

## TEMPSFORD PARISH PLAN

Over the winter the Parish Plan steering group have been busy using all the information and views gathered over the last 18 months to compile the 'Big Questionnaire'. This questionnaire is the opportunity for the village to give their opinion on how they want Tempsford to develop over the next 5 - 10 years in a structured way such that there is a clear mandate to support the schemes and decisions that make it into the Parish Plan document.

We still need a little bit more work in fine tuning but we would hope that we will be delivering the questionnaire to residents within the next two months. Please do spend a few minutes filling it in when it arrives; we really need a good response rate for this questionnaire so we will be knocking on doors to collect them in.

### P3



Following the Village Walk last July, we will try to arrange a further walk to include the airfield and the parish east of the railway. Hopefully this can be arranged to benefit from the early Spring flora and fauna and be accompanied by knowledgeable walkers to impart their wisdom.

Please keep an eye on the notice boards and lampposts as we will post the details once we have everything confirmed.

# TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 20  
March/April 2010

[www.tempsford.org](http://www.tempsford.org)  
The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire

<b>COLOUR THE CROSS IN RED AND</b>	<b>COME AND WAVE IT</b>
<b>ON APRIL 23rd</b>  <b>And find out about the</b>	<b>FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 12</b>  <b>sunflowers seeds too!</b>

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 **April 20th** to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford or by e-mail to [alant@atuffnell.plus.com](mailto:alant@atuffnell.plus.com), and advertising enquiries to Jeff Cloughton on 01767 640624.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

The Parish Council last met on Tuesday 17th January 2010.  
Among the items discussed were:

### **Housing Needs Survey**

The chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Wynn family, via their representatives, informing us that they support our efforts to provide affordable housing and have land available on which to build such accommodation. Philip Jerred, the Rural Housing Enabler from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, gave a presentation on the replies to the Housing Needs Survey.

It was decided that the next course of action is for the Council to meet with the estate and Howard Cottage to discuss specific details.

### **Adoption of Red Telephone Box in Church End**

The adoption of the red phone box has met with local approval and the Council is now asking residents for ideas as to its use; suggestions already received are a lending library and as a local information centre.

### **Highways:**

**Bad weather** Councillors have liaised with the Highways Dept at Central Beds regarding the difficulty Church End residents had in leaving the village in the ice and snow and suggested that a grit/salt bin is needed for this location. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Highways requesting two such bins, one for Church End and one for Station Road.

**Resurfacing** The chairman reported that the Parish Partnership Funds have been put towards the cost of resurfacing the service road and footpaths in Church End. A survey of the parish lights has been made to check their condition so that they can be adopted by Central Beds which is scheduled for the next financial year.

Road closure notices for Station Road Level Crossing have been received to allow maintenance of the line to proceed.

**From Central Beds** Cllr Turner, in a written report, stated that the recent bad weather had caused some major potholes in the county's roads which are receiving urgent attention. Budget and Council Tax for

# **Highfield Farm Bed & Breakfast and Self Catering Cottages**

**Tom, Margaret, John and Anne-Marie Codd really enjoy  
looking after our guests in our five star accommodation**



**Telephone 01767 682332**

**E-mail [margaret@highfield-farm.co.uk](mailto:margaret@highfield-farm.co.uk)**

**or visit us at <http://www.highfield-farm.co.uk/>**



# MUM TIME

Tempsford Methodist Church, Station Road  
**Every Tuesday 10-11.30 am**

## EVERYONE WELCOME

Mums with children of all ages, or children at school. Mums-to-be, Grandparents, Dads etc..

Come for a chat and a cuppa with like minded people in a relaxed and child friendly environment!

Minimum 50p donation per adult to cover costs

For further info please contact Zoe on 640997 or Jo on 640408

the year 2010/11 are being set and to try and reduce costs senior management is being cut by 20% leaving 4 Directors instead of 5, and Central Beds is shortly going to cut the number of Assistant Directors and Heads of Service, again reducing by 20% overall. These cost savings benefits are for the medium to long terms and cannot produce immediate reductions due to redundancy costs.

### Play Area Equipment

A quote had been received to complete the repairs needed to the slide and to move and reposition the swings in Church End play area. It was agreed to accept this quote and to give instructions to commence the work.

The clerk is to check the guarantee received when the fort was purchased to ascertain whether the faulty post is covered, and will write to the company who supplied the play equipment to rectify it.

### Neighbourhood watch

As a result of the recent burglaries an item was placed in the Tempsford Times suggesting that a neighbourhood watch scheme be set up. It was reported that an effort had been made to set one up some time ago with little success; as it needs at least 8 members of the community to help out it was decided not to progress with this unless directly requested by enough parishioners.

### Church Yard Matters

The clerk is to contact Tom Bowen of Shuttleworth to enquire when work to tidy up the churchyard trees and bushes will be resumed as this need to be completed by the end of February to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday March 16th at 7.30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall.

*Full copies of the minutes are available from the clerk or on the village website..*

**ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,**  
**Church Street, Tempsford**  
**Priest-in-charge : Rev Margaret Marshall**  
**Phone 01234 870363**

Dear Friends,

Although, as I write this, the skies are very definitely grey and the forecast is still threatening snow, the seasons are edging – very slowly – towards Spring. The aconites and snowdrops are here in number: tiny reminders that after the reflective weeks of Lent will come Easter, time of renewal.

New life and new hope are particularly on our minds at St Peter's – it's been a tough winter one way or another. But there have already been some signs of growth in our congregations recently, some offers of help and some interest expressed in supporting the village's church. We have acquired a portable PA system, which seems to be adequate for our small building – and because it's not fixed, required none of the lengthy deliberations and legal procedures that would have been needed with a larger-scale, embedded sound system. Work is also under way to design and make suitable seasonal hangings for the lower altar. We have a new mechanism for making the pulpit more easily accessible and it's possible we might make one of our Sundays an 'All Age' service – shorter and more accessible to younger members of the community!

Working together as a community is something that takes time to come together. It follows on a shared belief that we CAN do it and a deep desire both to maintain and to grow – bringing from the smallest beginnings a church we can be proud to belong to, where our participation is more of a delight than a duty! Of course there will always be difficulties and set-backs – issues of various sizes that we will have to work around. When there are so few of us 'every member ministry' is pretty much essential, with each person doing whatever they can to contribute.

The great festival of Easter itself, for example, at present looks likely to

## MUM TIME

A new group for Mums, Dads, Grandparents and anyone else who cares for children and wants an hour or so for a chat and cuppa with like minded people.

We meet every other Tuesday 10.00am – 11.30am at the Methodist Church on Station Road. We only ask a minimum donation of 50p to go towards the costs of running the group! Tea, coffee, squash are available for all; there are always toys and books for the children to play with, but please feel free to bring along any toys or crafts you wish!

### Dates of our next meetings

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	16 <sup>th</sup> March	30 <sup>th</sup> March
	13 <sup>th</sup> April	27 <sup>th</sup> April

## TEMPSFORD WI

Just because you haven't seen much about us in the TEMPSFORD TIMES, doesn't mean we have gone away! Tempsford WI is still very active with a full programme of speakers to look forward to. Recently we have had Jenny Broadbridge talking about "Trading for a Fairer World", Helen Elletson on the art of William Morris, and "Winter Wonders and December Delights" with Peter Walker. The Christmas meal was enjoyed at "The Wheatsheaf", Tempsford.

In January the meeting was cancelled due to the icy conditions, but Rev Richard Winslade's talk "From Chef to Clergy" will be rescheduled for later in the year. Alan Painter, a magistrate, acted out a mock trial in February, which was very interesting.

At Tempsford WI we would welcome some new faces as well as younger women to help keep this wonderful movement going in our village. We are open to suggestions! Please come along for a cup of tea and chat on the second Monday evening of the month at the Stuart Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Our next meeting is on **8th March**, and is a Members' Night with a surprise speaker. On **12th April**, Jackie Painter will be the speaker; her talk has the title "Heroic Failures"!

*Betty Russell (Secretary)*

## CAN YOU WORK OUT THE TITLE?



In this wordsearch can you find these hidden names?

Thomas	James	Sophie	Oscar	Emily	Harry	Sam
Joseph	Hannah	Amy	Chloe	Carly	Jack	Mia
Zoë	Daisy	Skye	Louis	Kyle	Luke	Daniel
Joanne	Ben	Ian	Beth	Maisie	Gemma	Max
Mollie	Amelia	Megan	Jason			

C	M	A	I	S	I	E	I	E	K	U	L
H	H	Y	P	R	L	C	A	N	F	B	D
L	A	I	L	E	M	A	A	C	T	E	A
O	G	E	M	M	A	R	M	R	S	T	N
E	E	N	N	A	O	J	O	M	L	H	I
A	T	H	O	M	A	S	L	E	P	Y	E
P	M	K	S	M	A	S	L	G	Z	N	L
L	L	Y	C	N	E	B	I	A	O	Y	S
S	T	L	A	I	A	N	E	N	E	L	J
D	O	E	R	H	A	N	N	A	H	I	A
A	T	P	N	U	A	Y	M	I	A	M	C
I	R	Z	H	X	M	R	K	F	R	E	K
S	M	A	X	I	Y	R	J	A	M	E	S
Y	S	K	Y	E	E	A	L	O	U	I	S
H	P	E	S	O	J	H	J	A	S	O	N

appear slightly less glorious in our church building, as our usual hard-working flower-arrangers are unable to assist this year with decoration. If you have any skills in this area, any time to spare on Easter Saturday, or even if you are an enthusiastic novice, we would be very pleased to hear from you (you can ring me on 01234 870363) – otherwise I may be learning to do-it-myself!

Along with other deanery clergy, I recently attended a talk on ‘Appreciative Enquiry’. It’s a method for analysis and vision-setting which can be used in any kind of organisation, but which seems especially appropriate to church life. It encourages us to see the Church as a mystery to be embraced rather than a problem to be solved. Our God has proved himself over many ages to be a God of surprises, repeatedly surpassing our small imaginations as to what it is possible to achieve.

I hope you will join with me in praying this Lent, that when the day of resurrection arrives, we will be celebrating new life in the worshipping community of St Peter’s and looking forward to what lies ahead of us both here and hereafter.

With love in Christ, Margaret

### SERVICES AT ST PETER’S IN MARCH AND APRIL

Sunday	7th March	9.30am	Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday	14th March	9.30am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	28th March	9.30am	Holy Communion
Holy Week Monday	29th March	7.30pm	Compline
Easter Day	4th April	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	11th April	9.30am	Holy Communion

### DEANERY LENT SERVICES:

HIDDEN GEMS, BITS OF THE BIBLE WE OFTEN OVERLOOK		
Sunday 7th March	6pm at Dunton	Canon Dennis Stamps - Philemon
Sunday 14th March	6pm at Willington	Rev Ray Porter - 2 and 3 John
Sunday 21st March	6pm at Potton	Rev Ian MacIntosh - Amos

## **TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,**

**Station Road Tempsford**

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

**Minister: Rev Christine I Giles : 01480 473444**

**Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,**

**Biggin Farm, Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 640289**

### **March and April Services**

**Everybody is assured of a warm welcome at all our services**

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	6.00pm	Section United Service at Eaton Ford
Mothering Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> March	3.00pm	Preacher: Dr. Barbara Churms
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> March	NO SERVICE	
Palm Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	6.00pm	<b>Chapel Anniversary</b> Service led by Rev. Christine Giles
Easter Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	2.30pm	Passion Play commencing at 2.30p.m. at the bridge at St. Neots
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> April	6.00pm	Preacher: Dr. Barbara Churms
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> April	6.00pm	Preacher: Rev. Chris Giles
Sunday	25 <sup>th</sup> April	6.00pm	Preacher: Mr. Brian Newell

Do come along and join with us as we celebrate the 206 years since the Chapel was built. Chapel Anniversary Celebrations begin with a visit from the Potton Salvation Army Band and Songsters on Wednesday, 24th March with refreshments to follow.

Chapel Anniversary Service will take place on Sunday, 28th March and will be led by Rev. Christine Giles. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **CHAT CLUB**

The next meetings will be in the Chapel Schoolroom on  
Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March and  
Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April  
from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.

If you would like to come and join us you will be made most welcome.

returned home to Tempsford to live with mum and dad and got a job working for Dudney and Johnson's high class grocers in Bedford.

Later Bessie went to work for the Overbury's at The Anchor Hotel as a cook for a while and then on to the egg box depot at the old Tempsford Airfield. It was here that Bessie met Bill Darrington and on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1951 Bessie and Bill were married at Tempsford Church. Bessie left the egg box depot to become a housewife, but was soon lured back to work and for 4 years, she worked at Ouse Farm for Mr and Mrs Infield doing general house cleaning duties.

Bessie's next job is the one for which she will probably be remembered most by people today: she became cook at Tempsford School and endeared herself to two generations of school children. She worked at the School for 20 years until her retirement at the age of 60.

Sadly Bessie lost her husband Bill in 1978 after a long illness. Not one to feel sorry for herself, Bessie got on with life and busied herself with working in her community. She was coaxed out of retirement with an offer of a job at Kiers, working as a cook in the canteen, in one of the Tempsford Hall flats, which once stood opposite the Chapel where Stuart Court now stands.

Bessie eventually retired for good and settled into a life of ease, after a varied and interesting working life. She was a keen member of the Tempsford W.I; she attended the Chapel for her worship and enjoyed attending the Chat Club until she became too frail to attend. In her younger days she was a keen dancer. She supported all the village activities and was wholly involved in all that went on.

We all have our special memories of Bessie. She was Tempsford through and through. She had an astute mind, she was a friend to all and she possessed a fantastic sense of humour, always laughing and joking and always had a smile for you, right up to the day she died. Thankfully Bessie remained pretty independent until about 18 months ago, when her family stepped in to make life more comfortable for her.



We will all miss Bessie so much; we must give thanks for her wonderful 93 years of life. A life we were all so lucky to have been a part of.

*Steve Cooney*

**BESSIE DARRINGTON** 25th June 1916—23<sup>rd</sup> December 2009.

Can I just say how privileged I feel, being able to give this tribute to a remarkable woman. A woman whom we all called a very dear friend.

Bessie was born at 9.00am on Sunday morning 25<sup>th</sup> June 1916 at number 49 Station Road, Tempsford, (now number 69). She was the daughter of Thomas and Florence Gurney and she had a brother, Frank. Bessie's earliest memory was playing in the garden whilst her mum was in the wash house. The back gate opened and Bessie ran to her mum shouting "There's a man, there's a man!" Her mum said, "That's not just a man, that's your dad." Tom Gurney had just returned home from the First World War and this was the first time Bessie had seen him.

Bessie went to Tempsford School in 1921 when she was 5 years old. She could remember that Miss Grigg was the infant teacher and Mrs Dennison was the head mistress. Bessie could remember starting school with George Russell and Jack Haynes on the same day. Bessie's closest friend at school was Audrey Haynes, sister to her lifelong friend, Kath Infield. Bessie said that if there was any trouble at school it was usually her and Audrey who were to blame.

Bessie left school in 1930, aged 14. After a short spell working at home with mum and dad, she went into service, as many young girls did in those days. At the age of 15, Bessie started work at Tempsford Hall as a kitchen assistant, working for Mrs Millicent Stuart. The Stuart's also had a London residence at Hill Street, just off Berkeley Square and during the London season, which ran from July to September, Bessie would be sent down to London to assist the staff down there. Bessie could remember all the debutants being presented at the lavish parties held during her stay and all the Lords and Ladies coming to visit. They were very exciting days, she recalled, and Linda and I were very fortunate to arrange a surprise visit back to this property in 1996 for Bessie. Only this time she entered through the front door and was greeted with the words "welcome back" by the head butler and not through the servant's quarters like she had done 70 years previously.

In 1933, Mrs Stuart died at Tempsford Hall and Bessie found new employment with the Elliott Family at Longthorpe near Peterborough.

When the Second World War broke out, Bessie like many people at that time, felt that she should be doing her bit for the country's war effort. So she joined the NAFFI and went to work in the kitchens at Cardington, and then to Interlock at Bedford, making aircraft parts. She stayed there till the end of the war, when she

**TEMPSFORD METHODIST  
CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY  
Midweek Celebration**

**Wednesday, 24th March at 7.30 pm**

visit from  
Potton Salvation Army Band and Songsters  
(with refreshments afterwards)

**Anniversary Service**

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 6.00 p.m.  
led by Rev. Christine Giles

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

**Fri. March 5th 7.30pm at Blunham Baptist Church**

Several decades ago this event was started by women and for women and it is a reminder in these liberated days in U.K. that in very many countries throughout the world, women's place is still very much in the home, that in times of war or hardship women and children suffer first, and that many women are abused within their marriages almost routinely. Knowing that other women are thinking of and praying for them annually on this first Friday in March can be a great morale-booster.

All are welcome, male or female, church-goer or not, from all denominations or none. The service has been written by the women of the **Cameroons**. The speaker is **Mrs Berni Parsons** whose husband, John, is already known to some of us as he is assisting Rev Margaret Marshall in this benefice. Anyone who would like to come but who has difficulty with transport can call Sandra Claughton on 01767 640 624.

# The Anchor Lodge Hotel

Sunday carvery 12.30pm - 6.00 pm

Senior citizens 2 course lunch, set meal £6.50

Tuesday to Friday 12 noon to 3.00 pm

All fresh home cooked food

Function room available

Karaoke every last Friday of the month

Families welcome - en suite accommodation available  
full English breakfasts - traditional pub grub - adult dining area  
sheltered smoking area

**Tel: 01767 640 801**

If you go down to the woods today, you'll be sure of a nice surprise. Why not take a trip down to our

## Millennium Garden Sanctuary in Church End,



where you will see a succession of spring flowering bulbs from now right through to the beginning of June. At the moment the aconites, snowdrops and crocus are opening their heads to the approaching spring and will be followed by daffodils, narcissi, cyclamen, iris, lords and ladies, cowslips, primroses, wild violets, muscari, mahonia, bluebells and many more.

## ONE STEP AT A TIME

A charity that supports the under privileged in Uganda  
**50/50 Sale of good quality clothes and accessories**

A sale of quality clothes and accessories will be held at the Stuart Memorial Hall, Tempsford on Sunday 21st March from 2 pm to 6 pm

Why not make some money by sorting out your unwanted quality clothes and accessories and sell them on a 50/50 basis with you receiving half the selling price and donating the other half for the relief of under-privileged children and families in Uganda.

Womens', mens' and childrens' clothes are all welcome together with hats, handbags, shoes and jewellery. To donate your items please contact either Irene on 01767 640552, Linda on 01767 640968 or Eileen on 01767 640858 or bring them along on the day from mid day. Do come along during the afternoon to bag yourself a bargain and have a chat over afternoon tea.



This event is a new venture for Tempsford and so please support us!

## STROKE ASSOCIATION

On March 20th 2010 Margaret Smith will be abseiling the Bedford College Tower Building in aid of the Stroke Association charity  
If you would like to sponsor her to help raise money for this charity please phone her on 01480 215684.

# STONES

'The Complete Service'

Domestic and Commercial Building  
and Maintenance

Extensions, garage conversions,  
Driveways, patios etc.

Licensed waste removal

Mini digger hire

Tel: 01767 641092 Mob: 07842 322163

Email: [stonesbrickwork@btinternet.com](mailto:stonesbrickwork@btinternet.com)

Church Street Tempsford



*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

# Tempsford Easter Fayre

Methodist Church, Station Road

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010

10.30am – 12pm

Raffle

Nearly New  
Children's Stall

Local  
Produce

Games

Cakes

+ More!

Adults 50p children under 12 free  
Includes drink and biscuit!

All proceeds will go to the Methodist Church and "Mum Time"

## ROXTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Although Roxton based, our meetings cover all the locality and welcome members and visitors from surrounding villages. The group meets at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors are welcome and pay £1.50; annual membership is £10.00.

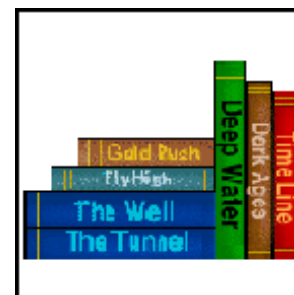
On March 4<sup>th</sup> our topic is *Sutton Park and the Burgoyne Family*. Whilst playing golf on the nearby John O'Gaunt golf course Chris Walker, our speaker, began to wonder about what had once been on this area of land. The fascinating results of his investigations will be revealed in his illustrated talk.

On Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> we will learn about *History and Legends Associated with Plants*, as we peep into the medieval home to discover how plants were used.

Stella Gibbs 01480 351931

### MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

Mondays at 1.20pm opposite the  
Notice Board  
**8th March, 22nd March  
and 19th April**



### MOBILE POLICE STATION AND "SURGERY"

Monday 22nd March at 12.20pm to 1.20pm  
In Station Road next to the Play Area



## **Driveway & Paving Doctor** **Giving Driveways & Patios a new lease of life.**

**Has your driveway/patio area moved, sunk, developed weeds, become**



**dirty, edging broken, cracked, need extending or just look tired?**  
**Repairs    Cleaning    Re-sanding    Sealing**

**Blocks, Slabs, Asphalt, Concrete, Decking and Gravel areas can  
be rejuvenated at a fraction of the cost of replacement.**

**New Installations undertaken.**

## **PEOPLE NEWS**

Our good wishes go as usual to those who haven't been well recently, among whom we think of Andrew Myers, Marion and Sam Knott, Phyll and Ron Moore, Kath Mardlin, Phil Plumb, Paul Bambridge, Cynthia Jeffries, Dorothy Bettles and Betty Ingram.

We've had a note from Judith White whose Mum and Dad were 'Bob' and Doris Bettles. Reginald Joseph Bettles died on 9th Jan 2010 aged 91, and his wife Doris Annie Bettles (nee Lill) died in 21st May 2009 aged 87.

Reginald (Bob) was born at Souldrop, the eldest son of Joseph and Ethel Bettles. He moved to Tempsford in 1927 where he met Doris Lill whom he later married. They were living recently near their eldest daughter Judith at Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds.

## **THE POET IN THE PORCH**

I've been getting interested in the life of John Clare, the 'peasant poet'. Clare was born in 1793 and lived at Helpston, near Stamford. His cottage has now been opened to the public, and I can highly recommend a visit. It makes an evocative and thought-provoking day out, within easy reach of Tempsford.

Clare's parents couldn't read or write, but from an early age he developed a love of books and reading, and then of writing about the landscape and rural life around him. Discovered by literary London, he found sudden fame as a young man. Visiting the city, he rubbed shoulders with agents and other famous poets and writers of the day. The culture shock he felt is evident in his own accounts of the time.

Clare wrote of his remorse at the changing rural landscape, following the Enclosure Acts of 1836. For reasons we can only speculate about, he went into a steep psychological decline, and was taken to an asylum in Epping Forest. After four years, one night in late July 1841 he absconded, and set off on foot to walk the 80 miles home. It is intriguing to follow the accounts of the route he took. Approaching Sandy at the end of a day on the Great North Road, he headed into Potton to seek a bed for the night. He knocked on a door, and was directed to a public house called the Ram, which stood out on the heath, towards Gamlingay.

Clare found the pub (you can still find it there today), but thought better of going in. He had no money. Pressing on, he walked for another four miles or so, despite being lame, and exhausted, and unsure of his way in the darkness. Eventually, he saw a light, 'bright as the moon'. It was hanging over a tollgate. The watchman there informed him he had reached 'Temsford'.

Re-orientated, he bedded down for the night in the 'porch of a big house'. Perhaps this was in what is now Station Road (the station came 20 years later) or perhaps it was at Little Barford. Either way, it's pleasing to find a link to the Clare legend this close to home.

*Conor Jameson*

[www.clarecottage.org](http://www.clarecottage.org)

12 Woodgate, Helpston, Peterborough, PE6 7ED

Please telephone to check opening days - 01733 253330

## STUART MEMORIAL HALL

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 at 7.30 pm at the hall. This is your opportunity to have your say on any matters relating to the hall. We welcome your views and look forward to seeing you there.

You will have found attached to this issue of the Tempsford Times a small envelope containing **three sunflower seeds**. A new class at the Show this year will be the largest sunflower head. We would invite you to plant these seeds in your garden and bring the largest head along to the show for judging. Good luck!

Our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - AGM at 7-30 pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - St George's Day celebrations at 7-30 pm

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Tempsford Village Show

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Harvest Supper and Quiz at 7-30 pm

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Magic Show

## COME AND CELEBRATE BEING ENGLISH ON ST GEORGE'S DAY! (23rd April, if you'd forgotten!)

At the Stuart Memorial Hall on Friday 23rd April 7.30pm

An evening of singing, dancing, quizzing, Morris dancing, a mummer's play plus other English happenings; all for £5!

The ticket price includes a truly English hot supper with pudding (English of course!)

If you have a favourite English person that you feel you could talk about for a minute or so we would love to hear from you.

For more details contact Meryl on 640873

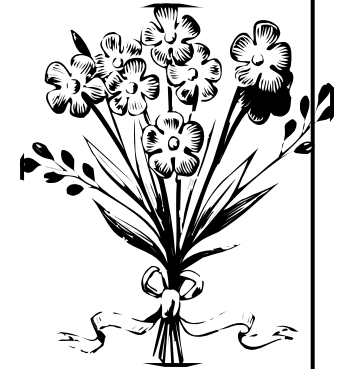
Tickets are now available from

Eileen on 640858 or Alan on 640207

**And don't forget to wear your English rose!**

You are warmly invited to join us at a celebration for

*Mothering  
Sunday*



**on Sunday 14th March at 9.30am  
at Tempsford Parish Church**

Our family-friendly service will include a children's address.  
There will be flowers for all mothers and refreshments afterwards.



## **Learn to Lindyhop with Cambs & Beds Lindyhop Experience**

Lindyhop is a partner dance that originated in America in the 1920s. It was The dance to do to the swing bands of the 1930s & was brought to Blighty as The Jitterbug.

**Monday nights – new venue – new format - new Classes  
for beginners.**

Stuart Memorial Hall, Tempsford

See our website: [www.cambsbedsindy.co.uk](http://www.cambsbedsindy.co.uk) or call HOC on 01767  
680013