Well, I’m Blessed

AMENITIES PROJECT
LATEST UPDATE

FOOTBALL MANAGER WANTED
CAN YOU CONTINUE TO LEAD SUFC UP THE LEAGUE TABLE?

ON THE BUSES
PARISH COUNCIL LOBBYING HARD

CALENDAR, GIRLS?
SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS IN THE NEXT STILTON CALENDAR

St. Mary Magdalene church was packed with a joyful congregation of parishioners, clergy and friends to witness the formal institution, by the Bishop of Ely, of the Rev. Jamie MacKay as its new Rector.
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**Advertising:** Olive Main 241206  
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Collection days are changing after 25th Feb. Watch for details!

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**NOW RECYCLING BOTTLES**

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Tell advertisers you found them in **SCAN**!
Public and Amenity Verges

It has come to the Parish Council’s notice that a number of residents are enclosing grass verges adjacent to their properties by fencing or hedging.

These verges are in the ownership of either the Parish Council, County Council or District Council.

They were provided as amenity space and as part of open-plan aspects to housing areas in the village as part of housing planning applications. Some are to provide good sight lines at road intersections.

The Parish Council requests that no further encroachments take place. Where it does the matter will be reported to the relevant authority. Some residents have been given notice to remove the fencing/hedging.

With thanks in anticipation of your support in this matter.

Calendar, Girls?

It is proposed to produce a 2014 Stilton Calendar, so this is an advanced invitation to everybody in the village to contribute images which capture village life at its best.

These could be photographs, paintings, or drawings. There are no rigid rules, so you can use your creativity! It would be particular pleasing to have images that reflect Stilton throughout the seasons, or perhaps a mix of ‘Stilton then & now’. Contributors of the selected images will have the satisfaction of seeing their work in the finished calendar and featured on the village website.

Print resolution is a minimum of 300 dots/inch, so we probably need digital photos to be at least 2000px wide. (The design and size of the calendar has yet to be decided, and will depend partly on the material you contribute.) Paintings or drawings should be no bigger than A4 size so that we can scan them.

Please send your pictures to the editor, either by email to olive.main@tiscali.com, or to 8 Caldecote Rd. Original artwork will be carefully scanned and returned, so please ensure that you protect it with suitably robust wrapping.

We’ll keep reminding you about this, so keep your camera in your pocket!

Can You Help?

The following enquiry was posted on the website guest book:

My grandfather Walter Wallis lived in Stilton around 1893 with his family. His father was George Henry Wallis. Walter was baptised on 5th March 1893 at the Wesleyan methodist church at Stilton but I can find no trace of the church or church records. Could anyone help me with persons or the church? I have visited Stilton but that didn’t help. I would be really grateful to anybody who can help.

The methodist chapel was, we believe, the one that stood on the corner site now occupied by MacColls. If anybody can help this enquirer with information about their grandfather, SCAN will be pleased to pass it on.
St. Mary Magdalene Church was host to a large congregation to witness the induction by the Bishop of Ely of Rev. Jamie Mackay, as its new Rector and as the incumbent for the parishes of Folksworth, Morborne, Haddon and Elton.

We join the church community in wishing him every success and happiness in his new role.

In Cambridgeshire there are thought to be over 7,500 people with Alzheimer’s. By 2021, that number is likely to reach 10,500. The Alzheimer's Society charity is looking for local volunteers to help in a number of areas, including assisting in the delivery of services to people with dementia and their carers, local fundraising events, helping out in a local office, supporting someone living with dementia or helping to raise awareness of dementia across the county.

The Alzheimer's Society relies on volunteers to continue its vital work in supporting people to live well with dementia today and funds research to find a cure for tomorrow. You don't need any experience to get involved, there is no age limit and training is provided. Volunteering can be great fun and an opportunity to gain new skills.

To find out more, please contact Yvonne Walton on (01733) 893853, or come to the Society’s Open Day on 22nd February at Unit 8, Flag Business Exchange, Fengate, Peterborough from 10am to 3pm.

The Alzheimer’s Society
CAN YOU HELP WITH THEIR WORK?
Did you know there is a Lunch Club in Sawtry?

Ladies, gentlemen or couples
We are a self-help group that meets every Monday & Tuesday 10:30am - 1:30pm
at the CARESCO Centre, Green End Road, Sawtry

We prepare freshly cooked two-course meals each day
(including tea & coffee) for only £3.70

Come in for a drink and a chat, you will get a warm welcome! You can make new friends and you may know some of the people who already attend the club.

For more information about Lunch Club and its activities

Call Lyn at CARESCO on 01487 832105

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Sawtry Day Care Centre

The CARESCO Centre, Green End Road
Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00am - 3:00pm

The Centre provides:

- A day out for the housebound or socially isolated, and a break for those who care for them.
- Transport door to door
- Tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival
- A local shopping trip
- A short session of gentle chair exercises, for those wishing to take part
- A two-course mid-day lunch prepared in the Centre’s own kitchen using fresh ingredients
- A small raffle on both days, with members providing the prizes. Monies raised go into the member's social fund which subsidises occasional trips out.
- Wednesday afternoon Bingo session. For those who do not wish to take part, there is a selection of board games, or you can just chat or relax.
- On some Thursday afternoons a local man (Terry) plays old-style music. On other occasions visiting speakers give talks/slideshows on a wide range of subjects.

The Centre currently has some spaces and is looking for new members.

For more information, please contact the CARESCO Centre on 01487 832105 or email office@caresco.org.uk
Asking the Experts
GARDENERS’ QUESTION TIME VISITS STILTON

An audience of 140 packed Stilton School Hall for the BBC’s recording of Gardeners’ Question Time. Eric Robson chaired the panel comprising Bunny Guinness, Bob Flowerdew and Matthew Wilson, who answered a selection of questions submitted on the night.

Most of the questions came from Stilton gardeners, including 11 year old Teagan Benoit and Pat Maltman of Stilton Gardening and Natural History Club. Pat had masterminded the invitation and negotiated with the BBC over many years.

Thanks go to Pat, Doug Maltman, Marjorie Spoor, Sue Martin and Olive Main, Stilton Parish Council, the Headmistress and Caretaker of Stilton School for hosting the event, and to Stilton Church for the use of the Church Meeting Room.

The recording will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Friday February 1 and Sunday February 3.

(Photo: Chris Walford)
School News
INSIDE OUTSIDE LEARNING!

The children at Stilton Primary School have returned to school refreshed from the Christmas holiday, and are enjoying their new topics.

This term, children in Owl Class are learning about dinosaurs. They have been looking at different types of dinosaurs and thinking about how they compare with each other.

The topic in Key Stage 1 is 'Inside Out', with the children focusing on growing plants. This term they have been using the new role play Garden Centre in our outdoor area. The children are also learning about the work of the British sculptor, Andy Goldsworthy, with the children making their own sculptures in the snow (see picture).

The topic in Key Stage 2 this term is Africa. The children have used their literacy skills to research an African animal and write a report about it. The children have also been learning about the life processes, habitats and food chains of these animals.

In their Geography lessons, the children are focusing on the landscape, climate, people and economy of Kenya.

Could You Be a Cub Leader?
SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM

12th Nene Scout Group are looking for more Cub leaders and adult helpers.

So are you up to having some fun with the local young people, sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm for a great time?

Please contact Shaun (245094) for more information.
Full training and support is given - as well as the odd cup of tea!

(Any applicant must agree to an enhanced CRB check.)
Amid these beautiful snowy days that we are enjoying (taking care to keep warm and safe of course) we would like to wish you "Gong Xi Fa Cai" (Gong - ee -fa - choi) from all of us at the Playgroup! We will soon be getting creative to celebrate the Chinese New Year on Feb 10th, and 2013 as the Chinese year of the Snake.

We are also all looking forward to tucking in to some delicious pancakes on Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday). Yum Yum!

HELP & SAFETY

Our topics this term are 'People Who Help Us' and 'Safety'. The children will be receiving some basic and fun lifesaving training and will be visited by a Police Officer (and maybe even get to sit in the Police Car!) We will also be learning about the Green Cross Code, safety with scissors and keeping safe both inside and outside of the home.

THE RITE OF SPRING

Believe it or not we are already looking forward to and planning for the Spring. Bulbs are planted and we will be looking for the first signs of new life as it bursts through in the coming weeks.

ALL JOINED UP

Essentially at this time of year we are reviewing our ENCO offering and policies (Equality and Inclusion), ensuring that we have a robust policy and provision. Working with the School we seek to ensure that we are fully 'joined up' to best benefit our 'Rising Fives'.

TIME & SPACE

We are now open on Tuesday afternoons! This means that we offer Mon - Fri morning sessions for those children who will be starting school in September, and now offer afternoon sessions Mon - Thurs for our younger children. We have some spaces available so if your little ones would like to join in the fun please contact Jane Wilkinson on (01733) 247682.

ELF IN SAFETY

We have now found a home for Santa's Sleigh. (Thank you!) However if a more permanent solution becomes available (to borrow or rent) we may be interested so please don't hesitate to contact us.

SUPPORT PLAYGROUP!

Watch this space for future fundraisers. Please support your Playgroup and help us to continue to provide a stimulating, fun and safe environment for the children of the village.

To get involved please contact Jane on the above number.

Notice to Advertisers

The Production Manager’s private email address has changed, so if you are used to sending material to him direct and have not already been contacted with the new email, please send material to scan1@stilton.org or to the editor.

The old virgin.net address will be closed.
Amenities News
COMMUNITY FIELD AND PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE

Work has continued over the Christmas period and the preparations for this project are reaching a critical stage.

PLANNING OF THE HALL / PAVILION
The plans have been finalised and will be submitted to Huntingdon District Council by the end of February. The plans are impressive and will provide the village with outstanding facilities fit for the future.

PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS
The plans are on display on village noticeboards, in shops, pubs and the Memorial Hall. The Stilton Amenities Steering group will be distributing a leaflet to each Stilton household in the next few weeks. You can view the plans on the village website: www.stilton.org and on Facebook: Stilton Community Field Development.

FUNDING
The first national lottery related grant application will be submitted in February. The Parish Council will be increasing the precept by £19,155 to £71,655 to cover payments on a 25-year low-interest loan of £300,000. (This amounts to an approximate increase of £18 per year on a Band D property council tax). Sales of sponsored bricks at £5 each are continuing. Generous anonymous donations are being gratefully received. Village organisations are being asked to hold fundraising events.

HELP AND SUPPORT
Can you become involved in this project? If so, please make contact with Mark Angus, Chairman, Stilton Amenities Steering Group. Can you help fund-raise in some way, as every pound will help the project?

This is the biggest project affecting this village for generations. It will provide opportunities for everyone now, and in the future. Can you help?
A few years ago SCAN published my article Odd One Out about the anguish of living with a child with Autism. My son Ethan, who is now 11, was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum and has subsequently been diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder. ODD is a psychiatric disorder characterized by aggressiveness and a tendency to purposefully bother and irritate others.

Autism is a lifelong disability that affects 1 in 100 people in the UK. It affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them. Autistic people often see the world 100 times brighter and louder than others. Ethan has a sensitive sense of smell and likes to sniff things inappropriately. He doesn't like lampshades and air conditioning units as he perceives them as falling on him and he often takes a longer route around a shop to avoid them.

Over-stimulation can be painful for Ethan. We have learned to identify the triggers to try to prevent a behaviour "meltdown". A meltdown can result in dissociation - when Ethan will 'zone out' from his environment. This often involves:

- Increased muscle tension - rigid movement, stiff arms and legs; loss of focus - being unable to do a specified task; losing the ability to think or speak - repeating things over and over, such as 'leave me alone'; trying to block out stimuli - such as covering his eyes, blocking his ears and saying 'shut up' repeatedly through clenched teeth.

At the time of writing ODD One Out, we were going through one of the hardest times of our lives. We were struggling with Ethan, autism and Callum, who was then a toddler. Although it was hell at the time, looking back we can see why Ethan behaved differently and why we were finding things so hard.

Autism is a spectrum condition; sufferers will be highly individual in their needs and preferences. At one extreme, kids like Ethan are mobile and verbal, and yet don't quite fit in with their peers. At the other you have little ones with an obvious disability.

Some sufferers can live quite independent lives, as Ethan hopefully will with a little help. Others may be affected so profoundly that they need support. And that is why at only 11 Ethan is at his fourth school but is at last accepted, hence ODD One In.

When Ethan started school we began to realise something was wrong. His behaviour was considered unacceptable, he was often excluded and eventually he left to go to an Autistic school in Huntingdon. After just a few months there, he was also excluded. We were often asked to keep him at home because Ofsted 'needed' his workspace for one of their visits. Totally unacceptable and I often wonder whether Ofsted even knew it was happening. School three was a brilliant school in Oakham who really included and loved Ethan for who he was, but who soon realised as purely a behavioural school, they couldn't give him the more specialised educational support he needed and deserved.

AN UPDATE FROM YANI KNIGHT
However, they helped us find him a fantastic residential school in Norfolk. Here they integrate speech and language therapy into the classroom and residences, to support Ethan’s learning throughout the day. Speech and language therapists work alongside teaching and care staff, selecting activities that engage, motivate and focus Ethan.

A fabulous team of occupational therapists support Ethan by helping him to develop the skills he needs to function in everyday life activities: self-care, schoolwork, play, social interaction and independence. They assess his ability to carry out age appropriate life tasks and identify challenges in his motor and sensory abilities that get in the way of his ability to function within these tasks.

He has everything he now needs to progress into adulthood; the only drawback being he's not at home much. I miss my baby lots but I know he is finally getting the education he needs and deserves.

If you are in a similar position, then come and join us on Facebook at SENtense - Special Needs Kids UK - for a chat. We have over 400 members worldwide and are growing by the day.

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**New Stilton Author**

**THE NEXT BOOKER PRIZE WINNER?**

Many readers will remember with affection Ros Rendle, formerly Headmistress of Stilton School.

Ros retired to France - lucky lady - but far from relaxing into a lifestyle of wine and indolence, she’s been busy developing a new career as an author.

Her first novel, Peace of Time, has recently been published as an e-book and can be downloaded for your Kindle from Amazon for the agreeably modest price of just £1.02.

The full link to the book is tediously long, so just go to Amazon Books and search for Peace of Time and you should find it immediately.

If you do read it - and why wouldn’t you - how about writing a review for **SCAN**?

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Saturday 9th February

...is National Love Your Library Day. Please come along to Yaxley Library to find out about all it has to offer.

Many different groups meet in the library, ranging from knitting through to Scrabble and creative writing.

Membership of the library is FREE and members can borrow up to 12 items at a time. The library offers a free audio and e-book download service too.

A special Rhymetime session will be held from 10:45-11:15 on that morning.

Rhymetime
Our popular Rhymetime event (for children aged 0-18 months) continues in Yaxley Library every Friday, EXCEPT Friday 15th February due to the half-term break.

Storytime
Our popular Storytime event (for children aged 18 months upwards) will be held on Tuesday 19th February from 10:30-11am.

Booksale
Grab yourself a bargain read! The Yaxley Big Booksale will start from Feb 9th for one week. Book prices start from 30p.

Engage Social Group
The next Engage social group event will be on Wednesday 20th February at 2pm.

The talk by Richard Houghton is on Photography; bring along your camera to find out about its settings and the results you can achieve by using them. FREE tickets for this event are available in Yaxley Library from 1st February.

Sawtry Archives Launch
The Sawtry Archives group are proud to announce their new facilities housed within the Library in Sawtry Community College.

Come along and join them at their launch event on Saturday 23rd February between 10am and midday.

Improve Your Piano Skills and Enjoy Your Playing!
Beginners welcome!
Margaret Parsons  Tel: (01733) 243352  pianable@aol.com

 Tell advertisers you found them in SCAN!
Having Difficulty Getting to the Library?

If you love reading but struggle to get to your local library because of health or mobility problems, help is available: you can be matched with a friendly volunteer from Cambridgeshire Libraries Doorstep Service who will visit you once a month with a supply of the kind of books you enjoy.

To find out more about getting this amazing free service or becoming a volunteer for it, contact Anne Evans, the coordinator, by phoning (01480) 375023 or by e-mailing anne.evans@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Contacting our Local Police

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU...

Yaxley Office: 1 Queen Street Yaxley PE7 3JE
Call 101 and ask for the Yaxley office

Stilton and Villages:
PC Paul Sykes: 07889 499 066
PCSO Barry Chamberlain: 07921 094 828
email:- huntscops@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Tell advertisers you found them in SCAN!
Dementia Information Points aim to provide information and practical and emotional support to anyone with concerns about memory. Whether it is for yourself, your friend or family member the Dementia Information Point is your opportunity to meet with a fully trained member of the Alzheimer’s Society to ask questions, and gather information about memory loss, and sources of support and assistance.

We are delighted to announce a new Dementia Information Point in Sawtry. It will be held at the CARESCO Centre on the 2nd Friday of each month 9-11am.

For further information regarding this service please contact the Alzheimer’s Society on (01733) 893853 or at peterborough@alzheimers.org.uk

Other Dementia Information Points are available:

- **St Neots Dementia Information Point**
  St Neots Museum, on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm
- **Huntingdon Dementia Information Point**
  Huntingdon Library on the last Tuesday of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm
- **Ramsey Information Point**
  The Rainbow Surgery on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 10:30am-12:30pm
- **St Ives Dementia Information Point**
  St Ives Library on the last Monday of the month, 10:30am-12:30pm
February Fill-dyke
"BE IT BLACK OR BE IT WHITE"

Statistically, February is one of the driest months but this year the old proverb looks like coming true; as does its Old English name of Solmonath which means ‘mud month’. However, it does herald the start of Spring; lighter nights, snowdrops and crocuses in the garden, forsythia flowers and catkins on the trees.

**FEBRUARY FESTIVALS**
There are times of relaxation, Half Term, Valentine's Day, Pancake Tuesday and the now forgotten Collop Monday. This was the day before Shrove Tuesday, when stocks of meat would be cooked to clear the pantry before the fasting of Lent. In England the meat would traditionally be bacon (and the fat left would be used to cook the next day's pancakes.) In Scotland it would be minced beef, lamb or venison and in Ireland, potatoes.

**FEBRUARY DATES**
- Collop Monday: 11 February
- Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday: 12 February
- Ash Wednesday: 13 February
- St. Valentine’s Day: 14 February
- Guide Thinking Day: 22 February
- Fair Trade Fortnight: 27 Feb - 11 March

**IRISH COLLOPS**
Three large potatoes are sliced thinly and layered in a greased dish with one chopped onion, ending with a layer of potatoes. Sprinkle over salt, pepper and chopped parsley. Dot with butter, then pour over a cup of milk and sprinkle with a layer of grated cheese. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes at 180° or Gas Mk.4. Remove the foil and allow to brown. Four ozs of diced, uncooked bacon can be added to make a main dish.

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*St Mary Magdalene, Stilton Coffee Morning*  
*Sat 24th Feb*  
*10:30am - 12noon*  
*Church Meeting Room*
St Mary Magdalene, Stilton

Activities For Parents and Children

Drop in and try these:

Tuesday 9am: Children's Fun Dance
Wednesday 9am: Drop in for a drink and chat
1st Wednesday: Children's Songs
Friday 9am: Linking Hands
Sunday 11am: 2nd Sunday LinCup Café worship
4th Sunday Family Worship

Growing together in Worship - Reaching out with Christian Love

Parish Meeting Room

The Parish Room will be open from 10am to 11am immediately following Parish Council meetings, which are on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday in the month. If you want to speak with the Clerk at any other time, please make an appointment. Planning applications can be viewed by appointment; telephone (01733) 229130.

HIRING THE ROOM

The Meeting Room is available for hire between 9am and 10:30pm Monday to Saturday; Sunday hours by arrangement. A booking form and conditions of hire are available from the Clerk to Stilton Parish Council.

The Room seats up to 20 people, ideal for small clubs or committee meetings. It has broadband, a kitchen area and toilet suitable for use by disabled people. Users should note that smoking is not permitted in any part of the building or in the surrounding cemetery.

FEES:

All Day (9am - 6pm) £50  Evening (6:30 - 10:30pm) £25
Half Day (9am - 1pm or 2 - 6pm) £25  A deposit of £50 is required when booking.
St Mary Magdalene, Stilton

**Men’s Prayer Breakfast**

**Sat 9th Feb 8am**

Church Meeting Room

New worshippers welcome; please call Peter Newman to let us know that you are coming: 01733 241815

St Mary Magdalene, Stilton

**Wednesday Worship at Lunchtime**

Holy Communion followed by a soup & bread lunch

Every 3rd Wednesday in the month

**20th Feb**

**12:30 - 1:30pm**

Church Meeting Room

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Stilton Memorial Hall

Charges from Sept 1st 2010

- Hourly charge £6 / hour (minimum 2 hours)
- Child’s party £35
- Adult party £60
- Commercial £12 / hour

To book the Hall, please contact the Booking Secretary:

Jade Smith  15 Woodward Close  (01733) 243691

If leaving a message, please provide a LANDLINE PHONE NUMBER and you will be contacted promptly.

(It’s very expensive having to reply to lots of mobiles!)
Stilton Gardening Club

All indoor meetings at 7:30pm, 3rd Tuesday of the month
Stilton Church Meeting Room

Tuesday February 19
Speaker: Dick Tuplin
‘Running the St Andrew's Nurseries at Sawtry’

Tuesday April 16
Pat Maltman will give an illustrated talk on her visit to Australia.

Tuesday March 19
Speaker: Fred Daynes
‘Ash die-back disease’

Membership due!
Membership fees were due in January.
£5 or £7 family and £1 per meeting
Non-members are welcomed

Nestbox Week
14 - 21 February (British Trust for Ornithology)

As well as feeding garden birds it will help them if you provide nest boxes where they can breed and roost. Visit the RSPB website (www.rspb.org.uk) or that of Vine House Farm (www.vinehousefarm.co.uk) to select from the wide range available. Boxes are designed for specific species of birds; some even allow you to insert a video camera and so be able to watch live on your TV.

Nicholas Watts who farms at Vine House Farm will be coming to Stilton Gardening Club later in the year.

Stilton Stumblers
Winter Itinerary

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Our regular walks are between 5 - 8 miles and meet at 10:00am at The Pump

For more information about Stumbling, visit http://stumblers.stilton.org or call Jan on 07740 167377 (mobile) - or just turn up on the day with your boots on!
Football News
SUCCESS STORIES FROM OUR VILLAGE CLUB

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT
The 5th annual SUFC Christmas Quiz held at Angel Spice was a fantastic success. The food was delicious, the service was great and everyone enjoyed the evening.

£500 was raised towards the ever-increasing running costs of the football club, so the support of all who attended and/or donated raffle prizes was greatly appreciated.

Once again the winning team were the Blackmore/Pruhs/Machin team. Hopefully somebody can knock them off their perch this year!

WOW £1000!
A huge thank you also to Joyce Arthur for her fundraising efforts. Over the last few years, Joyce has knitted hats, scarves, gloves and dolls to sell around the village. Recently the total amount she has raised for SUFC passed the £1000 mark which is an incredible achievement. We cannot possibly thank you enough Joyce, but there is a small token of our appreciation on its way!

SO FAR, SO GOOD!
The 1st team have found their feet in the PDFL Premier division and are currently sixth in the table after going unbeaten in the league since November. With 12 games remaining the village side are looking to cement their place in the top third of the league, which will mark a successful first season back in the Premier division after a nine-season absence.

The reserves have been putting in some good performances of late and picked up a well-deserved win against Thorney in their last match.

MANAGER WANTED
The club is on the look out for a Reserve team manager for next season after the current manager has indicated that he would prefer to step down. If anybody is interested, please contact John Douse on (01733) 247888.

Stilton Over 60’s Club
Subscriptions are now due; Doreen will be pleased to receive them as soon as possible.

Friday 8th February
Inheritance Legal Services from Ely will talk about will-making, inheritance tax and other financial matters.

Friday 1st March
AGM
The Club continues to meet on Friday afternoons from 2-4pm in the Church Meeting Room. New members are always welcomed; for more details please contact either Sylvia Ward on 242457 or Doreen Clark on 242643.
Yaxley Group Practice
(01733) 240478

Help to Stop Smoking
We have a specialist smoking cessation advisor who visits the practice twice a week. He can offer specialised one to one face to face or telephone support, and can supply nicotine replacement and drug therapy on prescription. You are four times more likely to quit with help from the NHS.

Appointments are available on Thursday afternoons and all day on a Friday.

Please ring reception on 01733 240478 for an appointment, or for further information please contact Steven Tibbs, Smoking Cessation Advisor on 07908 408 743

Staff News
We are delighted to welcome back Practice Nurse Caroline Brear from her maternity leave.

Dr. Alexandra MacDonald started at YGP in November 2012. We hope she enjoys her time with us.

Dr. Ahmed Mahmood came to us on 5th December 2012 and will be with us for four months. We hope he enjoys his time at YGP.

Appointments system update
DR FIRST AFTER 9 MONTHS
We have had some long-term sickness to cover over the last few months but are proud to say that, despite this, we kept pace with patient demand over a very busy December. Our commitment is never to refuse to see anyone once we have established the nature of the problem over the phone.

No other practice in the area is able to say that and although the 'telephone call first-system' can seem to be 'an extra step' or even an inconvenience to patients, it has allowed us to say that we ARE NEVER FULL. We are in effect providing a service that will help navigate patients through a healthcare system that can be very complex and confusing.

We are also the only practice who have NEVER stopped being open on a Saturday morning. Saturday appointments can be booked for patients who genuinely need to be seen because they work away, for example.

Telephone access has improved greatly although there are still some congested times, especially Monday mornings. Our time taken to answer the phone has reduced from an average of over 6 minutes to only 2.5 minutes and the percentage of calls that fail to get through at all has dropped from 60% to 6% as a result of Dr First.

A number of patients have also questioned our long-standing policy of reception asking for some information when the call is booked. This has been our normal practice for many years and pre-dates the new system. It is of course optional - and always confidential - but is very useful for the doctor to triage the urgency of the call, or even deal with simple issues with an answerphone message when we call back.
However there remain some patients who are anxious that they feel it is difficult for them to contact us as they struggle to take a call back. Here are some possible solutions which may help. If your circumstances are not covered below then speak to a doctor so we can explain how we can be flexible to meet their needs.

**Q: I don't want a phone call, I want to see the doctor - why can't I?**

A: You can, as no request for an appointment is refused. It may be with a different doctor on some occasions however, as we are a training practice and have a number of part-time doctors. Simply use the call with the doctor to book a convenient time that day.

**Q: I can't discuss confidential things in my open-plan office**

A: There is no need to if you tell the doctor it is personal and you simply want an appointment. The doctors will try to remember to ask if it is ok to talk when they speak to you.

**Q: I can't wait in all day for a call back; I have things to do**

A: We don't expect you to. Our aim is to make this system MORE convenient not LESS; most calls are returned within 30 minutes in a morning and within 1 hour in an afternoon. Ask for the call back at a specific time or within a time range if it helps and we will honour this.

**Q: I can't take a call back at all. What do I do?**

A: Ask reception to put you straight through. It may limit who you can speak to, but between 8 - 11:30 and 3 - 5:30 most doctors are at their desks, although they may be busy. Alternatively, leave a message with reception that you need to be seen today after 4 (for example) and I will leave you an answer phone message with an appointment time.

**Q: I rang and my chosen doctor was not in. I was told to call back the next day.**

A: Check our website or the written details in reception that gives information about the doctors’ and nurse practitioners’ rotas and this should advise you the best days to call. Reception has also been asked in these circumstances to book the call for the next day, but to advise the patient of the ideal procedure which is to call on the day if possible. The reason for this is that the longer ahead people book their appointment the more likely they are to not be available when called.

**Q: I can only call after work**

A: There is a doctor available to take calls until 6:30pm. Alternatively, get a relative to call for you if appropriate and book a surgery appointment after work for you. Call the doctor on a Saturday morning if there is no other alternative.

**Q: I am deaf/I don't have access to a phone**

A: Just walk in between 9 - 11:30 am and 3 - 5:30pm and you will be seen, although there may be a wait.

**Q: I don't see why I need to give confidential information to a receptionist**

A: We have always asked if patients are able to give us an idea of what the problem is. This has not changed. It is not compulsory and if a patient does not want to share then please say it is personal/private and reception will respect this. We ask in order to help the doctors to prioritise the calls.

Hopefully these suggestions may help many of you.

All our staff feel proud of what has been achieved during 2012 and we look forward to more improvements in 2013.

*Dr Alison Graham*
On the Campaign Trail
PARISH COUNCIL LOBBIES FOR BETTER BUS SERVICES

The Parish Council isn’t going to let the reduction in our bus services be forgotten easily and is lobbying hard on our behalf. The following argument has been submitted to the District Council:

‘You will recall that on 22 July 2012 Stagecoach made drastic changes to the bus services to and from Stilton. Route 46 now runs from Peterborough to Stilton, roughly hourly, with two buses extending to and from Sawtry, where most of our children go to Secondary school. Apart from the school services, passengers wanting to travel south to Sawtry and Huntingdon now have to travel to Norman Cross to pick up Busway Route B. A vigorous campaign against the changes to Route 46 led to the District and County Council funding Route 46A, which is operated by Nene and Ouse and links Stilton to Sawtry and Huntingdon twice a day.

With almost six months’ experience of these services, Stilton Parish Council asks that Stagecoach are made aware of the inadequacies of the new arrangements, all of which could be resolved if Busway Route B called in to Stilton as did Route 46 in the past. This would take less than 10 minutes and would be more economic for the bus operators. It would also remove the need for Route 46A and would provide a far better service for the people of Stilton, as it would eliminate some long waits at Norman Cross.

Our case rests on the following analysis:

1. From Norman Cross to Serpentine Green, Busway B and Route 46 are copies of each other, using the same bus stops. (This contradicts Stagecoach’s original claim that it wanted to provide an express service between Peterborough and Cambridge). At certain times of the day there is only eight minutes between the two services. If Route 46 was subsumed into Busway B, which then called into Stilton, the number of vehicles used would be effectively halved. The earliest bus going South would be about 10 minutes later than at present. The 'school' bus would arrive at Sawtry at 08:15 instead of 08:23. The evening return would require negotiation with Sawtry College as Busway B leaves Sawtry at 15:16 (Route 46 presumably leaves at 15:25)

2. Route 46A would not be needed from Stilton, cutting the present subsidy considerably. Our observation suggests this a very under-used service at the north end because it does not offer a

Diary Dates
Carer Support Group Meeting
The next meeting of the Carer Support Group will be on Wednesday 6th February between 2pm - 4pm in the Health Education Room.

We are always keen to welcome any carer to our small but friendly group. For more information please speak to Linda in the Patients’ Library.
Tell advertisers you found them in SCAN!

useful service. Two buses each way operate daily to Stilton. One leaves at 10:15 and arrives in Sawtry at 10:28. There is no return service until 13:00. Going to and from Huntingdon, the bus arrives in Huntingdon at 10:56 and returns at 12:32. In the afternoon the bus arrives in Huntingdon at 14:12 but there is no return service beyond Alconbury, so is of no use for people arriving in Sawtry at 13:44 although they could return only as far as Norman Cross at 14:16 or 15:16. The 'school' bus returns to Stilton at 15:25 but is already overcrowded.

3. At certain times of the day there is no integration in the timings of Route 46 and Busway B at Norman Cross. For example:

   In the early morning when people need to go South to work, Route 46 leaves Stilton about the same time as Busway B is scheduled to leave Norman Cross. In the evening rush hour, Busway B returns from Huntingdon arriving at Norman Cross at 17:25 leaving passengers stranded without a bus shelter until 18:05 when Route 46 will pick them up. It is roughly one mile from Norman Cross to the centre of Stilton; too far for many passengers to walk. Provision of bus shelters with seats would be one solution, but routing the Busway B through Stilton would be far more sensible.

Stilton Parish Council appreciates that Stagecoach has to run commercially viable services, but hopes that both County and District will use their influence to get a public transport system that is relevant to the needs of our residents.

New Cycleway

The repairs to the footpath running alongside the A15 from Norman Cross mean that it has now been upgraded to a cycleway. New signs will be erected soon.

Online Resources

Shape Your Place

The above news came from the community website, Shapeyourplace.org which is a very useful source of news, comment and blogs. It is worth looking at regularly, particularly if you click on the Huntingdon link.

Also much improved is the Cambridgeshire County Council website, which is full of useful material on all the essential services provided by the County Council.

You should also bookmark:

- Cambridgeshire.net
- visithuntingdonshire.org

Stilton Parish Council

Jubilee Mugs

Children resident in Stilton and born since June 2012, or children living in Stilton or attending Stilton School who were under 11 on 1st September 2012 but did not receive a mug can apply for one free of charge.

Ring Olive Main (241206)
STILTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

A WEEKEND IN FRANCE

28 - 30 June 2013

Join us in the bustling historic city of Arras

- Executive coach via the Channel Tunnel
- Two nights B&B
- Quality hotel in the city centre
- Sunday lunch at a gourmet restaurant

Pick-up from Stilton or Folksworth at 9:30 am on Friday
Visit Vimy Ridge - Arrive Arras approx 6 p.m

Return Stilton/Folksworth approx 9 pm on Sunday

>> Places still available! <<

Only £185 per person
Contact Audrey and Paul for details:
241739  paul.springford@gmail.com

Twinning Diary Dates

23 Feb 2013  Quiz Night - See advert in this issue
20 March 2013  ‘Time for Me’ evening. Watch for details!
27 April - 1 May  Group visit from St Christol. See notice in this issue
6 May 2013  Cheese Rolling - sponsoring the Junior Championships
28-30 June 2013  Weekend visit to Arras - see ad in this issue

If you are interested in any of these events or in becoming involved in the Association please contact Chris Walford on 241376.
Stilton and District Twinning Association

Quiz Night

Saturday 23rd February

Stilton Memorial Hall  7:15 for 7:30 start

For teams of 6-8 people

Ticket price £7.50 per head
including a 'luxury' ploughman's supper & dessert

(Glasses provided, bring your own drink)

Tickets available from
Chris & Linda 241376 or Audrey & Paul 241739

It's a great night in!

We look forward to seeing you.
# The Stilton Diary

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Tell advertisers you found them in **SCAN**!
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<td>Michelle Pratt</td>
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<td>Jane Wilkinson</td>
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<td>Stilton School</td>
<td>John Neale</td>
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<td>Folksworth Village Hall</td>
<td>Shaun Baker</td>
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<td>Jen Walton</td>
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<td>Sandra Waldrin-Walker</td>
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<td>Annette Gedney</td>
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<td>Julie Quy</td>
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<td>The Junction</td>
<td>Carol Warren</td>
<td>(07508) 502534</td>
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<td>Iris Smith</td>
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<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Jessica Lockhart</td>
<td>07977 131498</td>
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<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Peter Leaton</td>
<td>245851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Brian Bowen</td>
<td>243130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Simon Trowbridge</td>
<td>07894 552198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Brian Appleyard</td>
<td>244642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Glen Woolner</td>
<td>07771 784643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet at the Pump</td>
<td>Jan Woolner</td>
<td>243278</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Outside The Talbot</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Smith</td>
<td>240478</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tell advertisers you found them in **SCAN**!
The Sawtry
“Last Night of the Proms”

Saturday 23rd February 2013
Sawtry Community College
 Doors open 18:45. Concert starts 19:30.

A music-filled evening performed by the RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band to celebrate the 30th birthday of Sawtry charity CARESCO

Music from Broadway and film such as “My Fair Lady” and “Chicago”, plus military favourites The Great Escape and The Dambusters. Come and wave your Union Jack flag and join in with Proms favourites Rule Britannia, Jerusalem and Land of Hope & Glory.

Tickets available from CARESCO, Green End Road, Sawtry PE28 5UX, telephone 01487 832105 or email office@caresco.org.uk.

Tickets £10 and includes birthday cake and Proms Pack of flag, programme and party popper. (Family ticket £20 for 2 adults and 2 under 16’s).

BAR AND RAFFLE
Online Booking

Please can I remind patients that our online appointment booking system is available 24/7. The system can be used to book pre-bookable GP appointments and blood tests with our phlebotomist. On-the-day appointments appear online at 8am each weekday morning - some patients may prefer to book using this method as opposed to phoning in first thing in the morning. If you are not yet registered for online booking and would like to do so please contact our reception team.

GP Team

Dr Emily Morrison joined the team in July last year as a salaried GP. I would now like to formally welcome Dr Morrison as a Partner to our team of GPs as of 31st January.

Dr Uszycka is now on sabbatical until April. Dr Nina Djuric is covering Mondays and Thursdays for us until Dr Uszycka returns.

Keeping Warm & Well

This particularly cold spell is apparently forecast to last for some time. During this period, please bear in mind the following top tips for keeping warm and well this winter. They are taken from the Cambridgeshire County Council / NHS Cambridgeshire Warm Homes Healthy People project:

1. Heat your home well. By setting your heating to the right temperature, 21\(^\circ\)C during the day and 18\(^\circ\)C at night, you can keep your home warm and your bills as low as possible.

2. Get financial advice. There may be extra funding available, depending on your circumstances, to make sure you can keep your house warm during winter.

3. Eat well. Food is a vital source of energy, which helps to keep your body warm.

4. Get a ‘flu jab. You can get a free jab from your GP surgery to protect against seasonal ‘flu if you are over 65, have a long-term health condition or are pregnant.

5. Look after yourself and check on neighbours or relatives to make sure they are safe, warm and well. Keeping active is important for your health. But if you do go out in the cold weather it is important that you wear extra clothes to make sure that you are wrapped up warmly. During very cold and icy weather conditions it is safer for older people, very young children and anyone with health problems to avoid going out.

6. Have your heating and cooking appliances checked. Carbon monoxide is a killer. Make sure that flues and chimneys are swept and checked for blockages and that ventilation points are not blocked. If not connected to gas or electricity mains, and you use heating oil, LPG or wood products as the main heating source, make sure that you have a sufficient supply to avoid running out in winter.

Mrs Claire Wright, Practice Manager
STILTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Group Visit from St Christol

27 April - 1 May 2013

A group of 30 will be visiting us from St Christol

If you would like to be involved in the programme or to host a visitor, please contact Chris Walford on 241376.

Have some fun and support the entente cordiale!
Tell advertisers you found them in SCAN!

Ghostbusters! Who ya gonna call?

MEP
Mr Robert Sturdy MEP 01954 211790
153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, Cambs CB3 7QJ

MP
Mr Shailesh Var MP
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Co. Councillor
Cllr Mac McQuire 01233 717111
Cllr Nick Guyatt
Shire Hall Cambridge

Dist. Councillor
Cllr Mr Peter Mitchell 01733 244666
1 Walnut Way, Stilton, Cambs

Parish Clerk
Mrs Mary Croll 01733 229130
10 Caldecote Road, Stilton Cambs

Cambs Police
Non-emergency: 0845 456 456 4

Crimestoppers
(Freephone) 0800 555111

Samaritans
08457 909090

Childline
(Freephone) 0800 1111

NSPCC
Helpline 0808 800 5000 (24hrs)

RSPCA
General enquiries 01733 222188
Cruelty Line 0300 1234 999

Dairy Crest milk delivery 0845 606 3606 8am-6pm

Yaxley Group Practice 01733 240478
Landsdowne Rd

Wellside Surg’y Sawtry 01487 830340

Peterborough Hospital 01733 678000

Walk-in Ctr, Thorpe Rd 01733 293800

Walk-in Ctr, Alma Rd 01733 758388

Stamford Hospital 01780 764151

Hinchingbrooke Hospital 01480 416416

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Benefits Enquiry Line 0800 882 200 General advice only

Street Lighting 0800 253529

UK Power Networks 0845 601 4516 General enquiries

0800 783 8838 Emergencies/blackouts

Gas 0800 111999 ESCAPES

0845 605 6677 Nat. Grid enquiries

Anglian Water 0800 771881 Leakline 24hrs

08457 145145 Emergencies 24hrs

Stagecoach Buses 01733 554575

Train information 0345 484950

Royal Mail 08457 740740 Cust’r Services

Hunts Dist Council 01480 388388 General Enquiries

01480 388368 Environment/Refuse

01480 388640 Recycling

01480 388319 Pest Control
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