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TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 11
Sept/ Oct 2008

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire
www.tempsford.org

Introducing

www.tempsford.org

Tempsford's new website

See page 5 for details

TEMPSFORD TIMES is published bi-monthly by Tempsford Parish Council and St Peter's Parish Church, Tempsford, and is delivered free to all households in Tempsford. Please support our advertisers mentioning TEMPSFORD TIMES whenever you do so.

Articles are accepted for publication on the condition that they are included at the publishers' discretion and may be edited if felt necessary. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council or the Parish Council.

Articles for the next edition should be sent by October 20th to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford or by e-mail to alant@atuffnell.plus.com; advertising enquiries to Jeff Claughton on 01767 640624

From Rev. Barbara Ebeling Rector of St Peter's, Tempsford

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago I was at Heathrow airport to see my son off to Japan. We had had a lovely week with him and now he was off again. At the Departure gate we said our goodbyes (tearfully on my part) and off he went. Those moments of departing are always difficult and reminded me of poems my mother wrote when my father left her during the war called Paddington Partings.

Now I am at the departure gate too, leaving behind all the friends I have made during the past nine years. It's a difficult place to be, because even if we meet again it won't be quite the same.

I have been so privileged to have lived and worked in these four parishes. I have had the tremendous privilege, which probably only clergy still manage to cling on to, of being with you in some of the darkest moments of life, moments which have taught me so much about courage and compassion. I have had the privilege of being with some of you at the happiest moments, weddings and christenings. Thank you for allowing me to share those special family times too.

I have had the privilege of meeting and being with your children which has been a great joy. Most of all though we have spent these years worshiping God together, celebrating the great festivals and the great truths of Christianity and that has been tremendous.

If any one had told me twenty years ago, that I would one day come to the end of being a vicar I would have thought it the most ridiculous fantasy. God had other things in mind, and so I come to the point of going through that parting gate, and going home.

As I look back I will remember so much, you will all be part of our memories, and thank you all for making them happy ones.

A final thank you to everyone in Tempsford for the lovely farewell garden party on 2nd August. It was a great way to say goodbye as my first visit to Tempsford took place in the Beagent's garden Thanks to them and to the tea and cake makers.

Barbara

Tempsford WI

Every so often a real gem of a speaker comes to Tempsford WI. This was the case when Edith Garea demonstrated Chinese cooking. She was so good that members asked for a return visit.

In June a pleasant lunch was enjoyed at Danish Camp Willington. In the 8th, September, we welcome Alan Painter to speak about "Your day in court". Alan is a magistrate and if his talk is half as good as his wife's talk on the "Pilgrim fathers" it will be well worth making a visit to the Stuart Memorial hall on Monday 8th. September at 7.30 pm.

Feast Week Results

We are delighted to announce that the total raised was £1036, of which the rounders game raised £58, the sponsored knit £152, the tea and archives evening £116 and the duck race £710.

Our thanks to everyone who supported the various events and to Steve Cooney and his team for making the week so successful and raising such a splendid sum.

Parish Church Flower Rota

At the end of 2008 I will no longer be organising St Peter's Church flower rota. It hasn't always been easy but I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in the past few years by being involved on the rota, and making sure the Church looks beautiful with flowers each week. I will certainly give my support to the next person to be in charge of the flower rota.

The flower festivals were great successes and the Church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas has always been well decorated.

Margaret Smith



We are pleased to announce

*Dakins
Restaurant*

Is now open for Traditional English breakfasts,
Daily lunch time specials, tea, coffee and
homemade cakes & pastries. Mouth watering
Sunday roast dinner all served in a beautiful
brand new extension to the garden centre
which includes new sales area full of fantastic
new and exciting products.

Bedford Rd, Roxton, Bedford,
MK44 3DY Tel 01480 212701

How the Pyramids Rocked in Great Barford Church.

In the first week of August, 38 children between 5 and 10 enjoyed the first holiday club staged by the benefice. The church turned into ancient Egypt with palm tree pillars, pyramids and an obelisk complete with hieroglyphics, as we heard the story of Joseph, with his multi-coloured coat. The children were entertained by Captain Ketchup and his jokes, and by the intriguing drama of "Professor Potty and the ancient relic with the onion shape piece missing". We enjoyed games from bouncing Benjamin and music from the oasis band.

The children worked hard on group craft, a real multi-coloured coat, a tissue collage coat, and a magnificent head of Tutenkhamun, who looked like Joseph would have done when he was Prime minister of Egypt.

The busy two and a half days ended with a well earned barbeque. Children from all four parishes took part and are eager to come back next year. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard, again from all the parishes. It is a tribute to all the schools in the benefice that the children were well disciplined and eager to take part and learn, so thanks to the hard working teachers in our villages.

Watch out next summer for another story from the Bible made into fun for our children. It was a privilege to read the children's prayers and to try to answer some of their "BIG" questions..

Barbara

Are you planning something special in 2009. Make sure it's included in in the TEMPSFORD TIMES in plenty of time

For material covering	Publication date	Copy deadline date
November & December	1st November	20th October
January & February 2009	1st January	10th December
March and April 2009	1st March	20th February

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Affordable Housing: The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 16th Sept at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Stuart Memorial Hall. At this meeting Julia Mackie, Area Programme Manager for the Rural Housing Trust will be giving a presentation on affordable housing. This has been a topic of conversation in the village for some time so this could well be of interest to many people.

Trees, Hedges and Grass Verges: At the last meeting the pruning of trees and bushes overhanging the A1 footbridge paths and the paths leading into Church End was noted as being necessary, as was the cutting of grass verges especially down Station Road towards the old station. The Council agreed to follow this up. Villagers are again asked to make sure that their own hedges and trees do not overhand paths. Thanks to those who have already attended to this!

Playground equipment : The playground equipment has been safety checked and the council will follow this up with further maintenance. The old swings in Church End are to be replaced.

Noticeboard: The position of the notice board in Station Road was commented on as not being in the best position. Suggestions are sought from villagers as to a better place. Grants are being spent on footpath improvement in Church End, and the Council is seeking further improvement work to be done in Station Road.

Minutes: Full Parish Council meeting minutes are available from the Parish Clerk and are to be found on the Tempsford website and on the Notice boards.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Adrian Besant	Chairman	92 Station Road	640873
Jim Donnelly	Vice Chairman	67 Station Road	640694
Chris Bettles	Councillor	44 Church Street	640194
Dan Clark	Councillor	73 Station Road	641115
Steve Cooney	Councillor	69 Station Road	640968
Ian Gosling	Councillor	44 Station Road	640858
Elizabeth (Liz) Infield	Councillor	Ouse Farm 19 Church Street	640253

The Clerk to the Parish Council is
Jan Ward, 14 Pound Close, Blunham. MK44 3NR 01767 640794

St Peters Church - what next?

One of the biggest changes this month for Tempsford and Little Barford is the loss of someone who never lived in either village - the Rector, Rev. Barbara Ebeling, for 9 years a resident of Gt Barford, has retired and returned with husband, Chris, to their former home in Hunsdon, in the south-East of the Diocese.

As "Goodbyes" have been said [and with four parishes and four schools as well as many varied institutions/activities, there have been many] voices have been heard enquiring, "What happens to the parish church now?" The answers for the long term are never clear, but in the short term there are definite answers!

Firstly, *the business of the church continues!* Generally, services will be held as before on a rota basis with the other parishes in the Benefice, which means two services a month in St Peter's and always a service of Eucharist in at least one of the four active churches while the festivals, and special services twice a year at St Denys' Little Barford, will also take place. The four Parochial Church Councils will continue to function, those of Blunham and Gt Barford and Roxton led by their Churchwardens who are meeting regularly to ensure the smooth functioning of the Benefice. St Peter's has no churchwardens at present, but the PCC continues and two representatives attend the churchwardens' meetings.

Neighbouring clergy have volunteered to cover Baptisms and Weddings and may be contacted via any PCC member or the new Benefice administrator, Mrs Sue Mugridge on 01767 640 326. Funerals will be co-ordinated by our Reader, Mrs Brenda Jennings [01480 213 155] and all the local undertakers will contact her when needed. Mrs Jennings or any of the local clergy will give support as needed, including home or hospital visits.

As soon as the Benefice is technically vacant, from 1st September, talks will be held with senior clergy from St Albans Diocese to discuss what Benefice members would want of a priest and then see if there is a suitable candidate to fill the post.

Finding someone may take a while but it is hoped by all that the interregnum will be a short one and St Peters can soon start a new chapter in its long history.

Riversmeet Benefice Services for September /October 2008

Sunday Sept 7

Blunham	8:00	Holy Communion
	11:15	Family Service
Great Barford	9:30	Family Service
Roxton	11:00	Holy Communion
Tempsford	9:30	Holy Communion

Sunday Sept 14

Roxton	11:00	Holy Communion
Tempsford	9:30	Holy Communion [Rev. David Quin]

Sunday Sept 21

Blunham	11:15	Holy Communion
Great Barford	9:30	Holy Communion
Roxton	11:00	Family Service

Sunday Sept 28

Blunham	11:15	Benefice Service
Roxton	11:00	Back to Church Sunday

Sunday Oct 5

Blunham	11:15	Harvest Family Service with Holy Communion
Great Barford	9:30	Harvest Family Service with Holy Communion
Roxton	11:00	Harvest Festival
Tempsford	18:00	Harvest Festival

Sunday Oct 12

Roxton	11:00	Holy Communion
Tempsford	9:30	Holy Communion

Sunday Oct 19

Blunham	11:15	Holy Communion
Great Barford	10:00	Great Barford at Methodists
Roxton	11:00	Family Service

Sunday Oct 26

Great Barford	11:00	Patronal Festival Benefice Holy Communion
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*You will be pleased to note from the above
that on Sunday the 14th. September,
the service at St. Peter's will be taken by the Rev. David Quin*

Tempsford Parish Council You Can Now Visit Us on the Web

Tempsford now has its very own website

www.tempsford.org

It has been put together with the support of the Parish Council to keep you informed of what is happening in the village, and as an information resource on Tempsford.

If you access the site you will see, amongst many items, the following:

- The upcoming horticultural show
- History of the village
- The option to download the Tempsford Heritage Trail leaflet
- Parish Council meeting minutes
- Tempsford Village Hall details
- Links for information on planning applications
- Useful contact telephone numbers

The website is continually updated, and in the future it is planned to add pages with details of the Parish Action Plan, cemetery information, and photographs of Tempsford.

We welcome feedback about the site, particularly if you have suggestions for information to be included, new topics and useful contact numbers, but do ensure you include supporting information to help us create the pages, or the actual telephone numbers you feel should be added to the Useful Contacts page.

Please e-mail your comments to:

feedback@tempsford.org

Roxton Harvest Barn Dance

A barn dance will be held in Roxton Parish Hall on Saturday 27th. September, starting at 8.00 pm. The caller will be Adrian Besant, and the band the Occasional Few. Tickets are £8 each, including a ploughman's supper, and are obtainable from Sheila Bradley on 01234 870651 or Janet Must on 01234 870234. This event is in aid of Roxton Church Restoration Fund.

TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

September and October Services

Sept 7th	6.00pm	Section United Service at Berkley Street (Songs of Praise Service)
Sept 14th	6.00pm	Mr John Green
Sept 21st	6.00pm	Mr Malcolm Sharp
Sept 28th	6.00pm	Rev Chris Giles: Harvest Festival Service
Oct 5th	6.00pm	Section United Service at Gt Barford Preacher: Rev David Shaw (Superintendent)
Oct 12th	6.00pm	Mr Richard Crane
Oct 19th	3.00pm	Mr Tom Rowe
Oct 26th	6.00pm	Mr Colin Webber

Everybody is assured of a warm welcome at all our services

Chat Club

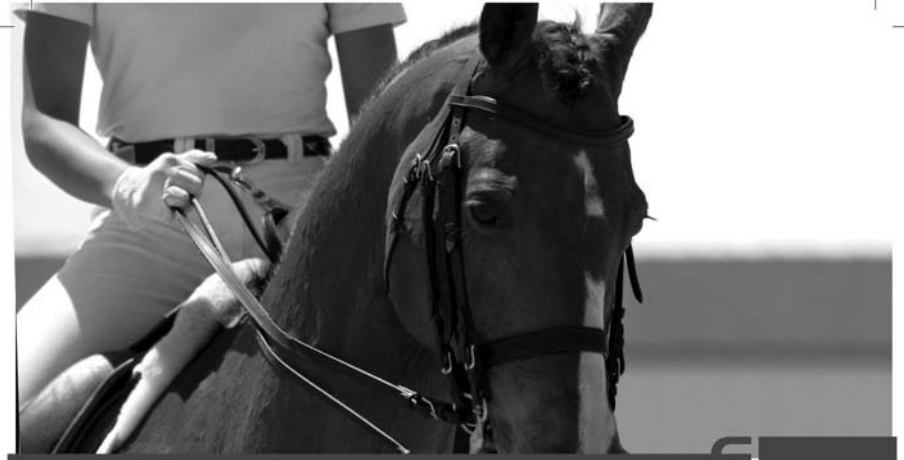
At the June get-together 'decorate a hat for Ascot' (or cap for the men) was the theme. Mrs. Kay Quinn kindly came along in the afternoon to judge the entries and awarded first prize in the Ladies Section to Mrs. Carolyn Owen, followed by Mrs. Jill Maudlin and Mrs. Elaine Bettles respectively. First prize in the Mens Section was Mr. Gordon Odell followed in second place by Mr. John Maudlin.

On Wednesday, 30 July members spent a very pleasant afternoon at the home and garden of Carolyn and Roger Owen and enjoyed a lovely Devonshire/ Tempsford Cream tea relaxing in the company of friends. A bouquet of flowers were presented to Mrs. Carolyn Owen in appreciation of their hospitality.

Chat Club meet again in the Chapel Schoolroom on Wednesday, 24th September and Wed 29th October from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m. Come along and find out what we get up to - you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held at the Chapel on Saturday, 19 July in aid of St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger and the Chapel raised the magnificent sum of £530.00. A cheque for £265.00 has been presented to St. John's and a certificate of appreciation is on view in the Chapel. A big thank you to all the villagers and friends of the Chapel who donated cakes, vegetables, books etc. and also came along on the day and helped us raise this wonderful sum.



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PEOPLE NEWS

Welcome to Mable Elizabeth Birkin-Wallis of Home Farm Close
Born on 1st July 2008 weight 8lb 8oz, a sister for Stanley
Thanks to all who sent cards and best wishes.

Good Recovery Chris and Elaine Bettles would like to let everyone know that their eldest daughter Victoria (Vicki) Dickens, is making a good recovery after her terrible accident on April 2nd 2008. After a spell in a wheelchair she is now "vertical" on crutches. She still has a way to go but she has amazed everyone with her determination. Her physiotherapist's hard work is paying off.

Chris and Elaine would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and prayers for Vivki, Tim, Harry and themselves. "It's great to have her home!"

Best wishes also go to the two members of the village being looked after in nursing homes, and to those who are or have recently been in hospital: Ron Moore, Grace Kraus, Mary Morgan, Barry Fitzpatrick, Sam Knott, Pierre Samal, Betty Ingram and Wendy Bettles.

WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?

The summer of 2008 seems to have been a pretty mediocre affair. It certainly wasn't as wet as last year when we had the three wettest months of the year in June, July and August. But 2008 has still been wetter than average with over six inches of rain recorded in the summer months up to 18th August. The temperatures have been about average: 18.5 °C in June, 22°C in July and 21°C in August, but apart from an odd week in June and a spell at the end of July and the start of August there have been few heat waves. Even when it was hot (July 28th was the hottest at 28°C or 82°F), it was not always sunny, and the hottest days were spoiled by some very high humidity making it cloudy at times. The hottest day with 28°C is the lowest of the hottest days that I have recorded for 20 years.

Unfortunately as we move into September and the hours of daylight decrease the chances of getting really hot weather also decline, but with September could be a much improved month weather-wise than its three predecessors—fingers crossed!

Meryl Besant

Special Open Air Service

Over 50 people came along to the picnic and informal open air service at Biggin Farm on 3rd August. As the weather was unpredictable both picnic and service were held in the barn behind the farm. Thanks go to everyone who helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL The Methodist Chapel is once again taking part in this very worthwhile project. We would like to invite as many people in the village, together with their families and friends, to join us. The initial get-together to view a short video and find out more about the appeal will take place on Wednesday, October 15 at 7.15 p.m. in the Chapel – we aim to finish by 8.00 p.m. (refreshments will be provided). There will also be small gifts for you to take away to help you begin to fill your shoebox. Last year our village sent 104 gift-filled shoeboxes to the Christmas Child Appeal which was an amazing response – please come along on October 15 and help us once again make Christmas special for needy and suffering children. Remember that every gift filled shoebox is a smile on a child's face and will be for some children the **ONLY** present they receive in their **ENTIRE** childhood. Please join us.

Tempsford Methodist Church



Sunday 28 September 2008 at 6.00 pm
Please come along and join our thanksgiving for another
Harvest . Everyone welcome

All gifts of produce used to decorate the church
for this occasion will be distributed later to
the sick and elderly of the village

POLICE SURGERY

The Police Mobile Office will be in
Station Road on

Tuesday 30th. October at 7.15 pm
and
Tuesday 4th. November at 11.15 am

***Parishioners are invited to make
every effort to attend at talk to
PC Ross Paterson about their
concerns.***

The Mobile Office will be parked
adjacent to the play area at the
eastern end of Station Road

YOGA CLASSES

at the Stuart Memorial Hall
Tempsford

Wednesday evenings
6.00pm - 7.00 pm

gentle/beginners class
7.30 - 9.00 pm
general class

Drop in and have a try
£5.00 per class
payable one month in advance

Bring a mat or blanket
and wear comfortable clothing

For more information contact
Heather on 07759 585995

or email
heather4yoga@hotmail.com

LEN HARRIS 30.7.1918 - 22.4.2008

Len was born in Richmond Avenue in Islington London, the 7th of 9 children, 6 brothers and 2 sisters; he is survived by his youngest brother Ted. He met his wife Grace when they were helping to teach ballroom dancing in the same dance school in London. When war was declared Len was the first one in his family to volunteer. He joined the British Expeditionary Force based in Guildford and was immediately sent to France. In March 1940 he had four days leave so he and Grace decided to get married. They were married on 12 March 1940 at Islington Town Hall, the first couple to be married on the new 24 hour soldier's licence, hence their photograph was in all the daily papers and many magazines.

On being rescued from Dunkirk he was found to have contracted tuberculosis and so had to leave the army and was sent to Papworth Hospital to recuperate. To enable Grace to visit him she lodged at a farm in Tempsford where Len's mother had been brought up, and still had friends. After his recovery they decided to stay in Tempsford and had two children, Ian and Christine. Ian unfortunately died aged 8. Len loved village life and especially his garden in which he used to grow all the vegetables for the family and many flowers as well. After Grace died in 1994 he continued to live in Tempsford still tending his garden and fending for himself. In 2001 he had a small stroke and moved into a warden controlled flat. The last place he lived was Blenheim Court in Kempston.

He will be remembered for his love of a glass of Guinness at eleven each morning whilst he read the daily paper. He enjoyed playing cards and dominoes and watching Countdown. He also took part in many activities at Blenheim Court including keep fit and games afternoons. He will be greatly missed by his daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but will have been pleased that he did not have to spend his last days in a care home.

Christine Hearne

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

The Mobile Library will be opposite the telephone box in Station Road at 9.45am on the following Fridays in September and October

September 5th and 19th, October, 3rd 17th and 31st

Acorn Woodworking for Furniture repair and restoration

Phone Jeff Cloughton on
0800 970 1547
or email: jeff@acorn-woodworking.co.uk

Check our website for current offers
and second user equipment
www.acorn-woodworking.co.uk

My love for dogs

offers home boarding for your canine friend. I am a dog lover, smitten with them and my home in Steeple Morden is totally dog friendly. I am delighted to open up our home so that whilst you are on holiday, your dog has a holiday in the comfort of our home, with a totally secure garden. I am fully insured, police checked and have grown up with dogs all my life. .

Rest assured that your dog will have at least two long walks a day either at the heath nearby to our home, or in the fields surrounding our village. We also utilise on a daily basis a local village recreation ground and play ball games there.

For further details call Amanda Bishop on
07903806750

HOW TO WIN A DUCK RACE



FIRST, BUY
YOUR DUCK

MAKE SURE IT GETS
TIPPED IN TO THE
WATER WITH THE
OTHER 500!



MAKE SURE STEVE
PICKS IT OUT
FIRST



AND THEN HANDS
YOU THE PRIZE.

WELL DONE SUE!

Photos: Adrian Besant



Tempsford says Farewell to the Rev. Barbara Ebeling

On Saturday 2nd August, David and Karen Beagent hosted a tea party in their beautiful garden at the Old Rectory to give Tempsford parishioners the opportunity to say goodbye to our retiring rector, Barbara Ebeling.



They say the sun shines on the righteous, and so it proved on this day. After heavy rain in the morning, the sun came out just as the organisers were setting out out - despite some very threatening looking clouds - until the event was over.

The event enabled Barbara - and Chris of course - the chance to relax and chat to those attending, who were by no means limited to regular church goers. David Beagent expressed the village's sadness at Barbara's departure and gratitude for what she has done for the parish, and she in turn spoke of her appreciation of the warm welcome she had always received in Tempsford.



Whilst the bulk of the financial contributions made by Tempsford residents will be included in the main benefice presentation, she was given a very large house plant as a memento of the time she has spent in Tempsford.

But hopefully this is not the last we shall see of Barbara and Chris. They have agreed - Church of England rules permitting - to return to the Stuart Memorial Hall in February for another of their famous quizzes!

Photos and text by Alan Tuffnell



VILLAGE SHOW **SATURDAY SEPT 6TH** **STUART MEMORIAL HALL**

10.00am to 11.30am : Receipt of exhibits
1.30pm : Show open to public
4.00pm : Presentation of major awards
followed by grand auction,
and draw for the raffle



SCHEDULE

You should have received your copy of the schedule and entry form but if you have mislaid it you can download a copy from our website or telephone 640858 or 640207 for a further copy.

CHILDREN'S COLOURING COMPETITION

You can also download copies of the drawings for the children's colouring classes. Do enter as many classes as you feel able and be part of the fun on the day.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS during the afternoon will include for the first time not only a bar-b-que but ferret racing! All the usual attractions will be there including a free bouncy castle, stocks, various games and of course the tea room. There will also be the opportunity to stock your larder at the auction after you have discovered who has the best front garden in Tempsford – and the best hedge.

We look forward to seeing you on the day and hope that the sun shines!



STUART MEMORIAL HALL

We plan to close the hall for one week at the end of September whilst the floors of the committee room, the stage and the main hall are re-furnished. You may have noticed that despite the sterling efforts of our cleaner, the hall floor never seems to look clean and after refurbishment we believe it will look much smarter and be resilient to normal heavy traffic.

We have now made a modest contribution reducing the nation's energy consumption – and our ongoing costs - by replacing all the significant bulbs in the hall with low energy equivalents. A minor side effect of this has been that we have had to replace the dimmer switch in the Committee Room with a conventional switch. The new bulbs might take a minute or two to get to their full output, but once fully bright, you will not be able to tell the difference.

Takings are at an all time high. Regular users of the hall include two line dancing clubs, yoga classes, a pilates class, a dance school and two theatre clubs, as well as village organisations such as the Parish Council and the WI. But we would remind you that it is your hall and there are still plenty of spaces for you to book it for your own events. Further details can be found on our website

www.stuart-memorial-village-hall.co.uk

or by contacting the booking clerk Alan Tuffnell on 01767 640207 or by e-mail to

smh@atuffnell.plus.com

We are currently planning our pre-Christmas event, which this year will take the form of an open evening. We are going to invite our regular hirers - see the paragraph above to mount a short demonstration of their activity, and to be available to talk to anyone who is interested about what they do. You will also be able to try out our snooker table and enjoy a cup of coffee. There will be a few stalls selling items that could well help you in your Christmas shopping. This will take place on Friday 28th. November, so further details will be in the next edition of the Tempsford Times, but why not put the date in your diary now.