

Bugbrooke



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Year 6 children went on their residential trip to Norfolk and learned about the coastal environment as well as developing their confidence, independence and team building skills.

Bugbrooke School Pictures (Article on page 13)

Some of our newest children who have joined us in Reception.



The Bugbrooke “LINK” Committee

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The views expressed in these articles are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the LINK Management Committee.

Bugbrooke LINK Magazine

(Issue 177), December 2012

Chairman: Paul Cockcroft



Welcome to the final issue of 2012 and in this leading article I thought it would be interesting to look back twenty years to the **editorial by John Sexton in issue No. 57 for December 1992 titled "A Year to Forget"**. Clearly 2012 is a year to remember for the right reasons but some of the similarities are remarkable.

"It hardly seems a year since I wrote my last Yuletide editorial. But it is, and what a nondescript year it has been! The general recessionary situation is no climate for joie de vivre – perhaps a long hot spell during the summer would have helped. But No! We had record rainfalls, high winds and floods and were shown dramatic pictures from some areas of people in homes under six or more feet of water ... and being told authoritatively that a drought still existed!

In the changing face of the Village we see large executive houses being built in Badgers Close (the former Merrifields Farm) when Bugbrooke's need is primarily for starter homes and old peoples' accommodation. One villager compared the view from High Street of these tightly packed houses to one of Lowery's famous paintings of derelict factories!

But this is Christmas time and it is always possible to find people less fortunate than ourselves. Let us all help to make the Festive Season truly a season of Peace and Goodwill. LINK wishes all its readers and advertisers a very Happy Christmas and the hope that 1993 will trigger off an improvement in prosperity and freedom from worry and want not only in Britain but in the World as a whole."

We have just passed remembrance Sunday, which means a lot to many people in the village for different personal reasons. The church service at St Michael and All Angels, was packed out as usual for these occasions with all of the Scouting and Guide organisations present. This service was taken by Ron Bridges, who as part of his talk, appropriately used a scouts honour coin left to him by his father. This coin from the 1930's, states on one side 'On my honour I will do my best' and on the other 'secretly transfer me to your right pocket each day after a good turn has been done'. What wonderful philosophies these messages send for everyone, and just as appropriate today as when the coin was given.

There's not much to add to that other than to say I am delighted with the front cover picture for this Christmas issue and to convey best wishes to all of you from us at LINK.

Our website can be found at www.bugbrookelink.co.uk, containing an impressively wide range of items and links to other organisations and websites, including issues of LINK back to 1993 as well as current and historical information

Front Page: Many thanks to Jim Inch for this the latest excellent Christmas cover painting that he has done for LINK.

that is not contained within the printed magazine.

The deadline for articles and advert changes for the next issue is Monday 7 January 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.

Bugbrooke Parish Council

It is a pleasure to report that the Parish Council and the Peterborough Diocesan Board have agreed a price for the Glebe Field next to the Church. The purchase will include the church car park. The Glebe Field will become part of an extended Millennium Green and, in exchange, part of the current Green will be given over as an extension to the churchyard. This should provide space for about 200 extra graves. During the time these spaces are used up it might be useful to further explore the possibility of re-using some of the churchyard that has been unused for a considerable amount of time. Alternatively we will need to seek other areas in near proximity to the church.

The Parish Council will now go ahead to achieve necessary planning permissions, and it is understood the Charity Commission will have no objections to an exchange of part of the Millennium Green as long as there is a like for like land exchange.

The landowners of Firs Field (The Wharf), who applied for 70 houses, have now withdrawn their application since the village has been allocated the 111 houses it was **asked to accommodate as part of the South Northants Council's Interim Rural Housing Policy**. It is likely the Parish Council will resist further expansion until such time as SNC formulates a proper plan for the future. Nevertheless the Parish Council have deliberated about any future expansion and have decided they wish to see no further expansion to the east of the village (Johns Road/Pilgrims Lane). They would prefer to see any future houses sited close to the centre of the village and within walking distance of local facilities. With this in mind they have suggested to SNC that consideration (if required) be given to the Camp Farm area and the rear of the Five Bells. These are close to the original village centre and would ensure that development takes place from the centre outwards instead of the other way round.

The Parochial Church Council is considering the establishment of a Bugbrooke Community Café in the Sunday School Rooms. The Parish Council will be backing their request for a grant to update kitchen equipment to service the new facility. Councillor Kate Meech is also looking at ways of providing more play equipment for older youngsters in the village and would appreciate support from teenagers and parents. This may, of course, entail some help in preparing sites at some stage in the future.

Mr David Dungeat has agreed to take on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator following the resignation of Mrs Rose Berkshire. We wish him the best of luck and hope everyone will support him.

There is a vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council. Anyone interested in serving the community in this way please notify the Parish Clerk, Sally Bramley-Brown Tel 01604 832838 Mobile 07531 556947 e-mail bugbrookepc@btconnect.com

John Curtis (chairman)

Preparing for Christmas

Although I'm writing these few thoughts at the beginning of November, by the time you read these words it will have all begun once again, the phrenetic preparations for Christmas! The making or purchasing of cakes and puddings; the choosing of the meat; the aching hands and feet from endless hours trawling around the shops in the anxious search for presents or the nerve tingling wait for that important delivery from Amazon etc. etc.

However, is this how it should be?

A Prayer to Prepare for Christmas

Father, we call a halt. Here, and now, and at this moment we think of that first Christmas when history paused and turned upon its hinges as your Son become a human. Born into a working class family, born to parents struggling to make ends meet, born to experience everything we experience and born to bear our sins.

Help each one of us to prepare for Christmas by finding time for quiet, time to drink in the wonder and beauty of your Son's birth, time to offer again our hearts and each part of our life to him.

May the days of our lives and pages of our diary turn upon this silent hinge. May our work, our leisure and lives be rooted and grounded in peace.

Jesus said:- 'My peace I give to you, but not the sort the world gives'

Father, we understand only too well the kind of peace which mankind manufactures: the peace of political and other settlements. Give to more and more of us all over the world the peace we do not understand, the peace which passes understanding, the peace which flows from unconditional obedience to the law of love, give us your kind of peace. And we pray for those in positions of power, authority and influence, that they may open their hearts and give their will to you, that you may work through them.

Jesus said:- 'When you give food or drink to someone who has none, you're giving it to me'

Save us. Father, from becoming hardened to the numerous pleas for help we see on our screens or read in our newspapers each day. Open our eyes and pockets to the needs of our world. Restructure and change around our hearts so it may not be a burden to give but a joy.

Jesus said:- 'Man cannot live by bread alone'

Dear Lord, the giver of all, guide our giving so that we may support all those who spend their lives, at home and all over the world not only feeding physical needs but also feeding spiritual needs with the good news of Christmas.

Father, with all our hearts we thank you for all that you have given us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To your Name, Lord Jesus, help me to
bow the knee and all its worshipping;
bow the head and all its thinking;
bow the will and all its choosing;



bow the heart and all its loving,
today, tomorrow, and all the days of my life. Amen.

May the God who came to us in Christ give you a Christmas to remember, as you let him give you his love, shown in the pouring out of his blood on the cross.

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

Bugbrooke OAPs Christmas Gift Scheme

During the first week of December, we hope to deliver the vouchers to all the pensioners that applied to The Gift Scheme. This year there are some additions to the shops and pubs where they can be spent. We now have beauty salons as well as two hairdressers, where the ladies can indulge in a little pampering! The vouchers can be used until the 31st January 2013. We will be taking gifts to those former Bugbrooke residents who are now in care homes.

Each year we have around 200 applications and we have managed to keep the amount to £9.00. This is only made possible by our fund raising events and local businesses and organisations generous donations.

We do hope you all have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Judith Piper (Chairman)

News from Bugbrooke School

The long summer holiday allows schools to carry out improvements and repairs whilst the building is empty of children and one of the key areas this summer was the refurbishment of front of the school; the windows, fascias and gutters on the Victorian block were repaired and painted, as was the wall to the front of the school. It is lovely to see the school now looking as smart as the children!

The first term has been busy too: in September, we welcomed back our existing children and 42 new children who joined us in Reception – *the highest number for many years*. We had a very successful Open Day at the end of October and 130 visitors came into school to see us at work and play; most of these were existing parents and grandparents but some were potential new parents looking around the school. The registration period for 2013 school places is now open and new parents can do this on-line or by coming into the school.

As a school we are always working hard to improve outcomes for our children and in



More of this year's new intake at Bugbrooke School

addition to the ongoing focus on raising standards of achievement, we also work hard to develop their personal, social and emotional skills. **The school's involvement in the community is a key part of this and we want to help our children respect and value theirs.** Therefore we welcome any individuals or groups from the village who feel they could come into school and spend time working with the children – the opportunities for this are literally limitless: art, design, woodwork, gardening, music, environment, reading..... **We would love for you to join us and share your experience, expertise or just enthusiasm with the children!** Please get in touch with us on 01604 830610 if you feel you can become involved in your local school.



Year 5 children learn all about the environment and the importance of recycling



In September, Miss Picchianti officially joined the school following the retirement of Mrs Eddison. Miss Picchianti taught at Sunnyside School for the past few years but we were pleased to have enticed her away to come and teach our Year 2 class! Of course, Mrs Eddison will be fondly remembered by parents and children, following 19 years loyal and valued service to the school! We were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Eddison and wish her a very happy retirement; however, we

are also delighted to have retained her services on the school's Governing Body!

Debbie Bastin – Headteacher

Recycling Festive Foil and Aerosols Can Make a Difference

Mince pies, turkey, sausages wrapped in bacon, squirry cream, and 'snow' spray are all ingredients for a great Christmas. Households in South Northamptonshire are being reminded to add recycling to their Christmas traditions, especially when it comes to metal packaging. **It's ever so easy to do because South Northamptonshire Council's recycling service includes empty cans, aerosols and clean foil trays.**

As a nation we use over 16,000 tonnes of foil containers and 30,000 tonnes of aerosols every year. Over the Christmas period the amount of rubbish we produce rises by about 30 per cent – an estimated 175 million mince pie cases alone.

In just a few weeks, your recycled aerosols and food trays could be reprocessed and back on the shelf as more food packaging, or even part of a new car, window frame or washing machine! So by recycling aerosols and foil food trays in your black recycling box we can all have a greener Christmas.

Why recycle them?

Aerosols and foil are a useful source of aluminium and steel. Once placed in your **recycling box, they become part of the recycling 'loop', and can be endlessly recycled.** To help maintain this remember to recycle your aerosols and foil, not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

Councillor Dermot Bambridge, portfolio holder for Environmental Services, said: **"South Northamptonshire Council is a shining example of how metal recycling can be easy and effective, and we know that helping local residents to recycle cans and aerosols alongside their plastic packaging will save valuable energy and resources this Christmas. Household recycling rates have been rising steadily for years now, but there is still potential to do more when it comes to metal packaging."**

How the recycling process works

Once collected from the kerbside, your cans, aerosols and foil are taken to a local depot for bulking into larger loads before being transported to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Here, the aluminium and steel are separated from each other, using a powerful magnet, and baled, ready for reprocessing. They are then shredded and any printed decoration is removed. The shreds are then melted in a furnace, and cast into ingots, which can be rolled into thin aluminium sheets used to make more drink cans. Aluminium foil containers, meanwhile, are made from a slightly different material from that used in aerosol cans, so they are usually reprocessed separately. This material is often reused in the automotive industry, where its lightweight properties make it ideal for parts such as engine cylinder heads.

Bugbrooke WI

On Thursday October 30th, several of our ladies went to Spinney Hill theatre to the annual council meeting where we were treated to a talk by Doctor Nick Barratt, **family historian from the BBC series "Who Do You Think You Are"**. All in all it was an evening of awards and presentations, with Blisworth WI taking first place with their entry for the Challenge Trophy 2012. In 2nd place was Hunsbury Hill and 3rd place Hargrave. There were eighteen entries in total, and all were produced to a very high standard.

One of the biggest and most popular events this year was the organised evening with guest speaker Adam Henson. This helped to boost WI funds from 27% last year to 29% this year. It was also noted that there is a big revival in the interest in crafts, home baking and food growing all of which seem to be in fashion, especially the crafts. The evening finale was the choir, the Hunsbury Harmonettes, this really was Northampton WI inspiring women.

Ruth Bond NFWI Chair, talked about "having a go" with the latest photographic competition about what a midwife means to you, not just from a mother's point of

view but from a grandparent's viewpoint. As for other campaigns, the National Archives was a topic in which the government have been very impressed with how well the WI have been able to preserve and document important historical community events, especially with a year like 2012, plenty of important events all to be treasured.

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in the Sunday School rooms at 7.30pm, all are welcome.

Kim Baughan

The Wednesday Club

Hello everyone. While writing this on the afternoon of November 1st, the sun is shining after last night's heavy rain, which we have had for most of our so called summer. Say no more.

Sept 5th, Brenda Earl chose Favell House to benefit the amount in our tiddler jar, £19.50, Brenda being the nearest one to guess the amount.

Oct 3rd. Fish and Chips today, followed up by fruit ice cream, tea and coffee. Another big 0 birthday for Edith Course and treated us to Sherry and iced cakes which we enjoyed and we wished Edith good times to come with good health.

Members are now looking forward to November 28th, a Christmas treat to Wicksteed Park, 'Rock Around the Clock' -- will report next time. Also December 12th our Christmas party.

Our 2013 dates will be out soon as to when meetings return. If interested to join, please ring Cherry on 830389 or Linda on 831219.

I wish everyone a peaceful and merry Christmas.

D.M French

Bugbrooke Village Hall Playgroup (Pictures on page 51)

This is always an exciting and busy term at Playgroup, with the Autumn activities and build up to Christmas. In October parents and children were invited to the village church for a Harvest Festival service led by Gillian Stone and Sue Pace. Gillian captured the children's attention with a clever prop, chocolate cake, and then told the story of what is needed to make our food and where it comes from. The children listened and shared stories and then joined in with singing and prayers. They were then delighted to take some cakes back to Playgroup for snack time. Many thanks to Sue and Gillian for this, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Currently Playgroup is looking a little spooky in a Halloween way as the children have been making spiders and painting pumpkins. Harry's granddad very kindly donated a large pumpkin and the children are currently emptying out the seeds and carving it up. There has also been lots of dressing up, with witches and pumpkins, painting and playing.

After half term the Christmas activities will begin in the build up to the church service, tots carol service, the nativity play and the Christmas party.

The AGM was held in October and the annual accounts were presented. The accounts were prepared by Nigel Thomas and Playgroup would like to thank him for giving his time to do this. Following the AGM Jacqui Manning and Anna Bell stepped down as Treasurer and Secretary. We would like to thank them very much for their hard work during their years on the committee. We are very pleased to **welcome new members, Kate Meech, Rachel O'Neill, Nicola Palmer and Nicky Chapman** who have taken on the roles vacated and are eager to keep Playgroup running with even greater success if possible.

The committee held a Halloween disco on 31st October which was very well attended and raised around £130 for Playgroup. This was a great afternoon and huge **thanks go to Matt O'Neill who gave his time to entertain the children with a brilliant disco.**

Playgroup relies on fundraising activities to keep providing the excellent facilities and qualified staff so please look out for details of up and coming events and support us whenever possible. We also have a recycling box at Playgroup which takes unwanted clothing, bedding, curtains, paired shoes and handbags so if you have any of these please feel free to bag them up and bring them along to Playgroup.

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.

Julie Tompkins

Friends of Campion School

This year we've started to hold car boot sales at the school again, and the third one on 8 September was particularly successful, with the car park overflowing and our committee and helpers working really hard to find space for everyone. The next sale will be on Saturday 23 February – **12 o'clock start (gates open 11 o'clock for sellers).**

I am stepping down as Chair of the Campion Friends committee at the end of December, and would just like to say thank you to everyone who has supported us during my time on the committee. My special thanks go to our loyal and extremely hard working committee – Sandra Dyson, Nic Boyd, Jan Dyczek and Alan Hackett. Nic will be taking over from me as Chair next year. New faces on the committee, or helping out at events, are always very welcome so please do get in touch with Nic at boyd757@btinternet.com **if you're interested.**

Jane Wood

Bugbrooke Skate Park Fund

Increasing number of children are on the streets or Community Centre car park, enjoying their skateboards and scooters. This is a great way for them to get out and keep fit. Play facilities for secondary school children and above have sadly lacked in Bugbrooke for some time. A few of us are setting up a skate park fund to raise money and provide facilities for our older children. We appreciate this is going to take many

years of fundraising and effort, but hope the whole community will give their support so this can move forward in a positive way.

We are currently applying for a charity number and starting our fundraising. Our first major event is planned for 9th March 2013 – a 70's and 80's party night at the Community Centre. Tickets will be available in the new year – watch out for posters around the village.

We hope this project will be a further step at improving our village facilities for all ages. If anyone has any fundraising ideas please feel free to contact us.
Jo O'Grady and Kate Meech, joogrady@live.com

Friends of St Michael and All Angels Church

The Committee of the Friends have recently agreed to provide funding for further maintenance works at the church. These are works which were identified in the 2009 quinquennial survey; but which at the time were seen as less urgent than various other things. Those more urgent repair works were completed, and paid for by the Friends, by the beginning of this year. What the Committee have now agreed to do is fund most of the remaining work that was recommended in the survey report. The only thing the Committee have not agreed to pay for at this time is the repainting of the clock face. This they felt could be left to a later date, perhaps when scaffolding is needed to the tower for some other purpose.

The total cost of all the quinquennial works (apart from repainting the clock face) will come to over £16,000. We are grateful for the generosity of the people who have supported our fundraising efforts over the years, which has made it possible for us to meet this cost. Without the help you give the prospects of keeping our beautiful church in proper repair would be much bleaker.

Jim Inch

Nature Notes

Now is the time to make sure that you have stocked-up on your bird food for the winter. Sunflower seeds are a big attraction to greenfinches, blue tits, coal tits, and great tits with other species picking up any dropped bits underneath. Chaffinches, blackbirds and robins are often seen doing the clean-up job, and sometimes you may see the occasional wood mouse there too. It seems that when there are a lot of birds at the feeders, then it attracts more birds to join in. It is probably a case of safety in numbers. Peanuts are always popular, and will attract the same birds as the sunflower seeds and others too including nuthatches, long-tailed tits, starlings, house sparrows and greater spotted woodpeckers. The long-tailed tits and starlings also like fat balls. Nijer seeds are more specific in their appeal, but if you want to see goldfinches they are essential. Redpolls also like nijer seeds, and although more unusual to see, they are becoming more regular visitors to feeding stations. Bread, pastry scraps and bacon rinds (cut up small) are also welcome to many species, but do not put them out late in the day as, if left overnight, they might encourage vermin.

This year our annual Bugbrooke Garden Birdwatch will be on 26th – 27th January. If you make sure that the birds are used to finding food in your garden now, then you are more likely to see them when you want to count them. When times are difficult for the birds, they do not want to spend energy going foraging. They need to know that your garden is a reliable source of food and you will be rewarded by them being regular visitors.

If you have berry-bearing garden trees and shrubs such as rowan, holly, hawthorn, cotoneaster and pyracantha, watch there too to see what is eating the berries during the winter. Sometimes you can see different birds to the ones that will visit the bird table or feeders such as waxwings and blackcaps. It is also worth making room in your garden for these decorative plants and then you will be making it a place that birds visit even when **you haven't put food out for them.**



Photograph of a nuthatch visiting
Brenda & Jim Inch's peanuts

In past years, people have reported seeing grey wagtails during the Birdwatch. Do not confuse them with the more commonly seen pied wagtails. The most distinctive difference is their yellow underneath with grey above. They have longer tails than pied wagtails, but the most obvious difference is the presence of yellow. Sometimes they are misidentified as yellow wagtails, but these are yellow all over and are less likely to be seen. Grey wagtails are normally found along fast flowing rivers, but in autumn and winter, they are more widespread, and their numbers are increased by migrants from the continent.

If you have a problem identifying a bird the excellent RSPB website should help. You can find it at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier/> and if you would like to take part in the Birdwatch there is a tally form included in this issue of LINK, or you can get one from Allen at Petstop, online at www.bugbrookelink.co.uk or from me. All you have to do is watch for 1 hour during the Birdwatch weekend and count how many birds of each species you see at any one time (you will probably get 3 or 4, although with some species you may get more). Do not add up how many you see in the hour as you will probably see the same birds several times. Return the results to 1 Browns Yard by 9th February. Last year we had 52 sets of results, but it would be nice to have more as the more information we can get, the better the picture of Bugbrooke bird life.

Margaret Cooke, 832125

Happiness at Home Partnership

A new National Lottery funded project will be launched this month, which hopes to help isolated elderly people to feel less lonely. The **'Happy at Home Partnership'** is being led by the Daventry Volunteer Centre after they were successfully awarded funding to run the scheme for the next five years across the Daventry and South Northants districts.

The project aims to recruit volunteers from across the two Districts to spare as little as one hour a week to help be-friend elderly residents who may be in need of company, or to inform them about what local services are on offer and how to arrange the transport to get to them, in order to make their daily lives more comfortable.

"We are hoping to find people who have a little bit of free time on their hands to come forward and help elderly neighbours who may not be as fortunate and able as themselves," said Nicola Toms, Project Officer for 'Happy at Home Partnership'. "The project aims are simple, helping people who live on our doorsteps or not far away, to improve their health & wellbeing through their contact with a volunteer. We hope this will be very effective in reducing the feelings of loneliness experienced by elderly individuals living isolated lives in our villages, by bringing them information about local services and helping them to access those services" she added.

It is hoped that the project will make sure that those rural residents most in need, whether that be due to their age, mobility, illness or personal situation, can be helped by having a regular visit from a fellow local who can visit them with help and information, and have a cup of tea and a chat to brighten their day!

Project partners include Daventry & District Housing, South Northants Homes, Northamptonshire Age UK, Care and Repair, Northamptonshire Centre for independent Living, Northamptonshire NHS Falls Service, Northamptonshire Police, Daventry and South Northants Volunteer Bureau. All of these organisations already provide valuable help to individuals across Daventry and South Northants in their own way. By coming together to support this new initiative it is envisaged that more people can be helped and more lives made a little more comfortable.

If you wish to get involved in becoming a volunteer for the project, please get in touch! Just one hour a week free is all you need! Call Nicola Toms on 01327 300614 or e-mail Nicola@daventryvolunteers.org.uk.

Tim & Esther Partridge and the Bugbrooke East Africa Trust

Did you know that Bugbrooke's interest in East Africa was started by Esther and Tim Partridge through Esther's role in Mothers' Union? In 2000 they formed a small local group to support a clinic in western Kenya. In 2006 that group became a registered charity and it still supports that clinic at Butonge in Kenya as well as doing projects in Tanzania.

This year we want to recognise the contribution of Tim and Esther both to Bugbrooke and to Africa. Our plan is to build a clinic to be called "The Esther

Partridge Ngaramtoni Clinic” and to start building a new secondary school to be called “The Tim Partridge Olmotoni Secondary School”. We hope this will provide a lasting tribute to their work in Bugbrooke and provide a long term link with Africa.

These are both large projects and we need all the help we can get, so if you would like to say thanks to Tim and Esther, this is one way you could do it. All contributions should be to the Bugbrooke East Africa Trust and given to any of the Trustees:

Dave Clayson (01604 830480)

Catherine Parry (01604 830267)

Tony & Sue Pace (01604 832516)

Deidre Daish (01604 883537)

Bugbrooke History Group

Old newspapers always provide an interesting insight into life at the time. Amenities we now take for granted were not always here. I was actually looking for Christmas celebrations when I came across the following:

Nov. 1932

Ministry of Health officials have made an inspection of the sewage disposal facilities in the village and found many ditches filled with sewage. The centre of the problem is the ditch surrounding Orchard House. A new system is required and questions have been asked in Parliament.

Jan. 1933

Bugbrooke’s sewage system was discussed by Northampton Rural Council and deemed unsatisfactory but could not be improved as the cost would be prohibitive. The Parish Council said that a new scheme was unnecessary and the problem could be solved by cleaning the drains regularly.

It is not until September 1952 (20 years later) that the following report appeared:

Completion of the sewage disposal scheme has been completed for Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford. Bugbrooke stream which has caused so much trouble in the past, is now clearing. The villagers are lucky to have mains water and drainage installed within 4 years and are now invited to make application for their houses to be connected.

And we complain about Anglia Water!

As to Christmas celebrations, even in the most depressing times it was important to mark the festival with village fun and games and music.

2nd Jan 1912

Last Monday evening the Church Choir held its Christmas Supper during which Mr and Mrs Harrison and Dr White did their utmost to make things merry. Round and guessing games were held and there was also dancing. Despite the bad weather there was a large attendance and the evening did not finish until 1 a.m.

Saturday evening saw the formation of the Bugbrooke Cricket Club.

Jan. 1936

A fine performance of The Messiah Part 1 was given by Bugbrooke Musical Society under the conductorship of Mr W.C.J. Grant.

Our November meeting will no doubt be a lively one with Derek Smeathers talking about Strange Happenings in the Mail and the next meeting of the History Group will be February 13th 2013. Our New Year Walk will take place on Sunday 30th December starting at 2 p.m. Not sure yet if we shall start from the Sunday School or the Community Centre, so please check. The walk is always followed by seasonal refreshments! Everyone is welcome!

Pat Kent (secretary) Phone 01604 830518

Blizzard of 1908 Bugbrooke

Information from my father and grandfather about a Blizzard that hit Bugbrooke in 1908.

My Father told me that he was four years of age, when a big Blizzard was to hit Northamptonshire, the weight of the snow that collected on the wires was to break down many of the newly erected Telegraph Poles that the Telegraph Company had erected in the late 1800s, for whom my grandfather Ebenezer worked at the time, for he had helped to erect most of the poles that carried the Telegraph into Bugbrooke, and to many of the surrounding villages.

From information from them both they said that the snow was to drift, and fill the natural holes, or contours of the ground within the area of Butts Hill.

During this period in time there were two sand pits situated both sides of the road at the bottom of the hill, that belonged to the Blue Coat School, the snow had drifted and filled them both in, it had drifted level from the top of the field the Mill side of the hill, across level of the ground next to the barns that stood at the top of Grants orchard, they said that you could not even see the first cutting near to the top of the hill, due to it being level from one side to the other, as the snow was about ten to twelve feet deep in this area, and even deeper in the area to where Mr Barford in later years was to have his garage built.

They said when standing next to the wall of the Manor House looking towards Butts Hill, the snow was level from the top of the bank in the Manor Field, across and up to the barns in Grants orchard as well, covering the road to a depth of ten to twelve feet of snow and getting deeper as you reached the bottom of the hill itself, it was so deep at one point near to the bottom of the hill that the snow covered the wires and the top of one of the Telegraph Posts, they thought for a start that the snow had snapped it off when they at first could not see it, yet in the field on the brow of the hill the grass was peeping through the snow.

They said that when it eventually thawed out, it was followed by most places getting flooded out near or next to the Brook and River.

Stanley Joseph Clark

Christmas Gift Ideas

Are your loved ones or friends blind or partially sighted?

Are you wondering what to buy them for Christmas?

Then why not visit one of Northamptonshire Association for the Blind's Sight Centres to see a range of different gift ideas. They display and sell a variety of specialist aids and equipment that can make the perfect birthday or Christmas gifts for someone living with sight loss.

Gifts include: Kitchen Gadgets, Talking Clocks and Watches, Reading and Writing Guides, plus other Household Aids. There are Big Button Telephones and Mobile Phones, Large Print Books, Playing Cards and NEW Large Print 2013 Diaries and Calendars.

The gifts vary in price to meet all budgets and they won't be found on the High Street.

Northampton Sight Centre located within Wardington Court, Welford Road, Kingsthorpe. Open Monday – Friday 9am – 3pm.

To either obtain a catalogue or place an order, call our Helpline 01604 71919 www.nab.org.uk

ZUMBA! Jubilee House, Bugbrooke, NN7 3RN - Wednesdays 6pm.
Community Centre, Greens Norton, NN12 8BL - Tuesdays 6pm / Thursdays 9.30am. Julie Bird - julie.bird@zen.co.uk Mobile: 07425 152740

Bugbrooke, Five Bells Luncheon Club

(for over 65s) The name to be confirmed next meeting.

I came from Moulton in January 2007 where they have a very successful Luncheon Club associated with the Church. The need here was apparent!

My friend and I lunched at The Five Bells, excellent meal (but not busy). Discussed the idea with Margaret who thought it a very good idea. Contacted Antonio and Janet at The Five Bells and came to an arrangement, but I did advise it may not come to anything. I visited the elderly I knew and asked if they were interested. Generally there was a positive reaction. I asked them to talk to their friends and gave them the information leaflet. The answering phone calls were rewarding; 29 names collected, 28 people attended a very good meal, very well cooked and excellent company and service from Janet, Antonio and Andrew. Many thanks to you all. Nick King of TAD (Towcester Door to Door) arranged transport for 4 people from Bugbrooke by minibus.

2nd meeting was on 7th November 2012. Cottage Pie or Lasagne on the menu. I had 44 names on the list and 7 needed transport. Two members of the group have offered transport. 3rd Meeting is on 5th December, and every following 4 weeks thereafter.

If you wish to come and are of age, please telephone Marjory on 01604 833450 on

Monday before the event at the latest, earlier the better, as we can only take 50 attending.

Thank you for your support.

Marjory

Neighbourhood Watch

Firstly, I should introduce myself as the new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Bugbrooke. My name is David Dungate and I live at 33 Tibbs Way, Bugbrooke. About a year ago, I agreed to become the NHW street warden for Tibbs Way, but following a number of issues and the understanding that Bugbrooke would lose its NHW status if, following the retirement of Rosemary Berkshire, another village coordinator could not be found, I volunteered to take on the role.

I shall, however, need the support of the people of Bugbrooke. Firstly, to come forward as wardens for their street, or part of their street, to help promote the idea of assisting one another, and secondly I will need the people to keep me advised of the sort of information and help the village is looking to receive.

It is my intention, with the help of Jen Harrison, our PCSO, and the South Northants Towcester Police Safer Community Team to keep you up to date with any problems which may affect you, and some statistics to keep you abreast of crime levels in the area. I also intend, in the near future, to add a Neighbourhood Watch section to the Parish Website, with helpful tips on improving your security, and how **to deal with those 'cold callers' who wish to take advantage of people's innate belief in honesty.**

At this time of year, with the nights drawing in, we spend more time indoors with our curtains closed often not seeing our neighbours for many days, therefore, we **all need to think about the security of our own and our neighbour's property. Let us** make our village an unwelcome place for thieves by being vigilant and taking notice of strangers. As fewer people are about, coupled with the cover of darkness, it can give the thief a feeling that they are safe to commit crime in our village. Therefore it is vital that we be even more vigilant, particularly you dog walkers, who trudge the **streets, and can, therefore, be our "eyes and ears".**

Car crime has risen across the county and although still relatively low, it is an unsurprising and worrying trend. **DO** lock your car, **DO** remove valuables and do not fall into the complacency trap.

Also, remember, that by the time most people get home from work the house **will be in darkness; there may as well be a sign saying "I am unoccupied break into me if you wish".** **DO** leave a radio on, **DO** leave a light on. These simple things **DO** work and will help to extinguish that sign.

Remember Neighbourhood Watch relies on us all looking after one another, and in these austere times, when police budgets are being cut, this is of growing **importance. So let's see if Bugbrooke can meet the standards achieved by other** villages of creating a great team and a good spirit of cooperation so please contact me

if you can help in any way. My details are given above.

Lastly, but by no means least, I believe we should all thank Rosemary Berkshire, (who has already volunteered to be the Street Warden for Moores Close), for all the great work she has done for NHW in Bugbrooke, and I hope I can match her efforts and rely on the support she received.

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

Bugbrooke Rugby Union Football Club

Fancy Playing Rugby?

Bugbrooke RUFC is a fun and vibrant village club with over 200 children participating on a weekly basis, but we still have room for more players!

Mixed age groups from Under 6s to Under 12s, boys from Under 13s to Under 17s.

Training and games on Sundays, older age groups may train mid-week.

Fancy giving it a go?

Check www.brufc.org and come along to a training session for your age group or come and watch a game.

Gareth Meech

Bugbrooke Cricket Club

The 2012 season was brought to a close with another excellent presentation evening held at The Wharf.

There was a new name on the first team Batsman of The Year trophy with Chris Rea coming out on top, while club stalwart Ian Street picked up the Bowler of The Year award for the third time in the last four years. A full list of award winners is on our website bugbrooke.play-cricket.com.

Thoughts now turn to the New Year, and indoor nets will be around before we know it! Once again the senior nets will be held at the County Ground in Northampton, while junior sessions will take place at Champion School. Details are still to be finalised, but will be posted on the website as soon as they are available and will be in the next edition of the LINK.

The recent AGM confirmed that the first team will have a new captain for 2013, with Sam Bird taking on the role, while Chris Lamb will continue to run the second team and the Sunday side.

Whether you're 11 or 91, if you're interested in joining the club, please don't hesitate to get in touch with chairman John Mundy on 01604 830725, or feel free to come along to a net session.

Off the pitch work continues to raise the finance for vital pavilion improvements, the first of which will see a brick skin built and pitched roof put on the existing building. Meanwhile the current structure has been boarded up for the winter, in an attempt to prevent the mindless vandalism previously suffered.

Ciaran Thomas

Bugbrooke St. Michael's Football Club

The three main adult sides have all made excellent starts to the season and are either top or in second place in their leagues. They are all still in contention in the County Cups i.e. **Junior, Lower Junior and Area competitions.** The 'B' side is in mid-table and looking for some managerial direction from the sidelines to improve their performance.

All the youth sides are coping well and gaining excellent experience. Over 150 boys are involved in teams from seven to sixteen years. Alongside the local Rugby Club the provision of sporting and healthy competition among young people in Bugbrooke must rate among the best in the county.

The Football Club once again provided an excellent fireworks display for the local community which also included provision for food and drinks. It is unfortunate that someone chose to mar the occasion by ensuring power was lost just after the firework display started. It did not affect the display but could have caused some danger to spectators when background lights went off. If anyone has any information about who disconnected fuses the police and football club would be pleased to be kept informed. It is agreed that someone with a good knowledge of electricity was likely to be involved, otherwise they could have caused themselves considerable damage owing to the high voltage of the system.

John Curtis

100 Years Ago — Bugbrooke Leading the IT Revolution

“On May 3rd 1912 a London daily paper *The Chronicle*, published an article **applauding the forward looking philosophy of Bugbrooke's school curriculum.** Articles appeared in other national newspapers including Daily Sketch, Daily Mirror and Daily Graphic and in professional journals, School Guardian, School Mistress and **The Child** as well as many local papers.” Frank Wright the headmaster of the school at the time, was introducing his pupils to the new technology of the wireless.

They had been experimenting for months and eventually they heard the time signals given out by the **Eiffel Tower.** Shortly afterwards “on the night of Sunday 14th April 1912, the Titanic sank on her maiden voyage. Frank Wright picked up the news on the wireless and is said to have been so shocked by it that he ran down the main street of the village shouting it out to everyone. Bugbrooke was most probably the first village in Britain to know about the disaster. He mentions it in the school Log **Book on April 19th 1912.”**

Extracted from 'A Head of His Time', the life and times of Frank Wright, a village schoolmaster by Pat Kent.



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.

Alternate 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.

Christmas and New Year :-

Sunday 2nd December 4pm Christingle Service—6pm Christmas Sunday@Six

Tuesday 4th December 7:30pm Towcester Choral Society Christmas Concert

£8 adults and £4 concessions. Advance ticket telephone 07920422381

Thursday 6th December 7pm Tree of Light

Sunday 16th December 6pm 'Can You Believe It' A Musical treat for all the family

Sunday 23rd December 7pm Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve 2pm Crib Service—5:30pm Carols on the Green—

10pm Christmas Eve Communion

Christmas Day 8am B.C.P. Communion at Rothersthorpe—

9:45am Christmas Communion for all.

Sunday 30th December 8am B.C.P. Communion—

10:30am United Communion Service at St Peter and Paul Rothersthorpe

Tuesday New Years Day 10:30am New Year Communion at St. Luke's Kislingbury

Home Communions by prior arrangement.

Enquiries about Baptism ring 830373 Enquiries 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.

Spires and Squires

Bugbrooke is included in my new book which was released in November. 'Spires and Squires' is a journey through our lovely county with information concerning its history, development and changes made over the centuries, together with the history of our 'Squires' and their grand houses and items of especial interest - all illustrated by the author with original pen and ink sketches.

An ideal book for the library of all who love our county. The book which numbers almost 500 pages is case bound in rich burgundy embossed with gold and has a full colour dust jacket. It retails at £25 and a donation of £3 per book sold will be sent to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance who receive no government funding.

Derek Blunt

New Beginner Line Dancing Class—Anyone can do it – suitable for men, women, and all ages. Variety of music. Get fit, have fun. Qualified, experienced instructor.

Starts Thursday 17 January 2013, 10.00–11.30 am, Bugbrooke Community Centre, £4.00 per class. For more information contact Suzanne – 01327 830279, or just turn up.

Diary

December

5th	12 noon	Over 65s Luncheon Club	5 Bells
6th	7pm	Tree of Light Service	Church
12th		Wednesday Club Christmas Party	SS
29th	2pm	History Group Walk	SS

January

2nd	12 noon	Over 65s Luncheon Club	5 Bells
30th	12 noon	Over 65s Luncheon Club	5 Bells

Question 1 -Jenny works in a greengrocers. She only weighed 6lb when she was born but now aged 18 she is 5'10" tall and her measurements are 38-24-36. What does she weigh?

Question 2—What form of transport has eight wheels but carries only one passenger?

*Answer 1 -Fruit and veg
Answer 2 -A pair of roller skates*

Bugbrooke Village Hall
Playgroup (Article page 19)

One of Playgroup's witches
busy with the black sparkly
playdough.



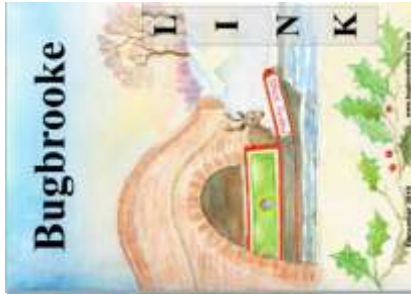
The children listening
to Gillian at church



Pumpkin carving



Bugbrooke Art Group have been doing our Christmas covers for 6 years now, and to remind you of their excellent efforts, here is a display of the previous 5 years offerings.



Bugbrooke LINK wishes you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year