THE VENTURE



December 2015/January 2016

FROM THE EDITOR

My digging is done and dusted for this year. Most of the pruning is completed just one or two more rose bushes to tackle and that is finished.

Now it is time to pour over the seed catalogues, or it should be if they still existed. I haven't seen a seed catalogue for years. It isn't surprising that they are dwindling in popularity as most supermarkets now sell seeds and bulbs. I personally like to go to a garden centre, Sturmer Nurseries or Scotsdales the post popular in this neck of the woods. Plus they both have tea rooms to rejuvenate you when the shopping gets too much.

Are you a creature of habit? I know I am. I don't mind change but when something is familiar it makes you feel safe and secure. A friend

PS Less than a month now!!!

Don't forget to let me have anything you would like included in the February/March 2016 issue please let The Editor by **16 January 2016** at the **very latest**. Articles can be emailed to: venture@horseheath.info. To advertise your business please contact the Venture Team on 01223 891086 for more details.

Dear Friends

I don't know if you feel as I do that we are approaching Christmas with more dark clouds on our horizon than for many years. The carnage in the Middle East, and several other places as well, the seemingly intractable conflicts which underlie it, the growth in fundamentalism and the vicious persecution of those whom it derides, the fear of terrorism, an increasingly uncomfortable relationship between the West and Russia, the terrible plight of refugees and migrants fleeing from wretched places, anxiety in our own country about financial changes which may make the coming year much bleaker for some on low incomes, the increasing evidence for climate change, and its devastating effects especially in many already impoverished parts of the world – the list of dark things could go on and on...

When things seem dark, it's particularly important to keep lights shining. There's a saying, often associated with Amnesty International: 'It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'. This is what the seasons of Advent and Christmas are about – keeping lights shining, keeping 'oil in our lamps till the break of day'. We can keep light shining in our own hearts by spending time in the company of God, through prayer, worship and bible reading, and through being thankful. And this will give us the courage and the energy to keep light shining for others, not only by gifts of charity, love and prayer, but also through actively campaigning against those destructive things which threaten the vulnerable, and for things which will bring the values of God's kingdom of mercy, justice and goodness into the everyday affairs of the world.

At this time of year we look back once again to a little light which began to shine in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago; despite the choirs of angels, and the visit of mysterious strangers from the East, this light was relatively tiny and unnoticed within the much larger picture of the Roman Empire and its doings – not to mention on the stage of the whole world at that time. But this little light was unconquerable, and its power has run along a network of fuses through history, to set off explosions of light, creative power, and new understanding in myriad places and situations.

Remembering this can give link us to that light and its power, and give us courage to be part of the movement for mercy, justice and goodness in the world's life.

May your Christmas and New Year be meaningful and joyous!

With best wishes from the Team Rector of churches in the Linton Team Ministry

Maggie Guite

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

How the seasons seem to have come and gone so quickly this year! Autumn gave us our Harvest Lunch and thanks go to Michael Prentice for supplying and Carving the Roast Pork surrounded by our faithful helpers and suppliers of the accompaniments a fine Sunday Lunch was enjoyed by all. Mary, Marie and Jane sold Raffle Tickets and with donations for the Lunch £474.00 was raised for the upkeep of our Church. Not forgetting a thank you to Stephen for organising the washing up.

The collection from our Harvest Church Service was donated to REACH (Haverhill Foodbank) and the Remembrance Day Service collection will go to the British Legion.

Now into winter we look forward to welcoming you and your family to our Christingle Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 6 December (collection to The Childrens Society). Our Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 12 December 11am in Church and on Christmas Eve the Crib Service (Carols and Readings) at 6pm.

Tea & Chat will be held on 16 December and 13 January at the home of Audrie and Alan, 5 Cornish Close all welcome from 2.30pm.

There will be no Sunday Club for children on Sunday 6 December and Sunday 3 January will resume on Sunday 7 February 2016 at 10am.

Seasonal Greetings to you all, Pat & Judith

Church Flowers and Cleaning

<u>Date</u>		Cleaning and Flowers
	29	Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison
December	6	Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson
	13	Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson
	20	CHRISTMAS – CONGREGATION
	27	Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley
January	3	Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley
	10	Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone
	17	Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone
	24	Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler
	31	Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler
February	7	Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison
	14	Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison
	21	Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson
	28	Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson
March	6	Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley

HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting was held on Monday 9 November in the Village Hall. In attendance were the Parish Clerk Bernard Yallop, our District Councillor Richard Turner and our County Councillor Roger Hickford.

County Council news

- The study to draw some conclusions from the traffic survey from last year was due in mid-October but is now due in the middle of December. It will be presented together with the Greater Cambridge City Deal A1307 report, which has been expanded to look at the Haverhill/Fourwentways section as well as Fourwentways/ Cambridge, at the Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly at The Guildhall in Cambridge at 2pm on 17 December. Papers should be available on the South Cambs D.C. website by about 11 December. Funding will be needed for any road scheme from Fourwentways to Haverhill.
- Budget cuts continue. About 80% of the total spending goes on 4% of the population, mainly on care for children and the elderly, making further reductions difficult across all activities.

District Council news

- The Planning Dept is now operating an appointments only system
- See the website for changes to the Planning Delegation procedures, which set out how appeals are handled.
- The results of the review of polling district boundaries/wards as reported last time will be published on the SCDC website by about mid-December. Any changes will come into effect in 2018.
- In a move that would make George Orwell proud the Government has redefined 'traveller' in planning policy to exclude those who no longer travel permanently. The definition has been amended to limit it to those who have a nomadic habit of life, meaning that where someone has given up travelling permanently they should be treated no differently from the settled population. Luckily our village has not yet been troubled by these issues
- Please see winter and Christmas rubbish bin arrangements on back page.

Laybys

We have had complaints of noise, nuisance and intimidation from lorries parked in the laybys in our Parish. This problem has recently been exacerbated by the closure of several laybys in Haverhill. We have written to the County Council to report this. This is another example of Haverhill's problems being pushed onto South Cambs.

Maintenance

The window in the bus shelter up near Alington Terrace is being fixed.

Grant

We have agreed a £1000 grant to The Village Hall towards the cost of the refurbishment of their toilets.

Parish clerk vacancy

Unfortunately our prospective new clerk has had to drop out so we are still seeking to replace Bernard Yallop, who has decided to retire as Parish Clerk. The Clerk administers all the work of the Parish Council including financial control of Parish funds. It takes about 4 hours a week working from home and the pay is about £2100 a year plus expenses. The applicant needs to be able to email, produce documents and to add up! Please contact me - details below.

The next meeting will be on Monday 11 January 2016 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Stuart Miller, Chair

t: 893250

e: stuart@stuartmiller.co.uk

1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

Since the last issue we have had another two Brownies start with us both called Emily, one from Haverhill, the other from Great Abington and we have also said goodbye to India.

This term we have been on a moonlit walk around the village, played 'traditional' games at Halloween (bobbing apples, etc) whilst dressed as witches, ghosts and vampires, held a fundraising Campfire for Pudsey with 1st Linton Guides, made Christmas cards for our Over 60's Luncheon and also gazed at the starts to find The Plough, Cassiopeia and Orion.

We are now practicing hard for the Over 60's Luncheon. If you have received an invitation and have not replied please do so as soon as possible, we need to know numbers so we can cater for all our guests.

If you think your daughter may be interested in joining us please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested. If you would like more information on what we do or would like to help us with a special skill you may have then please drop us an email.

Finally, Katie, Hera, Sophie, Pat, Judith, Christine, all the Brownies and Barney would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and the joyous New Year.

PAULINE, KATIE and HERA E: brownies@horseheath.info

A604 CLUB

During October we had Peter Jackson from Scotsdales visit us with his plants, bulbs and advice about winter flowering shrubs, plants and bulbs.

Our November meeting was held at Scotsdales where we all enjoyed a delicious lunch following by browsing through the Christmas decoration displays.

On Wednesday 9 December we have been invited to Linton Village College for Coffee and Carols, this is a very enjoyable occasion with the Linton College Band and Choir. We are served with tea and coffee, mince pies and fruitcake.

Our last meeting of 2015 is our Christmas Lunch which is at the Flying Shuttle on Wednesday 16 December.

Our first meeting of 201 is on Wednesday 20 January, with our AGM being held on Wednesday 3 February.

Anyone is interested in joining the Club please ring Don on 01223 893428 for more information.

CHRISTINE Secretary/Treasurer

HORSEHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Woohoo – we have a new committee member! Mel Cunningham (Cardinal's Green) is joining the committee and we look forward to welcoming her at our next meeting (which will hopefully be at the pub!)

Since the last posting in the Venture, the Village Hall Committee has been hard at it cooking for the dedicated foodies in the village. This year we hosted a return visit of our Indian night! We fed and watered 40 curry fiends at the hall and even provided a takeaway service for 2 who had to cancel last minute... not bad even if I do say so myself! The hall looked spectacular, draped in beautiful sari materials borrowed from Esther and Nin, decorated by Nita and Stuart and lit by David – so many, many thanks go to them all... and behind the scenes we have Pauline, Olivia and Hannah to thank for keeping the kitchen clean and under control.

We have pretty much come to the end of our 'event's' for 2015 - although there are murmuring behind the scenes of a children's party followed by a grown up's Christmas drinks & nibbles night at the hall – which would be lovely!

As always I feel I should post a big thank you on behalf of you all (apologies if I am being a little forward!) to the Village Hall Committee, who undertake all their duties voluntarily and for whom the village hall is a labour of love. The hall costs in the region of £4-5,000 per year just to stand empty, and the committee have this to raise annually, plus general maintenance, before we even look at the niceties... so well done one and all, keep up the good work, best foot forward etc, etc and here's to 2016!

100 Club Winners

October: Margo Searle-Baker £30.00 November: Richard Martin £30.00

Adrienne Powell Chair – Horseheath Village Hall 01223 891691/07932 360589 Villagehall@horseheath.info

Facebook: Horseheath Village Hall

CASTLE CAMPS C OF E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL Learning together with faith, hope and love



It has been an exciting and busy few months for our community at Castle Camps Primary School and it is hard to believe that we are already in the second half of the term. Our wonderful Reception children are settled in Hedgehog Class and it is time to host the Open Morning for our 2016-17 intake. Across the school as a whole, the children are happy, engaged in their learning and making excellent progress. This success is not only attributable to the hard work of our pupils and staff, but also to the considerable support we receive from parents and our extended families.

The staff have been busy planning exciting and creative lessons for all the children. This term, classes have been studying a range of topics, including: Dinosaurs (Footprints from the Past); Scavengers and Settlers; and Explorers. It has been a pleasure to see the children so enthusiastic about their learning and the work produced has been truly exceptional - the 3-D dinosaur models were a particular favourite of mine. The choir are rehearsing a great deal at the

moment to learn songs for their Young Voices Concert, which is due to be held at the O2 Arena in January. This is the second year Castle Camps has participated in the show and we hope this will now become an annual event. We are very keen to raise the profile of music in school and in April, all the children will have the opportunity to work alongside professional singers when we welcome the English Touring Opera. The company will be performing 'Laika the Spacedog' in our hall and the children will be learning several sings to sing with the actors during the performance. I am sure it will be a spectacular occasion, although the challenge will be fitting a substantial set, large cast and 109 children into our little hall. However, Thomas and Phoebe (Badger Class), equipped with a trundle wheel, measured and calculated the area of the hall and we have forwarded the information to the company. They have assured us there will be plenty of room.

Just before our half term break, we were delighted to hear that one of our school-grown pumpkins had won 1st prize in the Ashdon Pumpkin Show (under 16 category). We were up against some very tough competition, so this was a great achievement. Special thanks must be conveyed to Mr Alan Hardy, who provided the pumpkin seeds for us to grow and presented us with the winning trophy in Collective Worship. The children in Hedgehog Class (Reception) were particularly excited when they were allowed to use the pumpkin to make some delicious homemade soup.

The Friends of Castle Camps School (FOCCS) are continuing to work tirelessly to raise funds to improve the learning experiences of our pupils. Last year, they were able to purchase 15 new laptops and a laptop trolley for the children. This has ensured that ICT is an integral part of each lesson and that all our pupils are becoming increasingly computer literate. Please check our website for information regarding upcoming FOCCS activities, in particular our Winter Fayre, which is due to be held in school on Saturday 5 December 2015 2–4pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

As we move on from this month of Remembrance and busily prepare for Christmas, we should remember that Advent is also a time for spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation. I hope that during the inevitable hustle and bustle of the season, we will all be able to set time aside to relax and reflect, considering the year that has passed and the significance that the Christmas message has in our own lives. This year, we will be holding our Advent Service in the United Reform Church at 2:15pm on Friday 4 December. We are extremely grateful to the elders of the chapel for making this possible. Towards the end of term (Thursday 15 December at 2pm), we will be staging an additional performance of our Key Stage 2 production 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. This performance is open to all members of the Parishes and the children really hope you will be able to attend. Please contact the School Office (01779 584 270) to book a seat/seats. Tickets are free, but there will be a silver collection at the end of the show to help raise funds for the school.

On behalf of all the staff, pupils and families at Castle Camps, please accept my very best wishes for Christmas and the year ahead. I look forward to writing to you again in the New Year.

Miss Alexandra O'Connor Headteacher

THE MEADOW SCHOOL, BALSHAM

It's very nearly that time of year...we are just about ready to start saying the 'Christmas' word in school! The glitter has been ordered, the Nativity costumes are pressed and the donkey is on standby. But before we get carried away with all of the Christmas festivities we need to share all of the things the children has got up to last month.

On the last day of the half term we held our Harvest Festival in the church, with Reverend Julie and some of our Year 6 presiding over the service. We were joined by representatives from Jimmy's Foodbank who shared information about the important work they do and thanked the children for all of the items they had donated.

We also completed the last of the planned works in our Infant outdoor secure area. The children are now benefiting from a fantastic new surface in the water play area. No more muddy feet! We also have a new view as the dangerous trees that have been blocking the sunlight and causing us concern at the front of school have also been cut down. The extra daylight at this point in the year has been welcomed by all.

On 11 November the whole school stopped work and gathered on the playground to remember those who have sadly died fighting to protect our country. The children learnt about Armstice Day and what it meant, along with why we wear poppies. At 11am when the church bell sounded we all fell silent for 2 minutes, something everyone proudly achieved. The assembly finished with a moving poem written by Kirstine in Year 6 and the children all placing pennies they had brought in on a giant paper poppy.

Along with the rest of the country, we also raised money for Children in Need. The School Council took the lead, deciding upon a non uniform day and a bake sale. They raised over £200 and had lots of fun in the process.

We have enjoyed showing prospective families around during the month, all of whom are choosing a school for their child for September 2016. The feedback has been super and the children have delighted in sharing their learning with our visitors. Meadow children are always very happy to talk!

Our building works have finally finished! All of the windows and doors have now been replaced, and school is now looking incredibly smart. We are already benefitting from the extra warmth and insulation, with people actually asking for the heating to be turned down! Our new power assisted front doors are however causing a bit of confusion. If you visit us, please be aware they are not automatic and if you stand and wait for them to open, you may be waiting a while! Instead to open them you can either just pull or push or press the button on the barrier to the side at the front. They have already proved a big hit with parents with pushchairs, visitors with disabilities and teachers with lots of bags!

The last thing that needs to be said this month is Happy Christmas from everyone at The Meadow.

Right I'm off to find the angel wings and test the lights for the tree...

We share photos and news of everything that happens at The Meadow on our twitter page, @Meadow_Balsham. Take a peek!

Nichola Connor, Headteacher The Meadow Primary School

BUTTERCUPS COMMUNITY PRE- SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

After last year's successful fundraiser we shall be selling our raffle tickets for our fabulous hampers, one adult hamper and one children's hamper.

On Saturday 12 December 2015, outside the Balsham Post Office and the Balsham Institute, from 8am. Tickets are £1.00 each or buy 5 get 5 free!!!!!

All funds raised shall go towards providing toys and equipment for the Buttercups children.

Many thanks for your support

The Buttercups Team

LINTON HEALTH CENTRE

Christmas is coming but remember that the Health Centre only closes for the 3 additional public holidays: Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's day. We are open as usual between Christmas and New Year.

Christmas is a busy time for everyone at the Health Centre, but particularly for our dispensers. Our dispensary staff do not take annual leave in the run up to Christmas so that we ensure that all the requests are completed by Christmas Eve. Of course, in theory only those patients who would normally be collecting their repeat medication on the three public holiday days, or those who are actually going away for a week or so, would need to order early, but experience tells us that those weeks before Christmas are exceptionally busy. If you can keep to your regular order pattern it would help our dispensary team enormously. Please try to collect any prescriptions by 4.30pm on Christmas Eve to enable the team to tidy up and be away at 6pm.

When the practice is closed our phone lines are diverted to the out-of-hours service. Local GPs will be providing an emergency service over the Christmas and New Year break as they do every weekend.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas.

Dr Wheeler & Partners www.linton.gpsurgery.net

THE BUTTERCUP ANGEL!

The best seats all taken by competitive Mums...
...the gymnasium was packed right to the back.
Three kings shuffled on with some Shepherding chums,
The School looked festive in tinsel and tack!

Front of stage kneeled little Holly Mings..
...a sweet expression upon her angelic face.
She wore a buttercup pinned to cardboard Wings
....her smile spread an aura all over the place!

The narrator aged Seven spoke loud and clear Reciting his lines in a high treble voice...
..."Christmas has Come... have a Happy New Year,
'I'm getting an X-box'...'Go home and Rejoice!'"

School broke up... they all said Goodbye.
Bethlehem was deconstructed,....back to a Gym,
Mrs Randall the Head departed with a tear in her Eye,
The school doors were locked,...as the light grew Dim!

Holly got in the car with her doting Mum.

Dad would be waiting with a lovely cooked tea,
But at five o clock they still hadn't come...

... rumour had spread of a "catastrophe!"

Thirty minutes after School had broken up There was an accident on the "thirteen O' Seven".... All that was found was a fake buttercup,Cardboard wings had flown tiny Holly to Heaven!

...That Christmas I couldn't face the Carol singing.
I grew sceptical about Santa long ago.
Health and Safety ensured no bell was ringing...
....and the cynical Weatherman said "No chance of Snow!"

All was bleak... until on Boxing Night.
I stared at the heavens towards Saturn's rings.
When... suddenly, across the sky, appeared an incredible sight, ...it was an Angel in flight...wearing cardboard wings!

Life carried on...winter crawled to its end....
....traffic choked the air, at the scruffy roadside.
And then..in May... on that same tragic bend,
....."a Buttercup grew"...... where an Angel had died!

Paul Banks

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On the last Saturday of September I organised a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall, I would like to thank all those who supported the event, with your generosity £232.00 was raised for this very worthy cause.

Christine

REMEMBERED.....

Mrs Jean Chapman, late of Chapter House, Horseheath

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of the dearly departed and we are thinking of them in our prayers.

WEST WICKHAM AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

West Wickham and District Gardening Club enjoyed an informal evening on Monday 16 November when Sheena and Richard Drane from Green Lawns Nursery, near Sudbury gave us a talk on "The Care of Cacti and Succulents". They brought with them many beautiful plants and demonstrated how to pot them up and propagate from them. They welcomed questions from members, many of whom have these plants but do not really understand the conditions they need in which to thrive. Richard made up a bowl of succulents which we then auctioned for Club funds.

The Club Chairman Arthur Mawby and Outings Organiser Janet Morris met with Balsham Horticultural Society with a view to sharing a coach for the annual Club Summer Outing. It was agreed that this was a good idea since in the last two years we have been unable to fill a coach for our proposed outing. Seed orders were handed in and hopefully we will obtain 50% discount from Mr Fothergills.

Our Christmas meeting will feature four short talks from our members; "Sue's Secret Gardens", Sue Kiddy, a professional gardener will describe some of the gardens she has been involved with; Sam Agnew will talk on "Weedkilling"; Ann Broscomb will tell us about a Clematis Exhibition in Holland and I will spend 10-15 minutes showing members the photographs I took of the beautiful wildflowers on Corfu last May. There will be wine, mince pies and nibbles along with a chance to win vouchers for £25 and £15 from Beeches Nursery in our Christmas Raffle.

You are welcome to join us. For further information contact me on 01799 584262, Rosemary Yallop.



HOW ABOUT A PART-TIME JOB AS THE PARISH CLERK?



The Clerk administers all the work of the Parish Council including 6 meetings a year, correspondence, circulation of materials and financial control of Parish funds. It will take about 4 hours a week working from home and the pay is about £2100 a year plus expenses. You'll need to e-mail, to produce documents and to add up!

HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

www.horseheath.info/parish-council

Contact Stuart Miller, t: 893250, e: stuart@stuartmiller.co.uk





Whatever Your Lifestyle, We've Got a Role For You.





Can you help us?

We are 1st Balsham, your local Cubs and Scouts

We need adult volunteers to help run our meetings, go on camp and most of all have FUN!

If you can spare us some time, please contact our Group Scout Leader, Paul Carter by e.mail using psc@paulsarah.fsnet.co.uk or on 07964 108170

'A few hours of your time can make years of difference.'



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VILLAGE DIARY

November	29 30	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison Blue Bin ONLY collection
December	6 7 12 13 14 16 20 21 24 27 29	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson Brownies Over 60's Christmas Luncheon (invitation only) Christingle Service – 3.30pm, All Saints Church Horseheath Black Bin collection Christmas Coffee Morning – 11am, All Saints Church Horseheath Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson Green and Blue Bin collection Tea and Chat, 2.30pm at Alan and Audries Church Flowers and Cleaning – CHRISTMAS - Congregation West Wickham and District Gardening Club – Christmas meeting Black Bin collection Crib Service - 6pm, All Saints Church, Horseheath Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley Blue Bin ONLY collection
January	3 5 10 11 13 17 18 20 23 24 25 31	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley Black Bin collection Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone Green and Blue Bin collection Horseheath Parish Council Meeting - 7.45pm, Horseheath Village Hall Tea and Chat, 2.30pm at Alan and Audries Brownies, first meeting of 2016 Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone Black Bin collection A604 Club, first meeting of 2016 Burns Night, Village Hall (more details later) Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler Blue Bin ONLY collection Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler
February	1 3 7 8 14 15 21 22 28 29	Black Bin collection A604 Club AGM Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison Green and Blue Bin collection Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison Black Bin collection Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson Blue Bin ONLY collection Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson Black Bin collection

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers