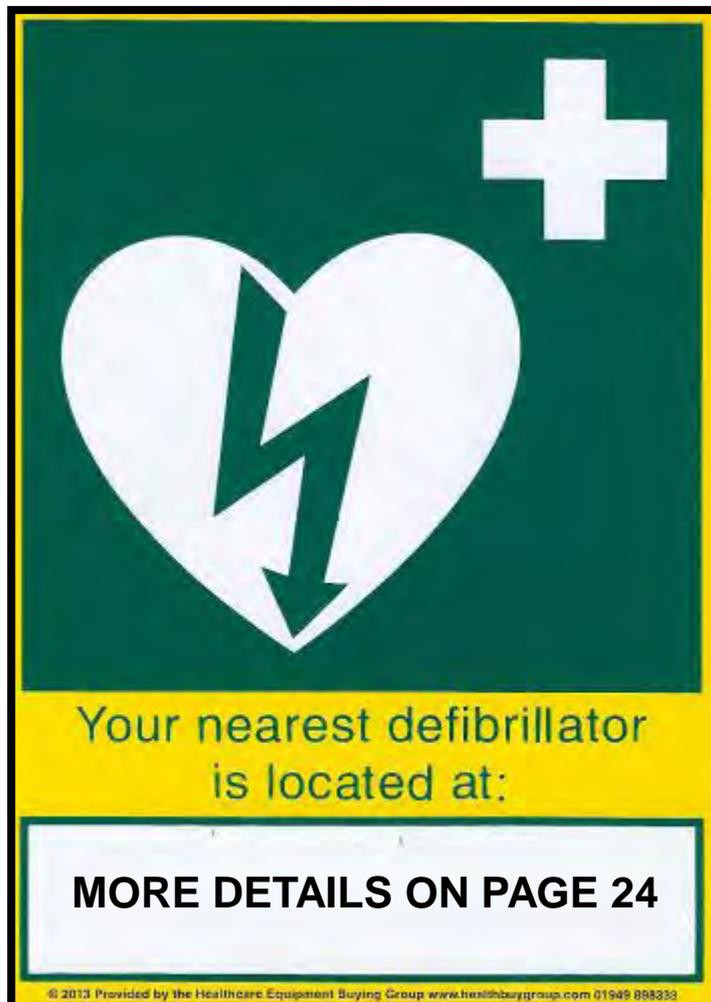


TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 51
May/June 2015

The village magazine of Tempsford, Bedfordshire www.tempsford.org



Your nearest defibrillator
is located at:

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 24

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Liz Infield steps down from her position as a Tempsford Parish Councillor on May 7th 2015 . Liz has been a councillor for the last 12 years and we thank her for all the work she has done for the Council and her support for the village in all aspects of its life over these years. We wish her well in her future married life.

The remaining 6 councillors have all been nominated to serve again on our Parish Council, and 2 others have also offered to stand for the position. Thus 8 people have been nominated for the 7 positions on Tempsford Parish Council and an election will be held on Thursday May 7th. You will be able to vote at the same time and in the same place as you can for the Parliamentary Election.

The candidates for Tempsford Parish Council are (in alphabetical order):

Adrian Besant
Chris Bettles
Elizabeth Bull
Dan Clark
Steve Cooney
Jim Donnelly
Simon Fraser
Richard Infield

*Linda Collins
Clerk to Tempsford Parish Council*

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AND

FRIDAY 29TH/SATURDAY 30TH MAY

9AM - 6PM

AND A NOTE FROM JODIE

We were very pleased with the support from the village at our opening weekend. We felt it was a very promising start to what we are trying to offer.



We will be doing the pop-up shop every three weeks at the moment and we hope, if achievable, it can progress to weekly.

The next pop-up shop will include our Homebred Hereford Beef and our Traditional Pork. We will also have some of our Millside Suffolk Lamb to offer in the future.

TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,

Station Road, Tempsford

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

Minister: Rev Barbara Garwood 01480 470378

Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,

81 Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 641175

CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, 22nd April the Chapel Anniversary Service was led by Rev. Tricia Williams and it was a pleasure to welcome old and new friends who came along to help us make the 211th year a very special occasion in the history of the Chapel once again.

CHAT CLUB

At the March get-together members enjoyed delicious hot cross buns with their afternoon tea, and had their annual Spring Lunch in April. Chat Club meet again in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom on Wednesday, 27th May and Wednesday, 24th June from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.

'MEET & EAT' LUNCHES

To help with catering and seating arrangements places **MUST** be booked by **MID-DAY** on the **Monday** prior to the lunch taking place. Call Carole Gosling on 01767 641175 if you would like to know more or if you would like to book your place.

'MEET & EAT' LUNCH	'MEET & EAT' LUNCH
Wednesday, 13 May 2015 12.30 to 2.00 p.m.	Wednesday, 10 June 2015 12.30 to 2.00 p.m.
MENU Meat Pie Creamed Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables	MENU Bacon/Cheese Quiche New Potatoes Salad
Sultana Pudding Custard Tea/Coffee	Strawberries & Cream Meringues Tea/Coffee
£4.00 per person	£4.00 per person

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TEMPSFORD

As far as is possible allowing for seasonal and celebratory variations
there will be a church service every Sunday in Tempsford,
either at the Parish Church or at the Methodist Church as shown below.

A warm welcome is assured at all services.

Parish Church

3rd May	9.30am Holy Communion
10th May	Holy Communion 9.30 at Gt Barford, 11.15 at Blunham
14th May	7.00pm Ascension Day service at Little Barford
17th May	9.30am Holy Communion
24th May	Holy Communion 9.30 at Gt Barford, 11.15 at Blunham
31st May	10.30am Songs of Praise at Roxton
7th June	9.30am Holy Communion
14th June	Holy Communion 9.30 at Gt Barford , 11.15 at Blunham
21st June	No service, but OPEN CHURCH day
28th June	Holy Communion 9.30 at Gt Barford, 11.15 at Blunham
5th July	10.30am St Peter's Day

Methodist Church

3rd May	6.00pm	Section Service at Berkley Street
10th May	6.00pm	Preacher: Mr Richard Crane
17th May	6.00pm	Circuit Service at Alconbury
24th May	6.00pm	Preacher: Rev. Barbara Garwood
31st May		No service
7th June	6.00pm	Section Service at Buckden
14th June	6.00pm	Preacher: Mr Colin Webber
21st June		No service
28th June	6.00pm	Preacher: Rev Tricia Williams

Please note: there are services on the other Sundays at Gt Barford Methodist Church and Berkley Street Methodist Church, Eynesbury, all at 10.30am

ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,
Church Street, Tempsford
Rector : Rev Margaret Marshall
Phone: 01234 870363

Dear Everyone,

As I sit here at my desk, I can see a cloud of blossom on a nearby tree and hear the birds singing on this fine Spring morning. The beauty of it reminds me that this coming weekend I shall officiate at my third wedding this year – at St Peter's. Like number seven buses, there are none for ages and then a whole pack come along at once: this year we shall have three (the last squeaking in on New Year's Eve... if you are invited, dress warmly!).

Near the beginning of the service of Holy Matrimony, the 'Preface' sets out the Christian view of marriage. I was most interested to learn recently that the church had no formal service for marriages until the early part of the second millennium AD, but since that time it has become a vital part of our ministry within communities of all sizes right around the world. In the Preface the joining of the partners is likened to the way Christ is united with his bride, the Church. That means not *buildings*, of course, but the people who are his faithful followers, gathered into worshipping groups everywhere.

Sadly Christ's bride seems to be less keen on permanent union these days: church-going is generally in decline, especially in rural areas. Little Barford Church, which will see one of its two annual services on Ascension Day (14th May at 7 pm), was closed some years ago – its tiny population could not sustain its own ancient church. St Peter's, with a small and geographically-divided parish, continues to be balanced on the knife-edge between survival and closure.

Our share of the Benefice's ministry costs are beyond our means, our running costs are barely covered by the fantastic efforts of our fund-raisers and the kind village residents who give their support. St Peter's has been at the heart of village life for over 800 years: how disastrous it would be if it also had to close. Adjacent to the village cemetery, it would almost certainly no longer be available for funerals, for baptisms of new villagers..... or, indeed, the beautiful country weddings which are so enjoyed by local families.

We do our best to bring in contributions from elsewhere – there will be an additional service for visitors commemorating the installation of the plaque honouring Tempsford Airfield personnel on the afternoon of May 17th, as well as the usual TVARA service on 27th June. We celebrate the area's unique history and we are committed to doing so, if only we can keep the church alive....

That means finding more people willing to BE the church in this place. It is a lovely, welcoming and mutually supportive group of people, who presently meet for a service at 9.30am on first and third Sundays (with one or two extras during the year), to Praise God and to pray for the parish, all its people and concerns, as well as those of the wider world. PLEASE join us. We would love to see you more often than at the occasional wedding.

With love to you all
Revd Margaret

**Little Barford Church
Ascension Day Service
Thursday 14th May at 7pm.**



St Peter's Flood Lights

If you would like the flood lights put on for any occasion, the cost will be £10 per night.
Please contact Gloria 01767 640050

St Peter's Open Church and AFTERNOON TEA

**Sunday 21st June
2pm till 5pm**

**Price is £6 per person,
Includes sandwiches, cakes, scones,
clotted cream, jam and tea/coffee.**

Places are limited.

**To book a table please contact. Helen 01767
640366 or Gloria 01767 640050**

**If you do not wish to take afternoon tea, please come
along anyway, we will also be serving tea/coffee and
cake. If you just wish to look round our beautiful
church, we would love to see you.**



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www.tempsford.org

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The following is a summary of the main points of discussion at the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th April 2015. Full copies of the minutes are available on the village website. www.tempsford.org

Apologies for absence

Apology received from Cllr. D. Clark.

Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the annual Parish Meeting held on the 15th April 2014 were approved and signed.

Parish Council Report

The Chairman gave the Council's Report which listed the Councillors at present, that there had been a new Councillor elected because of a resignation and the meetings that had been held during the year and then discussed what had been on the agenda through the year.

Finance – The Chairman presented the finances of the Council for the year (see page 12). Total income was £12,949, and expenditure was £21,701. The excess of expenditure over income was due to the installation of tall, high quality fencing around the new play area in Station Road, and its cost was met from savings made on some earlier years' accounts. The Precept has been increased this year by £500 to £12,500 which would give an increase of 4.16% but as the Tax Base had been increased the percentage was 1.9%.

Report from Central Beds Councillors

Cllr. Adam Zerny was present and explained it had been a busy year for CBC. Cllr Zerny had been involved with Tamar Organics, Black Cat rebuild, Network Rail's plans, Broadband provision and the proposed A421-428 link road.

Cllr. Gurney was not present.

Report from PCSO Lucy Barnell

Lucy reported that the community engagement day that was organised was very successful. 71 homes visited, 61 residents engaged with, crime prevention stickers, smart water and tamper proof screws supplied. They encouraged residents to sign up to Ringmaster.

Reports from organisations within the village.

Tempsford Charities – A new Trustee was elected last year, Mr. Peter Bettles.

St. Peter's Church – It has been a busy year with events such as Easter Egg Hunt, Afternoon Teas, Duck Race, and new electrical works had been completed which ended in a Bucks Fizz celebration. Harvest Festival service and Christmas Fayre, and 12 Days of Christmas Flood Lights

all help with finance. Harvest Festival service will be changed to 6 pm this year. There was also a concert at St. Denys, Little Barford, which was very well attended.

Methodist Church – 211th birthday this year, the oldest Church in St. Neots and Huntingdon Circuit. Again a busy year – new windows installed, trees taken down, the monthly “Meet and Eat” lunches, monthly Chat Club (in the 13th year), Christmas Fayre and the Shoebox Appeal.

Stuart Memorial Hall – They were pleased with what had been achieved this year but there are only 6 Committee members – more are needed. Fund raisers had been 2 car boot sales, paper quiz, village show, a quiz this month (April). The main hall and hallway had been painted a lighter colour. The Trustees had successfully applied for a BIFFA grant to replace the hall windows to reduce heat loss .

WI - It has been a successful year. 18 members now across a wide section. Good speakers had been found, summer outing to Wyboston Golf Course had proved to be enjoyable. This year it will be at Gunns Bakery. The darts team are in the semi-final.

Tempsford Museum and Archives – Since July 2013 it has gone from strength to strength with 74 members of the Friends of Tempsford Museum. Displays had been changed bi-monthly. The WW1 Display was the best attended with 94 people visiting. An undercarriage of a Lockheed-Hudson had been donated by a family and a set of 1556 Deeds had been purchased to do with an old Manor that was in Tempsford. A donation of £20,000 was offered with the proviso that it was to secure a long term benefit to the Museum. The money was offered to the Stuart Memorial Hall to secure the long lease, but sadly had to be withdrawn.

Tempsford Times – This is now being printed in colour thanks to Kiers who now print them for us.

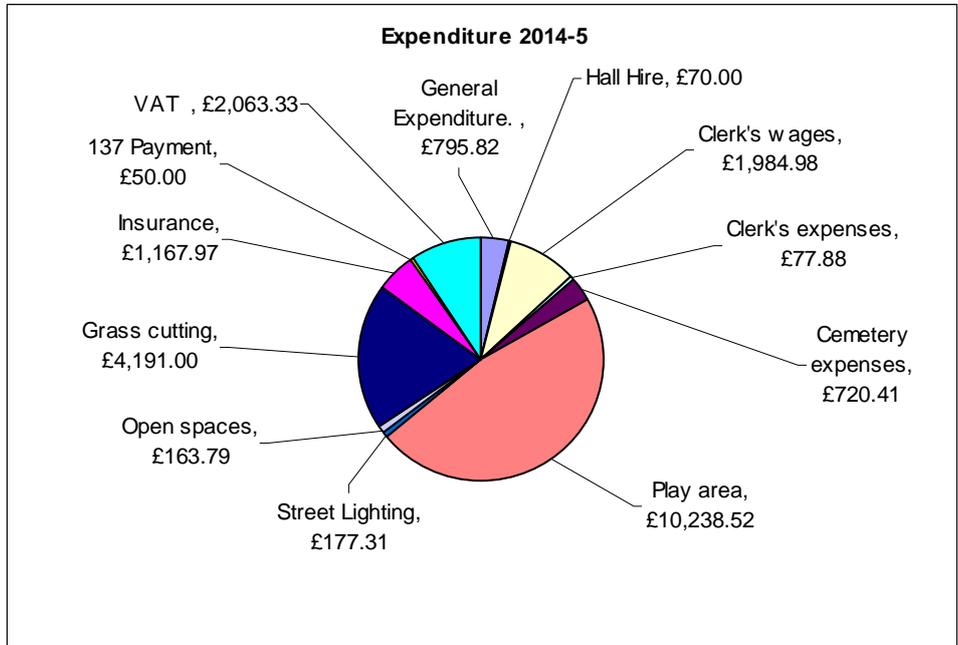
Ivel Sprinter – This now travels to Cambridge every Wednesday and has proved to be a success. This is an essential link for Tempsford.

Cllr Liz Infield—The Chairman pointed out that Cllr. Liz Infield would be stepping down as a Councillor this year and thanked her for the work she had done. She would also be getting married in a couple of weeks and the Council wished her all the happiness for the future.

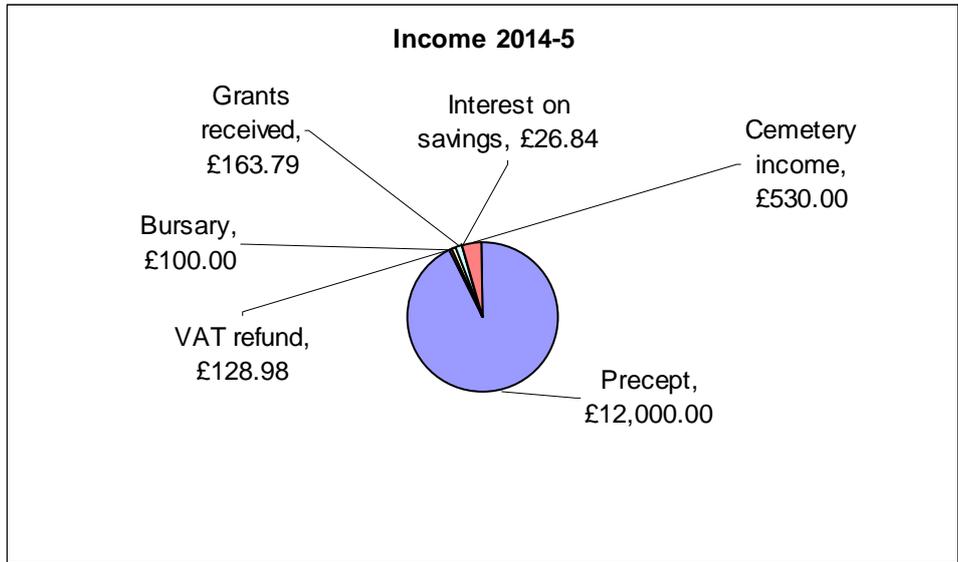
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. He invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 21.45.

Linda Collins, Clerk.



PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES 2014-5
For explanations see previous pages



CAR BOOT - TABLE TOP SALE

SAT 6th JUNE 2015

9.00am to 1.00pm

STUART MEMORIAL HALL

TEMPSFORD

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01767 640873 (Meryl)
or 01767 641170 (Phil)

Or just turn up and pay on the day

Refreshments available all morning

NEWS FROM STUART MEMORIAL HALL

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our **Quiz Evening** on April 17th. It was a grand evening made possible by Adrian Besant as Quiz Master standing in for Chris Ebeling who was unable to come due to illness. We hope all who came enjoyed themselves. We made a profit of £383 which will help with our continual maintenance of the hall and its further refurbishment.

Our next event is a **Car Boot/Table Top Sale** on June 6th. Do come along and support us. It's only £5 for a pitch and admission is free for buyers.

Quiz sheets will also be sold in the early summer so look out for those.

An excellent piece of news is that we have managed to obtain a BIFFA Grant to replace the windows of the hall with double-glazed ones. The grant helps cover the cost of £10,000, and the new windows should ensure that the hall looks smarter, feels warmer in winter and helps reduce our heating costs. They are designed to look very similar to the original ones, being leaded with black frames outside but white inside. We are waiting for them to be made at present and then fitted in the very near future.

Planning for this year's **Village Show on September 5th** has now started so if you have any ideas about how to improve the great annual event get in touch with me very soon and we will try to incorporate your ideas.

Hope to see you at the hall at one of our events soon!

*Meryl Besant
Chairman of Memorial Hall Trustees*

Local Independent Central Bedfordshire Councillor Adam Zerny's

latest email newsletter is now available; it includes the latest on superfast broadband for Tempsford and bus services. As always it will include a round-up of up-and-coming local events. To join the mailing list, email him at adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk or visit the website www.adamzerny.co.uk . For the latest news, follow him on twitter @adamzerny .



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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES.

The following is a summary of the main points of discussion at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2015. Full copies of the minutes are available on the village website.

www.tempsford.org.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Chris Bettles and Cllr. Adam Zerny.

Declarations of interest: None were received

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th Jan. 2015 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

Public Session: 4 Members of the public were present of which 3 were residents. One resident asked if the Council could look into cleaning up the area along the link road, taking down the fences that were broken, planting bulbs etc. Another resident reported that the bins outside a house in Church St., were left there all the time and this resulted in rubbish blowing down the road.

Police Report: PCSO Barnell reported that there had been one incident in Tempsford. Operation Vision – this would take place in Tempsford on 17th March between 13.30-15.30. The Police would be in the village knocking on doors, walking round; number plate security would be available for 2 hrs and Smart Water would be available to buy.

Central Beds. Councillors : Cllr. Doreen Gurney reported that:- no application had been received regarding the Composting site on the airfield. The road near the Solar Park on Everton Road was in a bad state. The link road at Tempsford was also in a bad state of repair. She held a successful surgery at the Chapel recently. Black Cat Roundabout – there had been a lot of congestion caused by the closures for the road works. She reported that a flyover is planned; the money is available possibly in 18 months time. Broadband – CBC are pushing BT to the ultimate. CBC voted on obtaining private money to get full broadband provision.

Finance: Payments presented by the Clerk were approved by Council. The internal auditor has agreed to audit the Annual Report again this year.

Planning: A Planning Application had been received for Aerodrome Farm. No objections were made by the Council.

Black Cat Gravel Liaison Group: Two dates had been presented to Council to see if they could attend. Cllr. Besant would attend the 24th March meeting and Cllr. Fraser would attend on 29th March.

Kiers Parking problems: The Chairman had contacted Kiers with regard to the accident that had happened outside Kiers. Cllr. Clark asked the Chairman to contact Kiers to arrange a meeting with him to discuss the parking problems outside the exit to Kiers/Stuart Court into Station Road.

Children's Play area: Some extra words needed to be inserted into the Lease controlling the use of the land. This was approved by Council. The Council also agreed to the installation of bollards at the entrance gates to the new playing field in Station Road. Safety Sheets: only one handed in for Station Road. Some work needs to be done on the chain link fence. ROSPA inspection: following poor standards of inspection from one company the Council agreed that another company, which had been suggested, be contacted to get a quote.

Defibrillators: The telephone box had not been adopted by the Council as we were led to believe some years ago, so it was suggested to approach "The Wheatsheaf" public house to put the second defibrillator there. The Chairman and Clerk discussed this with the landlord and he was in agreement. An electrician now needs to be appointed to install them.

Green Infrastructure: Cllr. Fraser reported on the hedge laying that had taken place at Gannock Castle and thought it was a useful day. Wildflowers – a discussion took place on which areas to seed with wild flowers: it was decided to put them where Cllr. Cooney had suggested. The sowing needs to be done within the next 4-6 weeks.

Cemetery/Churchyard matters: The cemetery hut had been cleared out. Some racking is needed for storage inside and the woodworm needs to be treated. Cllr. Infield knew a person who could do this treatment and would contact them.

Correspondence: A letter was read out with regard to a situation that had been witnessed at the Memorial Green in Church Street. The Council discussed the situation and it had already been discussed with the landlord at "The Wheatsheaf". A reply would be sent.

The Clerk had received the nomination papers for those wishing to stand for election to the new Parish Council in May. Notices to this effect would be put on Parish Noticeboards.

Date of next Meetings : April 10th Annual Parish Meeting, May 18th Annual Meeting, July 20th Ordinary Meeting, September 21st Ordinary meeting, 16th November Ordinary meeting.

Linda Collins, Clerk.

Accidents On The Railway At Tempsford



*Colorized Photo of Tempsford station about 1880.
Photo courtesy of Tempsford Museum and Archives*

In the early days of rail travel, death and serious injury were, sadly, all too common. Tempsford is no exception and surprisingly at least four people are known to have lost their lives on the railway at Tempsford, with many more seriously injured. Next month will be 150 years since Tempsford's first railway accident, and I have uncovered the stories of numerous others, some of which I have detailed below.

Mr. Charles Henderson was Tempsford's second stationmaster and lived in the stationmaster's house, which in 1865 was located on the north-bound platform (background left of the above picture) The story goes that on the evening of Saturday 3rd June 1865, Mr. Henderson was sat with his wife and left her for a moment to take his newspaper across the line to signalman Alfred Ransley. The signal box at this time was located opposite the stationmaster's house. As he was crossing the tracks shortly after 10.30pm he was struck and killed by the northbound express train from London. The driver of the train, William Gallon, saw a dark object strike the front right buffer of the engine, and when he looked to the right

he saw that the object struck was a man. He stopped the train as soon as possible and consulted the guard on the train. They decided to continue to St Neots where they told the signalman there to telegraph Tempsford box to inform them of the collision.

However, Alfred Ransley who was in Tempsford signal box at the time, heard the train whistle and left his box to investigate. He ran up the line and saw what he thought was a bundle on the tracks, but on getting closer learnt it was a body. Not realising who it was, he went immediately to the Stationmaster's house and asked Mrs Henderson if he could speak to the Stationmaster. She informed him that Mr Henderson had just gone out. He then returned to the body, moved it off the tracks, and realising who it was, sent for a surgeon. With the assistance of some neighbours the body was moved into the station room.

An inquest was held at the White Hart Public House, Station Road, three days later by Mr J. P Piper, deputy coroner, and a verdict of accidental death was recorded. Mr Charles Henderson was only 35 years old and left a widow and 5 children. In the 1860's a widow with 5 young children would likely have gone to the workhouse, but graciously the GNR Railway Company paid all the funeral expenses and subsequently employed Mrs Henderson as an attendant at another station on the line.

Only 2 years later on 18th June 1867, John Davis a farmer from Gamlingay was struck and killed at Tempsford Station whilst crossing the tracks. The signalman at the inquest stated that he had seen Mr Davis talking to someone, before walking through the crossing gate with the intention of crossing the line. Knowing that the next train was fast approaching, and seeing what was about to happen from the signal box opposite, he ran out and held his hands up and shouted to him. Mr Davis appeared to see this, but was deaf to his cries and continued crossing, only noticing the train at the very last moment.

Sadly only 6 years later another person was to lose their life on the railway at Tempsford, this time a child.

*Our thanks to Lee Greene for researching this and writing this article—
Editor)*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO TEMPSFORD
FAMILIES ON RECENT WEDDINGS**

Ray Murray and Angela King
were married at
Tempsford Methodist Church
on Saturday 18th April



George Saunders and Liz Infield
were married at
St Peter's Parish Church
on Saturday 25th April



*Congratulations and our best wishes go to
both couples for their future lives together*



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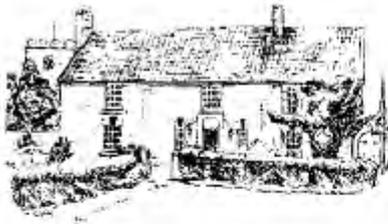
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TEMPSFORD MUSEUM

The Tempsford Museum started the year with its first exhibition in February and March, which was of Tempsford Farming and Agriculture, and was very well attended. The exhibition in April and May is of Tempsford Methodist Chapel and Methodism in the village. Do please come along and join us for what is always a pleasant afternoon, on the first Sunday in the month, from 2pm till 4pm.

At the April exhibition, we were joined by an eighteen strong family gathering from as far away as France, who donated part of an undercarriage from a Lockheed- Hudson plane, which flew out of RAF Tempsford in 1944 and was shot down over Belgium. The Museum was very honoured to accept the donation and the following is an extract from the speech given by Mrs Valerie Ferét, the niece of the Reg Wilkinson



Seventy years ago, on 26 November 1944, a Lockheed-Hudson III, T9463 MA-L, of 161 Special Duties Squadron, left Tempsford aerodrome. On board were a crew of four: the pilot Squadron Leader Reginald Wilkinson; Flying Officer John Weddell, navigator; Flight Lieutenant Frederick Champion, air gunner; and a Canadian, Flight Lieutenant George Ash, air gunner. Their mission, code name 'Fleckney', was to drop an agent, Paul Penczock, alias Paul Woderski, near Arnstadt, Germany. On the return journey the plane was shot down and crashed into a field near Brisys, Belgium, close to the Luxembourg border, almost certainly by an American night fighter. All four airmen died and are now buried in the Military Cemetery, Brussels Town Cemetery, Evere. Ironically, the agent survived the war.

Uncle Frank, who is now the only surviving member of the family to have known him, that have inspired not just family members who have done a massive amount of research work in the field, and which has been extensively documented, but others following their own paths and lines of research, the finding of members of the family of Flight Lieutenant Frederick Champion, one of the air gunners, who are with us today, those who initiated the finding of the wreckage, the digging, identifying, to those who erected a memorial in Brisys, English and Belgians alike, each one contributing in their way to the story which has led us here today. In November last year an official Commemoration Ceremony was held in Brisys organized with our Belgian friends. It was during that ceremony that Uncle Frank was presented with the undercarriage of the Lockheed-Hudson that had crashed in that field near a village in Belgium 70 years ago.

You may well ask what do you do with a huge lump of iron that big? Hardly



decorative enough to be put on display in a sitting-room. Brain-wave – it should go home to rest in Tempsford, and perhaps in some way, a little of the memory of the men who flew in her, has also come home to rest.



**THE
DEFIBRILLATORS
ARE
HERE**

The Parish Council has arranged for two defibrillators to be made available in Tempsford, one for each end of the village. "The Wheatsheaf" and the Methodist Chapel have both kindly agreed to host the defibrillators on the outside walls of their buildings .

They are being fitted in the first week of May and therefore will be available in emergency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Should anyone be having a heart attack, you could help save their life by using the unit nearest to you.

Full information about how to use it is on the machine itself, but a special **Village Public Awareness Course** is being arranged in the very near future (hopefully in June) by the Parish Council for **EVERYONE** to see why defibrillators are necessary and how to use them.

Watch out for posters advertising where and when this meeting will take place.

FROM AROUND THE VILLAGES

ROXTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

May 7th General Election Day...No meeting arranged

June 4th Members Evening Visit to Cockayne Hatley Church.
Meet at Roxton Parish Hall at 6.45pm for shared transport,
or at Cockayne Hatley Church 7.15pm

July No Meeting.

August 8th Members Visit to Rippington Manor, Gt. Gransden;
tour starting at 2.00pm.

Please book and pre-pay with the treasurer.

The Local History Group meets monthly on the first Thursday at 7.30pm in the Bar Room of Roxton Parish Hall. We have illustrated talks on a variety of local history and history subjects given by experienced speakers and arrange visits to places or buildings of interest during the summer months.

For a copy of our Programme for all meetings in 2015

Further information contact Secretary: Stella Gibbs: 01480 351931 or

Chairman: Peter Newell: 01234 870158

FUN DOG SHOW

Sunday 10th May 2015

Chalton Stables, Blunham Road, Moggerhanger, Beds, MK44 3PD

Doors open at 11am first class at 12 noon,
14 classes including fancy dress, best child handler and best trick
refreshments, stalls, bouncy castle and a whole lot more!

BLUNHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Last month Nigel Start gave a very informative and inspiring presentation on 'self-sufficiency'.

Tuesday 5th May is members' plants swap night. For the first time last year we held a 'right plant, right place', plants swap night. Plants that need dividing, or have self-set and are surplus to requirements, please bring them along for other members to share.

Visitors are warmly welcome. Refreshments served.

Contact details – Brenda Leaf 01767 640623

BIGGLESWADE SANDY LIONS CLUB

A member of Lions International, the largest voluntary service organisation in the world.

THANKS CHARLES

Charles Wicksteed was born in Leeds in 1847, the son of a clergyman. After an engineering apprenticeship he set up a steam plough contracting business in Norfolk at the age of 21. In 1871 he moved to Kettering and went on to set up an engineering workshop.

In 1913 he bought an area of land near Kettering. He wanted to create an open space for local families, many of whom lived in houses with no gardens, so that their children had to play in the streets. With his engineering company he provided both seats and playground equipment. Wicksteed Park was born, one of the first leisure parks in Great Britain. Indeed, he provided equipment for many such parks in Europe.

Besides the fun of the roller coasters, flume and pirate ship and rides there is also a nature reserve and 147 acres of restful parkland. He designed the railway but sadly he died before it opened in Easter 1931. "Cheyenne" one of the engines was built in Bedford.

In June this year, as in previous years, we will be taking a full coach of disadvantaged families, who wouldn't normally have such a day out, to Wicksteed Park. In addition, we also invite Bedfordshire Young Carers and give them a much needed break. We pay for not only the coach, but also for admission and access to all the rides and attractions, as well as providing a picnic lunch. It is thanks to you and your kind and generous support at our fundraising events that we can do this, one of our key events of the year.

Would you like to help raise money for events like this, take part in running them and enjoy our social life as well? To find out more, visit www.biggeswadesandylions.org.uk. or speak Dave or Judi on 01462 814693. Quite simply, our motto is -

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Articles for the next edition, July/August, should be sent by **June 20th** to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford,

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