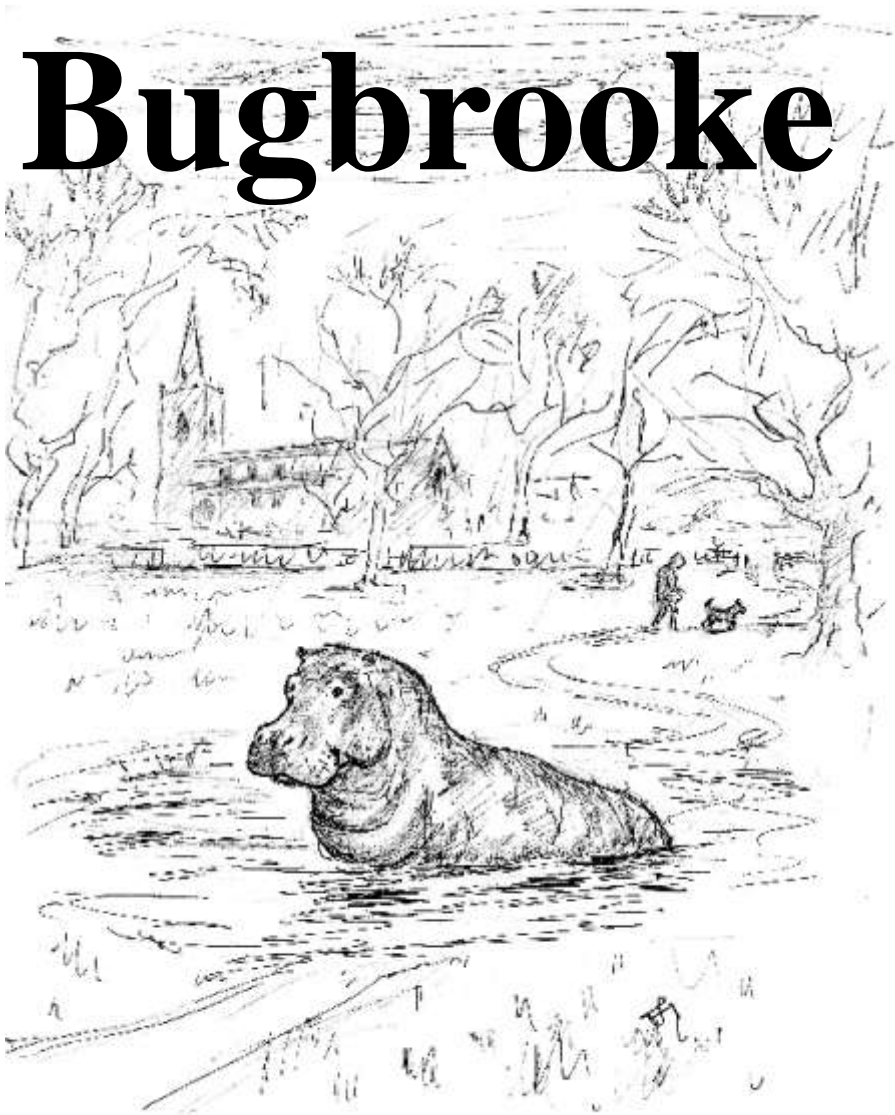


# Bugbrooke



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Mud, mud, mud  
Through long months of flood:  
Waterlogged fields that squelch underfoot,  
And boggy footpaths whatever your route;  
Splashing through puddles – slog, slog, slog  
Not a great season for walking a dog.

Mud, mud, mud  
It may be quite good for cooling the blood  
Of hippos under the African sun;  
**But in our winter it's somewhat less fun:**  
Quagmires spreading around all stiles and gates,  
Sticky furrows turning boots into weights;  
For walkers wanting to get out and about  
There was much to be said for last year's drought.

# Bugbrooke LINK Magazine

(Issue 178), February 2013

Chairman: Paul Cockcroft



Welcome to the first issue of 2013 with a full and varied content, in this the 30th year of your village magazine. I would be interested to receive comments about the role of the magazine in village life in 2013 and thoughts about the future of the publication and how it is presented.

**Find out more about 'ash die back', an 'open circle' and a 'community café',** along with news associated with Playgroup, schools and the church. Sporting effort is represented by football and tennis, with plenty of photos included for a range of activity within the village.

As a counterpoint to the wet and cold weather, you can read about Sue and Tony Pace in Tanzania and maybe consider getting away from it all next year to help with the excellent work that is being undertaken in Africa.

If you would like to be involved in something closer to home, please let me know and we can consider a role within LINK to assist, for example, with news gathering or production.

Our website can be found at [www.bugbrookelink.co.uk](http://www.bugbrookelink.co.uk), containing an impressively wide range of items and links to other organisations and websites, including issues of LINK back to July 1993 as well as current and historical information that is not contained within the printed magazine.

The deadline for articles and advert changes for the next issue is Monday 4 March 2013, but earlier submissions are most welcome. Please note that the preferred way of us receiving copy is by email to [editor@bugbrookelink.co.uk](mailto:editor@bugbrookelink.co.uk).

## Letters to the LINK

We thought we (myself, my husband and our 8 month old baby) must write about the delicious food and the superb hospitality from the gracious owners that we enjoyed at The Five Bells earlier this week. It seems (when we walk or drive past) that the pub is not being used to its full potential by the village. What a huge shame this is!

The food is really of an excellent quality, both Italian and English menus are available and the portions are very generous indeed! Take away home made pizzas are available – far better than any mass produced equivalent. The food and hospitality compare most favourably with other local eateries – it is unpretentious, good value and has a lovely relaxed atmosphere.

*Front Page:* Drawing and poem by Jim Inch

I am aware that the Bugbrooke Book Club meet there on the last Thursday of each month and are incredibly well received.

We urge you – go there, eat, drink and enjoy!

Yours

*L. Timson*

## **Bugbrooke Parish Council**

A meeting between the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Millennium Green Trustees has taken place to iron out details of the transfer of the Glebe Field to the Millennium Green and part of the Millennium Green to an extension of the churchyard. The changes will see the fence at the West End side of the churchyard moved about 20 metres into the Millennium Green. The part of the churchyard nearest to the brook will become part of the Millennium Green in order to link through to the Glebe Field whilst the Church Car Park will become the responsibility of the Parish Council. It should eventually be possible to park there and have a footpath link right through to West End. Thanks are extended to all parties that have worked together to enable these village improvements to take place.

Development of 31 dwellings at Peace Hill has commenced with part of the land being levelled. It looks as if Bellway Homes will progress the scheme throughout the summer. Meanwhile it is understood that the land at Johns Road/Pilgrims Lane has received interest from over a dozen developers. The application for a further 17 dwellings adjacent to the Peace Hill site has again been turned down by South Northants Council.

The vacancy on the Parish Council has been filled by Mr Rob Collett of 32 West End. We welcome him to the Council and look forward to benefiting from his experience and advice. With 4 new councillors since May 2012 the responsibilities of councillors has been reorganised to cover issues such as Planning, Footpaths, Lighting, Parish furniture, Playing Fields, Finance and Allotments. The Council is also open to points of view from the public and an allocation of time is always given at the start of each council meeting for anyone who wants to make a point or ask questions. The Council meets at the Community Centre on the second Monday of each month at 7.30p.m.

The heavy rain in late November to early December saw the local brook rise to its highest level since 1998. The Environment Agency has been contacted and in February they will be cutting all bushes and foliage from the banks from the canal through to Baptists Close. This should enable any future water to flow quickly through the village and onto the floodplains downstream from the village. Those who live close to the brook and in danger of flooding should make themselves aware of where sandbags are stored, or make arrangements for floodwater in West End to be diverted from their property.

*John Curtis (Chairman)*

## This Last New Year

While writing my December offering for the Bugbrooke LINK at the beginning of November, I projected forward towards Christmas and 'Preparations'. As I write these few words at the start of January 2013 for you to read in February I'm projecting back towards the start of the year! If you are not confused by this opening paragraph, you should be!



This said, by the time you read this the year will be one twelfth over and New Year Resolutions will either be a dim and distant gesture or something you are still seriously trying to keep.

One of my earliest resolutions for the New Year goes way back to school days (**more years than I'm willing to admit**), **I announced to the class and my then teacher, 'I'd resolved to give up chewing gum'.**

To my surprise and immediate delight and suppressing my urge to snigger and smile, the teacher called me out to the front of the class.

However, the suppressed smile was wiped from my face as she addressed the class bitterly – 'this boy never chews gum anyway.' She then turned to me, looking straight into my now blushing face, and with a hint of frustration and even anger in her voice she said to me 'Do you?', 'No, miss,' I said, this time with the urge to snigger and smile gone.

The teacher then very sternly but honestly gave us all a talk about promises – particularly those of little or no value. At the start of 2013 (still eleven more months to run), it is important to look into our future very seriously. The world, with its ever increasing different ideologies, inherent fear, its high technologies and micro-chips, won't wait for us. We have to move with it. So it isn't enough to promise ourselves that, since we don't like these new changes, we have decided to give them up. That's just as bad as promising to give up one of our bad habits, and then failing – or forgetting – to do so.

Our Lord Jesus tells of two brothers. One was asked by his father to work in the vineyard – but he wouldn't. Later, he changed his mind, and went. The other said he would work in the vineyard – but he broke his promise – he did not go to work. (Matthew Chapter 21 v 28) Jesus asked 'Which of them did the will of the Father?' His **audience had no trouble with the answer. 'The first!' They were right.**

In 2013, change your mind. Make a true promise. Go with Jesus. Don't blush, or snigger. For Jesus makes this promise – to keep you into eternity – with him.

*Stephen French Rector of Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kislingbury and Rothersthorpe*

## Tree of Eternal Light Service 2012

A big thank you to everyone who helped with December's Tree of Eternal Light service. The church was packed again and the atmosphere afterwards, when most people stayed on for coffee and mince pies, was lovely.

Thank you everyone, too, for your donations which came to £900. This has been

shared equally between the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society, the British Heart Foundation and Bugbrooke St Michael and All Angels church.

*Ann Shaw and Lynne Clayson*

## **Bugbrooke Community Café**

St Michael and All Angels Church is to sponsor the establishment of a new café in the Sunday School Rooms in Church Lane.

The café is to be a not-for-profit venture offering Bugbrooke residents a warm and friendly location to meet and enjoy high quality drinks and snacks. We also intend to offer additional services e.g. book exchange scheme, and we would welcome other ideas.

Subject to commercial success, the café will take on and train unemployed youngsters from the village. This will include day release at college in Northampton.

We are looking for a dynamic and dedicated person to manage the café. Initial opening hours will be 8.30 – 1.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday but we hope that the venture will prove a great success and that additional opening times will be added. Ideally, the successful candidate will have catering experience, however, we will consider anyone with the appropriate drive and determination to make it a success. Remuneration will depend on the commercial success of the venture, however, we believe that there is a real opportunity here to create and grow a very thriving and socially responsible business in the village.

If you are interested, please supply a c.v. to me at [dave.clayson@gmail.com](mailto:dave.clayson@gmail.com), or post to Orchard Way, The Paddocks, Bugbrooke, NN7 3QR.

If you would like to know more, please call on 01604 830480.

*David Clayson, On behalf of St Michael and All Angels Church*

## **Friends of St Michael and All Angels Church**

We usually hold our annual wine tasting event in the first week of December. This time however we moved it forward a week to 30th November to avoid clashing with **the Saints' home fixture against Ulster in the Heineken Cup. I know that at least some** of our regular supporters appreciated the gesture. Our evening was a sell out and we made a record profit on the event of about £560. The wines this time were all Supermarket own brands (from Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons and Aldi). It **wasn't really a test of one brand against another, since the wines were all of different** varieties, but it did reveal some very quaffable wines at very reasonable prices.

Many thanks to David Harries for taking on the mantle of master of ceremonies and keeping us both informed on the wines and entertained with some well timed jokes. Many thanks also to the members of the committee for all their hard work on ticket sales, refreshments, raffle etc. And of course thanks to all our supporters who came and made it such a successful evening.

Our AGM will be held at 7.30pm on 17th April in the Sunday School Room. All are welcome.

Our next fund raising event will be a Fish and Chip Supper/ Quiz in July. This will be held in the Community Centre.

*Jim Inch*

## **Bugbrooke Pensioners Christmas Gift Scheme**

The Christmas boxes from the pubs and shops in the village have now been collected and the proceeds will go towards providing the next Christmas gift vouchers. I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way, from delivering the vouchers to holding a raffle to raise money for the Gift Scheme.

We were helped enormously this year by a magnificent donation of £500 from the South Northants Housing. We also had generous donations from Heygates and The Jesus Fellowship. Without their continued support we would not be able to continue with the Gift Scheme.

We hope that everyone that applied, received their voucher for £9.00. and has now enjoyed spending it in the village shops or pubs by 31st January this year.

We hope to have another successful year of fundraising to enable us to continue with the Gift Scheme.

*Judith Piper (Chairman)*

## **Friends of Campion School**

The Friends of Campion will be holding a car boot sale at the school on Saturday 23 February – 12 o'clock start (gates open 11 o'clock for sellers). To book a pitch please email Jane Wood on [woodmanayana@aol.com](mailto:woodmanayana@aol.com) or call 07901775639.

## **Computer Scam Warning**

Over a period of a few days my wife and I received a number of calls from someone claiming to be from Microsoft and claiming we had a virus on our computer which he could fix remotely. When I asked him where he was ringing from he gave the almost correct address of Microsoft at Cardinal Place, 100 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JM and a telephone number 020 3290 5664. He also told me his name was John Eddy, which he pronounced Eedy.

I am aware that anyone can purchase an 0203 number, and that Microsoft would not contact me unless I had opened an incident ticket seeking support.

This is a scam designed to take over your computer and raid your bank account. If you receive such a call do not be fooled. We passed it on to the Police and I strongly advise anyone else to do the same.

*David Harries*

## **Bugbrooke Primary School**

At the beginning of a new term and a new year it is interesting to look back and see how much has been achieved and to see how far forward we have moved. In 2012 we made very good progress with our school improvement priorities: increasing our

achievements in reading, writing and maths, developing our curriculum to make it exciting and relevant for the children and continuing to improve the fabric of our school. Of course, as we improve in one area there will always be others waiting to be addressed and work on these is already well underway in 2013 to ensure that our children continue to have the very best opportunities to grow and develop that they can. Reflecting on our past success helps us to focus with even greater confidence on the challenges ahead and we would like to share some of these achievements with you.

Languages Day – Celebrations Around the World

**Earlier in the autumn term the whole school participated in our annual ‘Languages Day’. The children worked with different children in their Key Stage and learnt about 5 different celebrations from around the world.**

In Key Stage Two, many children enjoyed learning Indian dancing, others made Crepes from France and lots of children created lanterns from the Vietnamese harvest festival.

In Key Stage One, children created sun beams, lanterns and decorated elephants – activities all linked to the same festivals. At the end of the day, the children shared their learning with each other in a special celebration assembly. The day was great fun and there was a happy and excited vibe around the school which showed how much the children enjoyed their learning!

Bugbrooke Young Voices

Before the end of term, our 30-strong choir set off for Birmingham for the annual Young Voices Concert at the LG Arena. We were all very excited as we had been practising for this special event all term, learning a number of original songs as well **as the children’s favourite pop and rock medleys! The afternoon was spent with** children from all over the midlands, rehearsing with our conductor, band and celebrity performers ready for the performance to parents in the evening. The concert was a huge success: the sight and sound of 6,000 children singing in unison was breath-taking!

The Jigsaw Christmas Story

The Infant children shared their version of the Christmas story to packed audiences. This wonderful production involved the entire FS/KS1 department, including our youngest Reception children. Everyone worked very hard to learn all the songs and their lines and this culminated in a brilliant show in which everyone played a key part.

These are just a few of the many exciting learning experiences our children have enjoyed so far this school year. Of course, every day in school is a busy and productive one, with time spent focussing on teaching the children the key skills they need to achieve their potential in life as well as helping to shape them as confident and valuable citizens of the future.

*Debbie Bastin, Headteacher*

# Bugbrooke Primary School

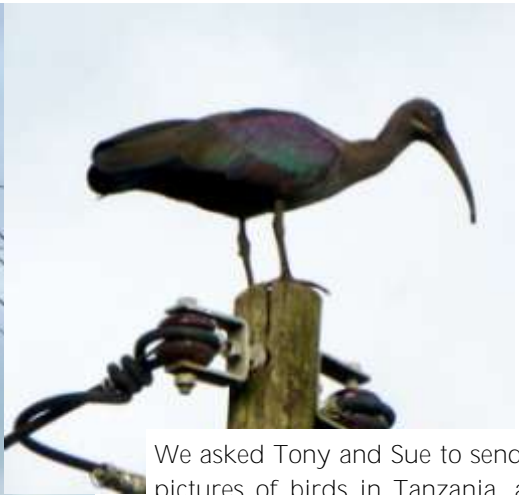
Languages Day - Celebrations Around the World



Scenes from the Jigsaw Christmas Story







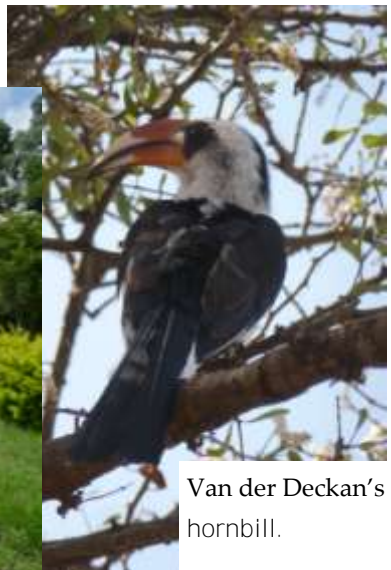
We asked Tony and Sue to send us pictures of birds in Tanzania, and these are what arrived. The view left is from the front of their house with Mount Meru (15,000ft) in the background. The bird is an Hadaha Ibis which they say is very common and very noisy.



These are mousebirds. Difficult to photograph apparently.



Sue and Tony's house in Tanzania.



Van der Deckan's hornbill.

## Thanks from Tanzania

By the time you read this we hope the Tim Partridge Secondary School and Esther Partridge Clinic will be well under way in Ngaramtoni, near Arusha, Tanzania. For the latest news and pictures you can visit the LINK website.

Thanks to the people of Bugbrooke's generosity we are taking an extra £895, so we'll be able to buy extra books, desks and equipment. We are very grateful to you all.

We shall be giving a talk on this year's work in the Sunday School on June 17th, so book the date now if you'd like to know more. We hope to get out of this country once more next winter to finish the school, so if anyone would like to come please contact us!!??

*Sue and Tony Pace (written before leaving for Tanzania)*

## Tony and Sue's first letter from Tanzania

Dear All,

Yes it's us again from Tanzania, sitting by the pool with our first beer of the week; it's warm and sunny though they have been having more rain than expected for this time of year so everything is very green and lush. We have been here just over a week and are well settled in. The journey out was very easy except for the National Express Coach that broke down just before it picked us up so they had to taxi us to the airport.

We rested for a couple of days at the much loved but slightly crazy Impala Hotel in Arusha. We met two more Sues, from Canada and Australia, who are over here for a few weeks and whom we knew from previous years; great reunions. On Sunday we went up to our new home on the west slopes of Mt Meru at just over 5,000 ft. The house is OK but we drew the line at a squat loo so the next day our top fundi put in a proper European loo for us. It has a cold shower but we have opted for warm bucket showers – lovely. We have a girl, Bernadette, looking after us for £10 a week doing all our cooking, cleaning and washing. She speaks almost no English and there has been much confusion about her duties but we hope it has all been sorted at last.

The big problem was that Sue suddenly became very sick on Sunday night and we suspect she had norovirus. For the next three days she was very poorly and did little more than stay in bed. In the meantime, Tony had to get started. On Saturday we had heard from Anna, our friend and headmistress that there was a problem with starting the new school. We still needed consent to build and this was delayed by need of an "Environmental Impact Assessment" EIA – which should have been done months ago. What this comes down to is a letter from Dar (500 miles away), to be produced by a civil servant who is sitting on his \*rs\* – the word "jobsworth" has been used often this week. So the main work for this week has been sorting out suppliers, getting the clinic started, and battling with the Tanzanian Bureaucracy – and meeting lots of old friends, some of whom Tony taught 8 years ago. We can barely move anywhere in Ngaramtoni without greetings and chats.

On Tuesday Tony went off to meet the local MP, a deputy Minister, and he assured us he was on the case to get our building authority sorted. He is an absolutely charming man and he was confident it would all be done very quickly. He also introduced me to the Regional Commissioner who is a real power in the land and was very angry to hear of this delay and said he would get it fixed the next day (kesho). But we have long learned that kesho makes manyana seem very hasty – so guess what; it **didn't happen. We spent Wednesday and Thursday pushing the MP and RC and by Friday** were getting very frustrated. Then the District Commissioner came into play so we went to see him and he says he will get it fixed over the weekend but the way he described it does not sound convincing though as I write this I have heard he has progressed the first step. Apparently the President is in Arusha on Monday and I have muttered about maybe I should go and see him !!!!!

The good news is that the clinic has started. We found this quite by surprise as we walked up to the site on Wednesday and work had started. It was a great feeling. The first task is to build a security wall round the site and then they can get on with the main conversion. In the meantime we have been doing lots of work on designs and layouts and preparing detailed estimates.

Sue was pretty much fully recovered by Thursday. We hope to visit our other projects as soon as the school problems are sorted as they are all desperate to see us – and probably ask us to do more !!! It is a rich and varied life **over here but it's warm and the beer is cheap.**



Tony at the clinic site

Love to all and we love getting your news. This year we can get emails anywhere.  
*Tony & Sue*

### **The Wednesday Club**

Hello everyone. Writing this on January 3rd 2013. It's "Happy New Year" time again, with the hope of better weather to follow, then we should be happier. Several of our members have been suffering from various ailments and have not been able to take part in the festive season, so we look forward to seeing them back soon and joining our meetings.

November 14th Today the Club received £100 left to us by the late Pauline Gilkes, a long time member and whist player.

**November 28th A trip to Wicksteed Park, Turkey Lunch and the show "Rock**

Around the Christmas Tree". This was followed by afternoon tea, mince pies and chocolate cake. The dancing was very good and the dresses very colourful and reminiscent of the time.

December 12th Christmas Party, Turkey Lunch, Pudding and fresh fruit. This was followed by the "Homestead Singers" consisting of 12 gents and Edna the pianist. They performed a really good mix of songs with a few readings, some of them very funny. They stayed for tea and mince pies. After a jolly time spent with us all, Father Christmas did his tour with presents for everyone. After this we had the Grand Raffle.

We would like to thank our leaders and committee for the time they give and all the work they do, not forgetting the super hot lunch. So ended our year, we look forward to 2013.

As always we would like to welcome new members to join us as we have several events starting soon, all at home "The Sunday School". To join ring Cherry on 830389 or Linda on 831219.

Mrs D M French

|  |                            |                    |   |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
|  | <b>Bugbrooke</b>           | <b>Coordinator</b> | <b>David Dungate</b>  |
|  | <b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH</b> |                    | 33 Tibbs way<br>Bugbrooke<br>01604 831381<br>07730 420140<br>d_dungate@btinternet.com |
| <b>Dedicated NHW Hotline 01604 432436</b>  |                            |                    |   |

## Street Wardens

Unfortunately in the last issue of the LINK, the above 'Header' was not printed, therefore, my email address and telephone numbers were excluded. Please let me know if you can help develop NHW in Bugbrooke especially as a 'Street Warden'. This does not involve any great responsibility, only to report the views of your neighbours to me so that we can coordinate a response and a united view on crime matters to the police, the Parish Council, and indeed now our new Police Commissioner.

### Crime Statistics

Our PCSO Jen Harrison has kindly advised the following crime statistics for Bugbrooke, for the period 01.04.12 to 31.12.12:

- 52 Anti-social Behaviour
- 8 Burglary
- 13 Criminal Damage and Arson
- 0 Drugs
- 7 Other Theft
- 1 Public Disorder and Weapons
- 0 Robbery
- 0 Shoplifting
- 70 Vehicle Crime

3 Theft of Motor Vehicles

6 Violent Crime, (including domestic related incidents between persons in the same household)

2 Other Crime

In a village with a population close to 3000 people, and 1100 households this seems to reflect a fairly safe environment, especially as many of the vehicle crime incidents reported were comprised of car aerial thefts over one night in October, and four incidents of vehicles being spray painted just before Christmas.

However, if it is your car that is vandalised, or it is the quiet enjoyment of your property that is disturbed, it is unacceptable.

Police and Crime Plan

The final stage of consultation in future policing and crime in Northamptonshire is under way, led by the police and the crime commissioner Adam Simmonds. To view the proposals and make your views known, visit [www.northantspcc.org.uk](http://www.northantspcc.org.uk)

Property Marking

Thieves find identifiable property dangerous to handle and difficult to sell on. As a result, you can put them off by marking your property, (Postcode, plus your house or **flat number**), and advertising that you have done so by displaying a 'Burglars Beware' sticker anywhere a burglar might get in, for example on the doors and windows of your home.

There are several ways to mark your property depending upon the type of object you want to identify. You can get easy-to-use property marking kits from stationers and DIY stores.

I do have access to a Permanent UV Marker Pen if you have difficulty in obtaining a kit.

Contents Insurance

Just a reminder, that after receiving all those wonderful gifts from your loved ones, some may be of a value that may affect your level of home contents cover. If in doubt, check your level of cover with your insurance company.

*Happy New Year*

*David Dungate*

***Don't forget if a crime is in progress dial 999***

## **Bugbrooke & District Flower Society**

2012 ended with a wonderful evening with Lorena Dyer. Lorena is a very popular demonstrator with our members and has recently qualified as a National Demonstrator. As usual she gave us a very entertaining time. This was followed by a magical day at Gawsworth Hall, beautifully decorated by Barry Grey, including time to spend at the Christmas Tree Festival in the nearby church. Along with some retail therapy and lunch at Trentham Shopping Village it was agreed by all that it was a great day.

Some of the committee decorated a tree for a fund-raising event at

Nether Heyford Village Hall. All the decorations were hand made by the talented team and it made a stunning entrance to the hall. So on to 2013. On February 25th Sharon Badger makes a welcome return with 'A Vision of the Future' and on March 25th Andrew Lloyd presents 'Mad as March'.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings which take place in Nether Heyford Village Hall on the 4th Monday of each month at 7.45pm.

*Jane Barker*

## **Open Circle**

We are a newly formed group of people who aim to meet up on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, we start with a generalised meditation and then we go on to share our knowledge and information and skills in various subjects, such as crystals, angels, spirits, guides, mediums. We meet from 7pm onwards, in Bugbrooke, and aim to finish around 9.30pm with tea, coffee and biscuits. If anyone is interested in joining or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, via email [healinghands@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:healinghands@mypostoffice.co.uk) or calling (after 6pm) 01604 830293.

*Julie King*

## **Bugbrooke History Group**

### **'The beautiful Bugbrooke in porcelain'**

There is always something interesting happening at meetings of the History Group and the November meeting was no exception. The Girl Guides brought along a set of beautifully decorated plates, each one depicting a Bugbrooke scene. They were donated to the Guides Jumble Sale. Each plate is 21cm in diameter, rimmed with an 18-carat gold border, which has been burnt into the porcelain at 780 degrees C. The **printed information included with the plates refers to the artist's 'refined drawing technique' showing the 'living heart of Bugbrooke'.** The designs are burnt into the porcelain at 600 degrees in 'specially constructed kilns'. This set is part of the limited series called 'The Canterbury Collection' exclusively distributed by Décor Art Creations Ltd. The plates we have here depict The Chapel, The Village Hall, The Canal, The Bridge and Sunday School Rooms and County Primary School. One plate is missing from the set depicting St Michael and All Angels Church. There is no indication of the date of these plates, so if anyone can tell us more about them we would be happy to know. If you were the person to donate them then please contact me with more information.



Also to that meeting Derek Smeathers brought some of his fascinating collection of post cards with messages which set the imagination aglow with stories of past lives, jokes, recent news, loves lost and won.

December 30th was the day chosen for our winter walk, and what a fortunate choice. It DIDN'T rain. Dave Hewitt and John Curtis guided 30 walkers round the village informing us of the work that went on in various buildings in past times when Bugbrooke had to be self sufficient. I had no idea there were so many cobblers and we paid homage at the grave of Elizabeth Pinney who made the very best pork pies ever. The festive mulled wine, coffee, tea and snacks were appreciated. The winter walk has become a tradition and is a great way to learn about the history of the village from people whose families have been here for many years.

Our next meeting is 13th February when Steve Parish will talk about the War of the Roses and the Battle of Northampton which took place at Delapre. All our meetings are free (contribution to refreshments only). Everyone is welcome.

*Pat Kent (secretary) Tel 01604 830518 e-mail [tricanal@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tricanal@tiscali.co.uk)*

## **Did you know?**

New Creation Hall was built as a Rectory by the Harrison family in the early 1800s. The Harrisons (hence Harrison Court) were Rectors in Bugbrooke from 1780s to 1970s. They developed the parkland around the Rectory and there is still the remains of a significant pond just behind the Church. They sold part of their land to the village in 1999 for the development of the Millennium Green.

*John Curtis*

## **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

Again I would like to thank all those who gave to this worthwhile appeal. The sum of money collected in the village was £1156.70.

My thanks to the two house to house collectors, the schools, shops and pubs who kindly had the collecting boxes and trays of poppies on display.

This year I did not receive the collection from the Remembrance Service in church as I normally do, to go into our total from the village. I understand that the church kept half and the other half was sent to the Royal British Legion in Northampton.

If there is anyone who would like to take over as poppy organiser for Bugbrooke please contact me.

*Terry Ward*

## **Recollections of John Betjeman**

During the early years of working for Mr Harold Ward, Bugbrooke's local Ladder Maker and Undertaker, I was asked to dig a grave next to the path, that was opposite side of the pathway near to the Church's main South Door, I justly cannot put dates and times to this particular day, for on the morning of arrival at work I was told to

take the tins and equipment we used for grave digging over to Bugbrooke church yard, and meet the Rev Cannon Charles Harrison.

On arrival the Rev Harrison was to come out from the church to show me the spot where the grave needed digging. We were to have a little chat before I started, about what I was likely to come across when digging out this grave, for he was interested in the footings of old buildings etc that we came across while doing so. In the same area I was to encounter a well whilst digging one grave so another spot had to be found. My brother Malcolm was to plant an oak tree over the top of this well after we capped it off, it still grows there to this day.

Before the Rev Harrison returned to his vestry, he asked me to keep my eye open for a gentleman who was coming to visit the church—hence the reason, so he said, for being about in the church at the time. I was merrily digging away and was down to about waist high, when a strange looking fellow wearing a long flowing trench coat and a funny shaped hat, came walking up the path towards where I was **working, he asked me if I was the Church's Sexton. Not thinking as to what the job** of a Sexton was within the Church, for our family were mainly chapel people **not church goers, I replied "No I am just a grave digger", "All the same", he replied laughing and joking, "Sexton is the name for a grave digger within the church".**

He told me his name was Mr John Betjeman and asked me as to what my name was and after the whereabouts of the Rector, for he said that he was expecting him, and would be about. I said that he had asked me to keep an eye out for his visitor, and that he wanted me to take him to his vestry on arrival. On the way into the church he was to say that he had come to look at the large wooden screen that is inside Bugbrooke church. The Rev Harrison seemed so excited on meeting this man, for when they shook hands it seemed as though they were never going to let go of one another. I had no idea as to how famous he was, for he had departed after being showed around the inside and outside of the church, and while doing so he wrote lots of notes down in his note book, the Rev Charles Harrison told me that he was the Poet Laureate.

But before he left, he was to come back to the grave with me, while I worked away he was to sit and ask all about myself and the type of work that I did for a living, also asking about my family, and how long we had lived in Bugbrooke.

From what I can gather at the time he was writing a book about churches called, 'Chasing Spires', looking back it was quite an honour to have met the said man.

*Stanley Joseph Clark*

## **Bugbrooke WI**

Hello Everyone. As I am writing this at the beginning of January, we are about to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the first meeting of Bugbrooke WI. We will be having a buffet, wine and a specially made cake. As part of the social evening there will be "Table Talk"





topical discussions on some challenging issues of the day. We are hoping for a good turnout to mark this very special occasion.

Looking forward to 4th February we will be welcoming a talented and well known artist from Rugby, Sarais Crawshaw. She will be demonstrating and giving a talk on her life as a wildlife artist. I hope that members of Bugbrooke Art Group will also be joining us. We have a varied programme planned for 2013 and hope to see some new faces at our meetings. You will be made very welcome.

*Carole Bowling Tel 832421*

## **Bugbrooke Village Hall Playgroup**

The festive period at Playgroup is always a busy but very enjoyable one with the pre-school children taking part in their Christmas production and the younger children performing in a carol service. Both events were lovely to watch with the children dressing up as stars, angels, kings, camels and pigs, acting and singing beautifully.

In the run up to Christmas the children were very creative making crackers, party hats, calendars, and reindeer food pots along with all the normal day to day activities. They enjoyed a Christmas party on the last day of term with a visit from Father Christmas and all the children received a present, played party games and ate some lovely party food. Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped out at these events and also accompanied the children on the trip to the church for the **children's Christmas service that was very kindly organised by Sue Pace and Gillian Stone.**

One afternoon before Christmas the children were invited to Campion School for a Christmas party that was organised by Katharine Burrows with the involvement of their Childcare group. Children and staff had a lovely festive afternoon with great entertainment and would like to thank all those involved.

The Christmas fundraising events have raised around £450, the majority coming from the Tea with Santa event and Christmas raffle. We would like to give a huge thank you to all those who donated prizes and to all families and friends who supported these events. Victoria has a wish list of play equipment, dressing up clothes and activities that she would like this money to go towards and it will all be put to good use to benefit the children.

We are now preparing for our Spring Term activities which involve our annual Forest School experience at Everdon Forest and many Easter activities.

Playgroup relies on fundraising activities so please look out for details of up and coming events. Please remember to recycle all your unwanted clothing, fabrics and **shoes in the Ragbag box at Playgroup. If we're not open at a convenient time for you then please leave your recycling inside the gate.**

If you would like any information on the above or about registering your child at Playgroup please contact Julie Tompkins on 07563 574155 or at [bugbrookeplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bugbrookeplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk).

*Julie Tompkins*



Decorating Christmas Cards



Playing with Flour

## Bugbrooke Village Hall Playgroup



Shaving Foam Play

Role Play in the Manger on the Decking





Allen Dale managed to get a photograph of this redpoll feeding on the food in his garden. Look out for more unusual birds this time of year.

Judith Piper out delivering the vouchers as part of the OAPs gift scheme.



This toppled tree caused Church Lane to be close on the 21st January. Picture from Kaye Adams.

## Nature Notes

Ash die-back and why it matters

During the last three months, there has been a lot of coverage in the media concerning ash die-back. It sounds as though we are in the middle of an epidemic that is spreading like wildfire and our countryside is going to be devastated almost immediately. While not wishing to encourage complacency, we must remember that ash die-back has been found mainly because we have only just started to look for it, and in the majority of cases, it has occurred in saplings not in established trees. The disease has been present on the continent for a good many years, and yet ash saplings have been imported without control and have been planted throughout the country. Controls were not introduced until November 2012 and that was a full month after we were being warned of the danger. The fungus is carried on the leaves and, without these imports, the natural spread would have been by wind at a rate of 20-30km a year, perhaps giving some valuable time to find a way to protect our existing trees.

The often repeated evidence comes from Denmark where ash die-back has affected 90% of their ash forest, but not all countries have been affected so badly, 60% being more normal. It is hoped that some of our trees will have a natural resistance to the disease and it is estimated that between 2% and 20% will have this resistance, and from these, cuttings could be taken to re-establish the species. Established trees will be affected only slowly, and it is evident by black leaves on the trees that hang there even after leaf fall in autumn. DEFRA recommends that such established trees need not be felled so long as they are not unsafe.

Bugbrooke has quite a significant number of ash trees. You can recognise them in the winter by their black buds and the familiar ash keys. If you are unsure what an ash tree looks like, there is one on Millennium Green with a plaque to help identify it. The place where they would be missed most is along the canal between The Old Crown and bridge 41 on the road out of the village to Gayton. It is by far the most dominant species along this stretch making up about 90% of the trees. Around half of the trees along Smiths Lane are also ash. When walking along there towards Charity meadow recently, we saw mixed flocks of greenfinches and chaffinches, numbering in hundreds, on ash trees feasting on the ash keys. Bullfinches love ash keys and when there are few to be found on the trees, they will often come into gardens to eat fruit buds instead. Although it would be nice to see bullfinches more often, we may not be so keen to sacrifice our fruit crop to them.

Native trees such as ash, oak, horse chestnut and others are particularly important to sustain our local ecosystem. They support a great number of native insects that provide food for birds as well as producing food in the form of seeds, and many of our most familiar garden birds rely upon them for nesting sites.

Often when the loss of trees is being discussed, farmers are still being blamed for the loss of hedgerows during the 60s and 70s. This might be true, but the recent wholesale removal of mature trees alongside the railway lines, hardly caused a blink of the eye. Some trees have been planted in Bugbrooke in recent years by local landowners and this must be welcomed. As nature abhors a vacuum, if we lose our

ash trees, other trees will set seed and fill the gap, but the diversity in our local countryside will suffer, and we cannot know what the impact will be.

Recent sightings. In my last article I said that redpolls have started visiting garden feeders and Allen Dale from Petstop has managed to photograph some that visited his garden.

We have seen both male and female blackcaps on our feeders recently.

Bugbrooke Birdwatch is the last weekend in January. Don't forget to return your tally form to 1 Browns Yard by 9th February.

*Margaret Cooke 832125*

## **The Alternative Book Club**

We are looking at setting up a book club, that will meet once a month, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Bugbrooke, between 7.30pm–9.30pm, and with tea/coffee and biscuits, we will discuss various books such as building self-confidence, looking at the world outside the box, lifestyle change books, healthy lifestyle books, complementary health books etc. If you would be interested in coming along, and if you also have a suggestion of books that the group may be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact me, via email [healinghands@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:healinghands@mypostoffice.co.uk) or call (after 6pm) 01604 830293.

*Julie King*

## **Bugbrooke Cricket Club**

Preparations are already well under way for the upcoming season with senior and junior winter nets in full swing.

Senior Nets are once again being held at the excellent indoor facilities at **Northamptonshire County Cricket Club's County Ground, Wednesday Evenings** between 8–9pm, running until March 27th.

Meanwhile Junior indoor net practise will take place in the sports hall at Campion School, on Thursday evenings, 6–7pm until March 28th (excluding half-term week).

We are always looking for new players, and anybody interested in joining the club, at either senior or junior level can just come along to a net session, or call Cricket Secretary Ciaran Thomas 07906935420.

Once again we will be running two senior teams in the Hevey Building Supplies Northamptonshire Cricket League, with two teams retaining their respective league positions last season. The first team, led by new captain Sam Bird, will play in Division Seven, while the seconds, will be led once again by Chris Lamb.

The club will be running three junior teams again, at under 11, 13 and 15 age groups, while for older youngsters a midweek team will combine the best of the junior talent with some experienced faces thrown in.

The League fixtures for the 2013 season are already available on the club website ([bugbrooke.play-cricket.com](http://bugbrooke.play-cricket.com)) while friendly and junior fixtures will be released in due course.

Work on the new brick skin for the pavilion is progressing, and hopefully by the time you read this, the footings for the foundations will have started to be built. The club is looking to raise as much money as possible in order to carry out the vital improvement works on the ageing pavilion, and if you know anyone who might be able to help, get in touch with chairman John Mundy on 01604 830725.

*Ciaran Thomas*

## **Bugbrooke St Michael's F.C.**

With the very wet December little change has taken place to the fortunes of all teams **at the club. They did start playing again on January 5th and the 'A's enhanced their** chances of winning the Northants F.A. Area Cup by beating Titchmarsh F.C. 13 – 2 to get into the last eight. The long break due to the weather means lots of matches will have to be played at the end of the season. It is fortunate the club has floodlights so that evening matches can be played.

Arrangements are currently taking place in preparation for the youth exchange visit to Vöhl in Germany from 24th – 31st May. Funds are being raised at a Barn Dance on Saturday 23rd February. Tickets are £10 (including fish and chips) and are available from Willie Marriott (831606). On Friday March 1st there will be a Race Night at the clubhouse and on Friday 19th April there will be a Prize Bingo and Play Your Cards Right evening at the clubhouse.

On Monday May 6th there will be a Duck Race at the brook at £1 per duck. At the end of April there will also be a 6-a-side competition between Coaches and Dads of our youth players.

*John Curtis*

## **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. For more details of membership fees and how to join, see our website [www.heyfordtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.heyfordtennisclub.co.uk), or contact Jane Wood on 07901775639 or [woodmanyana@aol.com](mailto:woodmanyana@aol.com).

Tennis coaching

Members and non-members are welcome to join our coaching programme for adults and older teenagers running for eight weeks starting 30 January. Coaching sessions are every Wednesday 7–8 and cater for abilities from beginner to intermediate and more advanced levels. Cost for the course is £48.00 for members, £56.00 for non **members (pro rata if you join part way through). If you haven't tried it before, come** along and try out a session for free.

Coaching for younger age groups will be offered later in the year – please get in touch if your child would be interested.

*Jane Wood*

# 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  
6:00pm **1st Sunday in the month 'Sunday@Six'**  
a service of Praise and Worship.



## 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  
7:00pm Holy Communion in the Lady Chapel

## Regular Events

Mondays at 8pm Bell Ringers

2nd and 4th Mondays 7:30pm Bible Study at 15 Lime Grove

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

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

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

Fellowship and Bible Study at 41 Pilgrims Lane.

Easter 2013:-

At the time of going to press our Easter 2013 services and events are still being worked out and arranged.

So watch your postbox for all the details.

Home Communion by prior arrangement.

Enquiries about Baptism ring 830373 Enquires about marriage ring 831621

For all other enquirers please ring either of the above numbers

If no one answers please leave a message and we will return your call.

## Diary

February

|      |        |   |          |
|------|--------|---|----------|
| 4th  | 7.30pm | WI – Life as wildlife artist                    | SS       |
| 9th  |        | Return Birdwatch forms                          | 1 Browns |
| 11th | 7.30pm | P.C.C. meeting                                  | CC       |
| 13th | 7.30pm | History Group – War of the Roses in Northampton | CC       |
| 23rd | 7.30pm | Football Club Barn Dance                        | FC       |
| 23rd | 12noon | Friends of Campion – Car boot Sale              | Campion  |
| 25th | 7.45pm | Flower Club A Vision of the Future              | NHVVH    |

March

|      |        |                            |       |
|------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| 1st  |        | Race Night                 | FC    |
| 11th | 7,30pm | PCC meeting                | CC    |
| 25th | 7.45pm | Flower Club – Mad as March | NHVVH |



Drop in and hear about:

- Benefits Advice changes in 2013 inc. Rent Restrictions, Benefit Cap, Personal Independent Payments (PIP), Universal Credit
- Reduce your household bills water, gas and electricity
- Debt Counselling specialist advice and help
- Job-seeking advice & support
- Volunteering opportunities

Wednesday 13th March, Bugbrooke Sports & Community Centre, Camp Close  
3pm–6.30pm