

P3 - PEOPLE, PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS

Steve Halton of Central Bedfordshire was a guest speaker Tempsford Annual Parish Meeting on 21st April. He is extremely enthusiastic in his job as Community Partnership Officer for the Countryside Access Service. His subject was how Tempsford could benefit from an active P3 group helping to monitor, maintain and improve the countryside around us. P3 initially was an abbreviation for Parish Paths Partnership but to reflect the more diverse nature of the projects and aims of P3 groups it is now an abbreviation for People, Projects, Partnerships.

Adding to the beauty of our parish. I know from chatting with those walking dogs, pushing buggies or enjoying an evening stroll that there are a lot of residents who really value the rural nature of Tempsford and the paths that lead into the beautiful countryside Tempsford parish contains. I know from past years that Tempsford can pull together on projects, that's how the Millennium Garden and Gannock's Castle have become such fantastic additions to the village.

How P3 can help. P3 really compliments the work that the Tempsford Parish Plan is doing and the finished Tempsford Parish Plan should provide a real mandate for the P3 group to carry out projects which benefit the whole village. Steve will help us if we can get a core of volunteers willing to help run a Tempsford P3 Group that would

work on practical projects to improve the local environment and the Rights Of Way network

Learn new skills at training and social events

Produce leaflets about our parish

Help improve our parish for wildlife, biodiversity and people!

If P3 interests you and you are willing to volunteer in any way it would be great to hear from you.

Dan Clark, Chairman Parish Plan Steering Group 01767 640115

TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 15
May & June 2009

www.tempsford.org

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire

Some Real Planning for Tempsford!



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 June 20th to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford or by e-mail to alant@atuffnell.plus.com; advertising enquiries to Jeff

PARISH PLAN : GETTING ALL YOUR IDEAS

“Flagging up” your ideas! The photos on the cover of this issue were taken at our Planning for Real® event on Sat 18th April, the latest event in the Tempsford Parish Plan consultation phase. With the village festooned with yellow balloons and the promise of bacon butties and cream teas, there was a good turn out at the Stuart Memorial Hall. 50 residents expressed their views by pinning suggestions written on little flags onto large maps of the parish. During the event we got a further four volunteers offering to help in various ways which now makes up a very healthy number helping the Steering Group of the Tempsford Parish Plan. The group would like to thank Kay, Jean and Angela for the catering and an especially big thanks to Zoe Ashby of BRCC for all her help.

Now for the young people’s ideas The next Parish Plan event will be for the young people with the attendance of the R.A.V.E bus at both ends of the village on the **12th & 13th May**. Please could parents of children aged 9 and over make a note of these dates and if they want any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.(01767 640115) Flyers with fuller details will be distributed.



**HAVE YOU
SEEN THE
NEW PLAY
EQUIPMENT
AT
CHURCH
END
AND AT
STATION
ROAD?**

Tempsford Chat Club, Helping Hands, Ivel Sprinter and the Tempsford Times. The Police report, in the absence of PC Ross Paterson, was read by the chairman; details are included elsewhere in this issue. Cllr Dan Clark spoke about the progress of the Parish Plan and Cllr Tricia Turner, leader of the unitary authority Central Beds, outlined how it has evolved and what is planned for the future. Another guest speaker, Steve Halton explained the aims of P3 and these are described in a special article in this issue. Comments from the residents included the need to get Anglian Water to solve the sewage problem in Station Road; both the Parish Council and Central Beds said they would make contact with Anglian Water. The chairman thanked all for attending, and for giving details of their activities. The meeting closed with all enjoying refreshments and having an opportunity to informally discuss village life.

The Kingfisher Players present

A Springtime Stroll

(An evening of variety entertainment)

7:30pm Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May 2009

Stewart Memorial Hall - Tempsford

Tickets: Adults £10 includes Chicken Burger and Chips

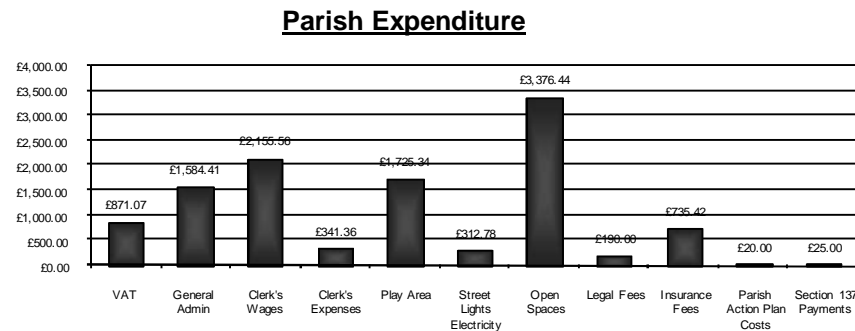
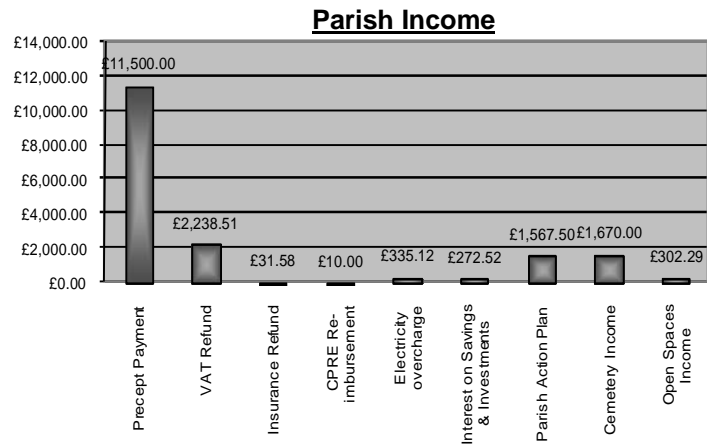
Tickets available from Steve on 01767 691982

on-line at www.kingfisherplayers.co.uk

The Kingfisher Players are a group of people who meet once a week to indulge in their passion for amateur dramatics. We have members aging from 10 to nearly 70 and try to put on at least two shows a year. These usually consist of a pantomime around January and either a play or a musical show around May/June time. The group has been running for more than 30 years and was previously known as Sandy Theatre Group before spreading its wings to become the Kingfisher Players. Our aim is to have fun and entertain ourselves and others whilst learning new skills and developing existing ones. An Evening with the Kingfishers will, we hope, make you laugh, wonder, admire and maybe feel a little melancholy, but overall will send you away with a lighter feeling in your heart and perhaps a spring in your step!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Stuart Memorial Hall on Tues 21st April at 7.30pm and was attended by 20 residents of Tempsford. Cllr Adrian Besant, Chairman of the Parish Council and of the meeting outlined the Council's activities throughout the year illustrated by photographs of some of the improvements and some of the outstanding problems. He also gave details of the Council's finances which are included below.



Reports were also given by village groups of their activities during the year: Stuart Memorial Hall Trustees, Millennium Garden, Parish Website, Tempsford Methodist Church, St Peter's Church (by Sandra Cloughton in the absence of Rev Margaret Marshall),

POLICE REPORT

Crime within the area has remained at a low level over the past 6 months, though November to January saw a significant increase in the amount of crime recorded.

Although it is good to report that the parish of Tempsford has remained at a low crime level, I feel it is important to inform people of what has been going on in surrounding areas so that people from this parish remain vigilant about personal safety and the safety of personal property.

The increase in crime in the level villages was due to a spate of burglaries. As a result we established a "hot spot" area which meant that all of the local resources and specialist units, e.g. dog section, firearms and traffic, focussed their attentions on the area. During February our attentions were drawn to two individuals believed to be responsible for the majority of these offences and as a result arrests were made and since then the recording of such offences has been minimal.

I would urge local people to remain vigilant about the comings and goings within the parish and if there is any suspicious activity/ people to report it straight away to the police.

PC Ross Paterson

POLICE SURGERY DATES

The mobile police surgery will be in the village on Monday June 15th (emergencies permitting!) 1.15pm to 2.15pm. PC Ross Paterson will be in attendance and will be available to security mark property if you require.

RIVERSMEET BENEFICE SERVICES

Sunday	8.00	Blunham	Holy Communion (said)
3 rd May	9.30	Gt Barford	Family service
	9.30	Tempsford	Holy Communion
	11.00	Roxton	Holy Communion
	11.15	Blunham	FS
Sunday	9.30	Tempsford	Holy Communion
10 th May	11.00	Roxton	Holy Communion
Sunday	9.30	Gt Barford	Holy Communion
17 th May	11.00	Roxton	Holy Communion
	11.15	Blunham	Holy Communion
Thursday 21 st	7pm	Lt Barford	
(Ascension Day)			
Sunday	9.30	Gt Barford	Holy Communion
24 th May	11.15	Blunham	Holy Communion
Sunday			
31 st May	11.00	Gt Barford	Benefice Holy Communion
(Pentecost)			

We are delighted to learn that a priest will be retiring to a local parish in the near future and has offered his help with Sunday services. We look forward to his arrival in the area when a longer term schedule will become available.

FROM REV MARGARET MARSHALL

During Lent I decided to read 'The Shack' by William P. Young. It is interesting, first, because it does not fit easily into a single category. It is a work of fiction. but also, very definitely, a work of Theology. If you think that sounds an unappealing, or unlikely combination, you might recall 'Pilgrim's Progress', It, too, was a work of fiction, but without doubt also a serious work of Theology.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council last met on March 17th when Steve Halton gave a short presentation on P3 (People Projects and Partnerships). Cllr John Scott updated members on the weight restriction zone and proposed speed restriction through some villages. Cllr Jo Davidson gave details of Council Tax rises, of the eco town in Marston Vale and of proposed gypsy and traveller pitches Neither councillors is standing again in the forthcoming elections, and expressions of thanks and good wishes for their futures were made.

The **Highways** report from the chairman stated how Ameys have resurfaced a large section of Station Road paths, dealt with various pot holes and resurfaced the slip road to the overbridge from the Blunham side, and improved drainage "grips" at the far end of Station Road. The verge beyond the speed limit on to the old station is being cut more regularly by Peter Bettles , so that the council can deem it to be a grass footpath.

Cllr Dan Clark updated the council on **Parish Plan events**.

Orders for **new playground equipment** had been placed and were to be erected in the next few weeks (see photograph elsewhere). A working party of councillors was planned to continue the maintenance of the existing play equipment. The Council plans to improve the area near the phone box and notice board in Station Road, by moving the board further back to the other side of the path and improve the remaining grass area nearby. The contract for **grass cutting** at Church End playing area, and the cemetery was awarded to Ben Fey, and for the management of the trees and bushes in the churchyard to Shuttleworth College.

Affordable Housing. The council received an update from the Rural Housing Trust which has ceased business. All existing files have been passed to Hastoe Housing Association. The Council will therefore further its enquiries with other associations.

The future powers of the Parish Council under the **Power of Well Being** was introduced to the council by the Chairman who asked that all councillors should carefully read the information provided to help the promotion of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our area that will be entrusted to the council .

Full minutes of council can be found on the village web site.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 19th May 2009 at 7.30pm at the Stuart Memorial Hall.



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'The Shack', however, is of our time and for our time. It addresses, amongst others, one of the biggest questions with which human beings struggle: 'Why does God allow evil?', and it does so by looking at a tragedy which has befallen one man and his family. On a weekend camping trip with his children, Mackenzie has to rescue one of his older children from a capsized canoe, and when he returns to the shore of the lake, he discovers that his six year old daughter, Missy (Melissa), has been abducted. Eventually evidence is found that she has become the latest victim of a serial child-killer. although her body is not recovered. Some years later Mackenzie receives a mysterious invitation from someone signing himself 'Papa', to revisit the isolated and broken-down shack where his daughter is thought to have been murdered. Without telling his absent wife or family, Mack sets off for the remote place of his nightmares. Once there he meets Papa - God - who is not a bit as he had expected. Papa, together with Jesus and Sarayu - the Holy Spirit - set about healing Mackenzie and helping him to understand and to forgive.

The book will not be everyone's cup of tea - it is strongly 'transatlantic' in flavour for a start. But it surprised me that when I walked through Waterstone's this week, I found it is among the current best sellers. How common is that in this generation for an unashamedly 'religious' book? I deliberately have not given much detail about the book's contents here, in the hope that you may be intrigued enough to read it for yourself.

While I don't wholeheartedly endorse every word, it says some fascinating, insightful and prejudice-challenging things about God and his relationship with humanity - it even comments (none too kindly) on the Church! It is a thought-provoking book and worth reading at any time of the year, not just in Lent.

Work is starting on renovating the vicarage - now that it's dry at last! It will be just a few weeks until I can move into the benefice and really become a part of the community at last. With every blessing for the last weeks of the Easter season.

Margaret

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CHEAP AS CHIPS

St Neots & District Cats Protection is your local rescue charity for cats and kittens. We re-home in excess of 150 cats and kittens annually, run the local Lost and Found register, feed manage and control over 200 outdoor and feral cats and offer a free and reduced cost spaying/neutering program. We are manned completely by volunteers and raise 95% of our funds locally.

Many cats go missing or are involved in road traffic accidents every year. If they are not microchipped, their owners may never know what has happened to them. If you have lost a cat or have found one, please contact us as soon as possible. In the first instance, we check our register for cats matching the description, we will then arrange for the cat to be scanned for a microchip which is the quickest and easiest way of re-united lost pets with their owners. Lastly, we will place a collar on the cat asking "Is this your cat" with a telephone number on the collar. If no owner comes forward, the cat will be placed on our waiting list to be re-homed. We offer a microchipping service in Eynesbury (minimum suggested donation is £12). Contact us now and ensure your cat can be traced should it go missing.

We always have a number of adult cats and cats with special needs who need loving new homes so if you are thinking of getting a cat or kitten contact us now.

CAT FOOD URGENTLY NEEDED

We are experts in the management of large cat colonies (we are feeding over 200 this winter) so if your cat numbers are getting out of control or you know a property where there seem to be too many cats or kittens let us know. There are many local drop off points where you can leave donations of cat food, ring to find out where is nearest to you.

We offer a free and reduced cost neutering and spaying service. This is the best way to control the spread of infectious diseases which are caused through mating and fighting and keeps the unwanted kitten numbers down too. Ring now for your voucher which can be used at a local vet.

TEL: 01480 476696, 07966 282005, 07900 257061
FOR LOST AND FOUND: 07904 701908
lostcats@hotmail.co.uk
<http://stneots.cats.org.uk/>



**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
SANDY & DISTRICT
BRANCH**

**Wednesday 27 May 2009 –
Chinese Banquet at the
China Express, Sandy.
Cost £16.50 7pm for 7.30pm**

This event is to raise funds for the 'POPPY APPEAL' for which your support will be greatly appreciated. There will also be a raffle.

For further information or to book a place, please contact Mary (Social Secretary) 01767 225278 ASAP..

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PEOPLE NEWS

Several friends in the village have had to be in hospital recently after accidents or illnesses and others have continuing health problems; to all these we send our best wishes: Betty Ingram, Marion Knott, Francis Chapman, Tom Muldoon, Ann Lammie, Peggy Jackson, Cynthia Jeffries, Sam Knott, Wendy Bettles, Barry Fitzpatrick and Bessie Darrington.

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

The Mobile Library will be opposite the telephone box in Station Road at 1.20pm until 1.45pm on the following Mondays in May and June

May 18th, June 1st, June 15th and June 29th
(No service on May 4th: Bank Holiday)



The new slide and refurbished play equipment at Station Road

DOG FOULING—A CONSTANT PROBLEM

As a dog walker, I have obviously been aware of signs put up by householders reminding us not to let our dogs foul the path or verge in front of their house. QUITE RIGHT TOO!

What self-respecting dog walker doesn't carry a poop scoop and a plastic bag with them as well as a pocket full of treats? I too cannot understand how we are getting a line of individual pieces of dog's mess along a path or road
PLEASE CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG!

TEMPSFORD WI

Tempsford WI is a small friendly group that was reformed 25 years ago. The main aim of the WI is to bring together like-minded women each month for a chat and to hear good speakers.

For instance we are hearing more and more about the air ambulance and how quickly they respond. At Tempsford we heard first hand from a team member how important this can be. In December the Christmas meal was enjoyed once again at The Wheatsheaf.

Ann Doody is another good speaker. She spoke of flowers history and legends. She has been to Tempsford many times. Her talk on the Derbyshire Well Dressings is very popular. Jackie Painter along with her husband speak at Tempsford. Jackie sometimes dresses in period costume depending on her talk.

On members night Kay Quinn demonstrated sugarcraft. Kay put so much thought and hard work into the evening that was much appreciated by all. Joanne Spencer was the April speaker. She brought along aloe vera products and spoke of the health benefits. One member had a facial. Everyone else had hand treatments.

The Tempsford WI Darts team reached the Bedfordshire WI finals. Tempsford WI also entered the village hall quiz.

All in all it's well worth a visit to Tempsford WI. The next meeting will be on 11th May. Why not give it a try.

Betty Russell

The Anchor

- ✓ Bar and Restaurant now open
- ✓ Sunday carvery
- ✓ Home cooked food with locally sourced produce
- ✓ Rooms due to open end of May
- ✓ Family run business

STUART MEMORIAL HALL

I am about to write a report on the **Quiz Night** which now seems ages away – in fact it was! (at the end of February to be exact!). The Stuart Memorial Hall trustees welcomed 17 teams for an evening with the well known Chris and Barbara Ebeling and their quiz night. With the help of Linda Collins and Jennifer Infield the scores were kept up to date during the evening with the winners being the Infamous 5 and in second place Jack's Team, and third, Non PC. Bringing up the rear were the Pick and Mix team. A hot meal of cottage pie and peas fed the brains during the interval when John Infield and Phil Russell got to work selling raffle tickets. A final profit of £560 was made during the event and should anyone be interested, Chris and Barbara will be back in 2010, so keep the brains warm until then!

The **Hall AGM** was held on the 19th March. 2008 was another successful year, with the refurbishment programme continuing to make significant progress, and the letting income achieving yet another all time record - although it must be said, a lot of the hall's income comes from outside the village. All the officers agreed to continue in post – Eileen Gosling (chairman), Linda Collins and Meryl Besant (vice-chairmen), John Infield (treasurer) and Alan Tuffnell (secretary).

Please remember the **Village Show** which will be held on 5th September at the hall. We will be delivering schedules around the village hopefully during late June. If anyone would like to sponsor a class for £5 please ring Alan on 01767 640207 or contact any committee member. There will also be the bouncy castle with a few more things of interest for the children together with afternoon tea and a barbecue should the weather be kind to us.

An Evening of Flowers with Nick Grounds will be held at the hall on Friday 4th Dec. Tickets will be £5 which will include a mince pie and a drink together with fun and laughter with Nick - an evening not to be missed! And one that will be enjoyed not just by flower arrangers, as Nick's story telling is on a par with his flower arranging.

Well let's hope we have good weather this summer and please remember the hall belongs to you – please continue to use it!

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TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

May and June Services

**Everybody is assured of a warm welcome
at all our services which begin at 6.00 pm**

3 rd May	Section United Service at Berkley Street
10 th May	Circuit United Service at Over
17 th May	Preacher: Rev. Christine Giles
24 th May	Preacher: Mr. Michael Benneworth
31 st May	Preacher: Mr. Colin Webber
7 th June	Section United Service at Great Barford
14 th June	Preacher: Ms. Lynn Taylor
21 st June	Preacher: Mr. David Bushby
28 th June	Preacher: Rev. Christine Giles

Chapel Anniversary

Thanks go to all those who came along and helped make the 205th Chapel Anniversary celebrations very special occasions in the history of the Chapel once again. The visit of the Potton Salvation Army Band and Songsters on Wednesday, 1 April was very well attended and thanks go to all who helped with the refreshments afterwards.

On Sunday, 5 April the Anniversary Service was led by Rev. David Shaw. The Chapel was full and it was a real pleasure to welcome old and new friends who came along to help us celebrate this special event.

TEMPSFORD FEAST WEEK 22nd –28th June

Duck Race and other festivities

Saturday 27th June

Full details will be publicised nearer the date

CHAT CLUB

At the March get-together members enjoyed delicious hot cross buns with their afternoon tea and an assortment of chocolates to follow! A large scale map of the village together with various stickers and mini flags was also available for members to look at and put forward their views in respect of the Parish Plan initiative currently being undertaken in Tempsford. A good response was made by those present judging by the number of flags inserted in the map. Also in March members brought along their hand made Easter cards and Mrs. Kay Quinn and Mrs. Elaine Bettles kindly judged the entries. First prize in the Ladies Section was won by Mrs. Pat Veazey, 2nd was Mrs. Peggy Eaton and 3rd Mrs. Carole Gosling. First prize in the Mens Section was won by Mr. John Jackson, 2nd by Mr. Les Colmer and 3rd Mr. Gordon Odell.

Chat Club will meet again in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom on Wednesday, 27th May and Wednesday, 24th June 2009 from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m. If you would like to come along and join us you will be made most welcome.

AND HOW HAS 2009 TREATED US SO FAR— WEATHERWISE?

The winter months as we all know turned out to be colder than the average this year. It wasn't so much that the temperatures were so very cold but that the number of days with low temperatures and night frosts was high.

The first half of both January and February saw fortnightly spells of prolonged cold weather with the sharpest frost on Jan 7th (-8.5°C), and then of course the snowy spell in February when snow fell on 8 out the first 14 days to a depth of 3-4inches on both 2nd and 5th February.

March was quite a pleasant month in contrast with low rainfall totals (0.84 inches) and lots of sunshine especially in the middle of the month. And April has had lots of contrasts with some wonderfully sunny and warm days, but some very dull ones too especially around Easter. By the time I write again in August let's hope it will be to report on a wonderful summer.

Meryl Besant