love for us on an individual basis. By the time that Holy Week comes we will then be ready to share in all the events of that week, and to find that they bring us a new depth and strengthening of faith.

I hope that I have encouraged you to make the worthwhile effort to observe Lent this year. There will be a special Communion Service on the evening of Ash Wednesday which I hope as many as possible will attend. Lent has traditionally been a time of study, and I will be making suggestions of suitable reading matter to help in this during our pre-Lenten services. Please remember that the Lenten observance is for the benefit of those making the observance, and that from that will come strengthening of faith, and a deeper knowledge and experience of God's love working in everyday life.

Lent Sermon Series

David G Mason

The Archdeacon will be visiting the Deanery to present a Lent sermon course from various Churches. The programme is as follows;

Sunday 21st February	Pavenham Church	6.00pm
Sunday 28th February	Sharnbrook Church	6.00pm
Sunday 7th March	Turvey Church	6.00pm
Sunday 14th March	Odell Church	6.00pm
Sunday 21st March	Podington Church	6.00pm

I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to get to as many of the services as possible.

Millennium Party

Lorraine Shrimpton

In the June 1998 edition of Ouse News, I advertised a Millennium Party at the "Felmersham Dome". Although this started out as a private party to be organised by a few friends, the invitation was soon extended to all villagers to get together on New Year's eve to celebrate this special event. The organisers got very excited by all the ideas flowing in and the offers of help to transform the Hall into a "Dome" for the evening. We even received an offer by Pinchmill Players to provide entertainment!

We have recently been informed that some members of the Village Hall Committee feel very strongly that children should be allowed to attend (even to the extent of someone from the village contacting the local press to express his/her displeasure that children are not invited to our party). After discussion, the organisers agreed that children at adult parties with alcohol being available is not a good mixture and regretfully have decided to cancel the booking, in order that the Village Hall Committee may organise their own event for the Millennium New Year Eve to include children.

Church Restoration

Ken Shrimpton

Work commences in the early spring on the next phase of church restoration. This includes: 8 nave clerestory windows; 2 south aisle windows; the east chapel window; 3 south chancel windows; the east window; the chancel door, retiling of the north transept roof and other sundry work. If you would like a more detailed description of the works then I will be pleased to discuss it with you.

It has taken two years to organise the finances, but briefly they are as follows:

Cost of work including architects fees and VAT at 17.5%	£ 43,724
English Heritage grant	£ 30,300
Other grants	£ 5,500
Parish contribution	£ 7,924

The PCC wish to thank the organisers of all the restoration fund raising events and to the parish for supporting them. Without this support and help we would not be able to proceed with the above work. Our sincere thanks to you all.

Small Earthquake in Chile

Isobel Buckingham

That well known non-headline could also refer to floods at Radwell. As you drive over the railway bridge, north of Milton Ernest, and drop down to cross the valley floor, have you ever stopped to wonder at the shape of the valley you are facing?

Why is there a distinct slope, and a flat, easily flooded valley floor? Why does the present river seem too small for the valley it occupies? Why does it flood?

The answer lies in understanding what has happened over the last 1.5 million years. Britain has been covered by ice sheets several times, the most extensive being as far south as the Thames Valley. With all this water locked up in ice sheets the sea level was about 35m lower than at present, and the rivers eroded down to that level. This is best shown at Newcastle upon Tyne where the river is well below the level of the city, and bore holes show the solid rock is still well below the present river level.

Originally the Ouse was an easterly flowing river, possibly, via the Lopham depression, entering the sea near Lowestoft. During the last glacial maximum, when this area was not ice covered, Scandinavian ice crossed the North Sea, and formed the huge moraine at Cromer, where it stopped. A lobe of ice filled the present Wash, and this would have blocked the east flow of the river. There would be a huge amount of meltwater present. As there would also be very little vegetation along the ice margins, it would be windy with dust storms and the meltwater would move the huge amount of debris left by previous glaciations too. When the ice began to retreat about 10,300 years ago, which was before the Strait of Dover were breached, sea level would start to rise. The deeply cut river valleys of the whole Eastern seaboard filled up with gravel.

The Wash was a large bay with rivers flowing into it bringing debris. At the same time the erosion on the unconsolidated deposits along the east coast brought silt into the Wash and this built up at the entrance leading to a shallow fresh water lake that developed extensive peat deposits.

The valley here was cut by a much larger river fed by glacial meltwater over several cycles of glaciation. In between it filled up with water washed gravel. You can see the angle of the sides quite clearly when you look north to Radwell. The glacial deposits were washed away only where there were rivers. So they cover the land east of the A6, and only survive on the crests of the hill between Felmersham and Radwell. The various changes in the hydrology have given us terrace levels in the valley. The slight rise at the end of the walkway at Felmersham clearly shows the first level. Felmersham village church and Tithe barn are built high and dry on the second level, with the Wellpond close area of Sharnbrook at the third, oldest and least well preserved level.

The river would have been braided, or in multiple channels as the Nene was until the early 19th century. However the large number of Domesday mills show that even then people worked to maintain one channel to help water flow and assist the mills. Just before the banks overflow the old channels are clearly visible at Radwell. We pay for the coastal defences of East Anglia in our water rates but suffer from floods ourselves. Attempts have been made to drain the Fens since

Correspondence Letter re: Bulky Waste Collection - dates for the coming year. The waste lorry will be in Felmersham on 8th May and 25th September from 3.00 - 5.00 pm. Radwell on 9th May and 26th September from 1.00 - 3.00 pm. Details of other correspondence received will be listed in the minutes.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 2nd March 1999. This will start at 7.00 pm and will be followed by the Annual Open Meeting at 8.30 pm. Please note the earlier starting time.

Pinchmill School News

Jayne Dingley

This term we have a number of collection schemes organised at school. We have enjoyed the support of the community in past ventures and all contributions are very welcome. This term we will be collecting:

Tokens for Free Books for Schools - To be found on various crisp packets and also in The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and The News of the World newspapers.

Tops for Sport - Tops from Pringles

Sainsbury's Schools Reward Scheme - We are once again registered for this scheme and anyone who supported us last year is automatically registered this year. Details about how to register can be obtained from the school office.

Later in the term Pinchmill School will be celebrating a Music Week. During the week commencing 8th March there will be a variety of musical activities taking place. The highlight of the week will be an open assembly on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.. This is an open assembly for friends, family and any community members who would like to attend. We are particularly looking for performers too! Anyone who would be willing to come to school and perform a musical item either at the open assembly or another convenient time during the week would be made to feel very welcome. In addition to making and listening to a variety of music we would like to mount a display of musical instruments. If you would be willing to loan any item for this display, especially the more unusual instruments, please contact me at school .

Church Cleaning Rota

Gill Greenish

Many thanks to all those who have cleaned the church over the past year. A new list is being distributed. Anyone who would like to join the rota please contact me on 782559.

The Alban Chair

David Knowles

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the collection for the Alban Chair. The £95 raised will be used to purchase a chair in the name of 'Felmersham Parish Church' and will be donated to St. Albans Abbey in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Fraternity of the Friends of St Alban's Abbey