

TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 25
Jan/Feb 2011

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



A WINTER'S LANDSCAPE NEAR "THE ANCHOR"

In this issue:

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- Millennium Garden celebrates 10 years (p. 12)
- More Tempsford Archive material found (p. 14)
- The year's weather in summary (p. 4)

plus all your local news and info

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 **Feb 20th** to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford; advertising enquiries to Jeff Cloughton on 01767 640624.

www.tempsford.org

TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,

Station Road Tempsford

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

Minister: Rev Patricia M Williams : 01480 473444

Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,

Biggin Farm, Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 640289

January and February Services

Everybody is assured of a warm welcome at all our services

2 nd January	6.00 p.m.	Section United Service at Gt. Barford
9 th January		NO SERVICE
16 th January	3.00 p.m.	Preacher: Rev. Tricia Williams
23 rd January	6.00 p.m.	Preacher: Mr. Richard Crane
30 th January		NO SERVICE
6 th February	6.00 p.m.	Section United Service at Berkley Street
13 th February		NO SERVICE
20 th February	3.00 p.m.	Preacher: Rev. Tricia Williams
27 th February	6.00 p.m.	Preacher: Mr. Peter Adams

CHRISTMAS FAYRE THANKS

The annual Christmas Fayre held at the Methodist Chapel on Saturday, 4th December raised the magnificent sum of £1,015.00. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who braved the weather and came along to support the Chapel on the day and to those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the day such a success. All monies raised will go towards the upkeep of the Chapel. Thank you once again for your support.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

A total of 116 shoeboxes donated by villagers and friends were received and dedicated by the Rev. Tricia Williams on the evening of 17th November. We had two tables at the front of the Chapel piled high with boxes. It was a really heart-warming sight and reflected the generous heart of this village. At the end of the service the boxes were loaded into cars and taken to the main collection point – St. Neots Methodist Church that same evening.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all those villagers, together with family and friends, who filled shoeboxes for some of the poorest and neediest children in the world today. Through the filling of a simple shoebox their lives will be touched by

your love and care. They will have something to smile about this Christmas and know that they are not forgotten. For them the boxes are nothing short of a miracle, a blessing from God. My God bless you for your kindness, and give to you and those you love, the peace of the Christ child this Christmas.

CHAT CLUB

On Wednesday, 17th November members met in the Chapel Schoolroom for a Christmas Tea Party. The afternoon got underway with a wonderful concert in the Chapel provided by the Sandye Singers which all of us enjoyed immensely. Everyone then made their way into the Schoolroom for the Christmas tea party. A special thank you must go to all those who helped make the afternoon such a resounding success.

On Wednesday, 8th December members met for their annual Christmas Lunch at 'The Wheatsheaf'. A special thank you must go to Mr. Jim Sawford for his generosity and kindness in providing drinks for the Club on the day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meal and had a really good time.

Next get-together will be Wednesday, 26th January from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm. In February we meet on Wednesday, 23th at the usual times in the Chapel Schoolroom. Feel free to come along and join us in the New Year and find out what we get up to; you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.



PART OF THE MILLENIUM GARDEN IN WINTER

WELL, WHAT A YEAR OF WEATHER!

Meryl Besant gives a summary of her year's recording of our weather.

Despite all the talk of global warming, 2010 was not really a very warm year.

The winter months certainly broke some records. We started the year with very cold weather in January and snow lay on the ground for 11 days of the month. This cold weather continued through February into the middle of March. The coldest night in the first part of the year was on Jan 4th at -7.5°C . This was mild compared to what we have experienced in the latter part of the year as we had record low temperatures in November and December. There was snow on 4 days in November and a night temperature of -9°C on Nov 28th. By the time of writing (20 Dec) we had had frosts on 16 of the 20 nights in December and my lowest ever recorded temperature in Tempsford of -13.5°C on 19th Dec. The snow lies deep and thick as I write and I wonder when the weather will return to "normal".

The spring was unremarkable. April was the best month with little rainfall and average temperatures. May was quite cool and it wasn't until mid-June that we had some really decent weather. From June 21st to July 21st the weather was superb, hot and sunny. The hottest day was July 9th at 31°C , but as soon as the children started their summer holidays the weather went downhill and August turned out to be the wettest month of the year with just over 6" of rain, 3 times the normal amount!

Many of us thought that maybe we would have an Indian Summer, but no! September and October were very mediocre, so little joy there. And here we are at the end of the year. They say

*"Ice in November that holds a duck
brings nothing later but rain and muck!"*

But it doesn't look like that at the moment!! So wrap up warm and keep smiling!

Gardening Club in Blunham

Brenda Leaf, 01767 640623, extends an invitation to anyone interested in forming a gardening club to attend a meeting on 11th January in Blunham Village Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome. No experience necessary.



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.

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We live in a part of the country that's pretty good for barn owls. They like it dry and flat and open, and they like hollow trees or empty buildings to nest in.

The fields by the airfield on a summer evening have in recent times been a good bet for watching barn owls hunt-

ing, over rough grass and rough margins. But in thirteen years at Station Road I had never seen one from the house. I'm pleased to say now that the barn owl (some call it the ghost owl) seems to have arrived.

I first heard it from my bed one night in early September. Barn owls make a range of sounds, but a characteristic one is a kind of inhaled 'shuushh', that some people describe as a snore.. I looked out to see a barn owl swooping to and fro in the glare of the streetlamps. It was mobbing a very spooked-looking cat. It then perched in the play area, before taking off and flying over to have a look at me, face pressed to the window.

We have tawny owls (they hoot and screech 'ke-vick') and little owls (they yap like small dogs) around us. I would like to put up a nest box to encourage the barn owls to stay and breed. If anyone has a suitable tree, barn or outbuilding, then do please let me know.

Conor Jameson – conor.jameson@rspb.org.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY CUTS

If you would like to have your say about the proposed cuts to services that Central Bedfordshire is proposing, one of which is the removal of the mobile library service, you might like to register your vote in this way:

- Go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or just Google Central Bedfordshire
- Click on [Home Page](#)
- Click on [Councillors](#) tab
- On Councillors page, click the side bar marked [e-petitions](#). This will get you to Proposed Mobile Library cuts; click on [Proposed Library Cuts](#)
- Click on [logon and signed petition](#)
- On the next page logon to [Register New User](#)
- Fill in name and e-mail address, and click on [Register](#)
- Next page, click [sign](#)

YOU HAVE NOW VOTED

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
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Tel: 01767 640 801

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

The Roman 'god' Janus, after whom the first month of the year is named, was the deity particularly associated with *doorways*. The reason for the association was that he had two faces, one on the back and one on the front of his head. He could look both backwards and forwards simultaneously! The turning of another year, is a very good time for both of those activities – the one informing the other!

While the church's year actually begins on Advent Sunday, we worldly creatures still tend to be more aware of an increment in the digits on our calendars! Two thousand and eleven also marks the arrival of a new decade. Will it be much different from that which preceded it? None of us can tell.

We might look back on the last year with something of a shudder: the recession has bitten hard in so many ways and widespread austerity measures will doubtless be taking a further toll on our affairs over the twelve months to come – or possibly even longer. Making ends meet is becoming harder every year, both at home and in church. With largely ageing congregations it is enormously difficult to stay afloat, let alone to make progress. Our costs go on increasing, such as insurance, energy and the yearly parish share which we pay towards the provision of our ministry... and, of course, the maintenance of mediaeval buildings is enormously expensive, too.

We have to work hard not only on fund-raising efforts, but also on 'keeping the faith', believing that the Lord will provide, as he always has in the past. In the lean times we are perhaps even more conscious that we live in the hand of God. We give thanks for what we have, pray that he will prosper our efforts and, perhaps above all, remember that we are all members – equally valued - of the 'body of Christ' within our communities. Constancy in our commitment to one another, as well as to our beautiful

church building, is vital: we are all essential members of a team. Our individual contributions, even just by 'being there', are vital if we are to sustain – or grow – what has been handed onto us from former generations.

As we look back at our last year, with progress in some areas and losses or frustrations in others, let's continue to travel hopefully. What holds a church back, more than anything, is having too few members, with a small core responsible for too many jobs! We have been thinking about becoming more welcoming over the last few months, but we are not numerous, so what we can do to improve things is limited. Let's try hard to move forward in some of our key areas during 2011,- recognising the blessings of 2010, maintaining and refining our vision, despite the economic and increasingly secular climate. Amid the distractions of our age, He who calls us is faithful; I wonder if we can match his staying power?

With every good wish to you all for the year ahead,
Revd Margaret

*There is a **new** pattern of services within the **Benefice** from the start of Advent. **Tempsford's** services will be Holy Communion at **9.30 am** on the **first** and **third** Sunday in each month. **Fifth Sundays** will continue to be Benefice Services and will begin at a new time of **10.30 am** whichever the church.*

Services at St Peter's in January and February

2nd January	Holy Communion at 9.30am
(9 th January	9.30am at Gt Barford 11.15am at Blunham)
16th January	Holy Communion at 9.30am
(23 rd January	9.30am at Gt Barford 11.15am at Blunham)
30th January	Benefice Service at Tempsford at 10.30am
6th February	Holy Communion at 9.30am
(13 th February	9.30am at Gt Barford 11.15am at Blunham)
20th February	Holy Communion at 9.30am
(27 th February	9.30am at Gt Barford 11.15am at Blunham)

ST PETER'S CHURCH : CHURCH FLOWERS

We are delighted that Gloria Jones, one of our “newcomers” to Sawford’s Meadow, has offered to be responsible for the flowers at St Peter’s now that Margaret Smith has retired. Over the last two or three decades, many ladies [and maybe some men] have supported Margaret by doing the flowers themselves to celebrate an anniversary or in memory of a family member, or on occasions have donated the flowers that Margaret has arranged, and Gloria is hoping there will be similar support for her. She will be pleased to take calls both now and in the future for offers of flowers and greenery* and “arm-power” to keep the church decorated.

Visitors to our church always say what a delightful building it is and what a lovely atmosphere it has and there is no doubt that the floral arrangements add to this feeling and provide uplift to Sunday worshippers.

Gloria can be contacted on 640050. Please help!

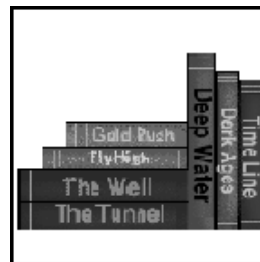
**Her very new garden will not be able to provide enough floral material to support the vases in a big building, but offerings of greenery or flowers from established gardens or an invitation to roam with her secateurs will always be welcomed.*

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

Alternate Mondays (the Monday after “Recycle Friday”!) at 1.20pm opposite the notice board in Station Road

January 10th, 24th

February 7th, 21st





Winter Crime Reduction Advice

SHOPPING SAFELY & SENSIBLY

- Be aware of your belongings when you're in a crowd - there may be pickpockets around.
- Put your purse or wallet away before leaving the till - don't let staff or other customers rush you.
- Take care at the ATM - be wary of people standing too close for comfort - try and use an ATM inside the bank.
- If you shop online, check out the site's payment methods and the security they offer - many sites can take orders over the phone if you don't want your details floating around in the ether.

USING THE CAR

- Park in a busy and well-lit area.
- Leave personal and valuable items at home.
- If you must have them in the car, store them in the boot before you leave.
- Don't store your bought goods in the car and then return to the shops for more - you don't know who may be watching in the car park.
- Late night shopping may be more convenient, but do take care and take someone with you if possible.

TIME FOR A SECURITY HEALTH CHECK

- Check outdoor security lights and replace blown bulbs.
- Check padlocks, hasps and hinges on your outside doors for wear and tear, and replace them.
- Many people have freezers in the garage - Christmas food and alcohol is vulnerable - and don't forget new bicycles are also at risk!
- Has your house alarm been serviced recently?
- If you don't have an alarm, you can always buy a battery operated single room alarm to protect your hallway, shed or garage.

PROTECTING YOUR HOME WHILE YOU'RE OUT

- Use timer switches to operate lights and radios tuned to a talk radio station in the house when you are out.
- Although the tree looks lovely in the window, don't leave the lights on and curtains open when you go out - and don't leave presents under the tree!
- If you go on holiday, ask a neighbour or friend to pick up your post - they can also park their car on your drive
- After Christmas, dispose of boxes and packaging carefully - don't leave them on the roadside or on the top of the wheelie bin.

UNEXPECTED VISITORS

- **Bogus Callers:** pretending to be from a utilities company (water, gas, electricity, phone, even police).
- **Distraction Burglars:** one will keep you at your door with an excuse (eg, looking for an address or a lost ball/dog) while an accomplice commits the burglary round the back.
- **Cold Callers:** hard-sell sales reps who turn up without an appointment and won't leave till you have signed a contract.
- **Rogue Traders:** unqualified workmen offering to do jobs on your home, usually for cash, often badly and very expensively.

GENUINE UNEXPECTED VISITORS

- Utilities staff with ID regarding emergency repairs
- Political groups canvassing for election purposes
- Charity collectors with ID and charity number
- Emergency Services staff on production of warrant card or official identification
- Religious groups and carol singers
- People delivering business flyers
- Whoever it is, before you answer the door, check all back doors and windows are closed - if it's a genuine caller, they won't mind waiting a few extra seconds.
- **If you're not sure, don't open the door!**

PROPERTY MARKING - WHY DO IT?

- Acts as a deterrent to thieves as it makes selling on stolen goods very difficult.
- Increases the chances of your property being returned to you.
- Helps the police build a strong case against the offender.
- Many different ways of property marking:
 - UV pen: electrical items, bikes, etc
 - Etching: power tools and equipment
 - Smartwater: can be used on any item
 - Use your house number/name and postcode
- Remember to register your valuables on www.immobilise.com

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Bedfordshire Police Crime Reduction Officers
 - North Beds: 01234 275273
 - Mid/South Beds: 01582 473159 / 78
- Neighbourhood Watch
 - North Beds: 01234 275165
 - Mid/South Beds: 01582 473158

THE TEMPSFORD MILLENNIUM GARDEN SANCTUARY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST TEN YEARS.

This year's Candlelight and Carols event, held on Friday 17th December, celebrated the tenth anniversary of the official opening of the Tempsford Millennium Garden Sanctuary on 10th December in the year 2000 by Captain Owen Wynne of the Tempsford Estate and whose family have owned the Estate since 1824. The opening took place on a cold, wet morning and was the conclusion of twenty months of hard work by members of this village. Many gave up their weekends over that period to bring to fruition our village's memorial to celebrate the arrival of the New Millennium. The area of land which is now the Millennium Garden was originally part of the park which surrounded Tempsford Hall. It was compulsorily purchased by the Highways Dept in 1964 as part of the A1 trunk road widening scheme, but was left for forty years to fall into dereliction and was basically a dumping ground. The area was bought for £1 and is now owned by the Parish and maintained by the Parish Council with the idea of regenerating the area from an eyesore into a village asset. A total of £44,000 was eventually raised to do this and we are still enjoying the fruits of our labour today.

The spring holds a particular delight for those who like to walk through the wood, with a variety of spring flowers on display. First to arrive are the aconites, snowdrops and primroses, which are swiftly followed by the daffodils, narcissi, iris, anemone, cyclamen and many more; the last shows of colour are the lovely bluebells. Over 15,000 bulbs have been planted since the garden's creation, with more being planted each year. Many people have also had benches and trees placed in the garden over the years in memory of loved ones who have died and this makes it all the more personal. The whole idea of the garden's creation was to have a place in the village where we can all sit and see the wonders of nature undisturbed in a natural woodland setting, whilst preserving the heritage and history of the site too. The RSPB have used the area on many occasions to film rare birds that inhabit the site and who use it to rear their young.

We are very fortunate that we have a keen team of volunteers, who help to maintain the area and keep it in good order for the use of the village community and visitors to Tempsford. Since the opening in 2000 not a penny from the Parish purse has had to be spent on its maintenance, indeed with the various functions that have been held in the garden over the last ten years, in particular the popular Christmas Candlelight and Carols events, over £1,200 has been raised and is held in an account by the Parish Council, to help defray the costs of future maintenance. So thank you to all those people who have supported the events held in the garden over the years and special thanks to all those who help to maintain the gardens beauty for the benefit of us all.

Roll on spring! And here's to the next ten years.

Steve Cooney.

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WARTIME MEMORIES OF TEMPSFORD SAVED FOR POSTERITY.

Many Tempsford residents will know that I have a keen interest in the history of the village. I have been collecting anything associated with Tempsford for many years now and have amassed quite a vast collection of Tempsford memorabilia. This includes over 3000 photographs, old deeds to many of the older properties in the village, family papers, magazines, newspaper articles, gaol records, paintings, postcards, maps, indentures, etc to name but a few.

Recently, some very rare papers dating back from 1942 to 1944 were advertised on the internet site ebay. The papers which were found two years ago in a house clearance antique shop in Norfolk, told the story of the Tempsford Invasion Committee's efforts to protect our village, should we have been invaded by Germany in the Second World War. It was real Dads Army stuff and I am happy to say that I was successful in outbidding six other people. So these precious papers are safely back in Tempsford where they originated from over 60 years ago and are now in our village archives.

So what is the provenance of these papers? Well back in 1942, most towns and villages were instructed to form Invasion Committees. The secretary of Tempsford's Invasion Committee was Mr Henry E Chapman, who at the time lived in Mill House. He left the village towards the end of the 1940's and took all his minutes of meetings and papers with him. One assumes he must have died about two years ago and his house was cleared by the antique dealer in Norfolk. This dealer only sold to the trade and not to the general public. The person who sold me the papers had made some purchases from this dealer two years ago. One of these items was an old trunk. Unfortunately the trunk would not fit into the car, so the dealer said to leave it behind and collect it later. Two years later the trunk was collected and the items came to light and were advertised on the internet.

It is a sad irony that as we get older, such papers have little interest to some families and are either thrown away or burnt. These papers are then gone forever and their historical content is lost to everyone. Thankfully these papers survived to see another day and are preserved for posterity.

I don't class the artifacts I have collected over the years as mine personally. Anyone who would like to view them is more than welcome to do so. It is my long term ambition, to try to build a purpose-built archive in the village and maybe even start a local history group. If you would like to view the archive at any time, just give me a call to arrange a suitable time to view.

Steve Cooney

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PEOPLE NEWS

We send our continued good wishes to all our village friends who are in hospital or who are house bound:

Phil Plumb, Dorothy Bettles, Sam and Marion Knott, Paul Bambridge, Tracey Kennoy, Jodie Knott, Cynthia Jefferies, Ron Moore, Kath Mardlin, Betty Ingram, Alec Gore, Ron Bettles, Jane and George McCarthy, Andrew Myers.

Our condolences go to members of the village who have recently lost close family members.

Congratulations to Tara and Matt on the safe arrival of Esmé Jocelyn on December 7th, weighing 7lbs 4oz

Congratulations to Dani and Paul on the safe arrival of Oliver on December 20th weighing 7lb 5 oz; all doing well.



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CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT AND CAROLS IN THE MILLENNIUM GARDEN

This year's festive candlelight and carols evening celebrated the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Millennium Garden. The evening was a great success with approximately a hundred people turning out on a freezing cold night to be warmed by a nice hot fire and enjoy hot mulled wine, jacket potatoes and mince pies. The entertainment was provided by the Bedford Salvation Army band and Mr Paul Turner who played a medley of tunes on the bagpipes. A most enjoyable evening was had by all and a total profit of £235.00 was made on the evening. A donation of £100 will be made to the Salvation Army and the remainder will go towards the maintenance of the Millennium Garden.

A huge thank you is expressed to the Bedford Salvation Army Band and Mr Paul Turner, to Philip and Betty Russell who provided the potatoes, Gordon and Irene Norman for the wine, Maureen Goddard who made the coleslaw, and lastly to Paul, Adam and Shirley Sharman, Linda Collins and Gary and Grace Blick for all their help during the evening. Above all, a big thank you to everyone who came along and supported this annual festive event.

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Church Street Tempsford

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The Parish Council last met on Tuesday Nov 16th, and the following is a summary of items that were discussed. Full formal minutes are available from the clerk, or on the village website.

Police Report

PC Steve Busby from the Sandy and Biggleswade Safer Neighbourhood team reported to the council on dealing with the recent burglaries in the area . Several leads are being followed and patrols through the village are being increased. The owner of the dog at the mill causing a problem is being taken to court. Steps are being taken to gain evidence following reports of apparent speeding in the village.

Affordable Housing

The Chairman reported that he had attended a preliminary meeting with the Tempsford Estate's agent and Howard Cottage. It had been agreed that earlier discussions with the Wynne family had identified a suitable area for building the few dwelling that the housing register and housing needs survey recommend. The process of surveying the site and setting out preliminary plans for the area would begin early in the new year.

Central Beds Report

Cllr Tricia Turner outlined some of the reasons behind the need for Central Beds to make budget cuts and she listed some of the more well known areas that are up for discussion at the budget meeting in early February, such as the Schools Music service, the library cuts and restrictions to the concessionary bus passes.

Finance

The auditors having passed the Council's accounts for the last year, the Council agreed to look at the cost of replacing the broken notice board in Station Road and providing a larger one in Church Street , the cost of repairing or replacing the basketball hoops in the play areas, and funding the purchase of salt bins. It was also agreed that the annual precept, at present standing at £12,000, need not be increased in the next financial year.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on January 18th at 7.30pm in the Stuart Memorial Hall .

SALT BINS ARE ON THEIR WAY

The Parish Council has repeatedly asked for a salt bin to be located on the slope out of Church End, and another at the junction of Station Road and link road, even agreeing that the Parish would pay for them! After promises from Central Beds that the orders had been made, nothing had arrived by the first bout of ice and snow in early December so more urgent e-mails were sent by Parish Councillors. These resulted in a builders bag of salt/grit being delivered to Church End, which, thanks to Cllr Chris Bettles' work proved very useful during the second snow storm. We are now pressing for an early delivery of the bins (and a refill of the bag!).

DOG FOULING

Several reports of pavements being fouled by dogs have been made. Dog owners are reminded that it is an offence not to clear up after their dogs.

MOBILE POLICE SURGERY

The next mobile police surgery will be at Station Road and Church Street on Wednesday 12th January between 4.00pm and 5.30pm. Do come to meet our PCSOs or PC Tom Dobinson our beat bobby to discuss any problems, grievances or general advice.

Local History

**So where is
this one?**

Answer: Bidlake
Corner, Beeston



CHILDREN'S PAGE

WORD DOODLES SAY WHAT YOU SEE

Each of these Worddoodles is a word, phrase or saying cunningly disguised! For example:

"min'LL BE THEREute"

would mean: "I'll be there in a minute!"

See how you get on with these.....

1 Pot OOOOOOOO

2 bad bad

3 knee
light light

4 chawho'srge

5 ONCE
4:56pm

6 injury + insult

7 welieight

8 garplayden

9 XQQME

10 must get here
must get here
must get here

ANSWERS
NEXT
TIME