

Bugbrooke

LINK



Bugbrooke LINK Magazine

(Issue 167), April 2011

Editor: Paul Cockcroft



I received the following thank you note which I would like to share with you:

“I have been meaning to write to you thanking you (and all the contributors and distributors) for the interesting LINK that pops through my letterbox frequently. I have been in this lovely village for 7 years now and am very happy here. I was born in a village in Derbyshire (1929) – lived in another village the other side of Leighton Buzzard in my teens and now I am blessed with being part of this village in the beautiful county of Northants”.

It is of course a team effort and I am very grateful for the hard work of the LINK committee and the recognition that we receive from time to time for our efforts. As for the deliverers, thank you for your continued support for LINK, going out in all weathers delivering. For planning purposes, it would be appreciated if you are going on holiday and cannot make your delivery you would inform either Geoff Topliss (evening tel. no. 831135) or Barbara Bell (evening tel. no. 832013).

As you know from living in Bugbrooke and as you will see from the cross section of village life shown in this issue, we have a lot to be grateful for. This is illustrated even more clearly when we observe natural and political events in Japan, North Africa and other less stable parts of the world.

The LINK AGM is to be held at 8 pm on 04 May 2011 at 31 Pilgrims Lane.

Please look at the revised website at www.bugbrookelink.co.uk, containing numerous historic LINK magazines, a wide range of local information, links to relevant websites and other organisations that may be of interest.

The deadline for articles and advert changes for the next issue is Monday 02 May 2011, but earlier submissions are always welcome. The preferred way of us receiving copy is by email to editor@bugbrookelink.co.uk.

Parish Council

Planning issues for major developments are still waiting for South Northamptonshire Council to decide when the two major applications at Kislingbury can be heard, which will be within the next couple of months. The decision will rule on whether major plans will be heard in chronological order (current procedure) or considered together and decided on the merits of the plans.

Don't forget that on Thursday May 5th, for those on the electoral role, there will be a chance to vote on up to three matters:-

Government referendum on the national voting system

District Council election (2 Councillors for the Bugbrooke/Nether Heyford Ward)

Front Page: One of the Little Egrets now frequenting the brook through Bugbrooke.

Parish Council election (15 Councillors)

There will only be a Parish election if there are more than 15 candidates thus triggering the need for selection. The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 4th April. The polling station will be at the Community Centre and although it helps, you do not need to present your polling card to vote.

A site meeting was held with the land agent for the Jesus Fellowship with respect to the Churchyard extension. Site size and siting of the plot were discussed and a response to this meeting is awaited. We are still waiting for a response from the landowner, to the proposed extension of the allotments .

The Police have informed us that they are discontinuing Community Panel meetings in favour of street briefings. The panel met quarterly with representatives of the Police and 12 local Parishes and decided which were the 3 most important issues in the area and pursued them for the next quarter. In the future they will visit the parishes with the Community van and engage with Parishioners directly and I would encourage you to let them know of any concerns you may have.

It is the Council's intention to produce a welcome pack which would be given to all newcomers to the village. This pack would contain a lot of local information including contact numbers for all of the village organisations. It is thought that the pack would highlight everything that goes on in the village and assist new residents to settle in and give them an opportunity to meet the community around them.

Phil Bignell – Chairman

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Please would it be possible to remind the worthy citizens of this parish that the green bin in the churchyard should be used only for dead flowers. On my last visit to the churchyard I, along with another concerned person (David Tyson), removed six pieces of oasis, one plastic flower holder complete with taped in oasis, numerous plastic flowers, one plastic carrier bag containing green waste and a large quantity of cellophane. Are people just lazy, ignorant or both? If people cannot be bothered to separate the rubbish they should deposit it in the black bin. I try to keep my area of the village clean and tidy but it seems pointless if others just can't be bothered to do even one small thing to help the environment.

Daphne Flavell (Mrs)

PS I have just returned from the churchyard having removed from the top of the green bin the following items: six pieces of oasis, four plastic plant pots with the plants still in them, a carrier bag containing a plastic bottle and the usual quantity of cellophane wrapping. I dread to think what is at the bottom of the bin.

Before reaching the churchyard I had to dodge the mess left by one large dog. Five disgusting heaps deposited along the middle of the path in front of the vicarage. On Tuesdays young children visit the church; any one of them could have trod in this. Why are people so inconsiderate?

Dear Editor

I'd hope you're already aware, but if not, I thought I'd drop you a couple of lines to raise your awareness regarding the threat to mobile library services in our village.

County Council cuts could leave our village with no library service at all. I think that this is most unfair as it's likely to hit those older and less able users who most probably will have contributed to the tax system for the whole of their working lives.

I've collected many signatures to petition the council against library closures but I think awareness needs raising at a local level so that people can make their complaint sooner rather than later. I believe the County Council will be making their decision in February.

Not only is there the threat to mobile library services, there is now the possibility of a cut to Bugbrooke's bus service if page 7 of Chronicle and Echo (Thursday, 27th January) is to be believed. For those without transport it could mean the possibility of diminished village service and also more difficulty getting to town libraries. (The ones that will still be open.)

I tell you this to raise awareness, though I'd hope you would be aware of these issues already.

Regards, Shaun Walton

Forwarded from Marc Snelson

Dear Mr Snelson

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2011, which was passed on to me by our enquiries helpdesk, and for your comments concerning Northamptonshire County Council's proposed local bus revenue support cutbacks.

I would advise you that Stagecoach Midlands has not yet finalised precisely what revised route/timetable it would operate on Service D3 following the withdrawal of Northamptonshire County Council's financial support. It is, however, very likely that the daytime service on at least the section of route between Bugbrooke and Northampton Town Centre would be retained. Regrettably, however, my company would not be able to retain the current evening service on Route D3 without support from the County Council.

If you wish to contact anyone at Northamptonshire County Council, I would suggest that you write to Mr David Farquhar, Head Of Transport & Highways, Northamptonshire County Council, Riverside House, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX in the first instance.

I trust that the above information will be both self explanatory and of assistance, but if you do have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Burd, Managing Director, Stagecoach Midlands

Dear Editor

I am running the London Marathon on 17th April, I am running for Action Medical Research, a charity dedicated to providing advances in the care and management of pre-term babies, neonates and children. They also complete work in the vaccination of children and general child health. Their website is www.action.org.uk. I am a first time Marathon runner and have been training in all the 'lovely' weather we have been having! I work at Northampton hospital in A&E and have been receiving wonderful support from all my colleagues and family. Maybe the people of Bugbrooke have seen me out running in my bright pink hat!! My charity page is www.virginmoneygiving.com/victoriawright. People can see the progress I have been making and choose to sponsor me if they wish.



Many thanks, *Vicky Wright*

Dear Bugbrooke Dog Owners,

I am writing on behalf of Bugbrooke school children, about recent issues regarding irresponsible dog owners walking their dogs on the school field.

Do you love your child or grandchild? How would you feel if they were blinded? This may happen if dog faeces get in their mouths by them touching it then sucking their fingers, consequently causing disastrous effects. So please pick up your dog's faeces and also don't walk your dog on the school field!

Furthermore, the school field – although some people don't know it – is private property and should be kept for the children. In addition, the pupils of Bugbrooke C.P School do PE(physical education) on it. In the past, members of school staff have had to clean up dog faeces before a PE lesson and this is not a pleasant experience! Furthermore, some children may have allergies or be scared of dogs!

Surely such irresponsible action shouldn't be tolerated any longer? Moreover, it's against the law not to pick up dog faeces! Enjoy your walk but just not on the school field, and **WHATEVER YOU DO, PICK UP THE POO!**

Yours faithfully

Jenny, Year 6, Bugbrooke C.P School

Dear Editor, Pictorial Bugbrooke 1930 – 1980

Without knowing who else to contact I would like to say that I have just been lent a copy of the above and how good it is. I lived in Bugbrooke in the 60's & 70's – it brought back many memories. I would just like to add though, it is me on page 70 in the Girl Guide picture next to Joan Grant, not Belinda Sexton, I also found my mum and my younger brother. I plan to find a copy for myself.

Please pass my thanks to all concerned in compiling it.

Odette Townsend nee Boreham, now resident in Pattishall

Neighbourhood Watch

Smartwater

SmartWater is a property marking system that allows any item of marked property to be traced back to its rightful owner. It can be applied to all kinds of personal property, ranging from jewellery, ornaments, electrical items and motor vehicles.



SmartWater is a transparent liquid solution that is applied to your personal property, and contains a unique chemical identifier, which is registered to you. It cannot easily be seen with the naked eye, but glows under ultraviolet light. Any time the police find or seize property, it is checked for SmartWater so that it can be traced back to its owner.

Criminals are aware of SmartWater's ability to trace stolen property, and by placing SmartWater signs in the windows of your house, you can provide a visible deterrent for would-be burglars or thieves.

SmartWater kits are available at a heavily discounted price to members of Neighbourhood Watch. Please contact Rose Berkshire for further details.

If you are interested in joining your local Neighbourhood Watch group, please contact Rose Berkshire Telephone: 01604 831584, Email: rosyberk@hotmail.co.uk

To report a crime or to speak to your local Safer Community Team about issues in your area, please ring **03000 111 222**. In an emergency, always ring **999**.

Email your local police officers at

SCT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.pnn.police.uk

Crime and Anti Social Behaviour in Bugbrooke

In January this year, the police started to publish neighbourhood crime and anti social behaviour statistics across England. We have reprinted below those published for Bugbrooke in December and January. (for full details go to <http://www.police.uk/>)

	December 2010	January 2011
Burglary	3	4
Anti Social Behaviour	6	9
Robbery	0	0
Vehicle Crime	0	0
Violent Crime	0	2
Other Crime	5	5
total	14	20

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Bugbrooke Primary School

World War II Drama

In January, children in Year 5 and 6 presented a wonderful musical drama about the lives of evacuees and their families during World War II called 'We'll Meet Again'. This production was part of their themed curricular work in history and helped them to understand what it would have been like to have been an evacuee or a parent during this time. The performances from all the children were outstanding with strong acting and singing and a very slick back stage crew.

On the Monday afternoon we gave a special performance to members of the community; this was particularly well-received with a number of people commenting on how they found the film footage and sound effects, alongside the children's performances, very moving. As always, we were pleased to invite the community in to share in the life and work of the school.

School Athletics Success!

Earlier in the term, we took a team of 20 children from Years 5 and 6 to the Champion Cluster Sports-hall Athletics Tournament. Outstanding performances saw us win this first round and the team went on to represent the cluster at the South Northants finals where, again, the children performed and behaved brilliantly and finishing joint-second with Blisworth School. Well done to all the children and thanks to the teachers for giving them this great experience!

Our Creative Curriculum

One of the areas we are trying to improve this year is developing a more *creative* approach to the curriculum. This means linking areas of the curriculum together in 'themes' to stimulate the children's interest and enthusiasm; so far this year themes covered have included Rainforests, Castles and dragons, life for children in World War II, Antarctica and Space.

For our youngest children this culminated in a special week before half-term which may have captured your attention; an **alien spaceship crash landed** on the lawn in front of the school.

The children were very excited by this unexplained event and were asked to investigate the incident scene and help the teachers to find out what had happened. By the end of the day they had all been to view the "wreckage", made sketches of the crash site and deduced that this might be part of a vehicle from another planet and they began to speculate about whom or 'what' was driving the vehicle. They investigated the strange array of debris as well as 'Evidence Boxes', which members of staff needed to open with extreme care, containing all sorts of strange and gooey materials. Throughout the week the children were encouraged to use and develop their imaginations as well as their speaking and listening, problem solving, literacy, numeracy and creative skills to try to communicate with a possible alien and to help 'him' to understand who they are and how they live.

We plan to give our children more of these exciting learning opportunities as the year progresses and are planning our 'Being British' culture theme in the run up to



Pictures from the Primary School's World War II drama 'We'll Meet Again'





School
Athletics
Success by the
team of 20
children from
Years 5 and 6
at the
Campion
Cluster Sports-
hall Athletics
Tournament



A creative experience
was gained by the
youngest children when
an *alien spaceship crash*
landed on the lawn in
front of the school



the Royal Wedding, including a good, old-fashioned street party!

Finally, you will all have seen that the building project at the school has finally been completed. After 9 months of contractors on site I am sure that the many members of the village who use the footpath adjacent to the school will have been as pleased to see the disappearance of the blue huts and the contractors vehicles as we were! We would like to thank everyone concerned for their patience and understanding throughout this period; we know there have been times when the path has been muddy or blocked (or both) but the finished result has certainly been worth the inconvenience and we are all delighted with the 'new' parts of the school.

Debbie Bastin, Headteacher

Imagine a school without water or books

During our 2 weeks in Kenya and Tanzania we saw many poor schools and clinics, but 2 especially made a deep impression on me. Uraki secondary school near Arusha is a school of 600 children with a new headmistress, who we knew from previous trips, and she invited us to visit her school, with a view to helping her.

Picture a school with 6 inadequate, stinking pit latrines, no water and no books. It also has 7 unfinished classrooms – we saw children sitting outside the classroom to hear a lesson. We estimated about £25,000 and a few weeks hard work would help Mama Mirandu and her dedicated teachers improve her school. Sadly the government does nothing except pay the teachers.

The other place I should love to help is a clinic near Arusha in Tanzania. This also has no water or electricity, and a tiny building, but is efficiently run by 2 doctors and 2 nurses who would dearly love to improve things for their patients. We have seen the improving quality of care in the clinic in Kenya that Bugbrooke church supports since we helped them with water and electricity. Wouldn't it be great if we could help the Tanzanian clinic too?

Christian Aid Week is nearly with us again – the red envelope will be through your door on May 12th and a friendly volunteer will call for it the following week. Please give generously for the world's poor, and imagine, if you can, Bugbrooke surgery and school without water, toilets or electricity.

Any offers of help with these projects would, of course, be very welcome.

Sue Pace (Christian Aid organiser)

Bugbrooke Church – Village Fete

Everyone is already asking me 'what date is the fete?'. So the answer is Saturday 9th July at 2pm. Make a note in your diary now for the usual fun filled afternoon.

Does anyone have any lonely teddies? ... or masses of teddies in a loft or spare room. Please take advantage of our soft toy re-homing service at the fete. Teddies and other soft toys will be well cared for until fete day if you would like to leave them at 14 The Paddocks, or I can collect them if you would like to give me a call on 07920 422381.

Gillian Stone

It's True!

If you are under forty the following opening will sound like some grumpy old person off the television, but bear with it as one day you will move up the rankings and have your own grumbles! But then again, perhaps you are already 'grumpy' because you have also suspected a hidden truth kept away from the general public. A mistruth that in magnitude is bigger and more sinister than any suppression of truth in the history of human endeavour. The truth we have always suspected irrespective of our age has now been admitted! Mars Bars and Cream Eggs are officially smaller than they were when we were younger! The theory is make them smaller but we will charge you the same, but last year you could get three eggs for a pound, this year it's twenty pence more, but that is another story for another day!



Along with the reduction in size another sinister change that has crept up on us over the years is the manufacturers no longer take the trouble to put the chocolates, smarties, minstrels etc inside the Easter Eggs!

I can remember as a young boy being disappointed if the Easter Eggs given to me by Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts and Parents were just empty eggs, and here is a real confession! I thought those eggs (you can still get from a well known high street chain of stores) that simply had your name iced on the outside were a bit of a cop out. I know I can hear you say, the person would have had my name iced on top of the egg because they thought I was worth the effort, but for me it was never as tantalising and fulfilling as those other eggs with the extra chocolates or treats inside the egg.

However, the trend to have empty Easter Eggs can be turned to our advantage as it can remind us of the tomb where Jesus' body was laid which was empty of his body on the first Easter morning.

Nevertheless, to celebrate and to mark the empty tomb, the tomb had first to be filled with the dead and lifeless body of Christ after the violence and cruel death three days earlier on Good Friday.

Putting cream eggs to one side, this Easter when you look at an empty Easter egg, with or without your name iced on the top, remember it is also a reminder of the glory and mystery of the first Easter morning.

Come and join us this Easter and in the wonder of God's act of salvation in the death and resurrection of his Son you will find on offer the life fulfilling, undiluted love and Grace of God that will not leave you empty.

Stephen French Rector of Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kissingbury and Rothersthorpe

Friends of St Michael and All Angels Church

Our AGM is on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30 pm in the Sunday School. All are welcome. One of the things we will be discussing will be some proposed minor changes to our Rules (Constitution). These are intended to make the rules clearer and more workable. No change is proposed to the aims of Friends, or to any other matter which would require the approval of the Charity Commission.

Our Quiz/Fish and Chip Supper is on 17th June in the Community Centre. Tickets will be on sale sometime in May. Members and previous supporters will be sent a letter with details.

Last year I wrote about the work required at the Church following the quinquennial inspection (to the cost of which the Friends will be contributing). Much of this work has been held up because of various factors – including two thefts of roof lead and the need to obtain a faculty (ie Permission) for the work from the Diocesan authority in Peterborough. However I understand that the next phase of work will be starting soon, and indeed may be under way by the time you read this.

Jim Inch

Friends of Campion

The Friends of Campion School hold meetings once a month during term time. We are a friendly and enthusiastic group, but could do with a few more members, so if your children or grandchildren attend Campion, why not come along.

In January we held a very successful Salsa Evening at the school, and this is being followed by a short course of Salsa/Merengue lessons during March.

We are also holding a Family Barn Dance on Saturday 7 May – all ages welcome. Please contact Jane Wood (details below) or any other member of the Friends of Campion committee for further details or to book your tickets.

The next Friends meeting is on Thursday 7 April. All meetings are at 7.30pm at the school (come in round the back of the main building through the sliding doors).

Finally on behalf of the Friends of Campion School, our condolences to the family of our Treasurer, Nick Barnes, who sadly died suddenly in January. He only took over as Treasurer last year, but his commitment and expertise were proving invaluable and will be missed.

Please contact Jane Wood on 01604 830595 or at woodmanyana@aol.com for more information about the work of the Friends.

Nether Heyford Tennis Club

Nether Heyford Tennis Club is a small friendly club based at Nether Heyford Playing Fields. You don't have to live in Heyford to join, and we welcome members of all ages and abilities. The club has several mens', ladies' and mixed teams playing in local leagues, and anyone willing and able to play competitively is welcome to join them. However, members who just want to come to the club and play socially are equally welcome. Membership fees for 2011/12 are:

Single Adult £55.00

Couple £80.00

Family £100.00 (2 adults + 2 children under 18)

Single Parent £65.00

Over 60 £25.00

Student/Junior £25.00

For this you will have access to the courts to play whenever you like (except when they are in use for matches/coaching). We have two very good courts and one which we are currently looking to get resurfaced. Club night, when members get together for a social game, is every Wednesday at 7.30pm throughout the year.

Membership forms can be downloaded from our website (www.heyfordtennisclub.co.uk) or contact Barbara Wilkins on 01327 341756 or 07596 969776.

Bugbrooke Sports and Community Centre

Almost 100 posts have been erected around the playing field area to prevent unauthorised vehicles driving on to the pitches and causing damage. It includes two lockable posts that can be removed to allow access for maintenance and emergency vehicles. The clubs using the pitches have been given keys.

Around twenty teams from various village clubs and organisations took part in a Quiz at the Community Centre on 4 March. They tested their general knowledge with questions set by the renowned quizmaster, John Chapman. It is hoped to arrange a similar inter-village-club quiz each year, perhaps with a trophy for the winners.

It has been agreed in principle that the community centre and playing fields should be made available for celebrations to mark H.M. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012. We now await a Jubilee Committee to be formed to begin making plans for suitable events and activities.

Youngsters using the small pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings for Football and Rugby have been reminded not to clean their muddy boots in the car park area. Mud all over the car park is unsightly, and potentially dangerous; and is not what you would want to face when turning up in your best togs for a wedding reception or birthday party.

In addition to the usual variety of activities at the community centre, we now have a softball tennis after school class and the opportunity to join a Rosemary Conley fitness class.

The Community Centre is an ideal venue for social, leisure and sports activities, with many local organisations using the excellent facilities available. If you wish to book any of the Centre's facilities, please telephone 01604 832834 or see the regular advertisement in LINK.

David Harries, Chairman

Bugbrooke Art Group

Our annual art exhibition this year will be on the weekend of 7th-8th May. As usual it will be in the Community Centre, and the opening times are likely to be 11.00am to 5.00pm on both the Saturday and Sunday (but keep an eye out for posters nearer the time). Entry to the exhibition will be free and tea/coffee and homemade cakes will be available at very reasonable prices.

Last year we had 105 pictures on display, plus masses of cards all of which were

original and unique. Since then our numbers have leapt from 8 to 9, and we've all been busy producing new pictures. We're reckoning on a really good show again this year, so please come along.

Jim Inch

Bugbrooke History Group

Growing Up in the 40s and 50s, the first presentation of 2011 was a nostalgic visit to Dan Dare in the Eagle Comic, Dick Barton, Victory Celebrations and the strangeness of bananas. The era came to life through Malcolm Deacon's lively talk. Older members of the audience had many memories to share, while younger members were amazed by the idea of homes with no tele.

Next Meeting on April 13th is the A.G.M. and a presentation by Alan Standish on Metal Detecting.

All meetings are free of charge and start at 7.30pm at the Community Centre. If you are interested in local history or in metal detecting you will be very welcome.

There are many history and archaeology projects taking place in the county at the moment. Bugbrooke History Group and other local groups have purchased a magnetometer to help in surveying the landscape. Some of our group will soon be trained in using this instrument, from which we hope to learn more about the history of the land in and around Bugbrooke.

Pat Kent

Did You Know?

Captains Close between Great Lane and Ace Lane used to have a sheep dip constructed in the brook. It had brick sides with a slot in the middle to enable wooden planks to be placed in it. When in position the planks would effectively dam the stream, enabling enough depth of water to dip sheep. Disinfectant would be poured into the water to enable the dipping process to take place. Unfortunately when the disinfected water was set free it poisoned the stream and killed off most of the fish. The fish stocks, such as small trout, did not come back upstream until the 1980s. The sheep dip went out of use in the 1950s.

The curved lines of the trees in Captains Close follow the line of the old brook before it was straightened and widened.

Women's Institute

Hello Ladies, it's official, the first day of spring has happened – just in case you missed out it was on the 20th of March, so Happy Spring.

Our evening with John Brough and the "A La Carte Group" proved to be a great success, and was well attended, sadly not by me as I was unwell and missed it! Their repertoire was varied and very professional which is why we have had to wait so long to book them, but it was certainly well worth the wait.

Those ladies who volunteered to "survey shop" met to discuss their findings. They found that in the main, items of own-brand food checked in local well known

supermarkets were clearly marked with the country of origin. As you would expect there were some discrepancies, so where necessary enquires were made within the store for their comments. After further investigations via Managers etc, we received satisfactory responses and therefore we concluded that overall we were impressed with our findings.

Our Craft group met in February to introduce some members to crochet. They were very enthusiastic as well as a little "confused.com" so another session is planned to take this further.

Whilst writing this for April's edition of "LINK" I am not able to comment on the success or otherwise of our Spring Fashion Show, only to say that tickets are selling fast and we are hoping that once we have covered our expenses for hire of venue etc, we may even make a little for our funds.

Our April meeting is one I am personally looking forward to "The Meaning of Dreams". Dr Mike Lewis is coming to enlighten us and hopefully explain why we have strange dreams. I want to know why sometimes a very vivid dream is immediately forgotten on waking while others stay with you for days – and do we really dream if we eat cheese late at night?

In May we will welcome Harpole WI to our meeting to discuss this year's National Resolutions. Out of the seven possible resolutions proposed, two will go forward and they are "Proposed Mega Farms" and "The Closure of local Libraries". At our May meeting Bugbrooke and Harpole members will have the benefit of hearing more about both of these proposals, with the ultimate voting taking place in June at the National AGM, this year taking place in Liverpool.

Take care and visitors are always welcome, so see you at WI.

Beryl Harding, (Nptn: 830186) on behalf of Bugbrooke WI.

Nature Notes April 2011

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Bugbrooke Birdwatch at the end of January, and to Allen at Petstop who distributed tally forms. We had 41 sets of results which was a big increase from last year, and most parts of the village were represented in the survey. 32 species were seen which is one more than last year, and 42 species are seen regularly, but weren't seen during the birdwatch. Some different species were recorded. These were Fieldfare, Kestrel, Nuthatch, Green Woodpecker, Reed Warbler, Little Egret and Mallard. Those that were seen last year and weren't recorded in 2011 were Mistle Thrush, Tree Sparrow, Grey wagtail, Carrion Crow, Moorhen, Blackcap and Goldcrest.

The 4 most numerous birds were the same as last year, but not in the same order. At the top for both years was the House Sparrow. Blackbirds were second last year and third this year, their place being taken by Starlings, while Blue Tits were still in fourth place. The really noticeable increase in ranking was for Long-tailed Tits. Last year they were 15th (17% of gardens) and this year 6th (30%). For the second year, the only species that was seen in every garden was the Blackbird.

Many people were concerned about finches. Commonly, lots were seen during the snow in December, but there were far fewer since. The survey confirms that Greenfinches were present in fewer numbers, and in fewer gardens. In 2010 the Greenfinch was the 13th most numerous species whereas in 2011 it had dropped to 19th. There was the same drop in rankings in the number of gardens where they occurred. The Goldfinch and Chaffinch rankings were the same as last year. We can speculate on reasons for this, but it is only guesswork. It seems unlikely that it was a result of the cold as the smaller, more susceptible-to-cold Wren has been recorded in a greater proportion of gardens than last year. Another possibility is the presence of a parasitic disease, Trichomonosis which affects Greenfinches. However, infected birds tend to die close to feeders and more often in autumn. If you have not found bodies, it is unlikely that Trichomonosis is responsible.

Another explanation is that they were just somewhere else rather than in our gardens. I have noticed that many finches have been in the hedgerows. Perhaps their natural food was covered with snow in December, and so was still available after the thaw. Perhaps we had an influx from further north where conditions were worse than here in December and they returned or moved further south. However, since the Birdwatch, the numbers of all finches in our garden has recovered, and the feeders are emptying faster than in January. I would be interested in knowing what you think, and if your experience has been similar.

The full results are displayed in Petstop and online at www.bugbrookelink.co.uk/naturenotes. If you do not have access to a computer and would like a copy of the results, they are available from me.

Look out for: Orange tip butterflies. If you are not sure what they look like, there are photographs on the website. Their flight is timed to take advantage of their caterpillars' foodplants. They particularly like Lady's-smock flowers, so Charity Meadow is a good place to see them, although they are normally seen in gardens. House Martins, Swifts and Swallows will be returning during April and May, and listen for the Cuckoo too. Now is the time for a trip out to Everdon Stubbs to see the bluebells, and if you would like to see Ospreys go to Rutland Water in May, where they normally have a hide equipped with a telescope to watch the birds.

Margaret Cooke, tel. 832125

Bugbrooke Guides

On Thursday 3rd February we held our New Year party. Each guide brought a party dish, traditional party food like pineapple and cheese chunks, cocktail sausages, crisps, iced gems and chocolate fingers. We played party games such as musical chairs and more chocolate with the 'throw a 6' game, it was great fun. We all left with smiley faces, it was a great start to the New Year and welcome to our new guides.

Kathryn Hardy

As Kathryn said we have new girls moved up from brownies from our waiting list. We struggle to give everyone who would like to join guides a place, so early addition

to the list is recommended, please telephone. Also this term, we have done the church cleaning, tried salsa dancing at Campion School, and had a Ready Steady Cook evening. We were very grateful to Millie and Lesley, two Trefoil Guild members (retired guiders) for showing us how to do leather work, paper jewellery, and gift bag making which will go towards the craft badge. Our thanks also go to Mr J. Perkins for his knowledge of the history of the Sunday School Rooms, it is interesting to know more about the place we meet; we are so glad that the girls toilets were indeed built as they were not on the original plans! As this goes to print we are looking forward to a cheerleading lesson, our reward for collecting the Sainsbury active kids vouchers in 2010.

Jane and Helen 832710

Bugbrooke Village Hall Playgroup

We are now over half way through the academic year and have seen big changes here at Playgroup. The building work is complete and we hope everyone is impressed with the transformation of part of the building and the new kitchen. The new waiting area is both spacious and inviting, the children are able to come in before 9am, hang up their coats and be ready to start their play as soon as the session begins. This room can also be used in the day for additional activities such as French Rhyme Time and Action Kids. The kitchen is well equipped, providing a low work surface and oven for staff to prepare and cook food with the children. The new storage within the old part of the building allows the children better access to the toys enabling them to make their own choices of what they would like to play with and learn from.

With regards to the building work, staff and committee members would like to thank all parents and children for their patience whilst the work was done and for making the transition as smooth as possible. We would also like to thank Boyson Construction for their help and support in completing the building work with little impact on 20 or more small children each day and also to the Chairperson, Anna Musson for all her efforts in obtaining the grant, liaising with the builders and organising the purchase of the fixtures and fittings.

Back to the activities at Playgroup and the pre-school children are now enjoying their visits to Forest School one morning a week. Twelve children and two members of staff are collected in the Everdon minibus and taken to the outskirts of the forest where, along with experienced staff, they walk into the forest and find the safe and secure area where they can hunt for bugs, make woodland crowns, stick faces on the trees, take part in bear hunts and many more exciting things. We are now into our third consecutive year at Forest School and the activities have become hugely popular with children and parents alike.

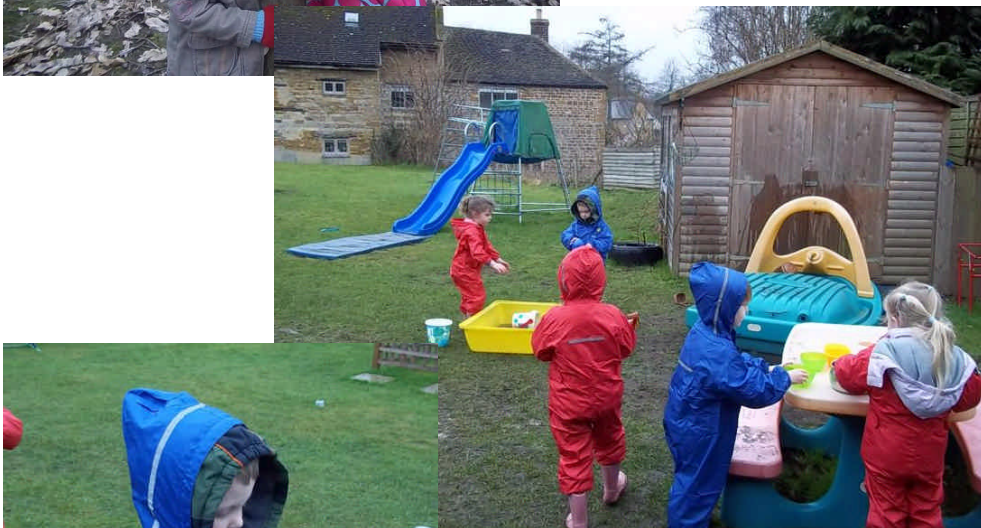
As mentioned in the last article we have been able to purchase all-in-one waterproofs for all the children enabling them to play out in our garden in all weathers. This has been possible due to money received from fundraising along with money we have received from Jackie Oliver Estate Agents in Towcester. We have been very fortunate to twice benefit from their 'Cash for Schools' scheme and thank them

Fully equipped for a fun walk
into the forest

Putting sticky faces on the trees!



Bugbrooke Village Hall Playgroup



Playing out in the
garden in the new
waterproofs



'Thank you to all of our wonderful friends for supporting the Dinner and Dance on 12th February. We raised nearly £2500 for the British Heart Foundation and Asthma UK. We had the most amazing night and hope that everyone who attended did too. If you would like to continue your support and Sponsor Jo and Jason who are running the London Marathon then please contact Jo - 830828 or Jason - 830061. Many thanks Jo & Jim O'Grady and Alexis & Jason Bicknell.'



Guides Ready Steady Cook evening (here you see Kathryn, Leah, Holly and Lucy with their dishes).

along with their clients who have nominated Playgroup for this award.

Playgroup were also very lucky to be chosen by Waitrose for their 'Community Matters' fundraiser. In January your green token may well have helped us receive just over £200 from this fund, so many thanks to Waitrose and its customers for that.

At Playgroup, Victoria is starting to alter and improve the decking and garden area by developing a sensory garden along with an improved flower and vegetable garden. The children can get involved in this by helping to plant out seeds, water and care for the plants and learn about the different smells and textures. This is already proving very popular with the limited supplies they currently have but any donations of seeds, herbs, flowers, pots or small gardening equipment would be greatly appreciated.

During the Easter holiday a disco and egg hunt will be held at Playgroup to help raise much needed funds, so please keep a look out for posters advertising this and please support the fundraising events wherever possible.

If you, a friend or family member has a child aged between 2 and 5 years and would be interested in looking around Playgroup please contact me on the number below as we have spaces available for this year – or if you would like to put them on our waiting list for next year do please call.

If you would like any information on any of the above or to look around our new and improved facilities please contact Julie Tompkins on 07563 574155 or at bugbrookeplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk.

Julie Tompkins

Upper Nene Villages 3rd Age Group – U3A

MONDAY 18 APRIL 2011, MICHAEL BOYCE – 'ROCKINGHAM CASTLE'

Michael has been a Guide at Rockingham Castle for a number of years. We will be given a history of the Castle, why it was built and its ownership by the Kings of England from 1070 and by the Watson family who have lived there since 1544. Michael's talk will be illustrated with slides showing the interior rooms of the Castle which will include pictures, furniture and also views of the gardens. Additionally he will touch on the Castle's involvement in the England Civil War during which it was captured by Parliamentary Forces. Charles Dickens was a friend of the Watson Family and it was at Rockingham Castle that he drew inspiration for his book 'Bleak House', basing much of the story on the Castle, the Watson Family and the characters he met there.

MONDAY 16 MAY 2011 — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCH

The meeting Agenda will cover the Chairman's & Treasurer's reports, the election and re-election of the Committee and any matters arising. This will be followed by the usual delicious lunch provided by the generosity of our members and organised by the 'Luncheon Club' members. Please bring your own plate, cutlery, glass and drink – dessert plates will be provided. Please ensure you have renewed your subscription if you wish to attend the meeting and lunch.

Meetings are open to non-members and take place at Bugbrooke Community Centre, Camp Hill, Bugbrooke on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2.30p.m. For further information contact Fay Maddern 01327 352401.

Special interest groups: Antiques Trail, Appreciating Poetry, Book Exchange, French, Genealogy, German intermediate, History of Music, Literature Group, Luncheon Club, 'My Kind of Music', Scrabble, Snooker, Spanish Beginners, Writing, Family

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

At the AGM in January, Maureen Wright our Chairman for 20 years stepped down and was succeeded by Simone Squire. Maureen will still be involved with the club as she was elected President.

Our programme for 2011 began with Jo Williams whose title was 'A New Leaf'. We were pleased to welcome new members and visitors. In addition to the usual demonstrations our members will have the opportunity to take part in a workshop lead by Jayne Edmonds, a garden visit in June and an outing to Wisley Show in September, as well as various events organised by the South Midlands Area.

If you would like to join us for a relaxing evening, we meet on the 4th Monday of each month in Nether Heyford Village Hall at 7.45pm.

Jane Barker

Bugbrooke St Michael's Football Club

The weather during January and February caused the cancellation of many matches. With 2 months of the season left, the Reserves and 'B' sides have 13 matches to play, the 1st team 12 and the 'A' side 8. Some teams look likely to play 3 times a week towards the end of April. Nevertheless all adult teams are in the top 5 of their divisions with the 1st and 'A' sides looking most likely to be promoted. The 1st's have to get the better of Thrapston, Kempston and Olney whilst the 'A's need to see off Heyford, Weedon, Wootton and Earls Barton. All the senior sides have done well and been a credit to the club. Congratulations go to all players and officials of these teams for putting in creditable performances during adverse conditions. The youth teams are all doing well in their leagues with the Under 11's and Under 14's looking likely to win their leagues. The Under 12's, 13's and 16's could also finish in the top 3 if results go their way. Well done all the players and officials and parents who support them.

The club continues to improve its ground in case the 1st team get promoted. A small covered area has been constructed to enable more spectators to keep dry whilst gates have been installed on the driveway to enable controlled access. It is now possible to walk all the way round the main pitch on a concrete path and the clubhouse has a reconditioned bar area. Why not pop in and have a look? A new sponsor's board has also been erected in the entrance hallway as a mark of thanks to all those who have helped the club maintain its local community base. A new weekly lottery started on 4th March. Tickets are £1 each and if you would like to participate

and help the club maintain its 12 youth sides and 4 adult teams please contact Chairman Willy Marriott on 831606. The club has also organised an Auction on Friday 25 March at 7.30 pm, with excellent items to be auctioned. The club is thinking ahead to next year and is looking for someone to help the treasurer and also a bar manager to keep the club moving along with support from the community. Please contact Willy (831606) if you feel able to help. There is a good social atmosphere at the club and it is open on match days for refreshments at half-time and full-time.

Bugbrooke Cricket Club

John Mundy: Chairman 830725 (H, B & FAX) 07850-084535 (M)
j.w.mundy@btinternet.com

At the moment we are seeking planning permission to replace our aging Pavilion which is coming up to 30 years old. We are often plagued by senseless vandalism & have boarded up the windows for the winter. If anybody (especially dog walkers) see any damage etc please contact John Mundy or myself, if no reply please leave message on voice mail & contact the Police.

We are always looking for new players of all ages so if there is anyone interested in joining our progressive Club at our picturesque ground by the brook please get in touch with myself, Roger Stone (for Juniors) or John Mundy for more details. Just a reminder that Indoor Nets for Seniors are held at the County Ground from 9 to 10pm EVERY Thursday until April 7th. Junior Nets for ages 8 to 15 are held at Campion School EVERY Friday 6.30 to 7.30pm until April 1st. Our regular outdoor Practice day for all ages will be EVERY Monday from 6pm starting on 4th April. This year there will be Junior League Matches for Under 11, 12, 14 & 15 sides. Get in touch with Roger Stone on 01604-842961 if you have any queries or just turn up. Sunday matches start on April 11th with a full Fixture List right through until October 2nd. Saturday cricket will start on April 30th with an Inter Club game with League Matches for 1st (Captain Keith Halford) & 2nd XI (Captain Andrew Devonshire) starting on May 7th. There will also be some Midweek matches. I am very pleased that both Keith & Andrew live in Bugbrooke as we try to encourage village inhabitants to take a leading part in helping to run our Club – you could stand a better chance of selection if you buy these 2 a drink whenever you can!!

Our signing on evening was 28th March. If you missed this you will need to get your membership paid before playing.

Have a look at our website www.bugbrooke.play-cricket.com for further information with results & scorecards for all our matches for 2011 as well as the past 4 seasons.

Peter White (President) 50 High Street, Bugbrooke, NN7 3PG
(830452 H. & B) p.g.white@btinternet.com

Services and Events at St. Michael and All Angels Church Bugbrooke

A weekly leaflet is available in Church. Please take a copy and keep up-to-date with Bugbrooke Church Services, News and Events. The leaflet also covers the Anglican parishes of Harpole, Kislingbury and Rothersthorpe.

Sunday Services

8:00am BCP Communion 3rd and 5th Sundays in the Month

9:45am 2nd and 4th Sundays in the month Holy Communion

1st Sunday in the month Morning Worship

3rd Sunday in the month Family Worship

5th Sunday in the month watch for details

6:30pm 1st Sunday in the month 'Sunday Night Praise'

(with shared tea from 6pm)



Other Services

Tuesdays during term time 2:30pm Tiny Tots Service in Church

First Wednesday in the month :- 9:30 am Holy Communion (BCP) in the Lady Chapel

1:30pm Holy Communion at Jubilee House

7:00pm Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel

Regular Events

Mondays at 8pm Bell Ringers

1st and 3rd Mondays 7:30pm Bible Study at 15 Lime Grove

Thursdays 9am to 11:15am Family Morning during term time in the Sunday School Rooms

Alternative Wednesdays 2pm 'The Wednesday Club' in the Sunday School Rooms

Thursdays 7:30pm S.M.A.S.H. (*St. Michaels At Someone's House*)

Fellowship and Bible Study at 41 Pilgrims Lane.

First Wednesday in the month from 7:30pm onwards Men's Curry Night at The Five Bells in Bugbrooke. No agenda just a chance for men to have a night out. Details ring 831621

We have a full range of Easter Services for Holy Week 2011 not only here at

St. Michael and All Angels Bugbrooke, but also at All Saints Harpole,

St Luke's Kislingbury and St. Peter and Paul Rothersthorpe.

**There are leaflets in all of the above churches but
also watch your letter box for all the relevant information.**

Please keep an eye out for other services and events.

Home Communion by prior arrangement.

Ring 831621 for details and if you have any questions.

Bugbrooke Bowls Club

The bowls green will open for the outdoor season on Saturday 30th April when members will be having a practise "roll up" from 2.30p.m. Would you like to be more active and enjoy a drink and be sociable at the same time? Then why not try bowls. It's a sport that can be played by all ages and different skill levels so why not come along on the 30th and give it a try. For further information please contact Geoff Hayter Tel. 831130.

Village Diary

April

7th	7.30pm	WI—The Meaning of Dreams by Dr Mike Lewis	SS
12th	8.00pm	Voyage of Light Clairvoyant Evening with Jayne Borland from Wellingborough	CC
13th	7.30pm	Bugbrooke History Group— AGM and presentation on metal detecting by Alan Standish	CC
13th	7.30pm	Friends of St. Michael and All Angels Church AGM	SS
18th	2.30pm	U3A Rockingham Castle	CC

May

7-8th		Art Group Exhibition	CC
9th	7.30pm	WI—National Resolutions with Harpole WI	SS
10th	8.00pm	Voyage of Light Clairvoyant Evening (Guest medium to be arranged)	CC
16th		U3A - AGM and Lunch	CC