

Parish Diary

From the Parish Register

Sat 27 March Marriage of Gillian Freeman to Andrew Branch.

April

Thu 1 7.30pm **Maundy Thursday** - Choral Communion
Fri 2 10.00am **Good Friday** Family Service (No Communion, informal)
Fri 2 7.30pm **Good Friday** No Communion
Sun 4 10.15am **Easter Sunday** Choral Communion
Sat 10 10.30am Coffee Morning (The Plantation, Ravensden)
Sun 11 10.15am Family Service
Sun 18 10.15am Holy Communion
Mon 19 8.30pm Village Hall Meeting (Pinchmill Hall)
Tue 20 7.30pm Women's Institute (Pinchmill Hall)
Sun 25 10.15am Matins

May

Sun 2 10.15am Holy Communion

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

April 1999

Coffee Morning

Ronald Watson

The coffee morning for April in aid of the Felmersham Church Restoration Fund will be held at the home of Mary and Ronald Watson, The Plantation, Church End, Ravensden on Saturday 10 April at 10.30am. Contributions of home made cakes, toiletries and produce etc. will be most welcome for the bring and buy stall. Please bring as many friends you can muster. (Please note the change of venue.)

Women's Institute

May Mills

Victorian ladies adorned their hats with great egret feathers, and the subsequent threat to the bird led to the formation of the RSPB. This is the centenary year of that worthy organisation, which might help to account for the enthusiastic sales pitch of our speaker, Mr. Kingsnorth, and his assurances of the benefits to the environment of membership of the same! His illustrated talk entitled 'Gardening with Wildlife' had much to recommend it, not least the wealth of helpful hints on planting, whilst stressing the important role the private garden can play in the fight against the continuing decline in the bird population. How were we to know that joining the RSPB could be a panacea for the ills of the planet??

Village Hall Matters

Shireen Agnew

Volunteers are needed to help sew curtains for the Village Hall. Please throw modesty and caution to the wind and volunteer your sewing skills by ringing Christine Callaghan on 781173.

The next Village Hall meeting will be on 19 April at 8.30pm – we will be discussing amongst many other fascinating topics the plans for the Millenium Party – if you have any ideas or suggestions and/or want to help organise the event, please come to the meeting at which a very small M.P.P (millenium party prize) for best suggestion so far will be presented at the end of the meeting!

Many thanks to the Millenium Party Committee for vacating their booking at the Hall to allow children to attend – we hope we can all work together, perhaps combining the Village Hall and the Church to make the event fantasmagorically memorable (it's amazing the new vocabulary millenium fever produces!)

Homewatch

Vacancies for Co-ordinators in Marriotts Close and Pavenham Road. This is an interesting but not too exacting contribution to village life. A viable Homewatch scheme has many benefits for us all. A Co-ordinator is responsible for occasional deliveries of leaflets supplied by the police, can attend meetings which give an insight into law and order concerns and to act as an information service. Further information from Félise Kingerslee (781778) or Joan White (781702).

Joan White

Good News in the Springtime

By the time that you are reading this we will be well into the Easter season. It is one of my favourite times of the year, everything has a fresh smell and appearance. The new leaves are rapidly appearing, the Spring flowers are present in abundance, the days are longer, it is a time of great promise. It is as though the earth has awoken from a deep sleep, and is fresh to begin the new day. This is also the time of the year when we celebrate new life, for in addition to the breaking out of the leaves and the flowering of the blossoms there is also new animal life. The sight of lambs gamboling in the fields, the birds nesting all add to the excitement of the season.

David G Mason

And in the Church as well there is a time of great rejoicing at the good news of the Easter message. The sorrow and desolation of Good Friday, when we remember the agony of our Lord dying on the cross, and the feelings of loss, confusion and failure of the first disciples is replaced by the joy and excitement of Jesus' resurrection on Easter day. Still the disciples are confused as they try to come to terms with what has happened, but the very presence of Jesus, alive and among them, has turned sorrow into joy, despair into hope. In the period up to the Ascension Jesus teaches and prepares them for their task of continuing his work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and spreading the Gospel message. It must have been a time of great wonder and anticipation, and possibly also apprehension.

Through the years since that first Easter the Church has celebrated that wonderful event with joy and thanksgiving. The message of Easter is the same today as it ever was, Jesus, through his death and resurrection has destroyed death, and brings to believers the promise of everlasting life. The gift is not earned, it is given freely to those who believe and accept Jesus as Lord. In this Easter time let us remember again what Jesus did for us, and what he freely offers each one of us. Let us turn again to him in joy and thanksgiving, and seek to get near to him, accepting his commission to be true and faithful disciples in a world where many still do not know him, or the promises that he gives to those who love him.

May I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Felmersham on Line

Following an item in Ouse News last year a small group of interested people met and discussed the possibility of setting up a Felmersham web site . As a result I have constructed a Felmersham web site and I am now writing to ask if your village organisation is interested in taking part in an exciting Internet challenge.

Felmersham web site has a main page (www.felmersham48.freerve.co.uk), which is of general interest, plus four other pages for visitors to the parish. A fifth page called Info-Link is designed for parish use and it is this page that could be of interest to your organisation. The idea is that your organisation constructs its own independent web site. A button on the Felmersham Info-Link page, suitably identified (i.e. Parish Council), will automatically call up your site when selected. Villagers (and the world!) will then have a path to instant parish information through a single web site address. At the same time, if you wish, you can publicise your own site on the Internet.

Info-Link should be considered as an experiment and its success or otherwise depends upon your response, so why not have a go. If it is successful then the site can be developed and the management of it can be formalised. Info-link can be considered as an electronic "What on in Felmersham and Radwell".

To take part in this experiment you will need somebody who is prepared to design and manage a web site i.e. keep it up to date! Other than that it is very simple. Clive is arranging a meeting at his house in April where we will demonstrate how Info-Link works and answer any questions. Phone 781967 if you are interested.

My thanks to Laurie Jones for the text for the Nature Reserve and the Walks and also for some of the photographs and to Clive for starting the ball rolling.

Ken Shrimpton

Ladies Night

Pinchmill Lower School

Thursday 22nd April, 8pm

**Tickets £5 includes Buffet Supper
and Colour Analysis Demonstration**

A fundraising event for Pinchmill School Association

(to purchase a pergola to give shade from the sun in the school grounds);

**Tickets from: Joy Davies (781332) ,
Michelle Evans (781859), Jeani Nertney (825959)**

Parish Council and Annual Open Meeting

Maggie Spoor

5 members of the Council (including Borough Councillor Hulatt), the Clerk, Mr Tom Foster (County Councillor), and several members of the public attended this meeting on the 2nd March. There were apologies from Mr Barford and Mr Smith.

Matters Arising - the Chairman reported on the churchyard extension. A Borough planning officer had advised the Council to re-submit its planning application. The County Archaeologists have suggested we carry out a site evaluation to determine the extent of any archaeological remains. This would be cheaper than a full-scale dig, and it would mean that once the sensitive areas had been identified, the Council would be free to use the remaining area as a graveyard. The Parish Council agreed to re-submit its planning application.

Correspondence had been received regarding the change of use of a barn in Town Lot Lane and also regarding access to Town Lot Lane. The Enforcement Officer has visited the site and a retrospective planning application was awaited. Regarding access, Town Lot Lane is only partly adopted as a highway. The Highways Department would be asked to look at this part in the first instance.

A copy of the objectors to the Borough Local Plan was circulated to Councillors.

Grasscutting - No quotations had been received as yet. Mr Thomas would arrange to meet Mr Horne, the current contractor, and also agreed to co-ordinate the grasscutting until the next meeting in May. The PCC requested grant assistance for their grasscutting, £550 the same as last year. This was agreed. Mr Cook reported that there was a broken manhole cover in the verge on the south side of Radwell Road. The GPO have been informed.

The High Road verge - Several letters have been received from residents following the Council's decision to install bollards. Bollards are not popular! The Council was grateful for the ideas and suggestions, unfortunately most would prove to be impractical or too expensive. There is the possibility of money being made available by the County Council next financial year. The amount would be relatively modest, but it was a small glimmer of hope.

Year 2000 - A committee will be set up to handle the commissioning and ordering of a commemorative mug. Local schools indicate 103 children eligible to receive a memento, but this does not include any babies or pre-school children, or children who attend schools other than Pinchmill, Lincroft, Harrold or Sharnbrook Upper. (We would be grateful for any information regarding this.)

Finance - the maintenance of street lights will be renewed with Borland Lighting.

Correspondence - The letter from Pinchmill Governors regarding the swimming pool was discussed. The Council felt it would not be feasible to take on the management of the pool.

Mrs Spoor has written to Pilgrim H.A. regarding their allocation criteria for the houses on the Old Road site. A meeting is being arranged between Pilgrim Housing, Raglan Housing, the Borough and Parish Councils.

An invitation for councillors to attend the next meeting between the Parish

Councils and the Borough on the 8th March; also an invitation to attend a meeting to discuss the Beds and Luton Flood Response Draft Plan on the 15th March.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm. Date of next meeting: 11th May.

The Annual Open Meeting followed the Parish meeting. Various reports were heard which were then followed by questions.

Details of items and other correspondence received are listed in the Minutes.

Pinchmill Pre-School Felmersham

Monday – Friday, 9.30 - 12.00
For children aged 2½ - 5

We offer :

- * Qualified Staff
- * A high ratio of adults to children
- * A friendly and caring atmosphere
- * A full and varied curriculum, covering personal and social development, language and literacy, maths, understanding of the world and physical and creative development, including an extra 30 minutes per session with an early years teacher for over 4's.

We are a Government registered provider of nursery education.

Mother and Toddler session
Tuesday 1.30 – 3.20pm

Further details from Elizabeth Briggs (Tel. 720710) or Fiona Broughton (Tel. 782697)

Residents Required**Maggie Spoor**

Raglan Housing are still seeking applicants for the new houses along The Old Road, in particular for the three-bedroom properties.

Anyone interested should contact Debra Pusey, Pilgrim Housing Association, on 221360 for further information.

[This item was submitted for inclusion in last month's Ouse News. Apologies for missing it out – I hope that it is still valid. Ed]

Emergency doctors**Isabel Buckingham**

I visited a colleague in Wyboston and received detailed instructions about how to find her house. The village had new clear road names. An emergency doctor had been called out from Bedford and did not know the area. The houses have numbers but some of the road names were missing. It took him so long to find the house at night, that the patient had died before he arrived. I think we have all the road names in place, but what about clearly marked house names? Could you be found by a stranger at night? Should we in Radwell list all the house names on the noticeboard? This could be easily be done. Wyboston Parish Council put things right after the event, but any problem here is up to us to solve.

Security of Personal Information**Editor**

The above item and Ken's item on a Felmersham web site might possibly raise a debate about personal information being published or displayed in an easily accessible public location. Would anyone not want their house name and location published on the village notice board? As OuseNews is going to be published on the Felmersham web site would anyone mind their name being mentioned in articles? What about phone number or address? Most people are not ex-directory and phone numbers and addresses are fairly readily available so why not publish them on the web! Is this significant issue or not – are you bothered at all about it?

If you have a view then please let me know. I would be happy to consider maintaining a list of people who did not want to have their addresses or phone numbers in articles published on the web site. Or should it be a list of those who were happy - which list should be the default if people don't respond?

Although OuseNews will be 'on-line' this month until people have had a chance to respond to this item I will not put any phone numbers on web articles apart from those who have 'gone public' e.g. church wardens, committee members and advertisers. If that causes any difficulties please contact me at once on 781967 or ousenews@bigfoot.com.

Beating the Bounds**Ken Shrimpton**

A date for your diary! Sunday 23rd May - meet at Felmersham bus shelter at 11.30am and bring a packed lunch. The walk will finish at approximately 2.30pm. Everybody is welcome so bring a friend!