

TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 62
March/April 2017

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



***The Great
Tempsford
Spring-Clean***

***March
4th & 11th***

see page 10

The Millennium Garden in Spring

TEMPSFORD'S **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A public meeting was held on 26th January in the Methodist Church, Station Road to discuss the proposed writing of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Siobhan Vincent, Neighbourhood Involvement Officer for Central Beds Council was present to give a presentation to the village residents on the process and benefits of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

There was a good number of people in attendance with Cllr. Besant (Chairman) welcoming everyone and explaining about the Neighbourhood Plan and why the Parish Council would like to support its preparation. Although the Parish Council would only lead it, with one or two Councillors on the Committee, the majority of people should be volunteers from the village.

Ms Vincent told the meeting that a Plan cannot stop a development, but it can help to manage it. It has legal weight and does go through the Inspector. An ordinary Parish Plan does not have legal weight. If there is a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on the development and you have a Neighbourhood Plan, you can get up to 25% of it towards local infrastructure needs, whereas without one, you only get 15%. The Plan has to fit and be part of a national planning system, i.e. the Neighbourhood Plan has to fit the Local Plan, (set by CBC), which itself has to fit into National legislation.

In developing the Plan we need to consider where we want our parish to be in 10-15 years time. The Plan therefore needs a basic conditions statement of the area with supporting evidence-based documents, and descriptions of projects, policies, and proposals and how these would benefit the village. The whole process of producing such a document would be carefully checked by Central Beds and go through various inspections by other authorities before it goes to the inspector; only then is it decided if it is suitable. Obviously this process may take a long time, perhaps up to two years. It can be costly too but a grant of up to £9000 can be obtained to cover costs of production. CBC will help the process of writing and applying for such grants.

The members of the meeting were encouraged to check the CBC website to see how such plans are written and what they contain. The meeting showed its interest in tackling this project and a list of volunteers was

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN-
FOLLOW UP MEETING,**

**THURSDAY 30TH MARCH at 7.30pm
In the Methodist Chapel Station Road**

**TO FORM A STEERING GROUP
TO DISCUSS CONTENT, METHODS AND
PROCESS OF WRITING SUCH A PLAN**

Everybody invited

TEMPSFORD'S CEMETERY:

The work of Mark Zwetzlout, (the Parish Council's contractor) in maintaining its grounds, received many compliments in an item of correspondence received by the Council recently. (see page15)



TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH,

Station Road, Tempsford

(part of the St Neots and Huntingdon Methodist Circuit)

Minister: Rev Paul Beard : 01480 473444

Church Steward: Stephen Gosling,

81 Station Rd, Tempsford 01767 641175

Dear Friends,

As Lent approaches, I find myself deliberating on the art of following. Much is written and said in our churches and in our wider society about leadership, but very little about discipleship. It is, of course, always easier to evade our responsibility as followers by putting all the responsibility on our leaders.

As Lent approaches, I find myself re-examining my role both as a leader in the Church and as a follower of Christ. Is my discipleship up to the task of sitting in the pew, let alone presuming to help others with their discipleship? Am I prepared to sacrifice, to endure, to fight for the values my Jesus embodies: unconditional, self-sacrificing love?

As Lent approaches, I find myself in awe of the willingness of Jesus to do those things and more. I find myself gasping at the enormity of the gap between Jesus' willingness to seek and do God's will and my own. I am overwhelmed by my own unworthiness.

As Lent approaches, I am constrained – despite my shortcomings – to invite you to go on a journey. A journey to examine the meaning and the cost of following Jesus and towards the ultimate goal of unconditional, self-sacrificing love for Jesus and for all humankind.

This journey may well start in the wilderness and progress

through opposition and ridicule and even hatred to the Garden of Gethsemane; maybe even to the cross.
As Lent approaches, there will be opportunities to join with others as unworthy as I am to accompany you on this journey. I cannot promise you an easy road or an easy life. I can only promise you a loving God; a God who will not hold our unworthiness against us, but will continue to love us with that same unconditional, self-sacrificing love.



TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHAPEL
213rd ANNIVERSARY

Special Celebratory Service
Sunday, 9th April at 6.00 p.m.
led by Rev. James Bamber

Refreshments will be served in the
Chapel Schoolroom from 5.00 pm onwards
prior to the Service commencing
at 6.00 pm

Do come along and join with us in this special service as
we celebrate 212 years since the Chapel was built.
EVERYONE WELCOME

**Other services in March and April
are listed on page 6**

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.

A warm welcome is assured at all services.

Parish Church

Sunday 5th March	9.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 12th March	9.30 Gt Barford - 11.15 Blunham
Sunday 19th March	9.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 26th March	9.30 Gt Barford - 11.15 Blunham
Sunday 2nd April	9.30 Holy Communion
Sunday 9th April	11.00 Palm Sunday - Roxton
Easter Sunday 16th April	- 9.30 Gt Barford - 11.15 Blunham
Sunday 23rd April	9.30 Holy Communion

Methodist Church

Sunday 5th March	6.00pm	Section United service at Eaton Ford
Sunday 12th March	3.00pm	Preacher Mrs Margaret Harris
Sunday 19th March	No service	
Sunday 26th March	3.00pm	Preacher Rev Paul Beard
Sunday 2nd April	No service	
Sunday 9th April	6.00pm	Preacher Rev James Bamber Anniversary Service
Sunday 16th April	No service	
Sunday 23rd April	6.00pm	Preacher Mr Colin Webber

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Website: www.highfield-farm.co.uk



CHAT CLUB

will meet again in the Chapel Schoolroom on
Wednesday, 29th March and Wednesday, 26th April
from 2.30 to 4.00 p.m.

MEET AND EAT LUNCHES

are held at the Chapel on the
second Wednesday of the month
from 12.30pm to 2.00pm.
Call Carole Gosling on 01767 641175 to book your
place by mid-day on the Monday prior to the lunch.

‘MEET & EAT’ LUNCH

Wednesday, 8 March 2017
12.30 to 2.00 p.m.

MENU

Sausages/Onion Gravy
Creamed Potatoes
Tomatoes/Baked Beans

Bakewell Tart
Cream
Tea/Coffee

£4.00 per person

‘MEET & EAT’ LUNCH

Wednesday, 12 April 2017
12.30 to 2.00 p.m.

MENU

Beef Casserole
Creamed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables

Apple Pie
Cream
Tea/Coffee

£4.00 per person

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 25th April

in the Stuart Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

*Your opportunity to discuss what is happening in
and around the village*

What's happening about:

The Oxford-Cambridge expressway
The upgrade of the A428 from The Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
The East-West Rail link from Oxford to Milton Keynes, Bedford
and Cambridge : how close will it come to Tempsford?

Find out:

How the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing
How your precept money in your Council Tax is spent

Ask:

How Central Bedfordshire Council's Local Plan is being developed
How Tempsford's Parish Council is looking after your village

Discover:

What other organisations there are in Tempsford that you might
be interested or involved in?
What other things could be done in and for the village?

Get involved:

Your ideas are important

Do put this date in your diary; we look forward to meeting you

THE GREAT TEMPSFORD **SPRING-CLEAN 2017**

*DO COME AND JOIN IN TO HELP MAKE TEMPSFORD
A CLEAN AND LITTER FREE VILLAGE WE CAN BE
PROUD OF.*

The event is being organised by Tempsford Parish Council with the support and permission of the Central Bedfordshire Council, and will take place on two consecutive Saturday mornings, March 4th and March 11th.

Our aim is to tackle the areas that the Council wouldn't normally litter pick, i.e. the residential areas along Church Street and Station Road, and any adjoining roads. (We will not be working along side any busy main road!). Please join us by the Station Road Parish Noticeboard, and by the memorials at Church End at 10.00am

We will be carefully organising the work, so that it is done safely and efficiently. All equipment is provided: safety gloves, hi-viz jackets, litter grabbers and plenty of large bin bags.

You are asked to wear suitable clothing and footwear, and children can join in as long as they are in your care and supervision.

We would like to extend the project beyond picking up litter, to include clearing twigs and leaves from under hedges that encroach on the footpath, clearing gutters of mud and straw, and even to giving some of the signs a wash! So bring along a hoe, yard brush, even a shovel, and a bucket of soapy water and a sponge if you can help with this part of the project.

If you'd like to help but can't make these dates, please let us know when you can, and we can arrange for you to use the necessary equipment.

Further information and help is available form any Parish

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Tempsford Museum Secures Historic Sword for its Archive

Recently the Tempsford Museum and Archive received an email from an Auction House in East Sussex, informing them that an item was being put up for sale that might be of interest. The item in question was an Ornate Ceremonial Sword bearing the family crest of “Nobilis Ira” the family crest of the Stuart Family. Although it was the crest of the Stuart Family it didn’t necessarily mean that the item was connected with the Stuart Family of Tempsford Hall. The sword which was made by Wilkinson Sword was numbered and so some research was carried out by Lee Greene one



of our trustees. A payment to the Wilkinson Sword archive secured the information we required, which proved that the sword was indeed made for William Dugald Stuart of Tempsford Hall in 1898. Knowing the provenance of the sword, the trustees agreed on a maximum amount to bid on the item and we waited till the date of the sale. A few days before the

sale, four members of the trustees phoned to say that if the price exceeded what the museum had agreed, then they would be prepared to pledge further funds to secure the sword for the museum rather than lose it. The day arrived with Steve Cooney and Lee Greene



setting off at 5.30am to make sure they were there in good time for the auction. Whilst watching the bidding, some of the items were selling for extremely high prices. Panic was setting in that we possibly would not be going home with the sword. Eventually it came up for sale and our excitement was overwhelming when our bid for the sword was successful and we managed to get it within the agreed budget. Both Steve and Lee drove home with beams all over their faces after ringing round to tell the trustees the great news. Further research to find out how it came onto the market and who previously owned the sword has not been very revealing. However, we do have the proof that it was the property of William Dugald Stuart and was probably sold when the contents of Tempsford Hall were sold off either in 1911 or most likely in 1964. Thankfully with the support and donations we receive, the Tempsford Museum and Archive can build a fund to secure items like this for the archive and for everyone to see in the future. The museum is now looking for a suitable

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The following is a summary of the main points of discussion at the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2017. Full copies of the minutes are available on the village website www.tempsford.org from the Clerk.

Present: 7 Parish Councillors, Clerk, Central Beds Councillors Adam Zerny and Doreen Gurney, 2 members of the public.

Declarations of interest: None were received.

Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Police Report: The Clerk had looked at the police website and it showed three incidents. However, she felt they were the same incidents as reported at the last meeting. The Clerk reported that she had managed to obtain some contact numbers for the police that the village could use.

Public Session: The residents present, wanted to point out about the litter along the link road and Little Barford Road. The Chairman mentioned that an email had been received from CBC asking if villages would like to support "The Great British Spring Clean". The village must register on a website and they will get posters, flyers. Clerk to register.

Neighbourhood Planning: A public meeting had been arranged for Thursday 26th January at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom. Flyers to be distributed to the village as a reminder.

Central Beds Councillors: Cllr. Gurney remarked on the flowers on the bridge on the Little Barford Road in remembrance of young man killed there in an accident. She felt that perhaps they should be removed now as they were a distraction for drivers. A Councillor asked if there were any further information on the faster broadband. There was no further information. Cllr. Zerny told the Council that CBC was simply passing planning applications. There is no Local Plan yet and residents to not have the right to refuse. He has created a National Alliance and has a petition running now demanding a "Change to Government Legislation" and he encouraged everyone to sign it so it can go before Parliament.

Planning : CB/16/05630/FULL, Tempsford Hall Car park. CB/TRE/16/00521 Tree work at Tempsford Hall, CB/TCA/16/00530 Tree work at Stonebridge Farm. All of them were discussed and plans looked at. Although there were no real objections, points were put forward which were to be passed to CBC., Tempsford Estate and Tempsford Hall, such as replanting plan for trees being taken out and consideration for the medieval ridge and furrow landscape that is in the Tempsford Hall ancient parkland.

Highways: A428, no update yet. Sites for Speed watch signs have been notified to CBC. Not all signs that were requested to be cleaned have been done. The old village sign is being refurbished. The worst potholes have been filled. The willows in the ditch at the end of Station Road still need to be cut. The grit/salt bins need to be refilled.

Access to play area – Kier needs to be contacted again re state of their road along which access is gained to Station Road's large play area.

Children's play area: The Council decided to re-fence the back part of the Station Road small play area. Quotations have been received from two firms to do this. Basketball posts: Cllr. Bettles had sorted out the cost and was told to obtain them. Repair of play equipment: contractor needs to be asked again complete this work. The fallen tree in Church St. play area: the owner has not yet replied to Council's request to move it.

Cemetery/Churchyard – Shelving to be fixed in cemetery hut .

Grass cutting – Tenders had have been requested and some received. These were discussed by the Council and Mark Zwetsloot 's quote accepted. A letter had also been received remarking how well the hedges and grass in the cemetery and churchyard were kept. This would be passed to MZ.

Finance: The Council approved the list of payments and details of the bank reconciliation and cashflow. The Precept was discussed and decided upon. Transparency Code – Clerk to investigate Grant that is allowed. The Council is minded to award a grant to the Village Hall for repairs that need to be done but it is awaiting an invoice for one of the items.

Correspondence: Recent emails and letters received were read out.

Dates of next meetings: 20th March, 25th April (Annual Parish Meeting), 3rd

TEMPSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

COFFEE **SHOP**

OPEN:

**Thursday 16th March and
Thursday 20th April
from 11.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.**

Tea/Coffee/Selection of Cakes
PLUS
Home-made soup and a roll

In Methodist Chapel School room,
Station Road

*Browse through books, children's toys, village
postcards plus lots more items on sale*
Drop in at any time; we hope to see you there!

STUART MEMORIAL HALL

D

Stuart Memorial Hall Annual General Meeting 7:30pm on 3rd April 2017 Venue – Stuart Memorial Hall

Nominations for new committee members to be received in writing by the Secretary (address below) before 27th March 2017.

Anne Francis
13 Church Street
Tempsford
Beds

email - annemariefrancis@btinternet.com

Annual Summer Show

This year's Summer Show will be on 9th September. If anyone is interested in helping to organise this please contact Anne (see above for contact details).





**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-
DENOMINATIONAL)**

Am I Being Unfair to You?

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as 'Yolanda' – struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focusses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes. Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service. To find out further information, resources and services near to you, please visit the WWDP website www.wwdp.org.uk

**The service in our area is this year being held
at St Peter's Church Tempsford at 2.15pm**

Tempsford Museum and Archives

**SUNDAY 5th MARCH AND
SUNDAY 2nd APRIL 2017
2pm till 4pm**

**ROUND AND ABOUT
TEMPSFORD**

**A SELECTION OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
OF LOCAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES
NEAR TEMPSFORD**

**INCLUDING
ROXTON, POTTON, EVERTON, SANDY,
BIGGLESWADE, BLUNHAM AND LOTS MORE**

**ALSO ON VIEW WILL BE VARIOUS
PERMANENT DISPLAYS RELATING TO
TEMPSFORD VILLAGE AND RAF TEMPSFORD
REFRESHMENTS AND HOME BAKED CAKES
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE TEA ROOM**

**STUART MEMORIAL HALL
CHURCH STREET
TEMPSFORD**

For more info email
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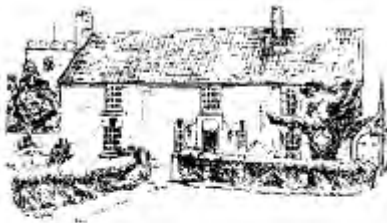
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TEMPSFORD'S BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION : JAN 20TH 2017



This is the second year running that the Hall Committee has hosted a Burns Night celebration. This year, as last, was well attended by people from the village and further afield. The Haggis was addressed by George McArthur, and the parading of the Haggis by Steve Cox ; these were followed by a traditional Burns Night meal of haggis, with neeps and tatties (jacket potato) which had been prepared by the ladies of the committee. After this followed dancing to the Occasional Few with Adrian Besant as the caller. All the proceeds will go to help with the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Steve Ward



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MAKING A PLACE FOR SWALLOWS

Tempsford is a wonderful place for swallows. In the Summer we see them zooming low over our gardens and fields catching insects, or high in the sky noisily chasing off the local sparrowhawks. In the Autumn they line up on our telephone wires getting

ready for their long flight to spend the Winter in Africa.

One of the reasons for Tempsford's popularity with the swallows is the number of small farms we have, each with its own set of out-buildings where swallows love to nest.

Unfortunately for the swallows many of these out-buildings are now being converted into homes, and the swallows' traditional nesting places are being lost in the process. Even by this coming Spring when they return after their long and perilous journey some of these nest-sites will already have gone.

So rather than lose our Tempsford swallows who will be forced to look elsewhere to nest, perhaps we should look at what we ourselves can offer by way of alternative accommodation.

Swallows ideally like to nest on a ledge in a dark corner of an out-building - stable, barn, shed etc.. In fact they have recently been reclassified by the ornithological authorities under the title Barn Swallow. We don't all have stables and barns to offer, but if you have a shed or garage with a ledge at the back where a door or window could be left slightly open this would be the closest option and the best scenario. Be prepared though for droppings beneath the nest, so a ledge above your new Mercedes might not be a good idea!

Other possibilities for providing nest-sites are best found on the Internet - simply Google "making nests for swallows". Cornwall Council and Chester Zoo both have particularly helpful and informative web-sites, including instructions for making wooden nest-boxes. You can also buy pre-formed terracotta nest-cups from the RSPB, but these need to be sited in an appropriate place or they will be ignored.

As I write this, in mid-Winter, Tempsford is a swallow-free place, and we won't see them again until their arrival in April or May. It would be good to have nesting places to offer them by then, and this will add to the



BLUNHAM & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Last month Keith Hichisson talked about how we could maintain our gardens as we grow older by making small changes, demonstrating that even changing gardening tools could help.

This month Tuesday March 7th Richard Ayers will present ' Snowdrops & Winter Snowdrops'. We meet in Blunham Village Hall at 7:30pm.

All visitors are welcome. Please contact Brenda for further information on 01767 640623.

BLUNHAM COMMUNITY CINEMA

The Community Cinema held in Blunham Village Hall presents:

Friday March 31st' 12 Years a Slave' (certificate 15)

Friday April 28th 'Absolutely Fabulous' (certificate 15)

Both films start promptly at 7.30 pm, doors open 6.45 pm.

As April is also the Easter holidays, there will be a Children' Special

Saturday 15th April 'Finding Dory' (cert U)

Film starts 10.30 am doors open 10 am.

Tickets Adult £4.00, Family (2A + 2C) £10.00, Child £2.00.

Drinks, Ice cream, sweets and pop corn available.



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PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome baby Adam Oliver Morgan Murray,
born 20th December 2016 to Angela and Ray Murray of Station Road.
Adam weighed in at 7lb 1oz and 6 year old Mark was over the moon at his
brother's arrival, as of course were his Mum and Dad, who reported
that Adam is doing fabulously.

TAZI HUSAIN

There will be an informal gathering of friends, colleagues and
those who knew the late Tazi Husain, at the Stuart Memorial
Hall on 29th April from 2pm till 5pm to celebrate his life.

ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,

Church Street, Tempsford

Rector : Rev Margaret Marshall

Phone: 01234 870363



St Peters Flood Lights

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



TEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Position
Adrian Besant	Chairman
Jim Donnelly	V-Chairman
Steve Cooney	Councillor
Chris Bettles	Councillor
Dan Clark	Councillor
Liz Bull	Councillor
Simon Fraser	Councillor
Linda Collins	Clerk

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The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council or the Parish Council.

Articles for the May/June 2017 edition should be sent by **April 20th**

to the Editor at 92 Station Road, Tempsford.

Advertisement enquiries should be addressed to the Advertising Manager: Linda Collins, 69 Station Road, Tempsford. 01767 640968

