

THE VENTURE



December 2017/January 2018

FROM THE EDITOR

I do believe that winter has finally arrived. I have seen frost on the garden and the other morning it didn't completely lift until lunchtime. It was very chilly indeed.

I've been talking to a couple of gardening friends of mine about digging, etc, following my question in the last issue. One friend hasn't even started yet "I'm too busy on other projects but I'll get it done", the other has almost finished "and I've dug one bit three times". I did ask him why, did he need to practice and all he did was grin at me. I, of course, have finished all the digging and now I just need to finish the pruning and weeding. I also need to saw logs and chop kindling for the fire; not much when you say in quickly.

Don't forget to let me have anything you would like included in the February/March 2018 issue please let The Editor by **16 January 2018** 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 find it hard to think that this time last year I was planning my move to the Camps and this year I'm planning our first Christmas here with different people and customs and a different pattern of service. You will all be pleased to know that I'm not at all regretting our move. When you move there are certain things that you can plan for and others that you just have to take as they come. Katharine and I knew, for instance, that when we moved we would have to change doctors what we didn't know was that the new doctor would send us for tests at Addenbrookes and we would both end up having operations. I don't think either of us is expecting to spend any time in hospital next year but who knows.

New Year is a time for taking stock. The Roman God Janus, after whom January is named, had two heads, one looking forward and one looking back: assessment of the past and vision for the future. That our New Year, 1st January, follows so closely on Christmas isn't entirely coincidental but reflect the fact that both we chosen with mid-winter celebrations in mid. But the close proximity of Christmas with the New Year should make us think when we making our plans for the coming year we do so knowing that God in Jesus chose to be born into the same world that we live in. He too had to negotiate its unpredictability and face up to situations that he would rather have avoided. Anyone with the least knowledge of the gospels knows that it didn't all go that well for Jesus.

Because God in Jesus entered our world he knows what it is to be human, what the difficulties of life are like, what it is to know sadness and grief. One of the messages of Christmas is Emmanuel – God with us. So as we assess the year that is past it is worth seeing if we can spot the times when God has been there with us to support us to support us, and when we look to the coming year pray that he will be with us to guide and support us in what is to come.

None of us knows for certain what the future holds, but we can know that God is with us whatever happens.

At this time of year I like to remind myself of a prayer by the American theologian and ethicist Reinhold Niebuhr

Father, give us courage to change what must be altered,  
serenity to accept what cannot be helped,  
and the insight to know the one from the other.

Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year

Ian Fisher (Team Vicar), [ian.fisher@btclick.com](mailto:ian.fisher@btclick.com)

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Our Harvest Lunch was a great success again this year and the PCC would like to thank our parishioners for helping with the cooking and serving of vegetables, making such delicious desserts; Michael for expertly cooking the roast beef, as usual it melted in the mouth, Marie and Mary for organising the raffle everyone that washed up and cleared the Village Hall afterwards. Thank you to all that supported us £422 was raised for the upkeep of our Church.

Donations have been sent to Christian Aid, and REACH (Haverhill Food Bank) from our Harvest Service and the British Legion from the Remembrance Day Service.

As we enter into Advent we look forward to welcoming you to our Christingle Service on Sunday 3rd December at 10.30am (the collection from this service will be donated to the Childrens Society) please bring your children along.

### Other Dates for your diary:

Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th December in Church from 11am.

Christmas Eve Crib Service (Carols and Readings) at 6pm.

Tea & Chat Wednesday 20th December at the home of Alan & Audrie (5 Cornish Close). All Welcome. There will be No Tea & Chat in January.

Sunday Club for children will meet at 10am on Sunday 3rd December before the Christingle Service to make Christingles. January's meeting will be on Sunday 7th at 10am.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2018

Pat & Judith  
Church Wardens

### Church Flowers and Cleaning

| <u>Date</u> |    | <u>Cleaning and Flowers</u>     |
|-------------|----|---------------------------------|
| November    | 26 | Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison       |
| December    | 3  | Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson        |
|             | 10 | Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson        |
|             | 17 | Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley          |
|             | 24 | Harvest Festival – Congregation |
|             | 31 | Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley          |
| January     | 7  | Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone      |
|             | 14 | Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone      |
|             | 21 | Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler         |
|             | 28 | Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler         |
| February    | 4  | Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison       |
|             | 11 | Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison       |
|             | 18 | Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson        |
|             | 25 | Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson        |

## HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

[www.horseheath.info](http://www.horseheath.info)

A meeting was held on Monday 13th November in the Village Hall. In attendance were 13 parishioners, our Parish Clerk Melanie Laing, our District Councillors Andrew Fraser and Richard Turner and our County Councillor Henry Batchelor.

### **District Council news – [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)**

Local Plan – This is important to us as its publication should help close the planning loopholes that have recently appeared. During the last few weeks, there have been several exchanges of correspondence between South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and the inspectors. This stage has not yet been

completed, but you can view this working correspondence between South Cambridgeshire District Council and the inspectors up to this point at [www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination). The documents cover some of the changes the inspectors have suggested they believe may be needed for the Plan to be agreed and signed off. If you would like to see an overview of the emerging main modifications to the Local Plan which are being suggested by the inspectors, please see page 63 of the documentation published on the above website. Once the inspectors are content they will formally ask SCDC to undertake a consultation, which I understand takes a couple of months. The consultation provides the opportunity to comment on the specific detailed changes put forward but it does not reopen the debate on other matters.

Paper collection - The collection of paper as a separate part of recycling will cease after the collection on Monday 27th November. Please put paper direct into the blue bin. This is due to the uneconomic cost of separate collection.

Community Chest scheme - this has been enlarged. Horseheath has already received two £1000 grants – for windows in the Cricket pavilion and for goal posts in Audley Way – and could now get a third if any organisation has a scheme to propose.

**County Council news** – [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Constituency boundaries – These are being redrawn to even up the number of voters in each parliamentary constituency. The link to the 2018 review is [www.bce2018.org.uk/](http://www.bce2018.org.uk/) and comments need to be lodged by Monday 11th December. There is a concern at the suggestion that Horseheath will be in a different area to Linton.

### **Planning**

- There has been a revised application to build 8 houses on land adjacent to the Old Police House on Linton Road. The decision at our last meeting in September was to oppose the previous application, reflecting the views of those at the public meeting back in March. Once again the Parish Council voted unanimously to refuse the application, reinforced by the findings of a village survey, which got views from 125 households and showed a two thirds majority against the development due to its position outside the Parish development framework, inadequate village infrastructure and services, with a negative impact on the character of the village.

- We also voted unanimously to refuse an application to build a house in the garden at Rumwood at the top of Howards Lane in Cardinals Green, also due to its position outside the village planning framework, inaccurate plans along with the majority views of a survey of that part of Cardinal's Green, undertaken by residents.

- There was no objection to extensions at Devana in Cardinals Green.

### **Speedwatch**

This is the scheme where equipment is provided for villagers to record speeding cars in the village with a warning letter sent to those drivers who exceed the limit. We now have enough volunteers, who will start with some training with the equipment soon.

### **Local Highways Initiative**

We have applied for grants for bus stop markings outside the Old Forge on Haverhill Road, for improving the crossing for pedestrians over the A1307 on Howards Lane and for signs to indicate Howards Lane unsuitability for large vehicles.

### **Maintenance**

We have reported and are chasing this list, which shows some minor progress:

- Trees at Dene Rd/A1307 junction.
- Footway – Alington Terrace to bus shelter and cycle rack.
- Damaged road/pothole opposite Field View Studios.
- Missing and damaged bollards on A1307/Montfort junction.
- Road drainage – Alington Terrace.
- Gutter weeds in Horseheath and Cardinal's Green.
- Pathway weeds Alington Terrace to the Montfort.
- Footpath sign missing A1307 towards Cardinal's Green.
- Overgrown land at A1307/Alington Terrace junction.
- Damaged directional sign Howards Lane /A1307.
- Damaged road surface A1307/Linton Rd junction.

- Missing 30mph sign at village entrance from West Wickham.

For any Highways issue we encourage people to complain independently to Cambs. County Council at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) where there is a 'Report a Highways fault' form. We understand there is greater likelihood of action with more complaints.

*Reminder – please contact the Clerk at the address below if you are interested:*

**Allotments** - There's still a vacancy for an allotment at Alington Terrace, Cardinals Green.

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Stuart Miller, Chair

t: 893250

e: [stuart@stuartmiller.co.uk](mailto:stuart@stuartmiller.co.uk)

Clerk: [horseheathpc@gmail.com](mailto:horseheathpc@gmail.com)

## 1ST HORSEHEATH BROWNIES

We have been very creative this term as we are working out our Toymaker badge. We started off with making jigsaws, then sock puppets and dressing Katie, Laurene and I in recyclable materials. We still have one item to make which will be connected to Christmas and will probably go on the Christmas tree at the URC Church in Castle Camps where we have, again, been invited to decorate a tree

Also this term we went for a night walk in Balsham with the Rainbows which was followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows. We made harvest pictures to decorate All Saints Church Horseheath for the service and then the village hall when the Harvest Lunch was held.

We are now getting ready for the Over 60's Luncheon by making Christmas cards and calendars as well as practicing our entertainment.

If you have a daughter who would be interested in joining us please register her at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested) or 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.

PAULINE, KATIE, and LAURENÉ

E: [brownies@horseheath.info](mailto:brownies@horseheath.info)

## A604 CLUB

We are going to the Old Red Lion for our Christmas lunch, on Wednesday 6 December. This will be the final meeting for 2017. Our first meeting of 2018 will be on Wednesday 10 January in the village hall at 1pm when we will have a post-Christmas bring and share lunch. At this meeting we will finalise our programme for 2018.

Our AGM will be on Wednesday 7 February. We would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. The Club welcomes members who have reached the ripe age of 50 and would like to participate. Any questions call me on 290875.

DENNY PEARSON

Secretary – 01223 290875

## HORSEHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We have had a busy autumn so far with a great Halloween children's disco. It was a lovely evening and Paul Woor, from Happy Kats Disco, was just amazing. Thank you to all that came and dressed up so well. We had some scary witches and monsters!! And that was just the committee's members. £286 was made for the upkeep of the hall!

We are in the middle of organising our annual quiz and ticket sales are going well so we look forward to a good night.

Thank you to those who come along to our events, we couldn't raise those much needed funds without you all. Funds will be going to fixing the roof and guttering, repairs to the toilets, and renovating the bar area. It also goes towards the general upkeep of the hall to keep it at a good standard.

Our next event is a Christmas get together on Friday 22 December from 6pm. All welcome adults and children alike. We will have food and drink available and hopefully some entertainment. Look out for the posters in the next few weeks.

New members are always welcome to join our committee. We are all volunteers and work incredibly hard to help keep the hall as part of our community. We try to run at least four events a year and require help at these events. We are a friendly bunch and have fun. Please drop us an email if you can help or wish to join our committee. If you have any ideas for future events please again drop us a line.

The first event for 2018 is the Burns Night which is on Saturday 27 January, to book your tickets £18.00 each or £35.00 for a couple. For more information please contact Christine.

Don't forget the hall is also for hire for parties, events and classes. So if you know anyone pass on our details.

### 100 Club Winners

|           |                |        |
|-----------|----------------|--------|
| October:  | Suzanne Matick | £30.00 |
| November: | Susan Orwell   | £30.00 |

Hope to see you all at our next events and we wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy 2018.

Mel and the Village Hall Committee

[Villagehall@horseheath.info](mailto:Villagehall@horseheath.info)

Facebook: Horseheath Village Hall

## THE MEADOW SCHOOL, BALSHAM

The clocks have gone back, the nights are definitely darker and Jack Frost has been visiting regularly, according to our children this means it is nearly Christmas! We did have to say on the 30th October that it was far too early to be talking about Christmas and could we please wait until December.

As the end of one year ends and another begins it is always a good opportunity to pause for a while and take stock of everything we have achieved. I couldn't have been prouder of our staff and community for the hard work and dedication they showed in ensuring that we showed our school off. Our children have made me proud on so many occasions, from watching them perform in plays, reading their first book unaided, earning their pen licence, passing music exams, helping others in school to seeing them compete for the school in sports tournaments (yes I am normally the one cheering loudly on the side lines). There genuinely isn't a day that goes by that I don't walk around school and feel immensely proud of something.

December and Christmas for the majority of us is a time when we can relax a little, spend time with the people we love and exchange gifts and tuck into a lovely meal. For others though this time of year can be one of unhappiness and worry. Once again our community makes me feel proud. In a time where for many

families every single penny matters I am amazed at the generosity of our families in supporting school and the charities we choose to help. In November we sold poppies for Remembrance Day and further supported this through our assembly and laying of extra pennies on the giant poppy we placed on the playground after we observed our 2 minutes silence timed by the church bells. The money raised has gone off to the Royal British Legion to help those who have served so bravely in our armed forces. We look forward to hearing back from them how much we raised. The children were also very keen to once again support Children in Need by wearing spots or stripes and holding a cake sale. We were thrilled to raise over £270 for a very worthwhile cause. We hope that our small contributions enable someone who may not have had a very Merry Christmas to now have a happier one.

As we near the end of term we have our annual Carol concert, Infant Production and school disco to look forward to.

Wishing you a season of gladness, a season of cheer, and to top it all off, a wonderful year! Happy Christmas and New Year to you all from everyone at The Meadow.

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

NICHOLA CONNOR  
Headteacher



## CASTLE CAMPS C OF E (V.C.) PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **Our value for December is: Thankfulness**

*'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.'* (Isaiah 60:1)

It has been an exciting and busy few months for our community at Castle Camps Primary School and it is hard to believe that the term is already drawing to a close. Across the school as a whole, the children are happy, engaged in their learning and consequently, making excellent progress.

### **Remembrance Day**

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend our Remembrance Service at the United Reformed Church, Castle Camps on Friday 10 November. It was a beautiful service and all the children behaved in a respectful and considerate way. We are very grateful to Revd Bruce and Revd Ian for leading the service. This year we raised £75 for the Royal British Legion, alongside an additional £120.50 through our Red, White and Blue Non-uniform Day, which raised money to support three national military charities.

### **KS2 Christmas Production: Community Performance**

On Wednesday 13 December we would like to invite members of the community to attend our Key Stage 2 Christmas Production of 'Olivia' at 2pm. This new musical, set in Victorian times, traces the steps of Olivia, from downtrodden orphan to star of the stage. On her journey to the bright lights of London, she is befriended by Eliza Doolittle (from "My Fair Lady") and, after a series of adventures, becomes a singer in a new Gilbert and Sullivan show, thanks to the unlikely assistance of Fagin and The Artful Dodger. If you would like to reserve seats for the performance, please contact Mrs Gouldstone in the School Office on: 01799 584 270. Tickets are free, but we will be holding a raffle at the end of the show. Running time is approximately 45 minutes.

### **Midday Supervisor Advert**

We are urgently seeking to appoint a positive and energetic Midday Supervisor from January 2018. The vacancy is Monday to Friday from 12pm – 1pm, 5 hours a week.

The ideal candidate will have experience of working with children; have positive ideas for lunchtime games and activities; and be reliable and flexible. We can offer a happy school with happy children; and a friendly and supportive team.

Visits to the school would be warmly welcomed. Please contact the school office either by email [office@castlecamps.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@castlecamps.cambs.sch.uk) or by telephone on 01799 584270 to arrange an appointment or to request an application pack. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS (formerly CRB) disclosure.

### **New Nursery Class 2018**

We are delighted to announce that our new Nursery Class will be opening in January 2018. If you know of anyone looking for a place for their 3 or 4 year old, information and application forms can be found on the school website. We will be holding an Open Day for the new Nursery on Monday 11 December (3.30pm – 4.30pm) for visitors to drop in, see the facilities and meet the teachers. Please come and join us.

Please accept my very best wishes for a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Miss Alexandra O'Connor  
Headteacher

## **HORSEHEATH CRICKET CLUB 2017 SEASON**

The 2017 was a good season for Horseheath, the midweek team survived a relegation fight to remain in the top division and will continue to play against team that have paid and overseas players. The Weekend team faired a lot better, we finished 4th in a very competitive division and will remain in the Senior Division 3 for next season. We unfortunately got knocked out of both cup competitions in the first rounds.

We managed to win more games than we lost and although the weather was bad at times we managed to play most of our games.

Some of the highlights included Dan Goldsmith smashing an unbeaten 108 in one midweek game.

We managed to bowl out the weekend division leaders Newport for only 62 and completed a comprehensive victory, which secured our place in the division and put a major dent in Newport's title chase.

Ben Piper our opening bowler was the divisions leading wicket taking with 32 in the Cambridgeshire league.

Dan Goldsmith was in the top ten run scorers in the division in the Cambridge League; Stephen Lanceman was in the top 5 catches for the division in the Cambridge League; and Dan Goldsmith was in the top 5 wicket keeping dismissals in the division in the Cambridge league

Next season we are looking to get promotion at the weekends and hopefully improve our midweek standings.

We have had a change of players this season with the old campaigners Mick and Alan Ketteridge who have played for the club for over 50 years each retiring and new younger players have joined the club. In fact we have a new player from the village, Philip MacCaughan, he joined halfway through the season and proved his worth with some excellent bowling performances.

The club held it's end of season presentation evening on 13th October, we had a lovely three course carvery followed by a raffle and trophy presentation. The awards were won by:

|                               |                                                |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Best Batsman Midweek          | Matt Morley                                    |
| Best Batsman Cambridgeshire   | David Brown                                    |
| Best Bowler Midweek and Cambs | Ben Piper                                      |
| Midweek Player of the year    | Andy Edwards                                   |
| Cambs player of the year      | Ben Piper                                      |
| Batsman of the year           | Dan Goldsmith                                  |
| Bowler of the year            | Ben Piper                                      |
| Clubman                       | Gary Ellis                                     |
| Duck award                    | Luke Wood                                      |
| Top score of the year         | 108 – Dan Goldmith                             |
| Best bowling                  | 9 overs-5 maidens-7 runs-4 wickets – Ben Piper |
| Top catches                   | 15 – Dan Goldsmith                             |
| Best partnership              | 177 – Dan Goldsmith & Matt Morley              |

Please feel free to check out the website <http://horseheath.play-cricket.com> where you can see our stats.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

It is the time of year when we're enjoying a tipples with friends, cooking up festive feasts for the family and entertaining loved ones. With all the fun to be had it is easy to be distracted when cooking in the kitchen. 50% of all fires in the home start in the kitchen and more than half of those are as a result of distraction whilst cooking.

We want to help ensure your festive cheer doesn't go up in smoke this Christmas by sharing our tips below for safe cooking over the festive season:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Do not cook when tired.
- Do not cook when under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication that makes you drowsy.
- Regularly clean the grill pan and oven. Built up fat can easily catch fire.
- Never leave anything cooking if you leave the house.
- Do not leave anything flammable on or near the hob – tea towels, oven gloves and even washing baskets can catch fire.
- Take care when using microwaves. Fires can start when people put food in too long. Always read the instructions on the packet – never guess the time needed.
- Oven chips or temperature control deep fat fryers are safer than using a chip pan. If you do use a chip pan, do not fill it more than one third with fat and turn the heat down if the oil starts smoking.
- Fire can break out in household appliances so you should regularly maintain dishwashers, washing machines and driers and never leave them on if you go out or when you go to bed
- Have a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home. If it keeps going off when you are cooking it is probably in the wrong location or you may have the wrong type of smoke alarm.
- Never take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

**If you do have a fire in the house, get out, stay out and dial 999.**

For more information, or to get in touch, contact us at [firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firefire@cambsfire.gov.uk) or on 0800 9179994. For more information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

## A MESSAGE FROM LUCY FRASER, MP

I wanted to take the opportunity to wish all my constituents a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to come. 2017 has flown by with so much to do and an unexpected election on top! I have been pursuing with vigour the roll out of superfast broadband across the constituency regularly meeting and speaking with all involved pressing for more, quicker! I am also pursuing a campaign to get South East Cambridgeshire selected as a testbed for the trialling of the next generation of digital infrastructure through industrial 5G pilots.

As most of you will know by now, education is a passion of mine and I am relentless in my efforts to pursue fairer funding for our schools. I take every opportunity to engage with both schools and the Secretary of State for Education to ensure our requirements are front of mind. I welcome the recent announcement of £3.1 million more for our constituency and I will continue on this mission to pursue funding wherever it is available.

Other projects I am involved with around education include encouraging businesses to work hand in hand with schools with specific reference to STEM subjects and building pathways to future careers in local businesses. I am also driving a project to reduce the costs of teacher recruitment through an online government website.

Infrastructure projects occupy a lot of my time, fighting for necessary funding and maintaining a presence where projects are underway to ensure where possible they remain on schedule and on budget. The start of works on the Ely Southern Bypass in March was the culmination of a great deal of work and lobbying by a

great many people including myself and I'm delighted work is now underway. I am very much behind the Greenways initiative to introduce more cycle and multi-purpose routes into Cambridge.

I enjoy every opportunity I have to meet with constituents from all walks of life, whether welcoming groups and individuals to Westminster, attending a Rotary club meeting, joining a Women's Institute gathering, opening a summer fete, chatting at an Open meeting, or meeting constituents in my surgeries - I never like to pass up the chance to exchange views and hear any issues constituents may have.

All across the constituency, over recent weeks, our senior school pupils have been busy debating. This year marks the 4th inter schools debating competition since I became a Parliamentary Candidate and first initiated the idea. The final sees 14 students debating in the House of Commons. I am so grateful for all the support I receive from constituents young and old and I look forward to working as hard as I can on your behalf in the coming year.

**To keep up with what Lucy is doing on a more regular basis, you can sign up for her newsletter at [www.lucyfrazer.org.uk](http://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk) and/or follow her on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FrazerLucy](http://www.facebook.com/FrazerLucy)**

## **A VIEW FROM THE BOUNDARY!**

I remember stopping briefly to chat with Les Barker, his brother Derek, and Mick Ketteridge who were preparing the wicket for the forthcoming Saturday fixture at Horseheath Cricket Club. I also had cause to reflect that once all three of these former, celebrated, stalwarts played a crucial role in the club's illustrious history, back in the day when Horseheath Cricket Club was a massive local obsession!

It must be barely two and a half decades since Horseheath reigned supreme in "pristine white flannelled pomp" over the whole of Cambridgeshire; not only competing, but beating all of their larger village rivals. I could spend hours writing an affectionate memoir but it would take a whole series of separate articles to do them all justice.

It seems remarkable, that once not so many years ago, such a modest sized community, as Horseheath could nurture a whole dynasty of local talent of whom many remain joined by a unique bond stretching back to childhood. Alongside participants beneath the neighbouring West Wickham and tiny Streetley End "cricketing umbrella", all of those past modest, sporting heroes once put Horseheath squarely in the centre of the cricketing map, becoming the pride of all Cambridgeshire, bringing League trophies and Cups back to celebrate in the Red Lion and former "Horsebox" of the Batsons Arms and "tap room" of the Streetley End Chequers!

Women too played a huge part in the Club's historic achievements. One such lady, Jean Reader, now in her 90th year, and still living in the village told me a while back, that on rare occasions,-- over a whole Bank Holiday weekend, she was "invited" to prepare the "Teas", (enough for 22 players, 2 Umpires, 2 scorers, and numerous home and away spectators) aided by one other of her many sister-in-laws or cousins. Yet Jean was able to prepare enough for a small banquet..."all by herself!". Goodness knows what time she started to slice and butter the bread, but knowing Jean, little fuss was made as she effortlessly dispensed cucumber sandwiches along with her charming hospitality!

After the new pavilion was built Jean's husband Len ran the bar with his huge hand tightly clamped around the pavilion purse-strings. Many a celebration has been enjoyed in that solid, utilitarian little building! In fact Len, always an opportunist, somehow managed to find means of bringing in added revenue, by randomly organising "unofficial" private parties, festive Christmas booze-ups, even Christening celebrations, but always with a "crafty" eye focussed on increasing the Club's coffers! Regrettably Len died back in 1994 and sadly, as with so many colourful robust characters of the past, a pavilion light was permanently extinguished with his passing.

I remember the titanic contests with many of Horseheath's nearest and larger rivals from the Senior Cricket League. Yet our tiny village regularly surpassed all expectations. Its feared reputation as a giant of the Senior League right across the County was assured. Horseheath took on, and regularly vanquished their closest rivals, namely: Fordham, Isleham, Barrington, Shelford, Audley End and many more who figured

large in the Cricketing firmament. It is fair to say that with few exceptions; all of Horseheaths main rivals were bigger; yet back then, few rarely proved better!

Inevitably ones gaze is bound to turn to the future, and though Horseheath Cricket Club continues to survive only with the stubborn resistance due to the efforts of people like Les, Derek, Mick and Alan attempting to resuscitate new life into an old, sadly declining body, there must be times admittedly when keeping this once formidable cricketing fortress alive becomes quite daunting. Attracting new players, where youngsters have now so many more varied pastimes and recreational activities to pursue is bound to present obstacles in recruitment. It is all the more impressive therefore that Les, Derek, Mick and Alan are still prepared to stoically soldier on in their quest to keep our village Club alive. For these few gentlemen and doubtless other loyal friends and family members who inevitably get sucked in to this vortex, it must seemingly appear an act of "self-harm!", yet without question a "Labour of Love!" It would be fun to believe that one day there might be a way of developing a new local "prodigy" and with girls now playing our national game, perhaps a new budding "Josephine" Root or "Phyllis" Tuffnel is in our midst.

So I return to my intended Cricket Club 'homage' . Les, always the cheerful optimist, reminded me that the former curse of pitch preparation-- rabbits burrowing under the outer ring of wire netting, which protected the wicket through the winter months has all but scuttled into extinction. But as Groundsman, Les witheringly reminded me that nowadays, it is the crassness of inconsiderate dog walkers who cause his biggest headache; and who in their early morning or late evening rambles continue to allow their animals to poo around the boundary edge. Indeed, Les informed me that he ran over three separate sticky mounds of "squidgy logs" with his mower a few weeks previously, then poor chap was humiliatingly left to scrape the offending "deposit" from the mower roller before putting it away in the tiny corrugated shed! Feeling slightly disconcerted by Les's report, it is hard to imagine now, that once that same little shed once served as a rudimentary "changing room and hospitality suite!"

Having heard this, anecdotal "poo evidence" first hand, a final thought has occurred to me.... "I hope Les donned a pair of gloves whilst cleaning the Atco because as I recall upon leaving, we shook each other by the hand "very firmly!" It's just as well Len Reader isn't alive today. That formidable character previously mentioned, who manned the pavilion Bar. He would have lain in wait all night if necessary waiting to "snare" the offenders, and their dispatched poo would have been returned with interest! But hey let's not go down the well-worn "slippery pooch poo slope" again. I have done all that, and to be fair, of the dog-walkers I encounter on my excursions round and about, most are pleased to see me! Yet, if I keep banging on I may risk being mired in the "dog poo controversy" evermore. However, you have to say it is a damn shame that a few cynical owners allow their loyal canine companions to take all the flak!

Just to put the record straight, I genuinely hope my comments have not offended anyone, because they are offered in a spirit of frankness, rather than a proscriptive rant towards many people I have never met, or wish to avoid. Nothing, my anonymous friends could be further from the truth!

On perhaps a more sober, yet exalted note, I must reserve special mention for the Editor of our regular bi-monthly Village magazine. Her wry observations (especially on the weather, and her arcane gardening knowledge) along with her occasional reminders concerning green, black or blue bin day in our humble effort to "Save the Planet" always manages to raise a smile!....Have a Great 2018!

Paul Banks

## **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Thank you to everyone who came to support the MacMillan Coffee Morning held on Saturday 30 September. With your help £337.50 was raised for this worthwhile charity.

Christine



**Paul J Neaves**  
Electrical Contractor

## NEAVES ELECTRICAL Ltd

All aspects of electrical work undertaken  
installation, maintenance & repairs  
[www.neaveselectrical.co.uk](http://www.neaveselectrical.co.uk)

Tel: 01223 290956

Mobile: 07702 280687

Email: [paul@neaveselectrical.co.uk](mailto:paul@neaveselectrical.co.uk)



### Little Hands Nursery School - Linton & Bartlow Three Hills Farm, Bartlow

A private Nursery School specialising in quality preschool care and education for the under fives

High staff to child ratio, individual child centred planning & learning

Flexible booking system for the 08.00am - 6.00pm nursery day

Optional holiday clubs available, dedicated baby room for the under twos

We accept nursery funding giving up to 30 hours per week of free funded nursery  
for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds

For further details contact Mandy Norris, nursery manager 01223 897945

E-mail: [lh-bartlow@btconnect.com](mailto:lh-bartlow@btconnect.com)

Little Hands is also at Bourn, Melbourn and Newton  
visit the website at [www.littlehands.co.uk](http://www.littlehands.co.uk)



Logs  
&  
Woodchip  
Supplied

## Tree Surgery Services

Fully Qualified and Insured.

For all types of felling, climbing  
& reduction work.

*For friendly advice & quote please call:*

Alexander Talbot

On

01440 762855 or 07979 620488





**stephenwain**  
bereavement services

*bereavement counselling & farewell photography*

☎ 01223 666229

✉ [stephen@wain.net](mailto:stephen@wain.net)



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



Tank Replacement Specialists  
Plastic & Steel Tanks  
Base Construction

Tank Removal/ Disposal Service  
Oil Boiler Servicing & Breakdowns  
DBS (CRB) checked & Fully Insured

**01440 820267**

[info@suffolkoilsolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@suffolkoilsolutions.co.uk)  
or call Mark on 07775 953555



£ We Sell HEATING OIL email us for competitive daily price



## S. ROSE PLUMBING & OIL HEATING

For all your plumbing & oil boiler services

- plumbing repairs & installation
- oil boiler repairs & installation
- Oftec registered business
- Unvented cylinders
- Worcester boiler trained



Call Stuart on :

**01440 762461 / 07432797372**  
email : [rosestuart76@icloud.com](mailto:rosestuart76@icloud.com)

Affordable Quality Blinds  
**CapriBlinds**

**ALL TYPES OF BLINDS  
SUPPLIED AND FITTED  
FREE QUOTATIONS  
FREE HOME VISIT  
01223-894020**

**or email [colin@capriblinds.co.uk](mailto:colin@capriblinds.co.uk)  
ALL BLINDS ARE MADE IN ENGLAND  
- FAST LOCAL SERVICE**

**Visit [capriblinds.co.uk](http://capriblinds.co.uk)**

### **A J Pest Control Ltd**

Local Professional Service  
Member of NPTA  
Domestic/Commercial/Agricultural  
Experts in all areas of pest control

Mice, Rats, Wasps, Bees, Hornets, Moles, Moths, Ants,  
Bed Bugs, Fleas, Flies, Squirrels, Birds, Woodworm.



01799 542505  
07855 478824

[www.ajpestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.ajpestcontrol.co.uk)  
Locally based in Debden

### **HELPING HANDS**

**Would you like help with  
your housework  
OR  
another pair of hands in  
your garden???**

**I have 27 years'  
experience and no job is  
too small.**

**Please contact  
KAREN CONDRON  
01223 893475**

**Rothwell's**  
Carpet Cleaning

01223 832 928  
[www.Rothwells.biz](http://www.Rothwells.biz)

## **Carpet Cleaning**

### **Stone Floor, Upholstery & Rug Cleaning.**

*A few points that make us stand out from the others,*

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning  
& drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture for a thorough clean.

100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help today.*

Rothwell's, Malting End, Kirtling, Newmarket, CB8 9HH

**KLEEN**

### **Window Cleaning Services**

Mark and Ray of **KLEEN** Windows are currently in your area. If you would like a free quotation, please phone us for a friendly and reliable service

E

**KLEEN**

Tree View, 14 Hanchett End

Haverhill CB9 7GE

Tel: 01440 707276 or

07981 079183

Window Cleaning – Gutters – PVC frames

## VILLAGE DIARY

|          |           |                                                                                                                                                |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November | 24        | Quiz Night, Horseheath Village Hall                                                                                                            |
|          | 26        | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison                                                                                        |
|          | 27        | Horseheath: Blue Bin and last ever Paper Caddy, Cardinals Green: Black Bin                                                                     |
| December | 1         | Castle Camps School Advent Service                                                                                                             |
|          | 2         | Castle Camps School Christmas Fayre (TBC)                                                                                                      |
|          | 3         | All Saints Church Sunday Club, 10am<br>Christingle Service, 10.30am with Sunday Club<br>Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson |
|          | 4         | Horseheath: Black Bin, Cardinals Green: Blue Bin and last ever Paper Caddy                                                                     |
|          | 9         | All Saints Church Christmas Coffee Morning, 11am                                                                                               |
|          | 10        | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Newman & Mrs Pearson                                                                                         |
|          | 11        | Horseheath: Blue and Green Bins, Cardinals Green: Black Bin                                                                                    |
|          | 13        | Castle Camps KS2 School Production                                                                                                             |
|          | 17        | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley                                                                                           |
|          | 18        | Horseheath: Black Bin, Cardinals Green: Blue and Green Bins                                                                                    |
|          | 20        | Tea & Chat, 5 Cornish Close                                                                                                                    |
|          | 22        | Christmas-Get-Together, Horseheath Village Hall 6pm                                                                                            |
|          | 24        | All Saints Church Christmas Eve Crib Service, 6pm<br>Church Flowers and Cleaning – CONGREGATION: CHRISTMAS                                     |
|          | <b>27</b> | <b>Horseheath: Blue Bin, Cardinals Green: Black Bin</b>                                                                                        |
|          | 31        | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Smith & Mrs Jolley                                                                                           |
| January  | <b>3</b>  | <b>Horseheath: Black Bin, Cardinals Green: Blue and Green Bins</b>                                                                             |
|          | 7         | All Saints Church Sunday Club, 10am<br>Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone                                                |
|          | <b>9</b>  | <b>Horseheath: Blue and Green Bins, Cardinals Green: Black Bin</b>                                                                             |
|          | 14        | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mizon & Mrs Gouldstone                                                                                       |
|          | 15        | Horseheath: Black Bin, Cardinals Green: Blue and Green Bins<br>Horseheath Parish Council Meeting, 7.45pm                                       |
|          | 21        | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler                                                                                          |
|          | 22        | Horseheath: Blue Bin, Cardinals Green: Black Bin<br>Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Mayes & Mrs Wheeler                                      |
|          | 27        | Burns Night Supper, Horseheath Village Hall                                                                                                    |
|          | 29        | Horseheath: Black Bin, Cardinals Green: Blue Bin                                                                                               |
|          | 4         | Church Flowers and Cleaning – Mrs Miller & Mrs Harrison                                                                                        |
| February | 5         | Horseheath: Blue and Green Bins, Cardinals Green: Black Bin                                                                                    |
|          | 7         | A604 AGM, 2.30pm in the Village Hall                                                                                                           |

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers