

# THE VENTURE



April/May 2012

## FROM THE EDITOR

Well how disappointed am I? Not one card did I receive, and there's me thinking I was loved by all. How wrong can a girl be? I wept for days.

Isn't it nice that spring is now springing? It is a pleasure to walk outside amongst the daffodils and breathe in the air that is so fresh all you want to bottle it.

I've a question for you all, when you give something up for Lent why do you want it more? In our house we decided not to buy or make cakes for ourselves, which seemed like a good idea at the time. So why do I want a big slice of Victoria Sandwich with my cup of tea? Is it all in my mind? We are now trying any excuse to have some form of cake. I even bought some plums in this weeks shop so we could put sponge on the top and call it a pudding!

Anyway, back to reality, don't forget to let me have anything you would like included in the June/July 2012 issue please let The Editor by **16<sup>th</sup> May 2012** at the **very latest**. Articles can be emailed to: [pauline@ranmoor.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:pauline@ranmoor.orangehome.co.uk). To advertise your business please contact the Venture Team on 01223 891086 for more details.

## ALL SAINT'S CHURCH

Nine Lessons for Life from Noah's Ark...

1. Don't miss the boat
2. Remember we're all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark
4. Don't listen to critics: just get on with the job that needs to be done
5. For safety's sake, travel in pairs
6. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs
7. When you stressed, just float for a while
8. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs: the Titanic by professionals
9. However bad the storm, if you're with God there's always a rainbow waiting!

All blessings

GRAHAM†

## Church Flowers and Cleaning

<u>Date</u>		<u>Cleaning and Flowers</u>	
March	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Keys	Lent – no Flowers
April	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Keys	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER DAY – Congregation</b>	
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson	
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Mayes	
May	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Mayes	
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley	
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley	
	27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>QUEENS JUBILEE – Congregation</b>	
June	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs Rowe	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Rowe	
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison	
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison	
July	1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr & Mrs Morse	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Dr & Mrs Morse	
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Mizon	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Mizon	

## **NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS**

The **VALENTINE'S BRUNCH** was very well attended and a lovely social event and we also managed to raise a sum of £350; so thank you to everyone who was involved in making this happen and all who supported this event.

The next two **TEA AND CHAT's** are on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April and it will take place in our Church at 2.30pm and everyone is welcome.

**Events for your diary:** The **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL COUNCIL MEETING** will follow the 4pm Evensong service on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and **OUR ANNUAL CHURCH FETE** will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

With regard to the fete if you have any donations "bric a brac", books, bottles, raffle prizes they would be gratefully received and can be left at Stradlings, West Wickham Road in a large box in the porch. Alternatively you can contact Chris and Di Morse on 01223 891616 for collection or drop off.

Also check out our church information website, [theconnection.org.uk](http://theconnection.org.uk)

RUTH KEYS  
Churchwarden  
t: 01223 897978  
e: [ruth@keysfamily.co.uk](mailto:ruth@keysfamily.co.uk)

## **HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

A Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March January in the Village Hall. In attendance was the Parish Clerk, Bernard Yallop, two parishioners and our County Councillor John Batchelor.

### **Affordable Housing**

We had been hoping to have a presentation from Hastoe Housing on progress with affordable housing for the village. However they have now done a measured survey for a site in Audley Way, which revealed that a ditch to the northern boundary restricts the site capacity. They will now discuss possible options with the District Council before they can come and present some proposals.

### **Parish Council Emergency Plans**

We received a presentation from the District Council Safety Advisor and Emergency Plans Officer, Lawrence Green. We will be sending comments and suggestions and registering our village contacts for use in the event of serious accidents, floods, etc.

### **District and County Council**

John Batchelor said that council tax rates would rise by 2.95% in this financial year. Although the Government offered councils a grant of 2.5% if they froze their tax, the offer would only apply for one year.

### **Trees and Hedges**

The District Council appointed a Trees and Landscape Technician last year and he revived the network of Village Tree Wardens. Nita Miller agreed to serve again and has proposed a programme of planting for the next year including hedges on the A1307; clumps of trees at the east end of the village, on the corner of Alington Terrace and further into Cardinals Green. The most exciting item is the planting of a 'jubilee oak'. These are trees from The Sandringham Estate and ours will be planted next to the Cricket Field near where the large old ash was demolished sometime ago.

### **Repairs**

Having only installed a new notice board a few months ago it has now been damaged by a road-sweeping machine. Repairs are in hand. Repairs to Wooden Bus Shelter and the Village Sign are also proceeding.

### **Dog Bins**

The dog bins have finally been ordered after some to-ing and fro-ing with the District Council. These will be placed at the end of the footpath at the east end of the village near the bus shelter with the other by the footpath half way down West Wickham Road. There is already a bin on the Roman Road at the junction with the road to Streetly End.

### **Salt Bins**

We have our first salt bin and it's situated outside the Post Office. We are happy to order more if can get volunteers to spread the salt when needed.

### **Overhanging Hedges in Howards Lane, Cardinals Green**

A number of landowners have kindly responded to our request to trim large hedges and undergrowth by the roadside and we are chasing the rest.

### **Road Maintenance**

A broken plastic drain cover in Cornish Close has now been replaced with a metal one. The repair of potholes on the bridge in Cardinals Green, road markings on the Withersfield turn on the A1307 opposite Limberhurst, and the repair of the broken road sign on the A1307 are still outstanding.

### **Horseheath Website**

The site should soon be up and running. The contributors are being trained in adding and updating site information. We are hoping to be able to give access information next issue and show the site at the Parish meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall.

### **Speeding**

Thank you those who have given us their comments. We are taking advice and collecting installation costs for some road changes to help restrict speeding through the village. Under the Localism Bill we can decide to do it so long as we pay for it. However the costs may not be immediately affordable as 'sleeping policemen' cost over £3,000 each and 'pinch points' over £6,000.

The next meeting will be the Horseheath Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7:45pm. All welcome.

Stuart Miller  
Chairman  
t: 893250  
e: [stuart@stuartmiller.co.uk](mailto:stuart@stuartmiller.co.uk)

## **1<sup>ST</sup> HORSEHEATH BROWNIES**

We have just returned from our Annual Pack Holiday to the Jarman Centre. Twenty-four Brownies, plus four Brownie and nine Rainbow day visitors, had a wonderful time completing challenges to do with Cupcakes. They all competed in a 'decorate your cupcake' relay which they then ate for Elevenses; went on a trail around the grounds to collect items for their lunch and also made a cupcake Mother's Day card. On Sunday the Brownies also decorated a sponge cake for their Mum's as a Mother's Day gift. I hope the cakes all arrived home in one piece and the Mum's enjoyed them. I know you must think I'm mad but I've already booked next years holiday!

During the Easter holidays we will be joining Balsham Rainbows on a trip to London. We will be visiting the Royal Mews and Girlguiding UK ICANDO centre which is located at our Headquarters. We also hope to drive past the Olympic stadium, etc as we return home. Thank you to Emma, the Rainbow Leader to organising this and for letting us join them.

During the summer term we hope to do more activities outside and will also be joining the rest of the Brownies from the District at a fun day. This is still be organised but I hope to give you more details about this nearer the time.

Finally, the Brownies are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids and Tesco's for Schools and Clubs vouchers again this year, so if you are asked at either shop if you're collecting them say Yes please. They can either be put in the box in Horseheath Post Office (thank you Sharon) or put through our door. Many thanks to all you how have already passed them on.

PAULINE AKA BARNEY

## **A604 CLUB**

The weather is getting a little warmer, so here's hoping that with the better weather we can enjoy our fortnightly meetings in the village hall, we had to cancel our 5<sup>th</sup> February meeting because of the snow, as many of the members come from outside the village.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we held our AGM, the Committee for 2012 is Mary Buckle, Chairperson; Don Harvey, Vice-Chairman; Christine Newman Treasurer/Secretary; Jean Brown; Ann Harvey; Heather Mizon; and Nanette Blackmore. The programme for 2012 was handed out at the meeting and the early part of the year has been quiet and we kick start the spring/summer programme with Fish & Chips on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Puskin Gowlett is making a welcomed return to the club on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, she hasn't said what her talk is about so it will be a surprise to us all.

We'll be visiting Scotsdales for lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> May and I'm sure their sales will sore that day with the purchase of bedding plants. Retired District Nurse Val Spencer will be giving us a talk on 'The Old Days' on 30<sup>th</sup> May, which I'm sure will bring back memories for us all. Andrew Westwood-Bates from Hildersham will be showing a film and talking to us about 'old Cambridge'.

If there is anyone over the age of 50 would like to join this small club please come along and see us, we are a friendly bunch. If you would like more information please ring either Mary on 01223 891025 or Christine on 01223 891086.

Hope to see you soon.

CHRISTINE

## **CASTLE CAMPS C OF E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

[www.castlecampsschool.co.uk](http://www.castlecampsschool.co.uk)

The cold spell in February gave way to much warmer weather and the children are keen to get on the field. We have been planting primulas to brighten up our tubs and sowing seeds in the greenhouse. Our Autumn planted sweet peas are looking good and hopefully we will plant them outside in the near future. If you were able to help us 'guide' the children with their enthusiasm for gardening please contact the School Office – perhaps a couple of hours a week?

We have enjoyed looking at our world this term, whether it is on our doorstep, the village, or a rainforest in exotic countries. It is amazing what you do not know! We are taking part in the Bishop of Ely's 'Lent Challenge' covering the weeks of Lent which fall in the school term; each week has a different theme such as "your school neighbour" or "the environment". We had a great time celebrating Book Week with a wonderful World Book Day when we all dressed up as our favourite book characters. We had a Book Fair running all week which earned us almost £500 worth of books for the classes.

Older pupils represented the school at Linton Village College in the local tournament for hockey and rugby recently. Both teams won more than they lost and we enjoyed the competition. For Sport Relief we are holding our own 'Millennium Wood Mile' on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 11am, when we will dress up and run, jog or walk the mile route, all donations are being collected by the School Council. Why not come and join us? You can jog, walk or run – just give a donation!

Our desire to do our bit for 'sustainability' has been recognised by Eco Schools and they have fitted 42 solar panels to the 'new' roof of the school. They were fitted in two days and you would

hardly know they were there! We cannot wait to see how much energy they will produce! Also, many thanks to everyone who recycled unwanted clothing, blankets etc, and helped to fill the 'Ragtex Bank' The 'bank' is for anyone to use and we have more space in school for donations. They bin is collect 4 times a year or more if we ask.

Once again, may I remind you that we are your school, part of the community, please join us. Sharing some time with us can be very rewarding for us and for you! Listening to readers, helping with arts or crafts, growing things, sharing your interests or hobbies are all opportunities that we would appreciate. If you would like to visit the school or join us for lunch, be my guest, just call the office 01799 584270.

Kevin Sheehan (Headteacher)  
Tel. 01799 584270  
email: [office@castlecampscambssch.uk](mailto:office@castlecampscambssch.uk)

## HORSEHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

By the time you have read this we will have held our first 'Night in Gay Paris,' the title of which caused many a smile, raised eyebrow, even inciting an angry phone call accusing the committee of homophobia: the ranting gentleman in question refused to give his name, but a quick Google of his telephone number soon put paid to his anonymity! To put the record straight for anyone who was a little concerned or taken aback with our flier, Gay Paris is common, affectionate term and not in any way shape nor form rude, homophobic or derogatory (we went as far as checking with our local constabulary to clarify this) and I hope the 40 + people who attended will tell you they had a fabulous evening of fine food and entertainment – who thought life on a village hall committee could be so full of controversy and excitement!!

This June 3<sup>rd</sup> we are celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by taking part in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Big Lunch ([www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com)). The Big Lunch is set up to bring communities together and the event will take place in the village hall grounds; a similar event to that held to celebrate the royal wedding last year. For those who didn't attend last year, the whole village was invited to bring a plate of food to the village hall to share with their friends and neighbours for a celebration and general knees-up – 100+ people turned out last year and it was a fantastic day! As with the royal wedding there will be no entry fee, and no charges - just bring something to eat and share with friends old and new. More details will be through you door soon, but here's a snippet from their website.

### **About The Big Lunch**

*The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.*

*Last year on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June the best part of two million people took part. In 2012 The Big Lunch falls on the same weekend as The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and as announced by Buckingham Palace **The Big Jubilee Lunch** will be a part of the main programme of events over the central weekend of the Diamond Jubilee. A record number of people are expected to take part. Why not be one of them??*

*A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in the garden or on the street, to a full blown street party with food, music and decoration that quite literally stops the traffic.*

Another popular event coming up is our Quiz Night, to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm. Homemade Soups and French bread will be served and included in the ticket price so start organising your teams soon – David and I won the booby prize last year – we’re brushing up on our general knowledge as we speak!!

I would also like to clarify the matter of bar charges at the Village Hall – **the charge of £30.00 to hire the bar is applicable to everyone wishing to use it – social and non social club members** and *is not*, as has been suggested by one member of the community, being paid to committee members who work on the bar – as trustees of the Village Hall we are not allowed to be paid in any form – it does however, in it’s entirety, pay for a member of staff to come in and help on the bar for the evening. As mentioned in my previous entry in the Venture, this charge was something we hoped to avoid, but with help not forthcoming and as a committee dwindling in numbers, it was the only way forward – I do hope this clears up any query about the charges, and their use.

I hope we see you all at the Quiz and The Big Jubilee Lunch.

Monthly 100 Club Winners:

February	Susan Orwell	£30.00
March	Esme Miller	£30.00

ADRIENNE POWELL - Chair

## **CASTLE CAMPS PRE-SCHOOL**

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, we hope that you enjoyed the last edition of news from Castle Camps Pre-School. The Pre-School continues to progress well and the sessions are now all nearly full. However, should you wish to enquire about a space, please contact us for a registration form.

With the new term brings another change in staff, due to other commitments Jan Cresswell will no longer be teaching at the Pre-School, we would like to wish her well in the future. However, both Louise Smith and Karen Barton have settled in well and continue to offer support and assistance to the other members of staff and children.

This term the children have been learning about The Chinese New Year and Burns night, as well as making crafts for Valentines and Mother’s Day. In the next couple of weeks they will be fundraising for Sport Relief 2012, and of course not forgetting the annual children’s Easter Egg Hunt prior to half term!

The fundraising for the Pre-School is also continuing and we have already booked our Easter Fayre for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 2-4pm in the Village Hall. Please come along and show your support, whilst the children enjoy the colouring competition and Easter Egg Hunt on the day.

In June we hope to hold a fashion show and in October a pamper evening, both using local businesses. We have also booked an 80s/90s disco for Saturday 14th July. There will be an

optional fancy dress code and tickets for this will be on sale soon, so watch this space, as details of these will be advertised accordingly.

We are collecting Sainsbury and Tesco vouchers again this year, if you don't know who to give yours to then we would love to have them.

Thank you to all those who have supported and continue to support these events, all funds raised go towards improving and making the Pre-School a safe and happy environment for the children.

Emma Jennings  
Pre-School Committee Secretary



**Ofsted inspected** Rated **'GOOD'** in all areas

## DAISY CHAINS PRE-SCHOOL

Quiz night - The Pre-School Staff and Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Quiz Night this year. As you may be aware, we rely hugely on fundraising in order to sustain the running of pre-school and once again this proved to be a very successful event.

A big thank you to Jane and Matt Jackson and to Jo and Paul Jackson for all their hard work and dedication to this event. We couldn't have wished for a better evening!

A date for your diaries - Our next event is the Jumble Sale on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, look out for the poster for more details.

We currently have available places at Daisy Chain's Pre-school for children aged 2-5 years. If you would like more information please contact:

Sue Harrow: 07943 866294 (between 9am-1pm) or Tina Daniels: 01223 290545

Thank you once again for your support

TINA DANIELS  
Chairperson  
Daisy Chain's Pre-school, West Wickham

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## **A LOCAL TREASURE**

My rare forays into the hallowed pages of our village periodical are perhaps deserving of slight attention by the more discerning reader. However, recklessly abandoning caution, I am nevertheless compelled to write in this her 70<sup>th</sup> year, of a lady who has held a prominent position at Horseheaths "celebrity top-table" for as long as I can remember.

Christine Newmans' impressive CV is garnished in rich variety, and her list of noble causes is endless. However those who know her,-- and there surely can be only a few who don't, will know what I mean when I say that she possesses a sort of "nuclear energy!" To put it bluntly, Christine doesn't approach life on "tip-toe!" She tackles all obstacles head on, and her life is an extended philosophy of the principles by which she performs her robust challenge to what she considers to be either unjust or in need of a "band-aid!" I confess to having a sneaking admiration for her apparent contradictions, which lie beautifully poised somewhere between that of a District Nurse, Mother Teresa, and Ann Widdecombe! Though it is my hope, if Christine is considering entering the new series of Strictly Come Dancing, she treads cautiously. To date I've not seen her perform the lambada, although perhaps in hindsight, armed with her incredible determination, and impressive turn of pace, (especially - woe betide the victim - in pursuit of an unfortunate "lapsed" 100 Club member), she might just prove everybody wrong by winning the darned thing!

Typically, by celebrating her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, Christine invited a generous gathering of friends to the Red Lion on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January for a delightful lunch. However, unknown to me, she had also previously invited an assemblage of villagers to celebrate a few days earlier. It was a great opportunity for all of us to pay tribute. Sadly, in delivering a hastily prepared speech on the day in question, I may not have paid Christine due credit. Hopefully, with the benefit of hindsight, I have made some amends, though others more eloquent may capture that rare piquancy of an extraordinary woman whose steadfast refusal to back down from an equivocal discourse should she "smell the scent of blood" perfectly contrasted to her devotion over many years in nurturing generations of "Brownies!"

Finally I think most of us - shamefully myself included - have given only nodding approval to Christine's unstinting crusade against the "blight of apathy" which is a modern day virus affecting communities of all sizes. Certainly, she is a woman who can "ruffle feathers". However along with total reliability allied to probity, an undimmed enthusiasm and protection for her dearest causes she continuously reveals the qualities that define her unique character. However, underscoring her immense contribution toward the improvement of her cherished community, it has been proven consistently over many years, that she possesses a truly generous heart that is as brave as any Lions.....Go Girl!

PJB

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank everyone who came to the lunches at the Old Red Lion to help me celebrate my 21 years, with 49 years experience Birthday. Thank you for all the cards and donations, in lieu of presents, for Alkaptonuria Society Ltd (AKU) charity. I have given them a cheque for £450.

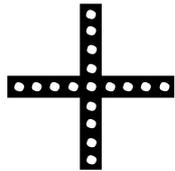
CHRISTINE NEWMAN

**DOUBLE BILL!**

**Horseheath Village  
Community Association**

**VILLAGE HALL**

**AGM**



**Annual  
Parish  
Meeting**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
at 7.30pm**

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Doors open 7pm                      Bar and snacks**

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## VILLAGE DIARY

March	25	Church Cleaning – Mrs Keys
	26	Black Bin Collection
	31	Easter Fayre, Castle Camps Pre-School
April	1	Church Cleaning – Mrs Keys
	2	Green and Blue Bin Collection
	3	Mobile Library Service, 2pm outside The Old Nursery
	7	Farmer's Market, Linton Village College – 9am-12noon
	8	<b>EASTER DAY</b>
	<b>10</b>	Black Bin Collection *
	15	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson
	16	Green and Blue Bin Collection
	18	A604 Club – Fish & Chip lunch
	20	Quiz Night – Horseheath Village Hall
	22	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson
	23	Black Bin Collection
	29	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mayes Evensong, 4pm All Saints Church, Horseheath Annual Parochial Council Meeting, 5pm
30	Green and Blue Bin Collection	
May	2	A604 Club – Puskin Gowlett
	6	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mayes
	<b>8</b>	Black Bin Collection *
	11	Annual Parish Meeting and Horseheath Community Association AGM
	12	Daisy Chain Pre-School Jumble Sale, West Wickham Village Hall
	13	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley
	14	Green and Blue Bin Collection Parish Council Meeting, 7.45pm at Horseheath Village Hall
	16	A604 visit to Scotsdales
	20	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley
	21	Black Bin Collection
	26	Annual Church Fete, All Saints Church
	27	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Queens Jubilee : Congregation
	28	Green and Blue Bin Collection
30	A604 Club – Val Spencer	
June	3	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Rowe The Big Lunch – Horseheath Village Hall
	<b>6</b>	Black Bin Collection *
	10	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Rowe
	<b>12</b>	Green and Blue Bin Collection *
	13	A604 Club – Andrew Westwood-Bates
	17	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison
	18	Black Bin Collection
	24	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison
	25	Green and Blue Bin Collection
July	1	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Dr & Mrs Morse
	2	Black Bin Collection
	8	Church Flowers and Cleaning – Dr & Mrs Morse
	9	Green and Blue Bin Collection
	14	80s/90s Disco, Castle Camps Pre-School

\* Note change of collection day for your household waste and recycling